# Genesis 1

Universal Creation Story

1 Supermights first originated and created the Celestial Bodies then the Earth. 2 At that time the Earth emerged as a shapeless vacuum, and darkness covered the surface of the watery depths. Then Supermights' Spirit came to float over the surface of the waterscapes.

3 Supermights then said, "Let the light radiate," as a result, light radiated. 4 Supermights verified and approved the light as fine. Supermights then differentiated the bright-time from dark-time. 5 Supermights designated the bright part as the day and the dark part as the night. The arrival of dusk-till-dawn concluded the first day.

6 Supermights then said, "Let there exist fixed space in between the waterscapes and let it separate some water from the waterscapes." 7 So Supermights made and stretched fixed space in between the waterscapes that were under the fixed space and over it. Then it was done. 8 Supermights named the upper fixed space "the Sky." The arrival of dusk-till-dawn concluded the second day.

9 Supermights said, "Let the waters that are below the sky gather in one place, and let the dry ground appear." It was complete. 10 Then Supermights named the dry ground "the Land", and he called the collection of waters "the Seas." Then Supermights verified that it was fine.

11 Supermights then said, "Let the land sprout vegetation - plants disseminating seeds, fruit trees producing fruit with seeds in them, from their species." So, it was done: 12 the land produced vegetation - the plants disseminating seeds, fruit trees producing fruit with seeds in them, from their species. Then Supermights verified that it was fine. 13 The arrival of dusk-till-dawn concluded the third day.

14 Supermights said, "Let there be luminous bodies in the broad sky to differentiate the day from the night and let their appearance signal appointed seasons, days and years. 15 Let them become light-bearers in the celestial space to reflect light over the Earth. So, it was done. 16 Supermights then made the two big luminous bodies - the greater light-bearer to regulate the day, the lesser light-bearer to regulate the night. He also made the stars. 17 Then Supermights fixed them in the celestial space to reflect light over the Earth, 18 to regulate the day and the night, to differentiate daytime from nighttime. Then Supermights verified that it was fine. 19 The arrival of dusk-till-dawn concluded the fourth day.

20 Supermights then said, "Let the water brim with innumerable swarms of living and creeping creatures and flying creatures that teem and fly above the Earth, throughout the atmosphere. 21 Then Supermights created and released many species of aquatic animals and every living and floating creatures that teemed the water, then every species of flying creatures. Then Supermights verified that it was fine. 22 Next Supermights blessed them saying, "Grow, increase, fill and populate the seawater, and let the flying creatures multiply on the Earth." 23 The arrival of dusk-till-dawn concluded the fifth day.

24 Supermights then said, "Let the ground produce various living animal species, quadruped and all ground-crawling wild animal species, and wild animals according to their species. So, it was complete: 25 Supermights made the wild animals according to their species, and quadruped animals and ground-crawling, according to their species. Then Supermights verified it was fine.

26 Supermights then said, "Let us sculpt humanity in our imitative model. Let them reign over the fish of the sea, the flying creatures of the air, over the animals and the entire Earth, and over every creature that creeps on the ground."

27 Supermights then designed and created humanity

as his model.

In Supermights' likeness, he originated him;

male and female he individuated them.

28 Supermights blessed and charged them; "Be fruitful. Fill and populate the Earth. Harness the Earth and have oversight over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, over the animals and the entire Earth, and over every creature that creeps on the ground."

29 Supermights then said, "Take a look, I’ve produced and given you all seed-producing plants on the entire surface of the Earth and every tree that produces fruit and seed. They’ll be food for you. 30 To every animal of the field, to every flying creature of the atmosphere, and to every living creature that creeps on the ground, I’ve given the green grass for food." So, it was excellent. 31 Then Supermights checked and verified everything that He had made – it was superb! The arrival of dusk-till-dawn concluded the sixth day.

Genesis 2

1 That is how the Celestial Bodies and the Earth were finished, with everything that populated them. 2 By the seventh day, Supermights had completed the work he had been doing, and on the seventh day, he rested from all his work. 3 Supermights is consecrating and blessing as holy the seventh day because on it he rested from all the work that he had designed to finish.

4 Such is the history of the Celestial Bodies and the Earth at the time of creation when Lifegiver Supermights made the Earth and Celestial Bodies.

5 The entire vegetation had not yet grown on the ground. The plants had not yet sprouted because Lifegiver Supermights had not caused it to rain on the Earth, and no human being was there yet to cultivate the soil.

6 Fountains would well up out of the Earth to sprinkle and spray the entire soil crust.

7 Lifegiver Supermights then designed and moulded a human being from the pulverised mud of the soil and inflated into his nostrils the vitality spark, and the man became a living person.

8 Then Lifegiver Supermights had hedged and planted an orchard towards the east in Eden, and there he would place and appoint the man he would form. 9 From its ground, Lifegiver Supermights sprouted all kinds of beautiful and edible trees. In the centre of the orchard was the tree of life as well as the tree of experience of happiness and misery.

10 A river flowed from Eden to water the orchard, and from there it streamed into four tributaries. 11 The first one's name was Pishon; it surrounded and ringfenced the entire land of Havilah, where there was gold. 12 The gold of that land was the best. There were also pearls and other gems there. 13 The second river's name was Gihon; it surrounded and ringfenced the entire territory of Ethiopia. 14 The third river's name was Tigris; it flowed towards the eastern side of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Lifegiver Supermights picked up and carried the man and had him settled in the orchard in Eden to service and tend to it. 16 Then Lifegiver Supermights instructed the man, "You may freely eat from every tree of the orchard, 17 but you must never eat from the tree of experience of happiness and misery because the moment you eat from it, you’ll die death."

18 Then Lifegiver Supermights thought, " It’s not best for this man to exist by himself. I’ll make him a reciprocal partner."

19 Lifegiver Supermights then formed from the ground every living wild animal and every flying creature of the atmosphere. He then brought them to the man to consider what he would call each of them, and whatever Adam named each living creature, that became its name. 20 Even though Adam met and named all the animals, the flying creatures of the atmosphere, and the living wild creatures, no obvious matching partner was found to be adequate for Adam.

21 Then Lifegiver Supermights caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was asleep, he removed a part of Adam's side and stitched up the body with the skin. 22 Lifegiver Supermights then developed a woman from the part of the side he had taken from the man and presented her to the man.

23 Then Adam exclaimed,

"Here, finally, is the bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

this one will be called 'woman,'

because she was extracted from man."

24 So based on this, a man relinquishes and leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one family.

25 Both the man and his woman were naked but felt no shame.

Genesis 3

The Temptation and Fall of Humanity

1 Afterwards, the snake became craftier than any of the wild animals that Lifegiver Supermights had made. He said to the woman, "Did Supermights truly say, 'You mustn't eat from any tree of the orchard?' 2 The woman replied to the snake, "We may eat fruit from the fruit trees of the orchard, 3 except the fruit tree that is in the centre of the orchard. Supermights had said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, in case you die.'" 4 The snake replied to the woman, "You’ll not die death. 5 In fact, Supermights knows that the moment you eat from it your mind will be broadened and you’ll be elevated as Supermights, discerning good and bad."

6 When the woman looked at the fruit produced by the tree, it appeared appetising for food, attractive to the eyes. The tree was also desirable to make one intelligent. She took some of the fruit, and she ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband, with her he ate it. 7 Then the couple's sights were amplified, and they realised that they were naked. So, they stitched twigs of fig tree together and made waist coverings for themselves.

8 Later the man and his wife heard and tracked the sound of the movement of Lifegiver Supermights pacing and whirling in the orchard during the progression of the day. Then they hid among the trees of the orchard from an encounter with Lifegiver Supermights. 9 But Lifegiver Supermights called out for humanity and asked, "Where are you?" 10 Then Adam replied, "I heard and listened to your sound in the orchard, and I was terrified because I’m naked, so I hid." 11 Then Lifegiver Supermights asked, "Who told that you were naked? Have you eaten the fruit of the tree which I said you were not to eat?" 12 Then the man replied, "The woman you gave me to be with me gave me some of the fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 So Lifegiver Supermights asked the woman, "What have you done?" So, the woman replied, "The snake tricked me, and I ate."

14 Lifegiver Supermights said to the snake,

"Since you have done this,

you are bitterly cursed more than all the animals

and all the living wild creatures!

All the days of your life,

you’ll slither on your belly and eat dust.

15 Then I’ll set hatred between you and the woman

and between your offspring and her child;

he will crack your head,

and you’ll bruise his heel."

16 To the woman, he then said,

"I’ll intensely increase your pregnancy pains;

with painful intensity, you’ll give birth to children.

You’ll overextend yourself on your husband,

but he’ll overpower you."

17 But to Adam, he said,

"Seeing you accepted your wife's suggestion

and ate from the tree about which I instructed you,

'You must not eat from it.'

The Earth is cursed because of you.

You’ll feed from the ground in painful toil

your entire lifetime.

18 The ground will sprout out thorns and thistles for you,

but you’ll have to eat wild plants to survive.

19 You’ll get food through the sweat of your brow

until you return to the ground,

because out of it you were derived.

Since you are dust,

to dust, you’ll return."

20 From then on, Adam addressed his wife by the name Eve because she would become the mother of all Life.

21 Lifegiver Supermights made skin garments for Adam and his wife and dressed them up.

22 Then Lifegiver Supermights said, "Since humanity has become the same as us, able to experience happiness and misery, and if they were allowed to stretch out their hand and take from the tree of life and eat, they would live forever." 23 So Lifegiver Supermights chased humanity out of the orchard in Eden to tend the ground from which they had been taken. 24 When he chased humanity out, he placed on the far eastern side of Eden messenger patrols and a blazing revolving sword to guard the pathway to the tree of life.

Genesis 4

Cain’s Jealous Fratricide

1 Adam discovered and intimately experienced Eve as a wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain, and she boasted; “I’ve acquired myself my own man like Lifegiver!”

2 Later she again conceived and birthed his brother, Abel. Abel grew to be a livestock farmer, while Cain grew to be an agronomist.

3 At the appointed time, Cain brought some of the soil produce as an offering to Lifegiver. 4 Then Abel brought the choicest of his flock. Lifegiver was pleased with Abel and his offering, 5 but he was not pleased with Cain and his offering. Cain was furious. His face sagged. 6 Then Lifegiver said to Cain, “Why are you furious, and why is your face sagging? 7 If you do what is right, won't' you be accepted? But if you don't do what is right, sin is squatting at the door, desiring to overpower you, but you must suppress it.”

8 Cain then had a conversation with his brother Abel. Then he said; “Let’s go out to the wild.” When they were in the wild field, Cain got upset against his brother Abel and murdered him. 9 Then Lifegiver said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” And he replied, “I don’t know! Am I my brother’s custodian?” 10 But Lifegiver said, “What have you done? The clamour of your brother’s shed blood is crying out to me from the ground! 11 Now you are banished from the ground that opened and widened its hole to swallow your brother’s shed blood from your hand. 12 Whenever you till and work the ground, it will no longer yield its best. You’ll be a wandering fugitive in the land.” 13 Then Cain said to Lifegiver, “My punishment is too much to bear! 14 Since you are chasing me out of the land today, and I must hide from you, I’ll be a wandering fugitive in the land; whoever finds me will kill me.” 15 But Lifegiver said to him, “If anyone kills Cain, Cain’s life will be avenged seven times.” Then Lifegiver put a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him. 16 Then Cain left from the presence of Lifegiver and settled in the land of exile, east of Eden.

17 Cain had an intimate experience with his wife, and she was pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain built a city and named the city after his son Enoch.

18 Then to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael. Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.

19 Lamech married two wives for himself; the name of the first one was Adah, and the name of the second wife was Zillah.

20 Adah birthed Jabal; he was the forebear of those who live in tents and keep flocks. 21 His brother’s name was Jubal, and he was the forebear of all musical instrument players.

22 Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-Cain, who heated metal and produced all kinds of tools made of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

23 Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah! Listen to me!

You wives of Lamech, listen to my words!

I’ve killed a man for wounding me,

a young man for hurting me.

24 If Cain is to be avenged seven times,

surely Lamech will be seventy-seven times!”

25 Again Adam had an intimate experience with his wife. Then she gave birth to a son she named Seth, saying, “Supermights has given me another child instead of Abel whom Cain had killed.” 26 To Seth also was born a son who he named Enosh. From that time on, people started calling on the name of Lifegiver.

Genesis 5

Adam’s Family Story

1 This is Adam’s other family biography. On the day Supermights created humanity, he created him as Supermights’ resemblance. 2 He individuated them as male and female. At the time they were created, he blessed them. He also pronounced and classified them as humanity.

3 After Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son like himself, resembling him, he called and announced his name as Seth. 4 Adam’s life after the birth of Seth was 800 years. During that time, he had other sons and daughters. 5 Adam lived for a total lifetime of 930 years and died.

6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he had a son, Enosh. 7 Seth lived for 807 years after he fathered and brought up Enosh, and he had other sons and daughters. 8 Seth lived for a total of 912 years and died.

9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he had a son Kenan. 10 Enosh was alive 815 years after the birth of Kenan, and during that time he had other sons and daughters. 11 Enosh lived a total of 905 years then died.

12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he had a son Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived 840 years after the birth of Mahalalel, and during that time he had other sons and daughters. 14 Kenan lived a total of 910 years then died.

15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he had a son Jared. 16 Mahalalel was alive 830 years after the birth of Jared, and during that time he had other sons and daughters.

17 Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years then died. 18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he had a son Enoch. 19 Jared was alive 800 years after the birth of Enoch, and he had other sons and daughters. 20 Jared lived a total of 962 years then died.

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, had a son Methuselah. 22 After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch continued to walk with Supermights for 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. 23 Enoch lived for a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch continued to walk with Supermights and disappeared because Supermights had carried him away.

25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he had a son Lamech. 26 After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years, and during that time he had other sons and daughters. 27 Methuselah was alive for a total of 969 years. After that, he died.

28 Lamech was alive for 182 years, and he had a son. 29 He named him Noah as he was saying, “This one will bring us comfort from our hard labour and the toil of our hands because of the land which Lifegiver has cursed.” 30 After the birth of Noah, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Lamech lived a total of 777 years then died.

32 After Noah was 500 years old, he fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 6

Regrettable Human Depravity

1 It occurred, because humanity began to multiply on the surface of the Earth, as girls were born to them, 2 the mighty males looked at people's daughters and noticed that they were attractive. They then grabbed girls from everyone, as much as whatever they selected. 3 So Lifegiver said, “My Spirit will no longer strive with these people, as they are totally carnal. Their lifespan will be 120 years.” 4 They were giants in those times on Earth and for a while afterwards. When the mighty males penetrated people's daughters, they birthed renowned gigantic long-lasting humanity.

5 When Lifegiver realised that human corruption was intensifying on Earth, their very imagination, thoughts, and their inclinations were altogether depraved all the time, 6 Lifegiver regretted that he had made humanity on Earth, and he was deeply grieved. 7 So Lifegiver said, “I’ll wipe out everything I’ve created from the surface of the Earth – everything from humans to animals and creeping creatures that move on the ground and the flying creatures of the atmosphere. Indeed, I regret that I made them.” 8 But Noah occasioned grace in Lifegiver’s opinion.

9 This is the story of Noah. Noah was upright, a person of integrity among his contemporaries. Noah was aligned with Supermights. 10 Noah fathered three sons - Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 The Earth was corrupt before the eyes of Supermights; it was full of violence. 12 Supermights inspected and assessed the Earth and confirmed it was depraved. Indeed, everybody else on Earth corrupted and perverted their lifestyle. 13 So Supermights said to Noah, “I’ve decided that all humanity must die. Indeed, the Earth is full of violence because of them. Look I’m now about to destroy them and the Earth. 14 Make yourself a ship of cypress wood. Make and build some rooms on the ship. Cover the vessel with tar coating inside and outside. 15 This is how you are to make the ship: 140 metres long, 23 metres wide, and 13.5 metres high. 16 Make a roof for the ship and allow a 0.5 metre opening at the top for light. Make lower, middle, and upper decks and put a door on one side of the ship.

17 "I’m going to bring floods on the Earth to destroy everything that breathes under the sky. Everything which is on Earth will die, 18 but I’ll establish my agreement with you. You’ll board the ship – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. 19 You must take into the ship a pair of every species of living creatures, male and female, to preserve them with you - 20 different species of the flying creatures, different animal species, and species of every ground-creeping creatures, pairs of every species will come to you so that you can preserve them. 21 Then you must gather and store for yourself and the animals - every kind of edible food.” 22 Then Noah did all that Supermights instructed him, accurately.

Genesis 7

The Worldwide Catastrophic Flood

1 Lifegiver said to Noah, “Come into the ship with your family, for you are the one I consider upright among your contemporaries. 2 Take with you seven pairs of every kind of pure and impure animals, male and female, 3 and seven of every kind of bird in the air, male and female, so that you may preserve their offspring on the surface of the Earth. 4 In seven days, I’ll cause it to rain on the Earth for forty days and forty nights, and I’ll efface every living thing I made from the surface of the Earth.” 5 Noah did everything that Lifegiver instructed him to do.

6 Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters broke on the Earth. 7 Noah entered the ship with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives before the flowing of the floodwaters. 8 Pairs of pure and impure animals of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9 in pairs, male and female, came into the ship to Noah, just as Supermights had previously told him. 10 Then the floodwaters started to gush over the Earth seven days later.

11 In the 600th year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month – on that day all the sources of the various underground waterscapes burst open and the floodgates of the skies were flung open 12 and torrential rain fell on the Earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On that same day, Noah entered the ship, together with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with his wife and his three sons’ wives. 14 Then with them, boarded every living creature after its species, every animal after its species, every creeping thing that creeps on the ground after its species, and every bird after its species, everything that has wings, 15 and pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life went into the ship with Noah. 16 So those that boarded were male and female, just as Supermights had said. Then Lifegiver shut him in.

17 As the floodwaters continued to cover the Earth for forty days, the water increased and lifted the ship above the ground. 18 And as the floodwaters intensified and quickly covered the Earth, the vessel was raised to the surface of the waters. 19 The waters completely engulfed the Earth that even the highest mountain peaks were covered. 20 Eventually, the waters rose more than 7 metres above the mountains. 21 So all living things that moved on the Earth died, including the birds, domestic and wild animals, and all the creatures that swarm over the Earth, and every human species. 22 So everything else on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. 23 He destroyed every living thing that was on the surface of the Earth, including people, animals, ground-creeping creatures, and flying creatures of the air. They were wiped off the Earth. Only Noah and those who remained with him in the ship survived. 24 The floodwaters surged the Earth for 150 days.

Genesis 8

The Flood Finally Receded

1 Then Supermights remembered and refocused on Noah and every living creature and every animal that were with him in the ship. Supermights then blew some wind across the Earth, and the floodscapes began to recede. 2 The underground water sources and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rainfall from the sky stopped. 3 Floodscapes gradually decreased from the Earth, and by the end of 150 days, the floodscapes were significantly decreased. 4 Then on the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ship came to settle on Ararat mountains.

5 The floodscapes progressively decreased until the tenth month. On the first day of the tenth month, the hilltops were visible. 6 After forty days had passed, Noah opened and removed the window of the ship he had made. 7 Then he released a raven. It kept flying back and forth until the floodscapes had dried up from the Earth. 8 Then he released a dove to check if the floodscapes had significantly dried up from the surface of the Earth. 9 But the dove found no settling spot for its foot’s sole. Then it returned to him in the ship because the floodscapes were still on the surface of the entire Earth. So, he stretched his hand to welcome it. He reached out and brought it into the ship. 10 Then he waited for seven more days before releasing the dove from the ship again. 11 When the dove came back to him in the evening, there was in its beak a freshly-plucked olive twig. Noah realised that the floodscapes had significantly gone down from the Earth. 12 After he had waited another seven days, again he released the dove, but it never returned to him. 13 When the six hundredth and first year came, in the first day of the first month, floodscapes had dried up from the Earth. Noah removed and threw away the ship’s cover when he noticed and observed that the topsoil was drier. 14 Then by the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the topsoil was dried up.

15 Then Supermights talked to Noah; 16 “Come out of the ship, you, your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. 17 Bring out with you all the bodied living creatures that are with you - from all flying creatures, animals, and every creeping creature that crawls on the ground so that they may spread out in the wild, and be productive and multiply on the Earth.” 18 Noah then went out together with his sons and his wife, his sons’ wives, 19 every quadruped animal, every reptilian organism, every flying creature and whatever crawls on the ground and their species came out of the ship.

20 Noah then built an altar for Lifegiver. Then he took from all the pure livestock and all the pure birds and offered incinerated sacrifice on the altar. 21 Lifegiver smelled the delightful and pleasing aroma. Lifegiver then said in his heart, “I’ll never again deface and degrade the Earth because of humanity, even though the human heart’s inclination is wicked from their infancy. I’ll never again strike every living creature as I’ve just done.

22 "As long as the Earth is in its current stage

sowing and reaping time, cold and heat

summer and winter season

day and night will never stop."

Genesis 9

Lifegiver’s Repopulation & Expansion Project

1 Then Supermights blessed and charged Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply and replenish the Earth. 2 Every creature that lives on Earth and every flying creature of the sky will revere you. Everything that creeps and crawls on the ground and all marine life is under your power. 3 Every moving creature that lives will be food for you. I’ve freely given you all the green plants. 4 But you must never eat fresh flesh with blood in it. 5 But surely it is your blood alone, your life, that I’ll require an account for, from the hand of any animal, from the hand of any human being. I’ll even require and demand an account for an individual’s life from the person’s relative.

6 "Whoever sheds human blood

will have his blood shed by other humans,

because humanity was made in Supermights’ resemblance.

7 "You are to be fruitful and multiply; grow abundantly and multiply on the Earth.”

8 Then Supermights addressed Noah and his sons. He said; 9 “Look, I’ll confirming my agreement with you and your posterity after you 10 and with every creature that lives, the birds, the animals, and every creature alive on the Earth that is with you, all that came out of the ship with you and every living creature of the Earth. 11 I now solemnise my agreement with you: Never again will all living creatures be destroyed through the floodwaters; never again will a flood destroy the Earth.”

12 Supermights then said, “This is the sign and guarantee of the agreement I’m giving you, and all living creatures that are with you. It is an agreement for all eternity: 13 I’ll suspend a rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a guarantee of the agreement between me and the world. 14 Whenever I’ve clouded the Earth, and the rainbow is shown in the clouds, 15 I’ll remember my agreement with you and with all kinds of creatures that live. Never again will there be floodwaters to destroy all life. 16 The rainbow will be in the clouds, and I’ll show it to mark the perpetual agreement between Supermights and all kinds of living creatures on the Earth.” 17 Then Supermights said to Noah, “This is the sign of the agreement that I’m confirming between me and every living creature on Earth.”

18 Noah's sons that came out from the ship were Shem, Ham and Japheth. Ham had fathered Canaan. 19 These were the three sons of Noah, from whom the whole Earth was repopulated.

20 Noah began to be an agronomist, and he planted a vineyard.

21 He drank some of the wine and got drunk and undressed inside his tent. 22 Ham, Canaan’s father stared at his father’s nakedness and exposed it to his two brothers who were outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth grabbed a cloak, placed it on their shoulders and then walked in backwards and covered their father’s nakedness. Their faces were turned around, and they did not glance at their father’s nakedness.

24 When Noah was awake from his drunkenness, he discovered what his younger son had done to him. 25 So he said,

“Cursed is Canaan!

He will be the servant of servants to his relatives.”

26 He also said,

“Blessed is Lifegiver, Shem’s Supermights!

May Canaan be Shem’s servant!

27 May Supermights expand Japheth’s territory and posterity to greatness

and may he inhabit Shem's tents and may Canaan be his slave!”

28 Noah lived 350 years after the flood. 29 Noah was alive for a total of 950 years; then he died.

Genesis 10

Tribes, Races and Nationalities

1 This is the list of descendants of Noah’s sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons and nationalities were born to them after the flood.

2 Japheth’s sons were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. 3 Gomer’s sons were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. 4 Javan’s sons were Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittim, and Dodanim. 5 Out of these were the countries of the nationalities of coastlands, spread into their lands, each one according to their language, by their tribes and their nationalities.

6 Ham’s sons were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. 7 Cush’s sons were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. Raamah’s sons were Sheba and Dedan.

8 Cush also fathered Nimrod. Nimrod became a powerful warrior on the Earth. 9 He also became an excellent hunter before Lifegiver; hence it’s said “As an excellent hunter as Nimrod before Lifegiver.” 10 The principal areas of his empire were Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh in the country of Shinar. 11 From that territory, he proceeded to Assyria, where he built the entire Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen, which is between Nineveh and the great city Calah.

13 Mizraim fathered Luddites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, 14 Pathrusites, Casluhites, out of whom emerged the Philistines, and Caphtorites.

15 Canaan fathered Sidonians by his firstborn, Heth, 16 as well as the Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, 17 Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, 18 Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites. After that, the families of the Canaanites were dispersed abroad, 19 and the territory of Canaanites stretched from Sidon as far as Gerar, Gaza, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, and as far as Lasha.

20 Those were Ham’s sons, according to their families, according to their languages, their countries and their nationalities.

21 And children were also born to Shem, the older brother of Japheth, the progenitor of all the children of Eber. 22 Shem’s sons were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

23 Aram’s sons were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

24 Arphaxad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber. 25 To Eber two sons were born: The one was named Peleg because during his birth the Earth was split. His brother’s name was Joktan. 26 Joktan fathered of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan. 30 Their territory stretched from Mesha as far as Sephar in the eastern hills.

31 These are Shem’s sons according to their families, according to their languages, their countries, and their nationalities.

32 Those are the families of Noah's sons, according to their genealogies, by their nationalities. From those, the nationalities populated the Earth after the flood.

Genesis 11

The Tower of Confusion

1 The whole world once had a universal language and a common cause. 2 When they migrated from the east, they discovered a valley in a region between two rivers and settled there. 3 Then they said to each other, “Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had bricks instead of stones and tar instead of cement. 4 Then they said, “Let's build ourselves a city and a sky scrapping tower so that we may erect a monument for ourselves. Otherwise, we’ll be dispersed across the surface of the entire Earth.” 5 But Lifegiver came down to inspect the city and the tower that the children of humanity had started building.

6 Then Lifegiver said, “If as one nation, sharing a common language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plot to do will be challenging to them. 7 Come, let’s descend and confuse their language so that they don't understand each other." 8 So Lifegiver dispersed them from there across the surface of the entire Earth. They gave up building the city. 9 That is why its name was called Babel because Lifegiver confused the language of the world as a whole there. From there Lifegiver dispersed them across the surface of the entire Earth.

Designated Shem’s Descendants to Abraham

10 This is the bloodline of Shem. Shem was 100 old when he eventually fathered Arphaxad, two years after the flood. 11 And after he had fathered Arphaxad, Shem lived 500 years and had other sons and daughters. 12 When Arphaxad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah. 13 And after he fathered Shelah, Arphaxad lived 403 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber. 15 And after he had fathered Eber, Shelah lived 403 years and had other sons and daughters. 16 When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg. 17 And after he had fathered Peleg, Eber lived 430 years and had other sons and daughters. 18 When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu. 19 And after he had fathered Reu, Peleg lived 209 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug. 21 And after he had fathered Serug, Reu lived 207 years and had other sons and daughters. 22 When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor. 23 And after he had fathered Nahor, Serug lived 200 years and had other sons and daughters. 24 When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah. 25 And after he had fathered Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and had other sons and daughters. 26 When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

27 This is the bloodline of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran. And Haran fathered Lot. 28 Haran died young before his father Terah, in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. 29 Then Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. Abram’s wife’s name was Sarai, and Nahor’s wife’s name was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. 30 But Sarai was infertile; she was childless. 31 Terah took Abram, his son, Lot his grandson, Haran’s son, and Sarai, his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife, and with them, he left Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan. They came to Haran and settled there. 32 Terah’s entire lifetime was 205 years, and he died in Haran.

Genesis 12

Abraham’s Messianic Discipleship & First Tests

1 Lifegiver had said to Abram,

“Leave your native country,

your relatives, and your father’s household

for the land that I’ll show you.

2 I’ll make you into a great nation

and will prosper you.

I’ll make your name famous.

You’ll also become a blessing.

3 I’ll bless those who bless you,

but I’ll denounce those who disregard you.

All the races of the world

will be blessed through you.”

4 Abram travelled, just as Lifegiver had told him to do, and Lot left with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. 5 Abram took Sarai, his wife, and took Lot, his nephew, and all the assets that they had accumulated and the persons they had employed in Haran. They then set out to travel to the land of Canaan. When they arrived in the region of Canaan, 6 Abram surveyed the entire area as far as the oak tree of Moreh at Shechem. Canaanites were still in the land. 7 Then Lifegiver showed himself to Abram and said, “I’ll give this entire land to your posterity.” Immediately Abram built an altar to Lifegiver, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he then moved to the hill on the eastern side of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the western side and Ai on the eastern side. There and then he built an altar to Lifegiver and called on Lifegiver’s name.

9 Abram gradually camped and journeyed southwards in the Negev.

10 There was a drought in the area. As a result, Abram went down to Egypt to temporarily stay there because of the drought that was severe in the area. 11 When he was approaching Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “Since I know you are a beautiful woman to look at, 12 when the Egyptians will see you they’ll say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they’ll kill me but will keep you alive. 13 So please say to them you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you and my life will be spared because of you.”

14 As Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians noticed that the woman was stunning. 15 When Pharaoh’s officers saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. So Abram’s wife was brought to Pharaoh’s palace, 16 and he treated Abram well because of her: he had sheep and cattle, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

17 But Lifegiver severely punished Pharaoh and his family because of the case of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18 So Pharaoh questioned Abram and said, “What have you done to me? Why didn’t you tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister.’ I could have taken her to be my wife? Now, here is your wife! Take her and leave!” 20 Pharaoh sent his men with Abram, and they escorted him out, along with his wife and all that he had.

Genesis 13

Abram and Lot Go Separate Ways

1 So Abram, with his wife and his assets ascended out of Egypt into the Negev, and Lot was with him. 2 Now Abram had become very rich in livestock, silver and gold. 3 He camped and travelled from the Negev as far as Bethel, until the place where he had his tent at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 the place where he had first built the altar. There Abram called on the name of Lifegiver.

5 Now Lot, who had been travelling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. 6 But the land was unable to sustain both of them together because their livestock was too much. They were not able to live alongside each. 7 So there were tensions and conflicts between Abram’s herdsmen and Lot’s herdsmen. The Canaanites and the Perizzites were still living in the land at that time.

8 Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no conflicts between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen because we are relatives. 9 Is not the whole land open before you? Please separate yourself now from me. If you go to the north, then I’ll go to the south, but if you go to the right, then I’ll go to the left.” 10 Lot looked up and scanned the whole valley of the Jordan. All of it was well-watered (before Lifegiver razed Sodom and Gomorrah) like Lifegiver’s orchard of Lifegiver, like the land of Egypt, as far as Zoar. 11 Then Lot handpicked for himself the whole region of the Jordan and travelled toward the east. They separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot settled in the cities of the valley and pitched his tents towards Sodom. 13 But the people of Sodom were horrible and unrepentant before Lifegiver.

14 After Lot had separated himself from him, Lifegiver said to Abram, “Please lift your eyes, look from where you're standing to the north, south, east, and west. 15 I’ll give the entire land that you see to you and your posterity forever. 16 I’ll make your descendants like the dust of the Earth so that if anyone could count the dust of the Earth, then your descendants could be counted. 17 Rise and walk throughout the length and breadth of the land, because I’ll give it to you.”

18 So Abram decamped and went to live near the oaks of Mamre in Hebron, where he built an altar to Lifegiver.

Genesis 14

Abraham Rescues Lot and Meets King Melchizedek

1 At that time King Amraphel of Shinar, King Arioch of Ellasar, King Kedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goyim 2 went to war against King Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of Admah, King Shemeber of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela which is Zoar. 3 They all came together in the Valley of Siddim, which is the Salt Sea. 4 They had submitted themselves to Kedorlaomer for twelve years, but on the thirteenth year they rebelled. 5 On the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and crushed the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim, 6 as well as the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is near the desert. 7 Then they turned back and came to attack En-Mishpat, which is Kadesh. They conquered the entire Amalekite territory, together with the Amorites who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

8 Then the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, Bela which is Zoar went out and prepared for war in the Valley of Siddim. They met 9 King Kedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goyim, King Amraphel of Shinar, and King Arioch of Ellasar, four kings against five. 10 The Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt trenches. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled and fell there. Those who survived fled to the mountains. 11 They plundered all the riches and food supplies of Sodom and Gomorrah and went their way. 12 When they left they also seized and plundered Lot, Abram’s nephew who lived in Sodom. 13 A surviving escapee came and told Abram the Hebrew who lived by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and Aner. These were contractually allied to Abram.

14 When Abram discovered that his relative was captured, he mobilised his 318 well-trained personnel who had been born in his house and went in pursuit as far as Dan. 15 Then, clustering his troops at night, Abram crushed and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. 16 He reclaimed all the assets and rescued his relative Lot and his assets, the women and the entourage of people.

17 As Abram was returning from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings that were allied to him, the king of Sodom came out to meet Abram in the Valley of Shaveh, known as the King’s Dale. 18 King Melchizedek of Salem, who was the priest of Supermights, brought food and wine.

19 He blessed him, saying,

“May Abram be blessed by Supermights,

the Proprietor of Heaven and Earth.

20 Great is Supermights

who delivered your enemies into your hands.”

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe of everything.

21 Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep your assets.” 22 But Abram responded to the king of Sodom, “I’ve raised my hand to Lifegiver Supermights, the owner of Celestial Bodies and Earth, and vowed 23 that I would not take anything that belongs to you, not even a thread or shoelace. Otherwise, you’ll claim; 'I’ve enriched Abraham.’ 24 I’ll take nothing except whatever the young men have eaten as well as the share of the men who went with me – Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre – let them get their share.”

Genesis 15

Lifegiver’s Agreement with Abram

1 After these things, Lifegiver’s message came to Abram in a vision:

“Don't be afraid, Abram!

I’m your shield,

and your reward will be sufficiently abundant.”

2 Then Abram responded, “Supermights Lifegiver, what will you give me since I’m wandering childless? Then who will be a legitimate inheritor of my estate? Eliezer of Damascus 3 since you have not given me any offspring but a son of acquisition in my house to be my heir?” Abram enquired.

4 Right there, Lifegiver’s response to him was: “He will not be your heir. Only the one who will come from inside you will be your heir.” 5 Then he took him outside and said, “Please scan the sky and count the stars – if you can count them!” Then he said to him, “That's how numerous your posterity will be.” 6 He believed Lifegiver, and Lifegiver credited it to him as rightness.

7 He also said to him, “I’m Lifegiver who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” 8 But Abram said, “Supreme Lifegiver, how will I ascertain that I’ll possess it?” 9 Lifegiver said to him, “Bring a three-year-old female calf, a three-year-old female goat, and a three-year-old ram, with a turtle dove and a young pigeon.”

10 He fetched all of these and then halved them and put each piece alongside each other, but he did not halve the birds. 11 When ravenous hawks would swoop down on the carcasses, Abram would chase them away.

12 As the sunlight was disappearing, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and a terror of intense darkness suddenly fell on him.

13 Then Lifegiver said to Abram, “Know for sure that your descendants will become temporal residents in a country not theirs. They’ll serve in bondage and oppression for four hundred years. 14 But I’ll punish the nation that they’ll serve. Afterwards, they’ll come out with abundant riches. 15 But you’ll go to your forefathers in prosperity and be buried at a good old age. 16 After the fourth generation, your descendants will return here, because the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached full measure.”

17 When the sunlight disappeared, and it was dark, a smoking firepot with a flaming lamp passed between those cut-off portions. 18 On that day Lifegiver made an agreement with Abram: “To your descendants, I’ll grant the land from the river of Egypt up to the great river Euphrates River – 19 including the countries of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.”

Genesis 16

Abraham’s Family Challenges and Tensions

1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife had not birthed children for him, but she had a menial Egyptian female servant named Hagar. 2 So Sarai spoke to Abram, “Since Lifegiver has prevented me from having children, please resort to my servant, I’ll possibly have children through her.” Abram accepted Sarai’s suggestion.

3 After Abram had lived in the country of Canaan for ten years, Sarai, Abram’s wife, herself fetched and brought Hagar, the Egyptian female servant, to her husband to be as a wife to him. 4 He resorted to Hagar, and she conceived. When she realised that she had become pregnant, her proprietress became lightly esteemed in her opinion. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong against you: I brought my female servant to your embracing bosom. Now because she realised that she had become pregnant, she looks at me with contemptuous eyes. May Lifegiver judge between you and me!” 6 Abram said to Sarai, “Since your servant is under your power, do to her whatever seems best in your opinion.” Sarai dealt harshly with her so much that she ran away from her.

7 Lifegiver’s messenger found Hagar near a water spring in the desert towards Shur. 8 He said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She replied, “I’m running away from the fury of my proprietress, Sarai.” 9 Then Lifegiver’s messenger said to her, “Return to your proprietress and submit to her power. 10 I’ll abundantly increase your descendants so that they’ll be too many to enumerate.” 11 Then Lifegiver’s messenger said to her, “You are now pregnant and are about to birth a son. You’ll call his name Ishmael because Lifegiver has responded to your adversity. 12 He’ll be a wild person. His hand will be opposed to everyone, and everyone’s hand will be against him. He’ll settle away from the neighbourhood of all his relatives.”

13 So Hagar called the name of Lifegiver and declared; “You are the Great Supermights who sees! Indeed, I’ve here seen the one who sees me!” 14 That is why the well was called Beer-lahai-roi, located between Kadesh and Bered.

15 Then Hagar birthed Abram a son. Abram called his son’s name, whom Hagar birthed, Ishmael. 16 Abram was 86 years in age when Hagar birthed Ishmael for Abram.

Genesis 17

Abraham’s Household Circumcision

1 When Abram was 99 years old, Lifegiver appeared to Abraham and said, “I’m the self-sufficient Supermights. Live before me fully. 2 I’ll make the agreement between you and me, and I’ll make so great.” 3 Abram bowed his face down. Then Supermights spoke to him, saying; 4 “I’ll honour my agreement with you. You’ll become the principal of multiple nations. 5 No longer will your name be Abram. Your name will become Abraham because I’ve designated you the ancestor of many nations. 6 I’ll make you extremely and exceedingly fruitful. I’ll build nations out of you, and royalty will be brought out of you. 7 I’ll establish and uphold my agreement as an everlasting agreement between you and myself, as well as your descendants after you throughout their generations. I’ll be your deity and for your descendants after you. 8 I’ll give you the entire land of Canaan – the land wherein you now live as a temporary resident – to you and your posterity after you as a permanent possession. I’ll become their Supermights.”

9 Then Supermights said to Abraham, “You are to keep my agreement, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10 This is my agreement that you and your posterity after you must keep. Every male child among you must be circumcised. 11 You must circumcise the tissue of your foreskins. This will be a mark of the agreement between you and me. 12 Every male among you, throughout your generations, who is eight days old must be circumcised; whether birthed in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not part of your descendants. 13 Whether born in your house or bought with money, both must be circumcised. The agreement will be permanently marked on your flesh. 14 Any uncircumcised man who has not been cut in the tissue of his foreskin will be removed from his people – he has broken my agreement.”

15 Then Supermights said to Abraham, “Regarding Sarai, your wife, you must no longer call her name Sarai; Sarah will be her name. 16 I’ll bless her, and I’ll give you a son through her, and I’ll bless her, and she’ll produce nations. People’s kings will come from her!” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face laughing as he thought in his mind; “Can there be a child for a hundred-year-old person? Can Sarah, who is ninety years conceive?”

18 Abraham addressed Supermights; “Only if Ishmael would be acceptable to you!” 19 Supermights responded; “Sarah, your wife, is going to bear you a son definitely, and you’ll call his name Isaac. I’ll make and sustain my agreement with him as a perpetual covenant for his descendants after him. 20 Regarding Ishmael, I’ve heard you. I’ll bless him. I’ll also make him fruitful, and will greatly and exceedingly multiply him. He’ll father twelve princes; I’ll make him a great nation. 21 But my agreement I’ll perpetuate through Isaac, whom Sarah will birth to you at the appointed time next year.” 22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, Supermights then withdrew from Abraham.

23 That very day, Abraham took his son Ishmael and every male in his household, born in his house or bought with money, and he circumcised the tissue of their foreskins, precisely as Supermights had told him. 24 Abraham was 99 years in age when the tissue of his foreskin was circumcised; 25 his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised. 26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised on the same day. 27 All the men of his household, born in his house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Genesis 18

Abraham’s Promised Son & Intercession for Sodom

1 Lifegiver approached him at midday while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent near the oaks of Mamre. 2 Abraham looked up and suddenly noticed three men coming up before him. As he saw them, he rushed from the entrance of the tent to meet them and bowed himself on the ground. 3 He said, “Sirs, if I find favour with you, please do not pass by from your servant. 4 Kindly let a little water be fetched to wash your feet, and relax under the tree. 5 Let me then fetch a piece of bread to refresh you after which you may pass on because you would have come to your servant. “So, you may do as you say,” they answered.

6 So Abraham rushed to Sarah's tent and said, “Quickly take three measures of fine flour, knead it, and bake bread.” 7 Then Abraham ran to the herds and chose a fine, tender calf, and gave it to a young servant to prepare it. 8 Abraham then took some yoghurt, with the beef that had been prepared, and placed it before them. He sat with them under the tree while they ate.

9 Then they asked him, “Where’s your wife, Sarah?” He replied, “She’s in the tent.” 10 One of them said, “I’ll definitely return to you at the regular time. Mark it. Your wife, Sarah, will have a son!” Sarah overheard it through the entrance of the tent, which was not far behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were aged, past the birthing age; Sarah had long been postmenopausal. 12 Sarah laughed and thought, “After I’m worn out, will I have pleasure with my husband so old?” 13 Then Lifegiver asked Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I have a child when I’m old?’ 14 Is anything difficult with Lifegiver? I’ll return to you at the regular time, and Sarah will have a son.” 15 But Sarah denied and said, “I did not laugh,” because she was afraid. But Lifegiver said, “No, because you did laugh!”

16 When the men got up from there, they turned towards Sodom. Now Abraham walked with them to escort them on their way. 17 Then Lifegiver thought “Should I hide from Abraham what I’m about to do, 18 seeing that Abraham will grow to become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations on the Earth will be blessed through his name? 19 I’ve appointed him so that he instructs his children and his house after him to observe the way of Lifegiver, doing what’s right and just so that Lifegiver fulfils to Abraham what he promised concerning him.” 20 So Lifegiver said, “Seeing that the scream against Sodom and Gomorrah has increased and because their sinfulness is extremely grievous, 21 I’ve come down now to check if they have completely advanced as the scream which has come to me suggests. Whether or not they have, I’ll know first-hand for sure.” 22 The two men changed their direction from there and headed for Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before Lifegiver. 23 Abraham advanced and said, “Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 If there were 50 righteous people in the city, will you still shave it off and not spare the place because of the 50 righteous who are in it? 25 Let such an act be far from you – to kill the righteous with the wicked, that the good fall like the wicked! Let this be far from you! Won't the judge of the entire Earth follow justice?” 26 Then Lifegiver replied, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous people, I’ll pardon the entire place for their sake.” 27 Then Abraham reflected and replied “See I, who is but dust and ashes, have now taken it upon myself to negotiate with Lifegiver. 28 If there are 5 less than 50 righteous people, will you destroy the entire city for the five?” He replied, “If I find forty-five there, I’ll not destroy it.” 29 Abraham spoke to him again, “If 40 are found there?” He replied, “I’ll not destroy it for the 40's sake.” 30 Then Abraham said, “May Lifegiver not be angry that I speak! If thirty are found there?” He replied, “If thirty are found there, I’ll not do it.” 31 Abraham said, “Since I’ve now taken it upon myself to negotiate with Lifegiver; if 20 be found there?” He replied, “I’ll not destroy it for the 20's sake.” 32 Abraham said, “May Lifegiver not be angry that I speak only once more. If ten are found there?” He replied, “I’ll not destroy it for the ten’s sake.” 33 Then Lifegiver went on his way as soon as he had finished speaking with Abraham. Then Abraham returned home.

Genesis 19

Destruction of Sodom and Lot’s Incestuous Daughters

1 While Lot was sitting at Sodom’s entrance in the evening, the two messengers arrived in Sodom. When Lot spotted them, he got up to meet them and bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 He said, “Here, sirs, please turn in to your servant’s house. Stay the night and have your feet washed, and early in the morning you may go on your way.” “No, we’ll be in the street all night,” they replied. 3 But he persistently urged them, and they turned in with him and entered his house. He prepared them a feast and baked unraised bread, and they ate.

4 Before they could sleep, all the men of Sodom, boys and older men, people from every part of the city, surrounded the house. 5 They shouted at Lot, “Where are the men that came to you tonight? Bring them to us so we can be intimate with them!” 6 Lot went out to them in the entrance, shutting the door behind him. 7 He said, “Please brothers! Do nothing disgracing! 8 Look now, I’ve two daughters who have never had intimacy with men. Let me please bring them out for you, and you can do to them whatever is good to your eyes. Only do no such thing to these men, for this is why they have come under the protection of my roof.” 9 They retorted, “Stand back!” They also said, “This one came to live here temporarily, and now he presumes to judge us! Now we’ll deal worst with you than with them!” They poked Lot's body violently and were almost breaking the door down. 10 But the men inside stretched out their hands and quickly pulled Lot back into the house towards themselves and shut the door. 11 Then they struck those at the door of the house with blindness, the younger and older, so much that they exhausted themselves groping for the door.

12 Then the two men asked Lot, “Who else do you have here? Sons-in-law? Sons? Daughters? Whoever you have in the city, get them out of this place 13 because we’ll be destroying this place because the outcry is so great before Lifegiver. Lifegiver has sent us to destroy it.”

14 Then Lot went out to speak to his sons-in-law who were going to marry his daughters. He said, “Up! Get out of this place because Lifegiver will be destroying the city!” But he became a mockery to his sons-in-law.

15 When morning dawned, the messengers rushed Lot, saying, “Get going! Quickly take your wife and your two daughters who are here, in case you are scraped in the punishment of the city!” 16 When Lot hesitated, the men clutched his hand and the hand of his wife and their two daughters’ hands. Lifegiver had mercy on them. They led and released them outside the city.

17 When they had brought them out, they said, “Run away for your lives! Don’t look back longingly or stop anywhere in the valley! Run away to the mountains in case you are scraped!” 18 But Lot pleaded with them, “No, please, Lifegiver! 19 Your servant has truly found favour in your eyes, and you have amplified your kindness by preserving my life. But I may not be able to run to the mountains. This disaster might overtake me, and I’ll die. 20 Look, this town is nearer to slip into, and it’s just a small one. Let me run there. It’s just a short while, isn’t it? Then my body will revive.” 21 Then he replied, “Fine! I also accept your appeal on this matter. I’ll not destroy the town you mentioned. 22 Run and slip in there, for I’ll not be able to do anything until you arrive there.” That is just why the town was called Zoar.

23 The sunlight had just appeared over the region when Lot reached Zoar. 24 Then Lifegiver rained sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah, but the fire was from Lifegiver, from the sky. 25 He demolished and flattened those cities and that whole region with all the inhabitancy of the cities and the vegetation from the ground. 26 But Lot’s wife, from behind him, gazed back longingly and became a pillar of pulverised salt.

27 Abraham woke early in the morning and walked towards the spot where he had stood in front of Lifegiver. 28 He looked out towards the direction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the entire area of that region. He saw the smoke from the region going up like smoke from a furnace. 29 When Supermights was destroyed and demolished the cities of the region, Supermights was mindful of Abraham. He dispatched Lot from the thick of the destruction when he was destroying and demolishing the cities where Lot had lived.

30 Lot with his two daughters left from Zoar to live in the mountains because he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he and his two daughters lived in a cave.

31 Then the eldest daughter spoke to the younger one, “Our father is ageing, and no man in this vicinity can copulate with us, in the normal way of the entire world. 32 Come, let's make our father drink wine so we can sleep with him and preserve families through our father.” 33 Later that night, they made their father drink wine, and the eldest daughter went in and slept with her father. But he did not realise she had had sexual contact and then got up.

34 When the next day came, the eldest daughter spoke to the younger one, “See, I slept with my father last night. Let’s make him drunk again tonight. Then you go in to sleep with him so we can preserve posterity through our father.” 35 Again, they made their father drunk that night too. The younger one got up and slept with him. But he did not realise she had had sexual contact and then got up.

36 That’s how both of Lot’s daughters conceived through their father. 37 The eldest daughter got a son and named him Moab who was the father of the contemporary Moabites. 38 Same thing with the younger daughter; she also got a son. She named him Ben-Ammi who was the forebear of the contemporary Ammonites.

Genesis 20

Abraham Compromises Sarah Again

1 From there, Abraham journeyed to the region of the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he temporarily resided in Gerar, 2 Abraham would say about his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” So King Abimelech of Gerar called for Sarah and married her. 3 At night Supermights appeared to Abimelech in a dream and said to him, “You're a dead man because of the woman you've taken because she is married to a husband.” 4 Now Abimelech had not yet come into her. He said, “Lord, would you kill people even if they are innocent? 5 Didn't he say to me, ‘She is my sister? And she, even she confirmed it; ‘He is my brother.’ I’ve done this with an innocent conscience and the innocence of my hands!” 6 Then in the dream Supermights replied to him, “Yes, I know you've done this with an innocent conscience, that is why I’ve spared you from sinning against me. Rightly so, therefore, I did not allow you to touch her. 7 Now return the man’s wife. Since he is a prophet, he'll intercede for you, and you’ll live. But if you don’t return her, understand that you’ll die death along with all that is yours.”

8 Abimelech woke up early in the morning and called all his servants together. When he had clearly explained all these things in their audience, the men were greatly terrified.

9 Abimelech summoned Abraham and asked him, “What have you done to us? What wrong have I done that you would bring such great guilt on me and my reign? You have done things that should not be done!” 10 Abimelech further asked Abraham, “What did you see that you did this thing?” 11 Abraham replied, “It is because I thought, ‘There is no fear of Supermights in this place at all, and they’ll kill me because of my wife.’ 12 Yet indeed she is my sister, my father’s daughter, but not my mother’s daughter, and she became my wife. 13 When Supermights caused me to travel away from my father’s house, I asked her, ‘Do me this favour: at every place wherever we’ll go, say about me, ‘He is my brother.’”

14 Abimelech then gave sheep, cattle, and male and female servants to Abraham and gave him back his wife, Sarah. 15 Then Abimelech said, “Look, my land is before you; settle wherever it seems good to you.” 16 To Sarah, he said, “Look, I’ve given a thousand pieces of silver to your brother. This is a covering of the eyes to all who are with you. By this, you are exonerated.”

17 Abraham prayed to Supermights and Supermights entirely healed Abimelech. His wife and female slaves were able to bear children. 18 For Lifegiver had restrained every womb in the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife’s case.

Genesis 21

Heirship Squabbles in Abraham’ Family and Peace Treaty

1 Lifegiver remembered and focused on Sarah just as he had promised he would. Lifegiver did for Sarah what he had planned. 2 So Sarah conceived and birthed Abraham, a son in his old age at the time that Supermights had predicted. 3 Abraham called and named his son, whom Sarah birthed to him, Isaac.

4 When his son Isaac became eight days old, Abraham circumcised him as Supermights had instructed. 5 Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. 6 Sarah said, “Supermights has made me laugh. Everyone who hears will laugh with me.” 7 She went on to say, “Who would have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse a son? But I’ve birthed him a son in his old age!”

8 The child grew and matured. Abraham threw a big banquet on the day that Isaac matured. 9 Sarah spotted and watched the son of Hagar the Egyptian, the son whom Hagar had birthed to Abraham, teasing. 10 So she said to Abraham, “Expel that slave woman and her son, for the son of that slave woman will not be a coheir with my son Isaac!”

11 This was very distressing in Abraham’s mind because it was turning against his son. 12 But Supermights said to Abraham, “Don't stress yourself because of the lad and because of the female servant and all that Sarah said to you. Listen to her because it is through Isaac that your posterity will be traced. 13 Even from the son of the female servant, I’ll preserve a great nation because he is your child.”

14 Early in the morning, Abraham woke up, fetched some food and a waterskin and brought them to Hagar. He sent her away and put the child on her shoulders. So she left and wandered in the wastelands of Beer Sheba.

15 When the water in the waterskin was finished, she thrust the child under one of the shrubs. 16 Then she went and sat herself down across, a shooting bow's shot away, for she thought, “Let me not watch the child dying.” So she sat opposite and raised her voice high in weeping. 17 But Supermights heard and responded to the child’s cry. Out of the sky, Supermights’ messenger called Hagar and asked her, “Why Hagar? Don’t be afraid, for Supermights has heard the boy’s cry there and then. 18 Stand up and lift the child and hold him by the hand. I’ll preserve him as a great nation.” 19 Then Supermights opened her eyes, and she noticed a well of water. She went over and refilled the waterskin with water to refresh the lad.

20 Supermights continued to be close to the lad as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an excellent bowman. 21 He lived in the desert of Paran. His mother got him a wife from the land of Egypt.

22 At that time, Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, said to Abraham, “Supermights is with you in everything that you do. 23 Now swear to me by Supermights ’s name that you’ll not trick me, my children, or my descendants. Show me and the land where you are temporarily residing the same kindness I’ve shown you.” 24 Abraham said, “I swear.”

25 But Abraham reprimanded Abimelech about a well that Abimelech’s servants had seized. 26 Abimelech replied; “I don't know who has done this thing. You never told me. I never heard about it until today.”

27 Abraham fetched some sheep and cattle and presented them to Abimelech. Both of them sealed an agreement. 28 Then Abraham selected and presented seven ewes from the flock separately. 29 Abimelech asked Abraham, “Why are these seven ewes separated?” 30 He replied, “Take all the seven ewes from my hand as evidence that I did dig this well.” 31 That is why the place was rightly called Beer Sheba because the two of them swore an oath there. 32 After they concluded the agreement at Beer Sheba, and Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, stood up and returned to the land of the Philistines. 33 Abraham planted a tamarisk grove in Beer Sheba and there invoked Lifegiver’s name, the everlasting Supermights. 34 Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for many years.

Genesis 22

Abraham’s Litmus Test

1 A while after these things, Supermights put Abraham to the test. He called him, “Abraham!” “I’m here!” Abraham replied. 2 Supermights said, “Please fetch your son, your only dear child, Isaac, whom you love, and travel to the area of Moriah! Offer him there as an incinerated sacrifice on one of the mountains which I’ll determine for you.”

3 Abraham woke up early in the morning and saddled his donkey. He took two of his young servants with him, with his son Isaac. When he had cut the wood for the sacrifice, he started for the place Supermights had told him about.

4 On the third day, Abraham jutted out his eyes and spotted the place in the distance. 5 Then he spoke to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there, worship and return to you.” 6 Abraham carried all the wood for the sacrifice and placed it on Isaac, his son. He took the fire as well as the knife in his hand, and the two of them travelled together.

7 Isaac then spoke to his father, Abraham, “My father?” “Yes, my son?” he responded. “Here is the fire and the wood,” Isaac pointed out, “but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” 8 Abraham replied; “My son, Supermights will provide a lamb for the sacrifice.” The two of them carried on together.

9 Then when they came to the place Supermights had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand, took out the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But Lifegiver’s messenger called him from Heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” Then he responded; “I here!” 12 “Don’t unleash your hand on the boy,” the messenger instructed. “Don't do anything to him. Now I know that you revere Supermights. You didn’t withhold your son, your dearest one, from me.” 13 Abraham lifted his eyes and saw behind him a ram fastened to the bushes by its horns. So he went over and took the ram and offered it up as a sacrifice instead of his son. 14 Abraham called the name of that place “Lifegiver-Jireh.” It is said to this day, “The mountain of providential Lifegiver.”

15 Lifegiver’s messenger called Abraham from the sky again 16 and said, “I infinitely swear as declared by Lifegiver. Indeed because you have carried out this request and didn’t withhold your dearest son, 17 I’ll indeed bless you. I’ll also exceedingly multiply your posterity like the stars in the sky, like sand on the seashore. Your descendants will occupy and possess the cities of their enemies. 18 Through your offspring will all races of the world be blessed as a result of your obedience of my requirement.” 19 Then Abraham returned to his servants. They then stood up and travelled together to Beer Sheba where Abraham resided.

20 After these things, it was revealed to Abraham, “Milcah has even birthed children to your brother Nahor: 21 Uz is the firstborn, his brother Buz, Kemuel, the father of Aram, 22 Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.” 23 Bethuel then fathered Rebekah. Those were the eight Milcah birthed to Abraham’s brother Nahor. 24 Then his concubine, whose name was Reumah, also birthed children – Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

Genesis 23

Sarah’s Death and Burial

1 Sarah became 127 years alive - the whole lifetime of Sarah. 2 Then she died in Kiriath Arba, that is in Hebron in the land of Canaan. Abraham went on to mourn for Sarah and to grieve for her. 3 Then Abraham stood up from mourning his deceased and spoke to the sons of Heth, 4 “I’m a foreigner and a temporary resident among you. Assign me a portion for a graveyard among you so that I may bury my dead out of sight.” 5 The sons of Heth responded to Abraham, saying; 6 “Listen, sir, you are a mighty prince among us! Select a grave for your dead, and none of us will refuse you his burial chamber to prevent you from burying your dead.” 7 Abraham stood up and bowed to the men of the land, the sons of Heth. 8 Then he spoke to them and said; “If it is indeed your mind that I bury my dead out of sight, then listen to me. Ask Ephron the son of Zohar 9 so that he may offer me the cave of Machpelah, the one that is behind his field for the money it is worth. Cede it as a burial site of my dead among you.” 10 Now Ephron was sitting with the sons of Heth. Ephron, the Hethite replied to Abraham in the audience of the sons of Heth, everyone who came to the city gate. 11 “No, sir! Listen to me. I offer you both the field and the cave, alike. In the presence of the men of my tribe, I give it to you. Bury your dead.” 12 Abraham bowed down before the people of the land 13 and spoke to Ephron in the audience of the people of the area, “Only if you’ll please tell me I’ll pay the price for the land. Take from me so that I may bury my dead then.” 14 Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, 15 “Sir, listen to me. The land, 400 weights of money, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” 16 Abraham consented to Ephron. Abraham paid the price Ephron had quoted in the audience of the sons of Heth – 400 weights of money – weights generally acceptable in business.

17 The property of Ephron, which is in Machpelah, near Mamre – the field and the cave that is in it, and every tree in the field and all the space around, were transferred 18 to Abraham as his property in the presence of the sons of Heth and before everyone who came to the city’s entranceway. 19 Just after this, Abraham wrapped and buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre that is in Hebron in the land of Canaan. 20 The land and the cave in it was deeded to Abraham as a burial site from the sons of Heth.

Genesis 24

Isaac and Rebekah’s Arranged Marriage

1 Abraham had now become old and advanced in years, and Lifegiver had truly blessed him in everything. 2 Abraham said to the senior servant of his house, the manager of his entire estate; “Please put your hand under my thigh. 3 Swear by Lifegiver, Supermights of Celestial Bodies and Supermights of the Earth that you’ll not find a wife for my son from the girls of the Canaanites, among whom I live. 4 Rather go to my homeland, and among my family and bring a wife for my son Isaac.” 5 The servant asked him, “What if the woman is not willing to follow me to this country? Must I come back and return your son to the land from which you came?” 6 Abraham told him; “Make sure you never return my son there! 7 Lifegiver, the Heavenly Supermights, who brought me out of my father’s house and the land of my family, promised me with a solemn oath, ‘To your posterity, I’ll deliver and give this land.’ He’ll send his messenger ahead of you so that you may find a wife for my son from there. 8 But if the woman is not willing to follow you, you’ll be released from this oath. But you must never take my son back there!” 9 The servant brought and placed his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and vowed concerning that responsibility.

10 Then the servant fetched ten of his master’s camels and travelled with a variety of gifts from his master at his disposal, and proceeded with his travel to Aram-naharaim, to Nahor's town.

11 He rested the camels near the water well just outside the city. At that time, it was dusk, the time when the women would go out to draw water. 12 He prayed, “Lifegiver, Supermights of my master Abraham, please bring your presence today, show favour to my master Abraham. 13 Here I’m, standing by the fountain of the water. The daughters of the people of the town are coming out to draw water. 14 May it be that the girl that I approach and say, ‘Please incline your jar so I may drink’ respond; ‘Drink, and water your camels too’ be the right one for your servant Isaac. Then because of that, I’ll be sure that you have shown favour to my master.”

15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah appeared. She was the child of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor. She had a jug on her shoulder. 16 A stunningly beautiful girl to look at, a virgin, never touched by any man. Descending on the well, she filled her jug and came up again. 17 The servant rushed to meet her and said, “Please let me drink a little bit of water from your jug.” 18 She said; “Drink, sir” as she quickly lowered her jug to her hands, and gave him to drink. 19 When he had finished drinking, she suggested, “I’ll also draw water for your camels until they have finished drinking.” 20 She quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough. She repeatedly hurried to the well to draw water for all his camels. 21 The man marveled at her serenity as he was ascertaining if Lifegiver had made his expedition successful or not.

22 As the camels were finishing drinking, the man placed a golden earring weighing half a weight and two bracelets upon her hands, cumulatively worth ten weights of gold. 23 He said; “Please tell me whose daughter are you? Is there space in your father’s house for us to lodge in?” 24 She responded to him, “I’m the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she birthed to Nahor.” 25 She further said to him; “Both the collection of straw and space for you to lodge in is enough.” 26 The man bowed down and worshipped Lifegiver, 27 saying “Thanks Lifegiver, Supermights of my master Abraham that you haven't withheld any kindness and faithfulness towards my master even in the way Lifegiver has led me to the house of my master’s relatives!” 28 The girl ran to her mother’s house and explained these things.

29 Rebekah had a brother named Laban. Laban ran to meet the man near the fountain. 30 As soon as he had seen the earring and the bracelet on his sister’s hand, and as soon as he had heard the words of his sister Rebekah saying; “This is what the man said to me,” he ran to meet the man and found him standing with the camels at the fountain. 31 Laban said to him, “Come, blessed man of Lifegiver! Why are you standing out here? I’ve prepared the house and space for the camels?” 32 Then the man went into the house and loosened the camels and was given some straw for the camels as well as water to wash his feet and the feet of the men that were with him.

33 When dinner was served before him, he said, “I’ll not eat provided I’ve presented my business.” He replied; “Speak.” 34 “I’m Abraham's servant,” he declared. 35 “Lifegiver has richly blessed my master, and he has become affluent, considering his sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. 36 Sarah, my master’s wife birthed my master a son in old age. He has given him everything he owns. 37 My master made me take an oath. He said, ‘You must never find a wife for my son from among the girls of the Canaanites, in whose land I live. 38 Rather go to the family of my father and among my relatives to get a wife for my son.’ 39 But I asked my master, ‘What if the woman does not want to follow me?’ 40 He answered, ‘Lifegiver, before whom I’ve walked, will send his messenger ahead of you. He’ll prosper your mission, and you’ll find a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father’s family. 41 You’ll be released from this oath if you go to my relatives and they don’t give her to you, only then will you be exempted from this oath.’ 42 Today when I arrived at the fountain, I prayed, ‘Lifegiver, Supermights of my master Abraham, if you please, make my task for which I came successful. 43 I’m standing here by the water fountain. When the young women come out to draw water, I’ll say, 'Give me a bit of water to drink from your jug.' 44 May the woman whom Lifegiver has Designated for my master’s son reply to me, “Drink, and I’ll also draw water for your camels.” May that woman be the one whom Lifegiver has Designated for my master’s son.’ 45 “Before I had finished praying in my mind, Rebekah appeared with her jug on her shoulder! She went down into the well and drew water. I spoke to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ 46 She quickly brought down her jar and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll also give your camels water.’ I drank, and she also gave the camels water.

47 Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She replied, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor, whom Milcah birthed to Nahor.’ I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her wrist. 48 Then I bowed down and worshipped Lifegiver, Supermights of my master Abraham who led me on the right way to eventually find my master’s brother’s granddaughter for his son. 49 Now, if you’ll deal kindly and truthfully with my master, tell me, and if not, ask me to turn to the right or the left.” 50 Then Laban and Bethuel replied, “This comes from Lifegiver, and we cannot advise whether you are wrong or right. 51 You see for yourself, Rebekah is honourable. Take her and go to let her become the wife of your master’s son, just as Lifegiver has spoken.”

52 As soon as Abraham’s servant heard and understood their response, he bowed down to the ground before Lifegiver. 53 Then he brought out gold, bags of money and bags of gold and clothing and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious gifts to her brother and her mother. 54 After this, he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed there overnight.

When they had woken up in the morning, he said, “Let me go back to my master.” 55 But Rebekah’s brother and her mother requested, “Let the girl stay with us a few more days, perhaps ten. Then she can go.” 56 He responded to them, “Don’t delay me. Lifegiver has given success to my expedition. Let me go back to my master.” 57 Then they said, “We’ll call the girl and find out her wishes.” 58 So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Do you want to go with these men?” She replied, “I’ll go.”

59 So they sent them off, Rebekah together with her attendants, Abraham’s servant and his men. 60 They blessed Rebekah and said;

“Our sister, may you become thousands of millions!

May your descendants occupy the cities of their enemies.”

61 Rebekah and her female servants got up and mounted the camels and followed behind the men. Thus Abraham’s servant took Rebekah and left.

62 Isaac had returned from Beer Lahai Roi, for he had been living in the Negev. 63 He had gone to relax in the field at the turn of the day. As he looked up, he suddenly saw camels approaching. 64 Rebekah looked up and noticed Isaac. She alighted from her camel 65 and asked Abraham’s servant, “Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?” The servant replied, “That is my master.” So she grabbed her veil and wrapped herself.

66 The servant told Isaac everything that had happened.

67 Then Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah’s tent and took her to be his wife, and he loved her. Isaac had been dispirited since his mother’s parting.

Genesis 25

Abraham’s Death, Burial and Family Lines

1 Abraham had married another wife named Keturah. 2 She birthed him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. 3 Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. The descendants of Dedan became the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. 4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were children of Keturah. 5 Abraham had given everything he owned to Isaac.

6 While he was still alive, Abraham had given gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them off to the east, away from his son Isaac. 7 The total years of Abraham’s life, which he lived were 175. 8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a right old age, an old man full of life. He was removed from his people. 9 His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in Machpelah's cave near Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar, the Hethite, 10 the field Abraham had purchased from the sons of Heth. Abraham was buried there with his wife, Sarah. 11 A while after Abraham’s death, Supermights blessed his son Isaac. Isaac lived near Beer Lahai Roi.

12 This is the family story of Abraham’s son Ishmael, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah’s servant, birthed to Abraham. 13 These are the names of Ishmael’s sons, by their names according to their birth: Nebaioth, Ishmael’s firstborn, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, 14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa, 15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. 16 Those are the sons of Ishmael, and those are their names by their villages and their hamlets – twelve princes according to their tribes. 17 These are the years of Ishmael, 137 years. He breathed his last and died; and was removed from his people, 18 and had spread out from Havilah as far as Shur, near the borderline of Egypt in the direction of Asshur. He lived and died in opposition and hostility towards all his relatives.

19 This is the family story of Isaac, the son of Abraham. Abraham fathered Isaac. 20 Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, Bethuel's daughter, the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. 21 Isaac prayed to Lifegiver on behalf of his wife because she was infertile. Lifegiver listened to his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. 22 But the children contended inside her. Realising this, she wondered, “Why is it like this?” So she asked Lifegiver, 23 and Lifegiver said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,

and the two persons will be different from your uterus.

One person will be stronger than the other,

and the older will serve the younger.”

24 When the time of delivery came, twins emerged from her womb. 25 The first came out ruddy, altogether hairy like a garment. They called his name Esau. 26 Just after that, his brother came out with his hand holding on Esau’s heel. They named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth.

27 As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the wild. Jacob was an ordinary man staying at home. 28 Isaac liked Esau because he loved the taste of game meat, but Rebekah liked Jacob.

29 Jacob had cooked a potage and Esau returned from the open fields very hungry. 30 So Esau said to Jacob, “Please serve me with some of the red stuff because I’m starving!” Rightly so he was also called Edom. 31 Jacob proposed, “Relinquish your birthright today.” 32 Esau retorted, “Look I’m at the point of death! What use is that birthright?” 33 But Jacob said, “Swear to me now by an oath.” So Esau swore by an oath to him and surrendered his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew; he ate and drank, and walked away. That is how Esau devalued his birthright.

Genesis 26

Isaac’s Relations with Abimelech

1 There was another drought in the region, as severe as the previous drought that was in Abraham's time. So Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines at Gerar.

2 Lifegiver appeared to Isaac and said, “Don’t go down to Egypt; stay in the land that I’ll tell you. 3 Stay as a foreigner in this land. I’ll be with you and will bless you, because I’ll eventually give all this land to you and your posterity, and I’ll surely fulfil the promise I made to Abraham, your father. 4 Indeed your descendants will be numerous as the stars in the sky, and I’ll give your posterity all these countries. Through your seed, all races of the Earth will be blessed. 5 That is because Abraham obeyed my mandate and kept my ordinance, my principles and my laws.”

6 So Isaac settled in Gerar. 7 Whenever the men of that place asked about his wife, he would reply, “She's my sister.” He was afraid to say, “She's my wife,” for he thought, “Perhaps the men of this place will kill me for Rebekah because she is stunning to look at.”

8 After Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out through a window. Then he spotted Isaac laughing and caressing his wife, Rebekah. 9 So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “She is surely your wife whereas you had said, ‘She is my sister.’” Isaac responded, “Because I feared I would be killed for her.” 10 Then Abimelech shouted, “What have you done to us? One of the tribesmen might have casually slept with your wife, and would have brought guilt on us!” 11 So Abimelech sternly warned all the people, “Whoever touches this man or his wife will be eliminated and killed.”

12 Whatever Isaac planted in that land, he reaped a hundred percent in those years, because Lifegiver blessed him. 13 The man became richer. He continually progressed until because of it he became very wealthy. 14 He possessed so many sheep and cattle and many servants. The Philistines became jealous of him. 15 All the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the years of his father Abraham the Philistines hid and blocked with rubbish. 16 Then Abimelech said to Isaac, “Leave us and go elsewhere, for you have become richer and powerful than we are.” 17 Isaac left from there and camped in the valley of Gerar and remained there.

18 Isaac re-dug all the wells that had been dug back in the years of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had closed them up after Abraham died. He then renamed these wells the same names his father had named them. 19 Whenever Isaac’s servants explored a valley and discovered a spring of fresh flowing water, 20 the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac’s herdsmen, saying, “The water belongs to us!” So Isaac named the well Esek because they argued with him. 21 Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that too, so Isaac named it Sitnah. 22 Then he moved away from there and dug another well. They did not strive over it, so Isaac named it Rehoboth, saying, “For now Lifegiver has made broad space for us, and we’ll prosper in the land.”

23 From there Isaac went up to Beer Sheba. 24 Lifegiver appeared to him that night and said, “I’m your father Abraham's deity. Don’t be afraid because I’m with you. I’ll bless you and multiply your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.” 25 Then Isaac built an altar there and worshipped Lifegiver. He pitched his tent there, and his servants dug a well.

26 Later Abimelech came to him from Gerar along with Ahuzzah his friend and Phicol the commander of his army. 27 Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me? You hate me, and you sent me away from you.” 28 They replied, “We could obviously see that Lifegiver is with you. So we decided there should be a sworn treaty between us, between you and us. Let us make a treaty with you 29 so that you’ll not do us any harm, just as we did not harm you, but have always treated you well before sending you away in peace. Now you are blessed by Lifegiver.” 30 So Isaac held a feast for them, and they dined and drank.

31 Early in the morning, the men worked out an agreement with each other. Isaac sent them off; they separated in peace.

32 That day Isaac’s servants came and told him about the well they had dug. “We’ve found water,” they recounted. 33 So he named it Shebah; that is why the name of the city has been Beer Sheba to this day.

34 When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, as well as Basemath, the daughter of Elon the Hittite. 35 They caused Isaac and Rebekah great grief.

Genesis 27

Jacob Defrauds Esau Again

1 When Isaac became an old man, his eyes grew dim, and he could not see. He called and addressed Esau, his older son. He said to him, “My son!” “I’m here!” Esau replied. 2 Isaac said, “Seeing I’m so old, and don’t know my time of death, 3 take your hunting gear now – your quiver and your bow – and go out into the wild fields and hunt wild game. 4 Then prepare for me some savoury meat, the kind I like, and bring it to me so that my heart may bless you before I die.”

5 Now Rebekah had eavesdropped while Isaac spoke to Esau, his son. While Esau went out to the wild fields to hunt some wild game to bring back, 6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Listen, I overheard your father speak to Esau your brother, 7 ‘Bring me some wild game and prepare for me some delicious dish so that when I’ve eaten it I can bless you in the presence of Lifegiver before I die.’ 8 Now then, my son, listen to what I’m going to tell you! 9 Please go to the flock and get me two of the best of the young male goats. I’ll prepare them as savoury meat for your father, just the way he likes it. 10 You’ll then take it to your father so that he’ll eat it, and he’ll bless you before he dies.” 11 “But Esau my brother is a hairy man,” Jacob protested to his mother Rebekah, “and I have a smooth skin! 12 My father will perhaps grope and touch me! Then he’ll think I’m cheating him and I’ll bring a curse on myself instead of a blessing.” 13 So his mother told him, “The curse will be on me, my son! Just obey my instructions! Go and get them for me!”

14 So he went and got the goats to bring them to his mother. She prepared some delicious dish just the way his father liked it. 15 Then Rebekah took her older son Esau’s expensive clothes that were in the house and dressed her younger son Jacob. 16 She wrapped the skins of the young goats around his hands and the smoothness of his neck. 17 Then she served and handed the savoury meat and the food she had prepared to Jacob, her son.

18 He went to his father and called him, “My father!” Isaac responded, “I’m here. Which are you, my son?” 19 Jacob replied to his father, “I’m Esau, your firstborn. I’ve done as you had asked. So please sit up and eat some of my wild game so that you can bless me.” 20 But Isaac asked his son, “How did you find the game so quickly, my son?” “Lifegiver your deity brought it before me,” he replied. 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come closer so I can touch you, my son, if you are certainly my son Esau or not.” 22 Jacob leaned over towards his father, Isaac, who touched him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s, but the hands are Esau’s hands.” 23 He did not detect him because his wrists were as hairy as his brother Esau’s wrists. So Isaac blessed Jacob. 24 He then asked, “Are you really my son Esau?” “I’m,” Jacob muttered. 25 Isaac said, “Bring the wild game closer for me to eat, my son. Then my heart will bless you.” So Jacob brought the meal to him, and he ate it. He also brought him some wine and Isaac drank.

26 Isaac, his father, said to him, “Please come nearer and hug me, my son.” 27 So Jacob went over and hugged him. When Isaac had sniffed and smelled the scent of his clothes, he blessed him, saying,

“Certainly, the smell of my son

is like the stench of an open field

which Lifegiver has blessed.

28 May Supermights give you

the dew of the sky

and the fertility of the Earth -

an abundance of corn and fresh wine.

29 May people serve you

and nations bow down to you.

May you become master over your relatives,

and your mother’s sons give you obeisance.

May those who curse you be bitterly cursed,

and those who bless you be abundantly blessed."

30 Just soon as Isaac had finished graciously blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely left his father’s presence, his brother Esau arrived from his hunting expedition. 31 He had also prepared some delicious dish and brought it to his father. He said to him, “My father, get up and eat some of your son’s wild game. Then your heart can bless me.” 32 His father, Isaac, asked, “Who are you?” “I’m your son, your firstborn, Esau,” he replied. 33 Isaac trembled involuntarily and violently until he asked, “Then who else hunted game, and brought it to me? I ate all it just before you arrived and I blessed him, and he’ll indeed be blessed!” 34 When Esau heard his father’s words, he wept loudly and bitterly. Then he pleaded with his father, “Bless me too, my father!” 35 But Isaac replied, “Your brother came here deceitfully and took away your blessing.” 36 Esau exclaimed, “‘Jacob! Is he not rightly named? He has defrauded me twice! He seized my birthright and now look; he has stolen my blessing!” Then he asked, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?” 37 Isaac replied to Esau, “Look! I’ve made him leader over you, and I’ve made all his relatives his servants, and I’ve propped him with grain and fresh wine. What can I do for you now, my son?” 38 Esau said to his father, “Do you only have one blessing, my father? Bless me too!” Then Esau raised his voice in lamentation. 39 So his father Isaac responded to him,

“Look, your situation will be

partial fertility of the land

and some dew from the sky above.

40 You’ll survive through your sword

but you’ll serve your brother.

When you rebel,

you’ll break off his yoke from your neck.”

41 Esau grudged and resented Jacob because of the blessing his father had blessed him with. Esau said privately, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I’ll strike and kill my brother Jacob!”

42 When the words of her eldest son were reported to Rebekah, she sent a call to her younger son Jacob. She then told him, “Look, your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to retaliate by killing you. 43 Now then, my son, listen to me. Get up, run away immediately to my brother Laban in Haran. 44 Live with him a few days until your brother’s rage subsides. 45 Stay there until your brother’s rage against you calms down, and he forgets what you have done to him. I’ll then send someone to bring you back from there. Why should I be bereaved of both of you in one day?”

46 Then Rebekah had talked to Isaac, “My life is disgusted because of these girls of Heth. If Jacob were to marry one of these local Heth girls, what good is my living?”

Jacob Defrauded Esau and Fled

Genesis 28

1 So Isaac had called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he had instructed him, “You must never take and marry a woman from the daughters of the Canaanites! 2 Leave and travel to Paddan Aram, to Bethuel's home, your mother’s father, and find yourself a wife there, among the girls of Laban, your mother’s brother. 3 May the self-sufficient Supermights make you grow and may you become a multitude of descendants! 4 May he afford you and your descendants the blessing he gave to Abraham so that you may occupy and possess the land Supermights promised to Abraham, the land where you are living as a temporary resident.”

5 So Isaac had sent Jacob away, and he would have gone to Paddan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean and brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau. 6 Esau had discovered that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him off to Paddan Aram to find a wife there. As he had blessed him, Isaac had instructed him emphatically, saying “You must never marry a girl from the women of Canaanites.”

7 Jacob carefully listened to his father as well as his mother. Then he would have left for Paddan Aram.

8 When Esau realised that the Canaanite women were disapproved by his father Isaac, 9 Esau had gone to Ishmaelites and had married Mahalath, the sister of Nebajoth, and daughter of Abraham’s son Ishmael. This was in addition to the wives he already had.

10 Jacob, having left Beer Sheba, travelled towards Haran. 11 He arrived at a particular place where he camped overnight because the sunlight had disappeared. He picked up one of the stones, and placed it as a headrest and slept on that spot. 12 He then dreamed seeing a staircase raised up on the ground with its height reaching the sky. The messengers of Supermights were ascending and descending on it, 13 and Lifegiver was stationed at its top. He said, “I’m Lifegiver, your grandfather Abraham's deity and your father Isaac's deity. I’ll give you and your posterity the land that you are sleeping on. 14 Your descendants will be like the particles of the Earth and will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Through your offspring, all the families of the Earth will be blessed. 15 I’m with you! I’ll protect you wherever you go. I’ll return you to this territory because I’ll not leave you until I’ve done what I’ve promised you.”

16 Jacob, waking up from his sleep, thought, “Surely Lifegiver is in this place, and I did not realise it!” 17 He was awed, and he exclaimed, “What an awesome place this is! This is nothing else than Supermights’ place! This is the entryway of Heaven!”

18 Early in the morning, Jacob woke up and took the stone he had placed as his pillow and erected it up as a memorial marker, and he poured oil on its length. 19 He called the place's name Beth-El, as opposed to the city’s previous name, Luz. 20 Then Jacob made a promise, saying, “If Supermights is with me and protects me on this journey I’m travelling on and supplies me with food to eat and clothes to wear, 21 and I return to my father’s house in peace, then Lifegiver will become my deity. 22 Then this stone that I’ve set up as a memorial marker will be the house of Supermights, and I’ll give you back a cumulative tenth of everything you give me.”

Genesis 29

Jacob in Paddam Aram

1 Jacob then lifted his feet and arrived in the land of the people of the East.

2 He looked up and noticed in the field a well with three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for the flocks were watered from that well. A big stone covered the opening of the well. 3 Once all the flocks gathered there, they would roll the stone away from the opening of the well and sufficiently water the sheep. They would then return the stone in its place on the opening of the well.

4 Jacob asked them, “My fellows, where are you from?” They replied, “We are from Haran.” 5 Then he inquired from them; “Do you know Laban, the grandson of Nahor?” “We know him,” they said. 6 “Is he well?” Jacob asked. They replied, “He is well. Here comes his daughter Rachel with his sheep.” 7 Then Jacob proposed, “Since it is still midday, it is not time for the flocks to be gathered, water the flock and then go and continue to graze them.” 8 “We can’t until all the flocks are gathered, and the stone is rolled off the opening of the well. Then we water the sheep,” they replied.

9 While he was talking to them, Rachel arrived with her father’s sheep because she shepherded them. 10 As soon as Jacob had seen and met Rachel, the daughter of his uncle Laban, as well as his uncle Laban's sheep, he went over and removed the stone from the top of the hole of the well and watered the sheep of his uncle, Laban. 11 Then Jacob hugging Rachel loudly raised his voice in weeping.

12 When Jacob had explained to Rachel that he was a relative of her father and Rebekah’s, she ran away and told her father.

13 When Laban heard and understood this news about his nephew Jacob, he ran to meet him. He greeted and hugged him and brought him to his house. When he had told Laban himself all the things, 14 Laban then said to him, “You are surely my flesh and bone.”

So he stayed with him for a month. 15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Must you work for me for free because you are my relative? Tell me what your wages will be.” 16 At that time Laban had two daughters; the older one was named Leah, and the younger one Rachel. 17 Leah was of faint complexion, but Rachel had a beautiful appearance and a pleasant outlook. 18 Since Jacob loved Rachel, he proposed, “I’ll serve seven years in exchange for your younger daughter Rachel.” 19 Laban replied, “It's better that I give her to you rather than release her to some stranger. Stay with me.”

20 So Jacob worked for seven years for Rachel, and they seemed a few years to him because of love. 21 Then Jacob asked Laban, “Give me my wife because my service time is up. I want to be intimate with her.”

22 Laban invited all the people of that area and threw a banquet. 23 When dusk came, he stealthily brought his daughter Leah to Jacob, and Jacob had sexual intimacy with her. 24 Laban also gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.

25 When the morning came, there was Leah! He said to Laban, “What have you done to me? Didn’t I work for you in exchange for Rachel? Why have you deceived me?” 26 Laban replied, “It's not done that way here in our area - to give the younger before the eldest daughter. 27 Complete her week, then we’ll give you the other one too, in exchange for seven more years of service.”

28 So Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave Rachel his daughter Rachel to be his wife. 29 Laban also gave Rachel his daughter his female servant Bilhah to be her servant. 30 Jacob had sexual intimacy with Rachel too. He loved Rachel more than Leah. He worked for him for seven more years.

31 When Lifegiver observed that Leah was disliked, he loosened and opened her womb while Rachel remained infertile. 32 Leah conceived and birthed a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, “Lifegiver has surely seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me this time.”

33 She conceived again and birthed another son and said; “Because Lifegiver heard that I was hated, he gave me this one too.” So she named him Simeon.

34 She conceived again and birthed a son and said; “Now this time my husband will cling to me because I’ve birthed him three sons.” That is why he was named Levi.

35 She conceived again and birthed a son and said; “This time I’ll fully worship Lifegiver.” That is why she named him Judah, and she stopped bearing children.

Genesis 30

1 Rachel realised that she could not birth any children for Jacob. She envied her sister, and she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die!” 2 Jacob’s anger blazed against Rachel. He retorted, “Am I in Supermights’ place? Who has barred you from a fruitful womb?” 3 She proposed, “Here is my servant Bilhah! Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me, and I can have children through her.”

4 She gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob had sexual intimacy with her. 5 Bilhah conceived and birthed Jacob a son. 6 Then Rachel said, “Supermights has absolved me also. He has heard my cry and has given me a son.” Therefore she rightly named him Dan.

7 Bilhah, Rachel’s servant, conceived again and birthed Jacob a second son. 8 Then Rachel said, “I’ve fought a great struggle with my sister, and I’ve won.” So she named him Naphtali.

9 When Leah realised that she had stopped bearing children, she gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob as a wife. 10 Leah’s servant Zilpah birthed Jacob a son. 11 Leah said, “Troops have assembled!” She named him Gad.

12 Then Leah’s servant Zilpah birthed Jacob another son. 13 Leah said, “I’m happy, for women will call me happy!” So she named him Asher.

14 During the season of wheat harvest, Reuben went out and came across some wild mandrakes and brought them to his mother, Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.” 15 But Leah replied, “Is it a minor matter that you have taken and married my husband? Now you also want to take away my son’s mandrakes?” Rachel replied, “Well, he’ll sleep with you tonight in exchange for your son’s mandrakes.”

16 When Jacob returned from the field that evening, Leah came out to meet him and said, “Come with me because I’ve purchased and hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” He slept with her that night. 17 Supermights listened to Leah; she conceived and birthed Jacob a fifth son. 18 Then Leah said, “Supermights has given me a reward because I gave my servant to my husband.” So she named him Issachar.

19 Leah conceived again and gave Jacob a sixth son. 20 Then Leah said, “Supermights has conferred on me a good gift. Now my husband will reside with me because I’ve birthed him six sons.” So she named him Zebulun.

21 After that, she birthed a girl and named her Dinah.

22 Then Supermights favourably remembered Rachel; listened to her and loosened and opened her womb. 23 She conceived and birthed a son. Then she said, “Supermights has taken away my shame.” 24 She named him Joseph, saying, “May Lifegiver add another son.”

25 After a while, after Rachel had birthed Joseph, Jacob proposed to Laban, “Send me away so that I can travel to my home country. 26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I’ve served you. Let me go since you surely know my service which I’ve done for you.” 27 But Laban pleaded against him, “Please - if I’ve found favour in your sight because I’ve learned by diligent observation that Lifegiver has blessed me because of you. 28 Just specify your salary, and I’ll pay it,” he added. 29 “You know very well how I’ve worked for you,” Jacob replied, “and how your livestock grew with me. 30 It is a fact you had few before I arrived, but now it has grown exponentially. Lifegiver has blessed you since my arrival. But then, when will I labour for my own family too?” 31 Laban asked, “What should I give you?” “You don’t need to give me a thing,” Jacob replied, “but if you agree to this one request, I’ll continue to shepherd and care for your flocks: 32 I’ll walk among all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or multi-coloured sheep, every dark-coloured sheep, and the spotted or multi-coloured goats. These animals will be my payment. 33 My integrity will testify later on when you’ll come for inspection of my payment. All that is not speckled or spotted among the goats or dark-coloured among the sheep, will be considered stolen by me.” 34 Laban agreed; “There you are. Let it be according to your proposal.”

35 That very day he separated the male goats that were striped or multi-coloured, all the female goats that were spotted, and all that had white blocks on them, and all the dark-coloured sheep. He committed them into the hands and care of his sons. 36 Then Jacob imposed a three-days' distance in between. Jacob tended the rest of Laban’s flocks. 37 But Jacob took green offshoots of green poplar, almond, and chestnut trees. He made white streaks by peeling them, exposing the white inner wood in the branches. 38 Then he dropped and left the branches that he had peeled in all the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink so that they mated when they came to drink. 39 The flocks mated because of the branches and gave birth to flocks that were striped or speckled or multi-coloured. 40 Jacob separated these lambs, turning the faces of the rest of the flock against the striped and dark-coloured flocks in Laban’s flock. He took his flock apart and never mixed them with Laban’s flocks.

41 When the sturdy flock was due for mating, Jacob would drop the branches in the troughs beforehand that flock so that they would mate because of the branches. 42 He did not consider flocks that were feeble - the feebler became Laban’s and the sturdier Jacob’s. 43 Jacob substantially prospered; he had many herds, male and female servants, camels, and donkeys.

Genesis 31

Jacob’s Flight from Paddam Aram

1 Jacob overheard Laban’s sons’ conversation. They were complaining; “Jacob has virtually taken everything that is our father’s and through our father, he has accumulated all this wealth.”

2 Jacob also noticed that Laban’s face and attitude were no longer as before.

3 Lifegiver said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your progenitors and your family. I’ll be with you.”

4 Then Jacob called Rachel and Leah to the field near his flocks. 5 He said to them, “I've observed that your father’s attitude towards me is not as before, but the deity of my progenitors was with me. 6 You know that I served your father with all my energy 7 yet your father has deceitfully changed my wages ten times. But Supermights has not allowed him also to do the worst. 8 When he said, ‘The multi-coloured animals will be your salary,’ then the entire flock gave birth to striped offspring. But when he said, ‘The striped animals will be your salary,’ then the whole flock gave birth to multi-coloured offspring. 9 In this way, Supermights has snatched away your father’s livestock and repaid me. 10 During the flocks’ breeding season, I opened my eyes. I had seen in a dream male goats mating with the flock that were streaked, multi-coloured, and spotted. 11 In the dream, the messenger of Supermights said to me, ‘Jacob!’ ‘I’m here!’ I replied. 12 Then he said, ‘Open your eyes and observe that all the male goats mating with the flock are striped, multi-coloured, or spotted, for I’ve observed all that Laban has been doing. 13 I’m Supermights of Bethel, where you anointed the monumental stone and made a vow to me. Now get up. Leave this land immediately and return to your relative's land.’” 14 Then Rachel and Leah responded to him, “Do we still have any inheritance or occupancy in our father’s household? 15 Are we not considered as outsiders because he sold us, spent and depleted our money? 16 For all the wealth that Supermights took away from our father is ours and our children’s now. Do whatever Supermights has told you do.”

17 Then Jacob stood up and hoisted his children and his wives on the camels. 18 He drove away all the livestock and property he had acquired - the livestock of his inventiveness accumulated in Paddan Aram. He headed towards Isaac, his father in the land of Canaan. 19 While Laban had gone for sheep shearing, Rachel secretly stole her father’s house idols. 20 Jacob also deceived Laban, the Aramean, by not warning him that he was going away. 21 He bolted with everything he had, crossed the river, and set his face towards the hill of Gilead.

22 It was reported to Laban on the third day that Jacob had left. 23 He immediately took his relatives with him and chased Jacob for seven days’ journey and encroached on him in the hill country of Gilead. 24 But Supermights came against Laban the Aramean in a night dream, and warned him, “Be careful not say anything good or bad to Jacob.”

25 Laban caught up and passed Jacob. When Jacob pitched his tent in the mountainous country of Gilead, Laban and his relatives set up camp there too. 26 “What have you done?” Laban demanded from Jacob. “You’ve deceived me and took my daughters as if they were war captives! 27 Why did you run away secretly and deceive me? Why didn’t you tell me so I would send you off joyfully with songs of tambourines and harps? 28 You didn’t even allow me to hug my grandchildren and my daughters? This time you have been truly foolish. 29 There was an intention on my side to do you harm, but your forebears' deity told me last night, ‘Be careful not say anything good or bad to Jacob.’ 30 Now you needed to go away because you greatly missed your father’s family. But why did you hide and steal my gods?” 31 Jacob replied and said to Laban; “I was afraid. I thought you would ruthlessly snatch your daughters away from me. 32 With whoever you find your deities here, they will not be spared! In front of our families, identify whatever is hidden and take it.” Jacob didn't realise that Rachel had stolen them.

33 Laban entered Jacob’s tent, Leah’s tent, and the tents of the two female servants, but found nothing. When he left Leah’s tent, he also entered Rachel’s tent. 34 Now Rachel had stolen and taken the house idols and put them inside her camel’s saddle and sat on them. Laban searched the entire tent but found nothing. 35 She had said to her father, “Sir, don’t be upset that I’m not able to stand up in your presence – it’s because of the cycle of women.” He searched thoroughly but did not find any of the family idols.

36 Jacob blazed up and argued with Laban. “What is my crime? What's my crime that you chased me for?” he shouted and challenged Laban. 37 “When you groped and ransacked through all my items, did you find any of your household goods? Place it here before my relatives and yours, and let them decide between the two of us! 38 During the twenty years I've been with you, none of your ewes and female goats has miscarried, nor have I consumed any rams from your flocks. 39 Those that were preyed on by wild animals I never brought to you; I always absorbed the loss on my side. Did you ever inquire whether anything was stolen by day or snatched by night? 40 I was scorched by the heat during the day and frozen by the cold at night. Sleep left my system. 41 I’ve been in your house for twenty years now. I’ve slaved for fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, but you altered my wages ten times! 42 If my progenitors' Supermights – Abraham's Supermights, the one whom Isaac reveres – had not been with me, you would have surely sent me away empty-handed by now! But Supermights noticed my misery and the toil of my hands, and he convicted you last night.” 43 Laban responded and said to Jacob, “These girls are my daughters, these children are my grandchildren, and these flocks are my flocks. All that you see belongs to me. But how can I today harm these daughters of mine or the children they birthed? 44 So now, come, let’s make an agreement, you and I, and it will be a distinct record.”

45 Then Jacob lifted a stone and set it up as a reminder. 46 Then he said to his relatives, “Gather stones.” So they each brought stones and put them in a heap. They ate there near the pile of stones. 47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha. Jacob called it Galeed. 48 Laban said, “This heap of stones is a heap of evidence.” From then on its name was called Galeed 49 and Mizpah because he said, “May Lifegiver be a watcher between us when we are absent from one another. 50 If you mistreat my daughters in any way or if you marry wives besides my daughters, although no one else is with us, note that Supermights is a witness in between us.”

51 Laban then said to Jacob; “Here is this heap of stones and this memorial pillar set between you and me. 52 This heap of stones and the memorial pillar are reminders that I’ll not cross over beyond this heap against you and that you’ll not cross over beyond this heap and this pillar to come to harm me. 53 May Abraham's deity and Nahor's deities, their forebears' deities, judge between us.” Jacob swore by the one whom his father Isaac reveres.

54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on that mountain and invited his relatives to eat food. They ate the meal and spent the night on the mountain.

55 Early at day-break, Laban hugged his grandchildren and his daughters. Then he saluted them. Laban then left and travelled back to his home.

Genesis 32

Jacob’s Encounter with Esau

1 As Jacob was going on his way, the messengers of Supermights met him. 2 When Jacob saw them, he exclaimed, “This is Supermights ’s camp!” So he called that place's name Mahanaim.

3 Jacob sent envoys ahead to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the region of Edom. 4 He instructed them saying, “This is what you must say to my master Esau: ‘This is what your servant Jacob says: I’ve been staying with Laban until now. 5 I’ve oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants. I’ve left to speak to my master so that I may seek favour from you.’”

6 The envoys returned to Jacob and said, “We ran into your brother Esau, and he is travelling to meet you with four hundred men.” 7 Jacob was greatly terrified and distressed. So he divided the people, the flocks, herds and camels that were with him into two camps. 8 He thought, “If Esau attacks one camp, then the other remaining camp can escape.”

9 Then Jacob prayed, “Deity of my grandfather Abraham, Deity of my father Isaac, Lifegiver, you said to me, ‘Return to your native country, and I’ll be with you.’ 10 I’m unworthy of all the kindness and any of the faithfulness you have maintained towards your servant. In fact, with only my stick I crossed over this Jordan, but now I’ve become two camps. 11 Please rescue me from my brother Esau's hand, for I’m afraid that he’ll come and attack me, as well as the mothers with their children. 12 You promised, ‘I’ll accompany you with kindness and success, and will increase and multiply your posterity to be as the sand of the seashore which cannot be realistically numbered.’”

13 He lodged there that night and selected whatever came to his direction and apportioned it for his brother Esau. 14 They were two hundred does and twenty billy goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty camel cows camels with their young, forty heifers and ten bulls, and twenty jennets and ten jacks. 16 He entrusted them to the care of his servants and rearranged them separately. He told his servants, “Cross over in front of me, and allow space between one herd and the next herd.” 17 He strictly instructed the first one saying, “When my brother Esau encounters you and asks, ‘To whom do you belong? Where are you going? The animals in front of you, whose are they?’ 18 you must say, ‘They are your servant Jacob’s. They have been sent as an offering to sir Esau. Look, Jacob himself is behind us.’”

19 He also instructed the second and third one, as well as all those who were following the herds, saying, “In the same manner, you must speak to Esau when he appears. 20 You must also say, ‘Look, your servant Jacob is behind us.’” Jacob thought, “I’ll first appease his anger by sending peace offerings ahead. Just after that, I’ll see his face. Perhaps he’ll accept me.”

21 The gifts were quickly sent across ahead of him, and he remained in the camp that night. 22 During the night he quietly took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons and caused them to cross over Jabbok ford. 23 He then took them and sent them across the brook along with all his possessions.

24 Jacob remained by himself. A mighty fellow wrestled with him until the rising of dawn. 25 When he realised that he was not winning against him, he struck the hip socket. So, Jacob’s hip socket was dislocated while he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, “Let me go because the day is rising.” “I’ll not release you unless you bless me,” Jacob replied. 27 Then the man asked him, “What is your name?” He answered, “Jacob.” 28 Then he said; “Your name will no longer be called Jacob but Israel because you have fought with Supermights and with people and you have overcome.” 29 Jacob then asked, “Please tell me your name.” “Why is it that you ask for my name?” the man retorted. Then he blessed him there and then.

30 Then Jacob called the place's name Peniel: “Certainly, I’ve seen Supermights face to face and my life has been spared.”

31 When he eventually crossed over Peniel, the sun was shining as he was limping because of his hip. 32 That is the reason even today Israelites don't eat the thigh muscle because he cuffed Jacob’s thigh near the thigh muscle.

Genesis 33

1 Jacob looked up and realised that Esau was coming along with four hundred men. So, he divided the children between Leah, Rachel, and the two female servants. 2 He arranged the servants and their children to be in front with Leah and her children behind them, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 But Jacob himself crossed over ahead of them. He bowed to the ground seven times until he stood in front of his brother. 4 But Esau ran to meet him, falling on his neck and hugging him, they wept.

5 Then he raised his eyes and saw the women and the children, then asked, “Who are these with you?” Jacob replied, “The children whom Supermights has graciously given your servant.” 6 The female servants came forward with their children and bowed down. 7 Leah then came forward with her children, and they bowed down. Afterwards, Joseph and Rachel came forward and bowed down.

8 Esau then asked, “What did you mean by sending all these herds to meet me?” Jacob replied, “To find favour with you, sir.” 9 But Esau said, “I’ve a lot, my brother. Keep what belongs to you.” 10 “No, please take them,” Jacob insisted. “If I’ve found favour with you, accept them as gifts from me. Since I’ve seen your face, and you have accepted me, it is as if I’ve seen Supermights’ face. 11 Please accept my present that was brought to you because Supermights has been gracious to me and I’ve all I need.” When Jacob urged him, he accepted.

12 Esau then said, “Let’s be on our way! I’ll go ahead of you.” 13 But Jacob said to him, “Sir, you realise the children are too young and that I must care for the sheep and cattle that are nursing their young. If they are driven too fast for even one day, all animals will die. 14 Please, sir, go ahead of your servant. I’ll travel slowly, at the speed of the flocks and the children, until I come to you sir at Seir.” 15 Esau then said, “Let me leave some of my people with you.” “Why do that?” Jacob replied. “Sir has already been gracious enough to me.”

16 So that day Esau made his way back to Seir. 17 But Jacob travelled to Succoth where he built himself a home and built shelters for his livestock. That is why the place was known as Succoth. 18 When Jacob eventually arrived safely in the city of Shechem in the land of Canaan, after resorting in Padan Aram, he camped and lived in front of the town. 19 Then he bought the portion of the field where he had pitched his tent; he bought it from the side of the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for a hundred pieces of money. 20 When there he erected an altar and named it El-Elohe-Israel.

Genesis 34

Shechem’s Lima Syndrome and Violent Retaliation

1 At that time Dinah, Leah’s daughter, whom she had birthed to Jacob, went to see some of the girls in the area.

2 When Shechem, the son of Hamor the Hivite, who governed that area saw her, he kidnapped, ravished and degraded her. 3 But his passion obsessed over Dinah, Jacob’s daughter. He was infatuated and he befriended the little girl. He spoke romantically to the little girl.

4 Shechem talked to Hamor his father, demanding; “Arrange and secure this little girl as a wife.”

5 Jacob heard that Shechem had sexually violated and degraded his daughter Dinah. Since his sons were with the livestock in the field, Jacob remained silent until they returned.

6 Then Shechem’s father Hamor came to Jacob to negotiate. 7 Jacob’s sons had just come from the field when they heard. Everyone was offended and very angry because he had committed a crime in Israel by ravishing Jacob’s daughter. Such a thing should not be done. 8 But Hamor appealed to them: “The heart of Shechem, my son delights in your daughter. Please give her as his wife. 9 Intermarry with us. Give us your daughters and marry our daughters. 10 Live with us. The inhabitants of land will accept your presence. Live and trade freely here. Get property here.” 11 Then Shechem said to her father and brothers, “Do me this favour, and I’ll give you whatever you ask. 12 Increase and multiply the bridal price and the gift I must bring as much as you require, and I’ll give whatever you ask from me. Just give me the girl as my wife!” 13 Jacob’s sons responded to Shechem and Hamor, his father deceitfully when they spoke because Shechem had so degraded their sister Dinah. 14 They said to them, “We can't give our sister to a man who is uncircumcised because it would be a disgrace. 15 We’ll only give you our consent if you become like us by circumcising all your males. 16 Then we’ll give you our girls to marry, and we’ll take your girls as wives, and we’ll live among you and become one nation. 17 But if you don’t consent to circumcision, then we’ll take our sister away and leave.” 18 Their condition pleased Hamor and his son Shechem.

19 The young man did not delay action because he desired Jacob’s daughter Dinah badly. He was more influential than anyone in his father’s family. 20 So Hamor and Shechem, his son went to the gate of their city and negotiated with the men of their city; 21 “These people are friendly with us. So, let's allow them to live in the land and travel freely in it. Look, the land is big enough all around. We’ll take their girls as our wives, and we’ll give them our daughters to marry. 22 Only on this one condition will these people agree to live with us and we’ll become one nation: every male among us must be circumcised as they are circumcised. 23 If we do so, won’t their property, their wealth, and all their animals become ours? So, let’s accept their demand so that they’ll live with us.” 24 All the men who came to the city gate agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem. Every male who came to his city gate was circumcised.

25 On the third, when they reached the peak of the pain, two of Jacob’s sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword and ran down the city boldly and slaughtered every male. 26 They killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the tip of the sword, carried Dinah from Shechem’s house, and left. 27 Jacob’s sons killed them and plundered the city because their sister had been degraded. 28 They took their flocks, herds, and donkeys, and everything in the city and the fields. 29 They plundered all their wealth, all their little ones, and their wives, including everything in the palace.

30 Jacob then said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me deplorable among the inhabitants of the region – among the Canaanites and the Perizzites. I’m few in number; they’ll rally against me and kill me; myself and my family.” 31 But Simeon and Levi replied, “Should he make and exploit our sister as a strumpet?”

Genesis 35

Jacob’s Return to Bethel

1 Then Supermights said to Jacob, “Get up and go to Bethel and live there. Erect an altar there to Supermights who appeared to you when you fled from the rage of your brother Esau.”

2 So Jacob the usurper told his family and all who were with him, “Remove and throw away the strange deities you have among you. Purify yourselves and change your clothes. 3 Let's go to Bethel immediately. Then I’ll build an altar there for Supermights who responded to me in my season of trouble and has been with me wherever I travelled.” 4 So they gave Jacob all the strange deities that were in their hands and the rings which were in their ears. Jacob buried them under the oak near Shechem.

5 As they journeyed on, Supermights' terror gripped the neighbouring cities, so they did not pursue Jacob's people.

6 Jacob and everyone who was with him reached Luz, that is Bethel in the land of Canaan. 7 Then he built an altar and named the place El Bethel because there Supermights had revealed himself to him when he was running away from his brother's fury.

8 Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died and was buried under the oak below Bethel. Its name was called the Allonbachuth.

9 Supermights had appeared to Jacob once after he had returned from Paddan Aram and blessed him. 10 Supermights had said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but your name will no longer be called Jacob; Israel will be your name.” Supermights called his name Israel.

11 Then Supermights said to him, “I’m the self-sufficient Supermights. Be fruitful and multiply! A nation – even a group of nations – will emerge from you; kings will descend from you! 12 The land I appointed to Abraham and Isaac I’ll give to you and your posterity after I’ve given the land to you.”

13 When Supermights had ascended from the place where he had conversed with him, 14 Jacob had erected a memorial stone. On the spot where Supermights had spoken with him, he had poured out a drink offering, and then he had poured oil on it. 15 Jacob had previously called the place where Supermights spoke with him, Bethel.

16 Then they travelled out of Bethel, and when the land of Ephrath was still some distance away, Rachel went into labour – and her labour was difficult. 17 When her labour was severest, the midwife said to her, “Don’t worry, you have another son.” 18 When her breathing was failing because she was dying, she called his name Ben-Oni, but his father named him Benjamin. 19 Rachel died and was buried en route to Ephrath, that is, Bethlehem. 20 Jacob set up a gravestone on her burial site; it is the memorial of Rachel’s grave to this day.

21 Then Israel travelled on and pitched his tent beyond Migdal Eder.

22 When Israel lived in that area, Reuben followed and sexually slept with Bilhah, his father’s concubine, and Israel heard about it.

Jacob had twelve sons.

23 Leah's sons were Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn, as well as Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

24 Rachel's sons were Joseph and Benjamin. 25 Bilhah's sons, Rachel’s servant, were Dan and Naphtali. 26 Zilpah's sons, Leah’s servant, were Gad and Asher. These were Jacob's son who were born to him in Paddan Aram.

27 Jacob went to his father Isaac in Mamre, to Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac had temporarily resided. 28 The total years of Isaac’s life of being alive were 180. 29 Then Isaac breathed his last and died at a right old age, an old man full of life. He was removed from his people. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 36

Esau’s Family Lines

1 What follows is the family history of Esau, who is Edom.

2 Esau took wives from the Canaanites: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite, 3 Basemath the daughter of Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth. 4 Adah birthed Eliphaz to Esau, Basemath birthed Reuel, 5 and Oholibamah birthed Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

6 Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, all the people in his household, his livestock, his animals, and all his wealth which he had accumulated in the land of Canaan and went to a country opposite his brother Jacob 7 because their cumulative possessions were too much to settle together. The area they lived in was not able to contain their large livestock. 8 Esau that is Edom resettled in the hill country of Seir, Esau is the Edomite.

9 This is the family history of Esau, the principal of the Edomites, in the hill country of Seir.

10 These were the names of Esau’s sons:

Eliphaz, the son of Esau’s wife, Adah,

and Reuel, the son of Esau’s wife Basemath.

11 The sons of Eliphaz were:

Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

12 Timna, a concubine of Esau’s son Eliphaz,

birthed Amalek to Eliphaz.

These were the sons of Esau’s wife, Adah.

13 These were the sons of Reuel:

Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

These were the sons of Esau’s wife Basemath.

14 These were the sons of Esau’s wife, Oholibamah

the daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon:

She birthed Jeush, Jalam, and Korah to Esau.

15 Some were the leaders among the tribes of Esau:

for the tribe of Eliphaz (Esau’s firstborn):

Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz,

16 Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, Chief Amalek.

Those were the chiefs from Eliphaz in the land of Edom;

these were the born of Adah.

17 These for the sons of Esau’s son Reuel:

Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, chief Mizzah.

These were the chiefs from Reuel in the land of Edom;

these were born of Esau’s wife Basemath.

18 These for the sons of Esau’s wife, Oholibamah:

Chief Jeush, Chief Jalam, Chief Korah.

These were the chiefs from Esau’s wife, Oholibamah,

the daughter of Anah.

19 These were the sons of Esau, that is Edom,

and these were their chiefs.

20 These for the sons of Seir the Horite,

who were living in the land:

Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

These were the chiefs of the Horites,

of Seir in the land of Edom.

22 The sons of Lotan were Hori and Homam;

Lotan’s sister was Timna.

23 These were the sons of Shobal:

Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

24 These were the sons of Zibeon:

Aiah and Anah, who discovered the hot springs in the desert

as he grazed the donkeys of his father, Zibeon.

25 These were the children of Anah:

Dishon and Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah.

26 These were the sons of Dishon:

Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran.

27 These were the sons of Ezer:

Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

28 These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

29 These were the chiefs of the Horites:

Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah,

30 Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer, Chief Dishan.

These were the chiefs of the Horites,

according to their main lists in the land of Seir.

31 These are the kings that ruled in the area of Edom

before any king ruled over the Israelites:

32 Bela, the son of Beor, ruled in Edom;

the name of his city was Dinhabah.

33 When Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah from Bozrah ruled in his place.

34 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

35 When Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad,

who defeated the Midianites in the area of Moab, ruled in his place;

the name of his city was Avith.

36 When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah ruled in his place.

37 When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth by the River ruled in his place.

38 When Shaul died, Baal-Hanan, the son of Achbor ruled in his place.

39 When Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor died, Hadad ruled in his place;

the name of his city was Pau.

His wife’s name was Mehetabel,

the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Me-Zahab.

40 These were the names of the chiefs of Esau,

according to their families, according to their places, by their names:

Chief Timna, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth,

41 Chief Oholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon,

42 Chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar,

43 Chief Magdiel, Chief Iram.

These were the chiefs of Edom,

Esau, the father of the Edomites,

according to their succession in the land they possessed.

Jacob’s Family Story in Canaan

Genesis 37

1 Jacob lived in the area where his father had temporarily resided, in the land of Canaan.

2 This is another story of Jacob's descendants.

When Joseph was seventeen-years-old, he was grazing the flocks with his brothers. The young man was with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives. Joseph would bring adverse reports to their father.

3 Israel dearly loved Joseph more than all his children because he was a son born in his old age, and he had made a lavish shirt for him. 4 When Joseph’s brothers noticed that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated Joseph and were unable to speak to him kindly.

5 Joseph then dreamed some dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, “Please listen to the dream I dreamed: 7 We were binding sheaves in the field. My bundle stood straight suddenly, and your bundles rotated around my sheaf and bowed down to it!” 8 Then his brothers asked him, “Will you ascend the throne ahead of us and become king and rule over us?” They hated him even more for his dream as well as his reports.

9 Then he had yet another dream and told it to his brothers. “Look, I had yet another dream where the sun, the moon and eleven stars were bowing to me.” 10 After he told his father and his brothers, his father scolded him, saying, “What is this dream that you dreamed? Will I, your mother and your brothers bow ourselves down on the ground before you?” 11 His brothers became jealous of him. But his father carefully treasured the message.

12 His brothers had gone to graze their father’s flocks near Shechem, 13 Israel said to Joseph, “Your brothers are tending the flocks near Shechem. Come, I’ll send you to them.” “Ready!” Joseph replied. 14 So Jacob said to him, “Please go right away and check on the welfare of your brothers and the flocks, and bring me a report.” Jacob sent him from Hebron Valley and he traveled to Shechem.

15 A certain man met him wandering there in the fields and asked him plainly, “What are you looking for?” 16 He replied, “I’m looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they graze.” 17 The man replied, “They left this area. In fact, I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’” So, Joseph followed his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 Seeing him from a distance, before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. 19 They said to each other, “There comes the master dreamer! 20 Come quickly. Let's kill him and throw him in one of the holes, and then say that a vicious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what will become of his dreams!”

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to deliver him from their hands, saying, “Don’t kill him!” 22 Reuben said, “Don’t shed blood but throw him into this hole that is here in the desert, but don’t lay a hand on him.” He said this so he could rescue him from them and return him to his father.

23 When Joseph reached his brothers, they undressed and stripped Joseph off of his top shirt that he had on. 24 Then they took him and threw him into the hole. The hole was empty as there was no water in it.

25 As they sat down to eat their food, they lifted their eyes. They spotted a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead with camels carrying spices, balm, and myrrh travelling down to Egypt. 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is there if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let’s not lay a hand on him, for, after all, he is our brother, our own flesh.” His brothers agreed.

28 So when the Midianite merchants passed by Joseph’s brothers pulled him out of the hole and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of money. They carried him to Egypt.

29 Reuben, returning to the hole, discovering that Joseph was not in the hole, tore his clothes, 30 returned to his brothers, and said, “The boy isn’t there! What am I going to do?” 31 They took Joseph’s shirt, killed a young goat, dipped and soaked the shirt in the blood. 32 Then they sent the lavish shirt to their father and said, “We found this. Please check if it is not your son’s shirt.” 33 He recognised it and exclaimed, “It's my son’s shirt! A wild animal has devoured him! Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!” 34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourned for his son many days. 35 All his sons and daughters stood by him to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “No,” he said, “I’ll go down into the grave lamenting for my son.” His father wept for him.

36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officers, the chief executioner.

Genesis 38

Judah’s Life Away From Family

1 At that time Judah fell out from his brothers and turned away with an Adullamite man named Hirah.

2 Judah saw the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. Judah took her and slept with her. 3 She conceived and had a son, and he called and announced his name as Er.

4 She conceived and again birthed a son, and called his name Onan.

5 Again she conceived and birthed another son. She called and announced his name as Shelah, and was in Chezib when she birthed.

6 Judah took a wife for Er, his eldest son; her name was Tamar.

7 But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was terrible in Lifegiver’s opinion, so Lifegiver killed him.

8 Then Judah said to Onan, “Sleep with your brother’s wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her so that you may raise posterity for your brother.” 9 But Onan knew that the child would not be his. So, whenever he had penetrated his brother’s wife, he would spill his semen on the ground so that he would not give his brother a child. 10 That was displeasing to Lifegiver’s opinion, so Lifegiver killed him too.

11 Then Judah said to his son’s wife Tamar, “Remain a widow in your father’s house until my son Shelah grows up.” It was because he thought, “I don’t want him to die like his brothers.” So, Tamar went away and lived in her father’s house.

12 In the progression of time Judah’s wife, the daughter of Shua, died. After Judah was consoled, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, with his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

13 Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law going up to Timnah to shear his sheep.” 14 She then removed her widow’s clothes and wrapped herself with a veil. She covered herself and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the way to Timnah because she noticed Shelah had now grown up yet she had not been presented to him as a wife.

15 When Judah saw her, he assumed she was a prostitute because she had covered her face. 16 He turned to her along the road and said, “Come on, please! Let me sleep with you.” He did not realise it was his daughter-in-law. She responded, “What will you give me in exchange for sleeping with me?” 17 He replied, “I’ll send you a kid from the flock.” She asked, “Will you give me a guarantee until you send it?” 18 He said, “What guarantee should I give you?” She replied, “Your ring, your bracelet, and the staff that’s in your hand.” So, he gave them to her, and he slept with her. She conceived by him. 19 She got up and went away, removed her veil, and put on her clothes of widowhood.

20 Then Judah sent a young goat by the hand of his friend Hirah the Adullamite to get back from the woman’s hand the items he had given in pledge, but Hirah could not find her. 21 He asked the people who were there, “Where is the prostitute who was at Enaim by the roadside?” But they replied, “There has been no prostitute in this place.”

22 So he returned to Judah and reported, “I can't find her. The men of the place also said, ‘There has been no prostitute here.’” 23 Judah said, “Let her win, lest we are shamed. Look, I sent this kid, but you couldn’t find her.”

24 After three months, Judah was told, “Tamar, your daughter-in-law, has turned to prostitution, and as a result, she's pregnant.” Judah said, “Bring her out and let's burn her!” 25 While they were bringing her, she sent a message to her father-in-law: “I’m pregnant by the man to whom these belong.” Then she said, “Please identify the one to whom the ring, bracelet, and staff belong.” 26 Judah recognised them and said, “She is justified because I wouldn’t give her to Shelah, my son.” He never had sexual intimacy with her again.

27 When her time to give birth came, it was discovered there were twins in her womb. 28 When she was in labour, one child put out his hand, then the midwife took a red thread and tied it on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.” 29 But then he withdrew his hand, and his brother came out ahead of him. She said, “How you have broken out of the womb!” So, his name was called Perez. 30 Afterwards, his brother came out – the one who had the red thread on his hand – and his name was called Zerah.

Genesis 39

Joseph Sexually Harassed in Africa

1 Meanwhile, Joseph was brought to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, Pharaoh’s officer, the chief executioner, procured him from the delivery of the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

2 Lifegiver was with Joseph. He became a successful servitor as he became established in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 His master observed that Lifegiver was with him and that Lifegiver made everything he did successful. 4 So he liked Joseph as his houseboy. He made him a manager over his house, and he entrusted everything he had in his care.

5 Over time he made him executive manager over his estate and all his wealth. Lifegiver immensely blessed the Egyptian’s household because of Joseph. The blessing of Lifegiver was on everything that he had, both in his house and in his fields. 6 So he entrusted everything he had in Joseph’s custody; he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome and well built. 7 Soon after these things, his master’s wife set her eyes on Joseph and said, “Sleep with me.” 8 But he refused, saying to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not concern himself with whatever that is with me in his estate. He has entrusted all he has in my care. 9 No one ranks higher in this household than me. He has not withheld anything else from me except you because you are his wife. How would I commit such repulsive immorality and sin against Supermights?” 10 She proposed Joseph day after day. He did not yield to her sexual advances to sleep with her or come to her.

11 It happened one day, as at other times, that he went inside the house to do his errands. Not any of the house servants were inside the house. 12 Grabbing him by his clothes as she was saying, “Sleep with me!” But he relinquished his clothes in her hand to escape and dashed to the street. 13 When she realised that he had left his clothes in her hand and had run outside, 14 she called out for her household servants. She said to them, “See, he brought in a Hebrew man to us to mess us around. He tried to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his clothes next to me and ran outside.”

16 So she kept his clothes next to her until his master came home. 17 This is what she said to him: “The Hebrew servant you brought to us tried to mess me around, 18 but when I increased my volume and screamed, he left his outer clothes and ran outside.” 19 Then when his master heard his wife say, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger blazed up.

20 Joseph’s master arrested him and had him thrown into prison, where the royal prisoners were detained. From there on he was in the prison house.

21 But Lifegiver was with Joseph. He extended his favour towards him. He inspired favour in the mind of the prison warden. 22 The warden put all the other prisoners under Joseph’s care - he was in charge of whatever they were doing. 23 The warden did not worry himself with anything that was in Joseph’s care because Lifegiver was with him and whatever he did Lifegiver made it successful.

Genesis 40

Joseph’s Encounters with Egypt’s Cupbearer and Baker

1 After these events, Egypt's royal butler and the baker, offended their master, the king of Egypt. 2 Pharaoh got angry with his two courtiers, the chief butler and the chief baker, 3 so he threw them in the prison that was in the house of the chief executioner in the same prison cell where Joseph was imprisoned.

4 The chief warden assigned Joseph to be in charge over them, and he served them. They were in prison for some time.

5 Both of them, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were detained in prison, each dreamed dreams the same night. Each man’s dream had its own meaning.

6 When Joseph came past them in the morning, he noticed that they were sad. 7 So he greeted and asked Pharaoh’s officials, who were in the same prison cell in his master’s prison, “Why do you look so sad today?” 8 They told him, “We dreamed dreams, but there is no one to interpret them.” Joseph responded, “Aren't interpretations Supermights’? Please narrate them to me.” 9 So the chief butler told his dream to Joseph: “In my dream, there was a grapevine in front of me. 10 On the vine, there were three tendrils. As soon as it sprouted, its blossoms opened and its grape clusters ripened. 11 Now Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, so I selected and harvested the grapes, squeezed them into his cup, and I carried and delivered the cup into Pharaoh’s hand.” 12 “This is its meaning,” Joseph said to him. “The three tendrils are three days. 13 Witlitrethree days, Pharaoh will lift and raise your head and restore you to your position. You’ll serve Pharaoh’s cup in his hand, just as previously when you were his butler. 14 But remember me when it goes well with you. Do me a favour, please mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this place. 15 I was merely kidnapped and smuggled out of the land of the Hebrews. Even here too, I’ve not done anything that warrants they should confine me into a pit.”

16 When the chief baker realised that the interpretation of the first dream was positive, he said to Joseph, “I was also in my dream there with three-tier white baskets on my head. 17 In the top basket, there was every kind of baked products baked for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them from the basket that was on my head.” 18 Joseph replied, “This is its meaning: The three baskets represent three days. 19 Witlitrethree days Pharaoh will lift and raise your head from you and hang you on a tree. Then the birds will devour and feed on your flesh from the top.”

20 On the third day, it was Pharaoh’s birthday, so he threw a banquet for all of his staff. He lifted and elevated the head of the chief butler and the head of the chief baker among his servants. 21 He returned and restored the chief butler to his butlership, so he served the cup in Pharaoh’s hand, 22 but he hanged the chief baker - just as Joseph had interpreted for them.

23 But the chief butler did not remember Joseph – he forgot him.

Genesis 41

Joseph’s Interpretation of African Royal Dreams

1 At the end of two years, Pharaoh dreamed a dream. He was standing next to the Nile. 2 Seven fine-figured and muscular cows emerged from the river, and they grazed in wetlands. 3 Suddenly, after that, there appeared seven sickly-looking and tlitrecows after them from the Nile, and they stood next to the other cows at the bank of the river. 4 The sickly-looking and tlitrecows ate and swallowed the seven fine-figured, muscular cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

5 Then he fell asleep again, and then he dreamed a second dream. In it, there were seven heads of grain growing on one stalk, healthy and good. 6 Suddenly seven heads of grain, tlitreand blown eastward, sprouted after them. 7 The tiny heads swallowed the seven healthy and full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It was another dream.

8 When the morning came, his mind was troubled. So, he ordered all the horoscopists of Egypt and all its scientists to be summoned. Pharaoh described all his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I suddenly remember my mistake. 10 Pharaoh was upset with his servants, and he detained the chief baker and I in the prison of the chief executioner. 11 He and I dreamed dreams one night. Each dream had its own meaning. 12 With us was a young Hebrew man who was a servant of the chief executioner. We each narrated our dreams to him, and he interpreted the meaning of each of our dreams, respectively, according to our dream’s meaning. 13 Just as he had said to us, I was restored to my position, but he was executed.”

14 Then Pharaoh immediately sent for Joseph. So, they quickly brought him out of the cell; shaved him and changed his clothes. Then they brought him in front of Pharaoh. 15 Pharaoh told Joseph, “I dreamed a dream and no one can interpret it. But I heard it is said you understand and interpret dreams.” 16 Joseph responded and explained to Pharaoh, “Except Supermights responds to Pharaoh favourably. Not me!” 17 Then Pharaoh told Joseph, “In my dream, I was standing on the bank of the Nile. 18 Later seven beefy and fine-figured cows emerged from the Nile, and they grazed in the reeds. 19 Then suddenly, after them seven other cows; they were lean, very bad-figured, with weak muscles. Those so bad had never been seen in the entire country of Egypt! 20 The tlitreand sickly cows swallowed the seven beefy cows. 21 It was not obvious, except by coming into their stomachs, because they were as tlitreas they were before. Then I woke up. 22 I also saw in my dreams seven heads of grain growing on one stalk, full and good. 23 Seven heads of grain shrunk and tlitreand blown eastward, then sprouted after them. 24 The tlitreheads of grain suddenly swallowed up the seven good heads of grain. So, I narrated all this to the horoscopists, but no one could interpret it.”

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are similar. Supermights has revealed to Pharaoh the king of Egypt what is about to happen. 26 The seven fine cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years. The dreams are the same. 27 The seven tlitreand weak cows that emerged after them are seven years. The seven empty heads of grain blown eastwards are seven years of drought. 28 This is just what I said to Pharaoh: Supermights has presented to Pharaoh what is going to happen. 29 There is coming seven years of great prosperity throughout the whole country of Egypt. 30 After them, seven years of poverty will begin. All the wealth will be forgotten in the country of Egypt as poverty will deplete and devastate the land. 31 The wealth of the country will not be remembered because of the poverty that will follow because drought will be extremely severe. 32 The dream was given repeatedly to Pharaoh because Supermights determined the matter. Supermights will soon advance.

33 "So now Pharaoh should look for an intelligent and skillful man, and appoint him over the entire land of Egypt. 34 So Pharaoh should do this – he should appoint deputies over the districts of the land and retain 20 percent portion and tax of the Egyptian land during the seven years of prosperity. 35 Under Pharaoh’s supervision, let them collect and accumulate all the excess food during the coming prosperous years. Let them stockpile the grain in the cities. 36 The food to be stored from the land should be enough for the seven years of poverty that will come in the country of Egypt so that the drought will not destroy the nation.”

37 This proposal was impressive in Pharaoh's view and in the views of all the officials. 38 Then Pharaoh asked his officials, “Can we find another man that has the divine mind?” 39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since deities have revealed these to you, no one is as intelligent and as wise as you are! 40 You’ll be placed in charge over my palace and according to your directive will my people be ruled. Only myself on the throne will be superior to you." 41 Pharaoh also said to Joseph “Look, I appoint you over the entire land of Egypt.” 42 Pharaoh then removed his ring from his hand and thrust it on Joseph’s hand. He wrapped him with fine linen clothes and put a gold collar around his neck. 43 He made him ride on a double chariot while they saluted and knelt before him; inducting him throughout the entire country of Egypt. 44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “Even though I’m Pharaoh no one will move their hand or their foot in the entire country of Egypt without your permission.” 45 Pharaoh announced and declared Joseph's title as Zaphenath-Paneah. He also gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife.

Joseph then travelled throughout the land of Egypt.

46 Now Joseph was 30 years old when Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, inaugurated him. Joseph went away from Pharaoh and travelled across the entire country of Egypt.

47 During the prosperous seven years, the land produced to full capacity. 48 During the seven years, he collected every grain that was in the country of Egypt and stored the food in the cities. The food of the fields which were around the cities he brought in. 49 Joseph accumulated so much grain, like the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting it because it was no longer possible to count.

50 Joseph got two sons before the years of the drought came whom Asenath the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, birthed. 51 Joseph called the name of the eldest Manasseh, saying, “For Supermights has made me forget all my misery and all my father’s family.” 52 He called the name of the second child Ephraim, saying, “For Supermights has made me fruitful in the land of my misery.”

53 Then the seven years of prosperity in the country of Egypt ended. 54 Thereafter, the seven years of poverty began to come in, as Joseph had said. Drought broke out in all countries, but throughout the land of Egypt there was food.

55 When all the land of Egypt had drought, the people cried out to Pharaoh for food. Pharaoh said to all the people of Egypt, “Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you.”

56 While the drought was on the surface of the entire Earth, Joseph opened up every place and sold grain to the Egyptians. The drought intensified in the land of Egypt. 57 All countries resorted to Egypt to buy grain through Joseph. The drought was prevalent in the entire world.

Genesis 42

Joseph’s Brothers Bowed Before Him in Africa

1 When Jacob learnt there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why are you looking at each other?” 2 He then said, “Look, I hear that there's grain in Egypt. Go down and buy some grain for us so that we will survive and not die.” 3 Then Joseph’s ten brothers went to buy grain from Egypt. 4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother with his brothers because he thought; “Just in case an accident happens.”

5 When Israel's sons came to buy grain among the travelers because the drought had broken out in the region of Canaan, 6 Joseph was the ruler of the country as well as the person who sold grain to all the people of the world. Joseph’s brothers came forward and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground. 7 When Joseph spotted and checked his brothers, he recognised them. Treating them as strangers, he spoke to them harshly and asked, “Where do you come from?” They answered, “From the land of Canaan to buy grain for food.” 8 Joseph scrutinised and recognised his brothers, but they didn't recognise him. 9 Then Joseph suddenly remembered and recalled whatever dreams he dreamed, and he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to assess and detect the vulnerabilities of our country!” 10 But they asserted, “No, sir! Your servants came to buy grain for food! 11 We are all sons of one man. Your servants are honestly not spies!”

12 He persisted, “No. You came to assess our land’s weakness.” 13 They replied, “Your servants were twelve brothers. We are children of one man in the country of Canaan. The youngest is with our father at this time, and the other one is gone.”

14 But Joseph told them, “That is why I told you; ‘You are spies!’ 15 This is the test: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you’ll not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. 16 Send one of you to fetch and bring your brother, while the rest of you are arrested. In this way, your words will be tested if there is any real truth. If not, then, as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!” 17 He detained all of them for three days.

18 On the third day, Joseph said to them, “Do as I say to survive, I revere Supermights. 19 If you are authentic, leave one of your brothers detained here in the prison house while some of you go and take grain to your hungry families. 20 But you must fetch and bring your youngest brother to me. Then your statements will be confirmed, and you’ll not die.” They committed as he demanded.

21 One brother said to another, “We're obviously punished because of our brother. Whereas we saw his heartache as he pleaded with us for mercy, we would not listen. That is why, rightly so, this trouble has come on us!” 22 Reuben responded and demanded, “Didn’t I say to you, ‘Don’t harm the boy,’ but you wouldn’t listen? See, then we must account for his bloodshed!”

23 They did not realise that Joseph could understand them because he communicated to them through an interpreter.

24 He turned himself away from them and wept. When he returned to speak to them again, he had Simeon picked up from them and tied up before their eyes.

25 Then Joseph sent a messenger to fill their bags with grain, and return each man’s money to his bag, and to give them provisions for the journey. So, it was done.

26 They then loaded their grain on their donkeys and left the place.

27 At the place of lodging, each of them opened his bag to get fodder for his donkey. He suddenly noticed his money in the opening of his bag. 28 He said to his brothers, “Here is my money in my sack. It was returned!” They were shocked. Trembling, they asked each other, “What is this that Supermights has done to us?”

29 When they reached their father Jacob in the region of Canaan, they then told him everything that had happened to them. 30 They said, “The man who is the governor of the country spoke harshly to us and accused us of spying the country. 31 But we said to him, ‘We are authentic; we are no spies! 32 We were twelve brothers; we are sons of one father. The other one is no longer alive, and the youngest is with our father right now in the country of Canaan.’ 33 Then the man who is the governor of the country told us, ‘This is how I’ll ascertain if you are genuine; leave one of your brothers with me. Go and take grain for your hungry families. 34 Then fetch and bring your youngest brother to me so I’ll confirm that you are no spies but you are genuine. I’ll release your brother, and you may trade in the country.’”

35 As they were emptying their bags, there was everyone’s bag of money inside his bag! Their father saw the bags of money too. They were surprised.

36 Their father, Jacob, spoke to them, grieved, “Joseph is gone. Simeon is gone. Benjamin will be taken! Everything is becoming too much.” 37 Reuben made an oath to his father, saying, “Immediately kill my two sons if I don’t come back. Give him to my care, and I’ll bring him back.” 38 But Jacob reacted, “My son will not go there with you because his brother is dead and he alone is left. If an accident happened to him on the journey which you must go, truly my old head will run down to the grave in sorrow.”

Genesis 43

Joseph’s Brothers Returned to Africa

1 Meanwhile, the drought intensified in the world.

2 Then, because they had finished eating the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them again, “Go back to buy us some food.” 3 But Judah said to him, “The man had given us a specific warning, ‘You’ll not see my face unless your brother comes.’ 4 If you send us with our brother, we’ll go down and buy food. 5 But if you’ll send us without him, we won’t go down because the man told us, ‘You’ll not see me again until your brother comes.’” 6 Israel exclaimed, “What a mess, exposing more family!” 7 They replied, “The man questioned and probed us about family, asking; ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ Then we responded to him according to the tone of his questions. Could we have preempted that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down’?”

8 Judah then spoke to his father Israel, “Send the boy with me, and we’ll go immediately to save both ourselves and you from death, as well as our dependents. 9 I’ll be a guarantee or him. I’ll be personally responsible if I don’t bring him back to you and place him here before you, bearing the blame all my life. 10 Truly, if we had not delayed, we would have now returned twice on this side!” 11 Then their father Israel responded, “If so then, do this: Carry some of the best produce of the area in your bags. Carry gifts down for the man, a little balm, a little honey, spices, myrrh and fresh nuts. 12 Carry double the money in your hands, the money that was returned in the openings of your bags. Return it yourselves – perhaps this was a mistake. 13 Get up, take your brother, and return to the man. 14 May the self-sufficient Supermights grant you mercy before the man to free and release your other brother and Benjamin! If I’m bereaved, I’m bereaved.”

15 The men then took those gifts and carried double the money in their hands. Benjamin got up and went down to Egypt and stood in front of Joseph. 16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he instructed his house manager, “Lead and take these men to my house. Slaughter and prepare food for everyone. They’ll eat with me at midday.”

17 The manager did just as Joseph instructed. The man led the men to Joseph’s house.

18 The men were terrified because they were taken to Joseph’s house. They thought, “We are taken here because of the issue of the money that was returned in our bags last time. He seeks an occasion with us to overpower and take our donkeys and make us slaves.” 19 So they approached the man who was a manager over Joseph’s household and negotiated with him at the entranceway of the house. 20 They said, “Excuse us, sir, we did in fact come down the first time to buy food. 21 When we came to the inn where we lodged for the night, as we opened our bags, everyone’s money was in the opening of our bags. We’ve returned the full amount in our hands. 22 We’ve also brought additional money at hand to buy grain. We don’t know who placed the money in our bags!” 23 He responded, “It's fine! Don’t worry. Maybe your deity, the deity of your father has deposited hidden treasure in your bags. I got your money.” Then he went in and brought Simeon to them.

24 When the manager brought the men into Joseph’s house, and he gave them water to wash their feet. Then he gave their donkeys fodder.

25 They prepared their gifts before Joseph arrived at midday because they had heard they would eat a meal then. 26 When Joseph came home, they came and brought in the gifts they had carried in themselves into the house and bowed to the ground. 27 He inquired about their welfare. He asked; “Is your ageing father you spoke about, well? Is he still alive?” 28 “Your servant, our father is well and is still alive,” they replied and knelt down in reverence.

29 He lifted his eyes and looked at his real brother Benjamin, his mother’s son. He asked; “Is this your youngest brother you spoke about?” Then he said, “May Supermights be gracious to you, son.” 30 Joseph hurried out because he was overwhelmed with emotions over his brother. He wanted to cry. He ran to his bedroom to cry privately.

31 After he washed his face, he again returned and composed himself. Then he said, “Serve the food.” 32 They served him by himself separately from the Egyptians who were dining with him. The Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews - it was disgusting for the Egyptians. 33 They were seated in front of him according to their birth order - the first-born according to the right of the first-born and the youngest according to their youth - each of the men marveled over this. 34 He dished them portions of the food set before him, but Benjamin's share was five times bigger than the portions for any of them. They feasted and drank together.

Genesis 44

Joseph Trapped His Brothers

1 He strictly instructed the manager of his house, “Fill up the men's bags to capacity and put each man’s money in the opening of his bag. 2 Then put my cup – the silver cup – in the opening of the youngest one’s bag and his grain money.” He did, according to Joseph’s instructions.

3 At the break of daylight, the men and their donkeys were sent off.

4 They had not gone that far from the city when Joseph said to his house manager; “Get up and run after the men. When you reach them, ask them; ‘Why have you repaid good with evil? 5 Doesn’t my master drink from this cup? He has learned by experience and diligent observing that you have done wrong!’”

6 When the manager reached them, he spoke to them those words. 7 They responded to him, “Why do you say such things, sir? Your servants could not do such a thing! 8 True, the money that we discovered in the openings of our bags we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How could we then steal silver or gold from your master’s house? 9 From whoever of your servants it may be found, he’ll die, and all of us will become sir’s slaves!” 10 He replied, “This time you have suggested your sentence! The person who has it will become my slave, but all of you will be innocent.” 11 Then each man quickly lowered his bag, and everyone opened his sack to the ground and opened it. 12 He searched, beginning with the eldest and finished off with the youngest. The cup was discovered in Benjamin’s bag! 13 They tore their clothes! Everyone loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

14 When Judah and his brothers went back to Joseph’s house, he was still there, and they fell on the ground before him. 15 Joseph said to them, “What's this thing you've done? Don’t you know that a person like me can detect and investigate?” 16 Judah replied, “What can we say to you, sir? How can we plead? How can we clear ourselves? Supermights has exposed the crime of your servants! We are now sir’s slaves - we and the person in whose possession the cup was discovered.” 17 But Joseph replied, “I can't do such a thing! Only the person in whose possession the cup was discovered will become my slave, but you go up to your father in peace.”

18 Then Judah approached him and said, “Sir, let your servant please speak a word to sir’s ear. Please don’t let your anger blaze up with your servant, for you are just like Pharaoh. 19 Sir asked his servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’ 20 We responded to you sir, ‘We have an aged father, and this is a little boy of his old-age, and his brother died. He is the last one of his mother’s sons that is left, and his father’s most loved. 21 Then you told your servants, ‘Bring him to me so I can see him.’ 22 We said to you, sir, ‘The boy can never to leave his father. If he ever leaves his father, his father will die.’ 23 But then you said to your servants, ‘If your youngest brother doesn't come with you to me, you’ll not see my face again.’ 24 When we returned to your servant my father we told him your condition, sir. 25 Then our father said, ‘Go back and buy us some food.’ 26 We replied, ‘We can’t go down there unless our youngest brother is with us - then we’ll go because we are not able to see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ 27 Then my father your servant said to us, ‘You know that my wife birthed me two. 28 The first disappeared from me, and I said, 'He has surely been plucked off and torn to pieces. I’ve never seen him since. 29 If you take this one too from me and an accident happens to him, then my old head will run down to the grave in sorrow.’ 30 So now, when I return to my father, your servant, and the boy is not with us, his very life is tied up with his life. 31 When he sees the boy is not with us, your servants will have his old head run down to the grave in sorrow. He’ll die. 32 Indeed, your servant became a guarantee for the boy with my father, pledging, ‘If I don’t return him to you, then I’ll take the blame before my father all my life.’ 33 So now, please let your servant remain as sir’s slave instead of the boy. Please let the boy go up with his brothers. 34 How can I go up to my father with the boy not with me? I couldn’t bear to witness the grief that will overwhelm my father.”

Genesis 45

Joseph Revealed His True Identity

1 Joseph was no longer able to contain himself before all his attending officials, so he insisted, “Make everyone leave!” No one remained with Joseph when he disclosed his identity to his brothers. 2 He gave in and threw himself to long-drawn-out sobbing; the Egyptians in Pharaoh’s palace heard it. 3 Joseph told his brothers, “I’m Joseph! Is my father still alive?” His brothers could not respond to him because they were terrified in his presence.

4 Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come closer to me.” They stood back. Then he said, “I'm your brother, Joseph, who you sold into Egypt. 5 Now, don’t be depressed and angry with yourselves because you sold me here, because Supermights sent me beforehand to preserve life! 6 For the past two years there has been a drought in the world. For five more years, there will be no ploughing or harvesting. 7 Supermights sent me ahead of you to preserve you a posterity on the Earth and to preserve a great remnant. 8 So now, it’s not you who brought me here, but Supermights. He has made me principal to Pharaoh, master over his entire palace, and the governor over the entire country of Egypt. 9 Now hurry and go up to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: 'Supermights has made me governor of the entire Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay! 10 You’ll settle in the land of Goshen, and you’ll be my neighbours - you, your children, your grandchildren, your livestock, your herds and everything you have. 11 I’ll sustain you there through the five more years of drought in case you, your family and all you have become poor.' 12 Look, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin have seen my mouth speaking to you. 13 So you’ll tell my father about all my honour in Egypt and about everything you have seen. Hurry to bring my father down here!” 14 Then he fell on the neck of his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. 15 He hugged all his brothers and wept over them. After this, his brothers talked with him.

16 When the news was reported in Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and his officials were thrilled.

17 Pharaoh then said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: Load and mount your animals and go back to the land of Canaan! 18 Fetch and bring your father and your families to come to me! I’ll offer and apportion you the best land in Egypt, and you’ll be fed from the finest food of the land.’ 19 You also are instructed to tell them, ‘Do this: Take for yourselves chariots from the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives. Fetch and bring your father to come here. 20 Don’t worry about your properties because the best things of all the land of Egypt will be yours.’”

21 So the sons of Israel did as he said. Joseph gave them chariots according to Pharaoh’s instructions, and he gave them provisions for the journey. 22 He gave new clothes for each one of them, but to Benjamin, he gave three hundred weights of money and five new clothes. 23 In the same way, he sent for his father the same, then ten donkeys loaded with the best products of Egypt and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, food, and provisions for his father’s journey. 24 Then he directed and sent his brothers off. When they left, he said to them, “Don’t be distressed on your journey.”

25 So they left Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. 26 They announced to him, “Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over the entire land of Egypt!” Jacob’s heart was stunned because he did not believe them. 27 When they related to him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the chariots that Joseph had sent to transport him, their father Jacob’s spirit revived. 28 Then Israel said, “Wonderful! My son Joseph is still alive! I’ll go and visit him before I die.”

Genesis 46

Jacob Traveled to Joseph in Africa

1 Israel then began his journey, taking with him all that he owned. When he arrived in Beer Sheba, he offered sacrifices to his father Isaac's Supermights.

2 Supermights then spoke to Israel in a night vision and said, “Jacob, Jacob!” He replied, “I’m here!” 3 He said, “I’m Supermights, the deity of your father. Don't t be afraid to go down to Egypt because I’ll develop you into a big nation there. 4 I'll go down with you to Egypt, and I'll bring you out and return you. But Joseph will close your eyes with his hands.”

5 Then Jacob left Beer Sheba, and the sons of Israel transported their father Jacob, their wives and their children in the chariots that Pharaoh had sent to transport him.

6 Jacob, and his entire family, gathered their flock and the property they had obtained in the land of Canaan, and they travelled to Egypt. 7 He brought along with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons, his daughters and granddaughters – his entire family. 8 The names of Israel's children who went to Egypt were;

Jacob and his sons: Reuben was Jacob's first-born.

9 Reuben's sons were: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

10 Simeon's sons were: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad,

Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

11 Levi's sons were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

12 Judah's sons: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez,

and Zerah, although Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.

Perez's sons were Hezron and Hamul.

13 Issachar's sons were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron.

14 Zebulun's sons were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

15 These were the sons of Leah, who she birthed to Jacob in Paddan Aram,

with Dinah, his daughter. Altogether the number of persons,

his sons and daughters were thirty-threes.

16 Gad's sons were Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon,

Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

17 Asher's sons were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah,

and Serah, their sister. Beriah's sons were Heber and Malkiel.

18 Then these were Zilpah's sons,

whom Laban had given Leah his daughter.

Those she birthed to Jacob were sixteen persons.

19 Rachel's sons, Jacob’s wife, were Joseph and Benjamin.

20 Manasseh and Ephraim were birthed to Joseph in the country of Egypt.

Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, birthed them to him.

21 Benjamin's sons were Bela, Beker, Ashbel,

Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim and Ard.

22 Rachel's sons, who were birthed to Jacob, were fourteen persons.

23 Dan's son was Hushim.

24 Naphtali's sons were Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

25 Then these were Bilhah's sons, whom Laban gave to Rachel, his daughter.

She birthed to Jacob, seven persons.

26 All the persons that went with Jacob to Egypt, from his hips,

besides Jacob’s sons’ wives, were sixty-six persons altogether.

27 The children of Joseph who were birthed to him in Egypt were two boys.

The total number of people from Jacob's family that were in Egypt were 70.

28 He then sent Judah ahead to Joseph to direct his arrival at Goshen when they arrived in the land of Goshen. 29 Then Joseph harnessed his chariot and travelled up to meet his father Israel in Goshen. He threw himself over his neck and wept on his neck for a while.

30 Israel said to Joseph, “I could caress death since I’ve seen and looked at your face! Truly, you are still alive!”

31 Then Joseph said to his brothers and his father’s family, “I’ll go up and announce to Pharaoh, ‘My brothers and my father’s family who were in the land of Canaan have arrived among us. 32 The men tend livestock because their people took care of livestock. They brought their flocks and their herds along, and everything that they possess.’ 33 When Pharaoh will call you in and will ask, ‘What is your occupation?’ 34 Tell him, ‘Your servants have taken care of flocks from our youth until now, both we and our forefathers' so that you may be settled in the region of Goshen because everyone who shepherds livestock is disgusting to the Egyptians.”

Genesis 47

Joseph Settled Jacob in Egypt Before Global Drought

1 Joseph went and talked to Pharaoh, “My father, my brothers, their flocks and herds, and all that they have arrived from the region of Canaan. They are in Goshen area.” 2 He had taken some from his relatives, five men, and introduced them to Pharaoh. 3 Pharaoh asked his brothers, “What is your occupation?” They said to Pharaoh, “Your servants have taken care of flocks, both us and our forefathers.” 4 Then they told Pharaoh, “We’ve come to retreat in the land. We’ve come only because there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks because the drought is severe in the land of Canaan. So now, please allow your servants to stay in Goshen region.” 5 Pharaoh told Joseph, “Your father and your brothers came to you. 6 The land of Egypt is at your disposal. Let your father and your brothers settle in the best region of the country. They may live in the area of Goshen. If you find men of ability among them, make them managers over my property.”

7 Joseph also brought and introduced Jacob, his father. When he made him stand before Pharaoh, Jacob saluted and blessed Pharaoh. 8 Pharaoh asked Jacob, “How long have you lived?” 9 Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The full length of my years of survival are 130, almost miserable had the younger years of my life become without reaching the length of the years of the life of my forefathers in the days of their pilgrimage.” 10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went away from him.

11 Eventually, Joseph settled his father and his brothers, giving them an inheritance in the country of Egypt, in the best territory of the country, Rameses' area, as Pharaoh had permitted. 12 Joseph sustained and provided for his father, his brothers, and all his father’s family with sufficient food for their family needs.

13 There was no grain in the entire world because the drought intensified. The country of Egypt and the country of Canaan was scorched because of the state of the drought. 14 Joseph had collected all the money that was available in the country of Egypt and the region of Canaan for the grain they had bought. Then Joseph had brought in the money into Pharaoh’s palace.

15 When the money from the country of Egypt and in the region of Canaan was finished, all the Egyptians went to Joseph and demanded, “Give us food! Why should we die before you because our money is finished?” 16 Then Joseph said, “If your money is finished, bring your livestock, and I’ll give you food for your livestock.” 17 So they took in their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them grain in exchange for their horse herds, cattle herds, and donkey herds. He sustained them with grain for their livestock.

18 When that year ended, they came to him again and said, “We can't hide from you sir that the money is finished and the herds of animals belong to our lord. There is nothing left for our master except our bodies and our lands. 19 Why should we perish in front of you, both our land and us? Own us and our land for food, and we, with our land, will become Pharaoh’s servants. Distribute seed so that we may survive and not die and the land will not lie wasted.”

20 Joseph then acquired all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh because Egyptians each surrendered their farms because the drought intensified over them. The land became Pharaoh’s, 21 and he moved the people to the cities from the one end of the border of Egypt up to the other end. 22 Only the land of the officers he did not seize because the officers had a portion from Pharaoh and they lived off from the portions that Pharaoh gave them; as a result, none ever sold their farms.

23 Joseph said to the people, “Though I’ve acquired you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is the seed for you. Sow the land regularly. 24 When you have a profit, give 20 percent to Pharaoh, and 80 percent will be used for seed for the farms and for your households, and as food for the little ones.” 25 They replied, “You have favoured our lives, sir! We would have been Pharaoh’s slaves!” 26 So Joseph decreed it as permanent law that day over all Egypt. Pharaoh takes up the 20 percent except for the land of the officiating staff which never became Pharaoh’s.

27 Israel settled in the country of Egypt witlitrethe region of Goshen, and their possessions grew continually and rapidly.

28 Jacob lived in the country of Egypt 17 years. Jacob was alive for a total age of 147 years.

29 When the time for Israel to die approached, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “Please, if I’ve found favour with you, put your hand under my thigh and deal kindly and faithfully with me. Please never bury me in Egypt. 30 When I sleep like my forebears, carry me from Egypt and bury me in their burial place.” He said, “I’ll do as you requested.” 31 Jacob said, “Swear.” He took an oath. Then Israel inclined on top of his bed.

Genesis 48

Jacob Grafted and Blessed Ephraim and Manasseh

1 A short while after this, Joseph was told, “Look, your father is sicker.” He then took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him. 2 Then Jacob was told, “Here's your son Joseph. He came to you,” Israel strengthened himself and sat up on his bed.

3 Jacob said to Joseph, “The self-sufficient Supermights appeared to me at Luz in the country of Canaan, and he blessed me. 4 He said to me, ‘I’m going to grow you to be fruitful and big. I’ll develop you into a group of nations. I’ll later give and transfer this land to your descendants as a permanent possession.’ 5 From now on, your two sons, birthed to you in the country of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt - they’ll become mine as Reuben and Simeon are. 6 Your lineage that you give birth to after them will be yours. But they’ll be mentioned among the names of their brothers in their inheritance. 7 When I was returning from Paddan, Rachel died in the land of Canaan, along the way, still some long distance to go to Ephrath. So, I buried her there en route to Ephrath which is Bethlehem."

8 When Israel noticed Joseph’s and Joseph's sons, he asked, “Who are these?” 9 Joseph said to his father, “They are the sons Supermights has given me here.” His father said, “Please bring them to me so that I bless them.” 10 Israel’s eyes were dim because of old age; he could not see very well. He brought them closer to him. He touched and embraced them. 11 Israel said to Joseph, “I never thought I would see your face again, yet Supermights has shown me your posterity too.”

12 Joseph brought them closer to his knees and bowed down with his face to the ground. 13 Joseph drew both of them closer; Ephraim towards Israel’s right hand and Manasseh on Israel’s left hand from Israel’s right hand and presented them to him. 14 Israel stretched out his right hand and placed it on Ephraim’s head, who was the youngest. He wisely guided his left hand on the head of Manasseh, the eldest. 15 Then he abundantly blessed Joseph and said, “May Supermights before whom my forebears Abraham and Isaac wandered – the Supermights who has continually pastored me until this day, 16 the Messenger who rescued me from all harm greatly bless these boys. May my name be mentioned in them, as well as the name of my forefathers Abraham and Isaac. May they grow and multiply throughout the Earth.”

17 Then when Joseph noticed that his father had placed his right hand on Ephraim’s head, it disturbed his mind. So, he grabbed his father’s hand to withdraw it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. 18 Joseph said to his father, “Not that way, my father because this is the eldest. Put your right hand on his head.” 19 But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He too will become a group of people, and he too will become powerful. However, his younger brother will be greater, and his posterity will become a multitude of nations.” 20 He blessed them abundantly, saying, “Through you Israel will invoke blessings, ‘May Supermights make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.’” He appointed and established Ephraim above Manasseh.

21 Then Israel said to Joseph, “Though I’m dying, Supermights will be with you all and will take you all back to the land of your forefathers. 22 I give you one portion above your brothers which I seized out of the hands of Amorites with my sword and my bow.”

Genesis 49

Jacob’s Last Blessings and Instructions

1 Jacob then called his sons and told them, “Gather yourselves together. I’ll explain what you’ll encounter in future years.

2 “Gather yourselves together and listen you, sons of Jacob,

listen to Israel your father:

3 Reuben, you are my first-born,

my vigour, the first fruit of my ability,

excellent in dignity and superior in power.

4 Turbulent as water.

You’ll not excel because you climbed up your father’s bed,

then you desecrated it.

You got up from my couch!

5 Simeon and Levi are accomplices -

instruments of violence in their constitution.

6 May my heart never enter their assembly of consultation.

May my honour never join their anger

because they kill humanity in their vengeance

and in their stubbornness, they uproot walls.

7 Bitterly cursed be their anger because it is fiery

and outrageous, even cruel.

I’ll separate them in Jacob

and disperse them throughout Israel.

8 Judah, you are the one your brothers will praise.

Your hand will be on the throat of your adversaries.

Your father’s children will revere you.

9 Judah is a prey plucking lion’s cub,

climbing up in childhood,

subduing as a lion, an old lion,

in his reclining.

Who will withhold him?

10 Leadership will never depart from Judah,

nor governance from between his legs

until the rightful ruler comes

and nations will obey him.

11 He’ll harness his donkey to the vine,

and his colt to the choicest vine.

He will wash his garments in wine,

his robes in the blood of grapes.

12 His eyes will be brilliant than wine,

and his teeth whiter than milk.

13 Zebulun will stay by the seashore

and become a haven for ships;

his border will extend to Sidon.

14 Issachar is a tough male donkey

crouching between the corrals.

15 Seeing that his rest is comfortable,

and the land is pleasant,

he inclines his shoulder to carry the load,

becoming a servant to the task.

16 Dan will judge his people

together with the tribes of Israel.

17 Dan will be a snake beside the road,

a snapping viper by the pathway,

that bites the heels of the horse

so that its rider falls backwards;

18 I long for Lifegiver’s deliverance.

19 Gad will be attacked by troops of robbers,

but he’ll attack them at their heels.

20 Asher’s food will be superabundant,

and he’ll distribute delicacies to royalty.

21 Naphtali is a free-running female deer;

he speaks beautiful words.

22 Joseph is productive quality,

a fruitful vine near a fountain

whose branches climb over the wall.

23 The master archers bitterly shot

and hostilely opposed him.

24 But his strength remained steady,

and the power of his hands was firmed up

by the hand of Jacob's Supreme,

the Shepherd and Rock of Israel,

25 the deity of your father, who will help you,

the self-sufficient One who will bless you

with blessings from the skies above,

benefits from the deep that lies below,

and blessings of the breasts and womb.

26 The blessings of your legacy

exceeded beyond the blessings of ancestry

to the heights of the tallest mountains.

These will continue on the head

and crown of Joseph, the prince of his brothers.

27 Benjamin is a raving wolf

in the morning he rips the prey,

and in the evening divides the spoils.”

28 These are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their ancestor pronounced in blessing everyone, with an inheritance he blessed them.

29 Then he instructed them, “I’m about to be removed from my people. Bury me with my forebears in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite. 30 It is the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. 31 There they buried Abraham and his wife, Sarah. There they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah. 32 The field and the cave in it were acquired from the sons of Heth.”

33 When Jacob finished giving these instructions to his sons, he withdrew his feet into the bed, breathed his last breath, and was removed from his people.

Genesis 50

Life After Jacob’s Death and Burial

1 Then Joseph fell on his father’s face. He wept over him and hugged him.

2 Joseph instructed the physicians in his service to embalm his father. The physicians embalmed and spiced Israel. 3 Forty days ended. Then straightaway following the days of embalming, the Egyptians mourned for him for seventy days.

4 Once the days of mourning were over, Joseph asked Pharaoh’s palace, “If I’ve found favour in you, please speak to Pharaoh and say; 5 ‘My father made me vow me and said, “Make sure that when I die you bury me in my tomb that I dug for myself in the land of Canaan.” Now allow me to please go and bury my father; then I’ll return.’” 6 So Pharaoh said, “You may go and bury your father because he instructed you.”

7 So Joseph went away to bury his father; all of Pharaoh’s officials went with him – the seniors of his palace and all the veterans of the land of Egypt, 8 all of Joseph’s family, his brothers, and his father’s family. Only their children, their flocks and herds were left in the region of Goshen. 9 Chariots and horse riders also went up with him, so it was a massive entourage.

10 When they arrived in the plateau of Atad that is across the Jordan, they wailed there with very loud and bitter sorrow. He observed seven days of mourning for his father. 11 When the inhabitants of the land of the Canaanites watched them mourning in the plateau of Atad, they said, “This is a sore lamentation for the Egyptians.” That is why its name was called Abel Mizraim, although it is across the Jordan.

12 So the sons of Jacob did just as he had instructed them. 13 His sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, near Mamre. This is the field Abraham bought as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. 14 After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all those that had gone up with him to bury his father.

15 Joseph’s brothers, seeing that their father was dead, said, “What if Joseph persecutes us to repay us for all the bad things which we did to him?” 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Before he died, your father gave these instructions: 17 ‘Say this to Joseph: Please forgive the sin of your brothers and their offence because they mistreated you.’ Now please forgive the mistake of the servants of the Supermights of your father.” Joseph cried when this was reported to him.

18 Then his brothers also came and fell on their faces and said, “Here we are; we are your servants.” 19 But Joseph answered them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in Supermights' place? 20 You planned it to be tragic against me, but Supermights repurposed it as an advantage, to realise what’s happening today, for the survival of many people. 21 So now, don’t be afraid. I’ll sustain you and your little children.” Then he assured them and spoke tenderly to them.

22 Joseph lived in Egypt with his father’s family. Joseph lived 110 years.

23 Joseph got to see the descendants of Ephraim to the third generation. He also saw the children of Makir the son of Manasseh birthed on Joseph’s knees.

24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I’m dying. Supermights will surely come to you and move you out of this country to the land he promised to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” 25 Joseph made the sons of Israel to swear a solemn oath. He said, “When Supermights visits and attends to you, you must retrieve and carry my bones out of this place.”

26 Then Joseph died at 110 years. They embalmed and preserved him in a coffin in Egypt.

Xenophobic Enslavement in Africa

Exodus 1

1 These are the names of Israel's sons who entered Egypt at that time – each one who came with Jacob arrived with his family: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, 4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

5 All the persons from Jacob’s side were seventy - Joseph already lived in Egypt.

6 Joseph and his brothers and that entire generation eventually died.

7 But the descendants of Israelites were productive - they reproduced many times. They soon became more in numbers so much that the country was overflowing with them.

8 Later, a new king that did not previously recognise Joseph, rose over Egypt. 9 Then he said to his nation, “Look at the nation of the descendants of Israel. They are more and powerful than us! 10 Come, let’s be wise, in case they continue to increase and if war breaks out, they suddenly strengthen our enemies and fight against us and push us out of the country.” 11 So they appointed exerting taskmasters to oppress them with hard labour to build Pharaoh’s store cities and towns in Pithom and Rameses. 12 The more they oppressed them, the more they increased and spread out. They were distressed because of the presence of Israelites. 13 The Egyptians straitened Israelites by compelling them to harsh labour. 14 They embittered their lives and community with hard labour with mortar and bricks and by all kinds of work in the land and fields. In every kind of service, whatever they made them serve in, there was harshness.

15 The king of Egypt even told the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah; 16 "When you serve as midwives for the childbirth of the Hebrew women, inspect them when in the midwife’s stools: If it is a boy, kill him, but if it is a girl, she may live.” 17 But the midwives feared and revered Supermights and did not do what the king of Egypt had instructed them about; they preserved the boys' lives. 18 Then the king of Egypt called the midwives in and asked them, “Why have you done this thing, preserving the lives of the boys?” 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, “It's because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women because the Hebrew women are robust, they give birth before the midwife gets to them!”

20 Supermights showed more favour to the birthing women, and the people multiplied and became especially more.

21 So because the midwives feared and revered Supermights, he gave them their families.

22 Then Pharaoh instructed all the people, “Every boy that is born you must throw into the river, but all girls may live.”

Moses’ Birth and Exile

Exodus 2

1 There grew a certain man from witlitrethe family of Levi who took and married a daughter of Levi. 2 The wife conceived and birthed a son. When she realised that he was a healthy child, she kept him secretly for three months. 3 When she couldn't hide him anymore, she took a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with pitch tar. She wrapped the boy in it and placed it among the reeds along the River Nile bank. 4 His sister positioned herself at a distance to watch whatever would happen to him.

5 Then Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe by the River. As she and the lady's maids walked along the riverside, she noticed and paid attention to the basket among the reeds. She then directed and sent one of her female servants to fetch it. 6 Opening it, she looked and discovered the boy. Right then, the baby was crying, and she had compassion on him and said, “He is a Hebrew boy!” 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “May I go and get a nursing woman for you from the Hebrews, so that she may nurse and breastfeed the boy for you?” 8 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “You may go.” The young girl ran and called the boy child’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Come, take this child away and nurse him for me, and I'll pay and give you your wages.” So, the mother took the boy and nursed him.

10 The boy grew up, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She called his name Moses because she said, “It's because I drew him from the water.”

11 During those years, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and observed their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man, one of his people. 12 He turned to look this way and that way. Then when he saw that no one was looking, he attacked and killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

13 When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. So, he asked the guilty man, “Why are you attacking your fellow?” 14 Then the man responded, “Who appointed you to be a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought; “So, this incident is publicly known 15 When Pharaoh heard about the case, he searched for Moses to trample and kill him. But Moses escaped from Pharaoh's rage and went to live in the plain of Midian where he lingered near a well.

16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water to replenish and fill up the troughs to water their father’s flock. 17 The shepherds arrived and chased them away, but Moses stood up and defended them, and then watered and filled their flock.

18 So when they came to Reuel, their father, Reuel asked, “How come you are early today?” 19 They said, “A certain Egyptian man saved us from the control of the shepherds, and he drew up water for us and watered and filled the flock!” 20 Then he asked his daughters, “Where is he? Why did you leave the man behind alone? Invite him so that he may eat a meal with us.”

21 Moses yielded and stayed with the man. He offered his daughter Zipporah to Moses the rescuer. 22 She birthed Moses a son, and Moses called and announced his name as Gershom because he said, “I’ve become a visitor in an unfamiliar land.”

23 After a lengthy progression of time, the king of Egypt died, and Israelites groaned because of bondage. They cried, and their scream from the slavery swelled up to Supermights. 24 Supermights heard and paid attention to their lamentation. Supermights recalled and remembered his agreement with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 Supermights checked and inspected the Israelite nation. Then Supermights had an experience.

Moses’ Burning Bush Experience

Exodus 3

1 In the meantime, Moses had come to graze the flock of his relative-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He had driven and led the livestock to the backside of the desert and had come to Supermights' mountain, Horeb.

2 Then Lifegiver's messenger appeared to him in a fiery flame from witlitrea bush. He looked and noticed a bramble bush flaming with fire, but it was not burning up. 3 So Moses thought, “I’ll go and see this unusual and remarkable spectacle. Why does the bush not burn up?”

4 When Lifegiver saw that he had turned in to see, Supermights called him from witlitrethe bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And Moses said, “I’m here.” 5 Then Supermights said, “Don't come close! Remove your sandals from your feet because the place you are standing on is sacred ground.” 6 He added, “I’m your ancestry's deity - Abraham's deity, Isaac's deity and Jacob's deity.” Moses covered his face because he was afraid to look at Supermights.

7 Then Lifegiver said, “I’ve checked, inspected and considered the misery of my people who are in Egypt. I’ve heard their cry from the hostility of their taskmasters. I know and understand their sorrows. 8 I’ve come down to liberate them from the grip of the Egyptians, and to bring them from that land to a beautiful and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey in the territory of the Canaanites and the Hittites, the Amorites and Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 This time I’ve checked the cry of Israelites. It has come to me, and I’ve investigated and observed the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Go now. I’m sending you to Pharaoh to liberate and lead my people, Israelites, out of Egypt.”

11 Moses said to Supermights, “Who am I that I should go against Pharaoh, that I should lead and bring Israelites out of Egypt?” 12 He replied, “It's because I’ll be with you. This will be the evidence that indeed I’ve sent you. You’ll go and lead the people of Israel from Egypt to serve and worship me on this mountain.” 13 Moses said to Supermights, “Imagine, if I go to Israelites and tell them, ‘The deity of your forebears has sent me to you,’ and they challenge me, ‘What is his name?’ what should I say to them?” 14 Supermights said to Moses, “I’m the self-existent one. Say it this way to the children of Israel: ‘The living one’ sent me to you.” 15 Supermights again said to Moses, “You’ll say it like this to Israelites: ‘Lifegiver, your forebears’ deity; Abraham’s deity, Isaac’s deity and Jacob’s deity has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and this is my reminder from generation to generation. 16 Gather and meet all the seniors of Israel together and say to them: ‘Lifegiver, your forebears’ deity; Abraham’s deity, Isaac’s deity and Jacob’s deity appeared to me and said; I’ve visited and noted what is happening in Egypt. 17 He has promised; ‘I’ll take and bring you out of Egyptian misery to the country of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites because it's a land overflowing with milk and honey.’ 18 They’ll respond to your call. Then you and the seniors of Israel will go to the king of Egypt and tell him, ‘Lifegiver, the deity of the Hebrews, has come to meet with us. Now, please let us go away for a three days’ journey into the desert so that we may sacrifice to Lifegiver our deity.’ 19 But I know that the Egyptian king will not let you go, not even by a strong directive. 20 I’ll stretch and release my hand, I’ll strike and hit Egypt with all the wonders that I’ll perform among them, and after that, he’ll release you. 21 I’ll render the people and nation favourable in the eyes of the Egyptians so that when you leave, you’ll not go emptily. 22 Every woman will ask her neighbour and the one who inhabits in her house for jewels of silver and jewels of gold and clothing. You’ll put them on your sons and daughters. You’ll plunder and strip the Egyptians!”

Signs for Moses and His Journey Back

Exodus 4

1 Moses responded and said; “If they don’t believe me and don’t listen to my claim but rather say, ‘Lifegiver has not appeared to you?’” 2 Lifegiver said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” 3 Lifegiver said, “Toss it to the ground.” So, he flipped it on the ground, and it turned into a snake. Then Moses hid from it. 4 But Lifegiver said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand and seize it by the tail.” So, he put out his hand and seized it, and it became a rod in his palm. 5 “This is so that they may believe that Lifegiver, the deity of their forefathers, Abraham's deity, Isaac's deity and Jacob's deity, has appeared to you.”

6 Furthermore, Lifegiver said to him, “Put your hand inside your breast pocket.” So, he put his hand inside his breast pocket, and when he took it out it was diseased with snow! 7 He said, “Put your hand back in your breast pocket.” So, he placed his hand back inside his breast pocket. When he retrieved it from his breast pocket, it was, restored like the rest of his skin! 8 If they don’t believe or pay attention to the strength of the first evidence. They’ll believe that, based on the last evidence. 9 If it occurs that they don’t believe even these two proofs or listen to your claim, you are to scoop some water from the River and pour it out on the dry ground. The water you scoop from the River will turn to blood on the dry land.”

10 Then Moses said to Lifegiver, “Please, Sir, I’m not an eloquent person, not in the past, not since you have spoken to your servant. It's because I’ve sluggish speech and language deficiency.” 11 Lifegiver said to him, “Who makes a person’s mouth, or who makes it speechless, tied, silent or intelligent? Is it not I, Lifegiver? 12 So go now. I’ll also be with your mouth and will tell you what to say.” 13 But Moses said, “Sir, please appoint and assign your own who would be willing to be sent!” 14 Then the anger of Lifegiver blazed up against Moses, and he said, “What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks and communicates well. he’ll be coming to meet you, and when he sees you, he’ll be glad in his heart. 15 You’ll speak to him and will determine and place words in his mouth. Then I’ll be with his mouth and with your mouth and will teach and tell you what to do. 16 he’ll be your communicator to the people. he’ll become your speaker, and you’ll become like a deity to him. 17 Take this rod in your hand because with it you’ll do and perform miracles.”

18 So Moses travelled and returned to his relative-in-law Jethro. Then he said to him, “Please let me go, so that I may return to my relatives in Egypt to check if they are still alive.” Jethro said to Moses, “Go well.”

19 Lifegiver had said to Moses in Midian, “You may go and return to Egypt because all the people who required and demanded your life died.”

20 Then Moses fetched and took his wife and sons and mounted them on a donkey and went back to the land of Egypt. Moses also took and carried Supermights' rod in his hand. 21 Lifegiver had said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you do all the wonders I’ve put at your disposal before Pharaoh. Even though I’ll nudge and press his heart, he’ll not release the people. 22 You must say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what Lifegiver says, ‘Israel is my son, my firstborn, 23 and I say to you, ‘Send my son away that he may serve me.’ If you refuse to release them, I’ll strike and kill your son, your firstborn!'"

24 While en route, as they camped overnight, Lifegiver confronted him intending to kill him. 25 But Zipporah grabbed a flint knife, cut and circumcised the foreskin of her son herself and tossed it at his feet and said, “You are truly a husband of bloodshed!” 26 So he left him alone. When she said, “A husband of bloodshed,” she was referring to the circumcision.

27 Afterwards, Lifegiver said to Aaron, “Go to the desert to meet Moses.” Then he went and met him at the mountain of Supermights and hugged him. 28 Moses reported to Aaron all the things that Lifegiver had sent him and all the proofs that he had given Aaron and himself.

29 Then Moses and Aaron went, gathered and assembled all the seniors of the Israelites. 30 Aaron spoke and presented all the things that Lifegiver had spoken to Moses. He performed the miracles in full view of the people. 31 The people believed. When they heard that Lifegiver was going to visit and attend to Israelites and that he had seen and considered their misery, they bowed down and worshipped.

Egyptians Intensified Oppressive Measures

Exodus 5

1 Afterwards, Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh and said, “This is what Lifegiver, the deity of Israel, says, ‘Release my people so that they may observe a festival in the desert.’” 2 But Pharaoh asked, “Who is Lifegiver that I should listen to his demand that calls for the release of Israel? I do not know Lifegiver, and I’ll not send Israel away!” 3 Then they said, “Deity of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us travel a three-day’s journey into the desert so that we may sacrifice to Lifegiver our deity in case he strikes us with a plague or a sword.” 4 The king of Egypt said to them, “Why do you, Moses and Aaron want to release the people from production? Go on your errands!” 5 Pharaoh was thinking, “There are too many people on site who will sabbatise and rest from their responsibilities during the period.”

6 So that same day and time Pharaoh instructed the taskmasters of the people and their supervisors saying: 7 “You must no longer give material to the people for making bricks as before. Let them go and collect the material themselves. 8 But you must require the same quota of bricks from them as they produced before. Don't reduce any of its parts because they are lazy as a result they are whining, ‘Let us go sacrifice to our deity.’ 9 Increase work for each so that they perform rather than entertaining spurious concerns!” 10 Then the taskmasters of the people and their supervisors each went to the people and said, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I’m not to give you any material. 11 You go get the material yourselves from wherever you can find it, yet no prescribed quota of your work will be reduced!’”

12 So the people scattered throughout the entire country of Egypt to collect raw materials. 13 The taskmasters pressured them, saying, “Complete your day-to-day production as though there was ready material!” 14 The supervisors of Israelites whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them were punished and asked, “Why did you not complete your quota for brickmaking as in the past – both yesterday and today?”

15 The supervisors of the Israelites went and complained to Pharaoh, “Why are you treating your servants this way? 16 No straw is allocated to your servants, but we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Look, your servants are even beaten." "But the problem is with your compatriots,” 17 he replied, “You are lazy and unproductive as a result you said, ‘Let us go sacrifice to Lifegiver.’ 18 Return to work now! You’ll not be given materials, but you must still produce your quota of bricks!” 19 The supervisors of Israelites realised that they were in trouble when they were told, “You’ll not reduce the daily quota of bricks.”

20 They came across Moses and Aaron, showing up on their way as they were returning from Pharaoh. 21 Then they said to them, “May Lifegiver target and judge you. It's really because of you that we stink to Pharaoh and his officials. You have given a sword in their hands to slaughter us!”

22 Moses turned to Lifegiver and asked, “Sir, why have you punished these people? Why did you ever send me? 23 From the moment I went to speak to Pharaoh in your name, he has punished the people, and you have not saved and delivered your people. Rescue them!”

Lifegiver Confirmed Forceful Deliverance

Exodus 6

1 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Soon, you’ll see what I’ll do to Pharaoh. My hard hand will be drawn out. he’ll release them because of a robust hand. he’ll chase you out of his country.”

2 Afterwards, Supermights spoke to Moses and said to him, “I’m Lifegiver. 3 I was revealed to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as self-sufficient Supermights. By my name, ‘Lifegiver’ was I not known to them? 4 Moreover, I’ve re-established my agreement with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as migrants. 5 I had also listened and heard the groaning of Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I’ve remembered my agreement. 6 You are to tell Israelites this, ‘I’m Lifegiver. I’ll definitely bring you out of the oppressive forced labour of Egyptians. I’ll rescue you from servitude. I’ll repurchase you with overthrowing power and with great judgments. 7 I’ll adopt you as my people, and I’ll be your deity. Then you’ll understand that I’m Lifegiver your deity, who brought you out from the oppressive forced labour of the Egyptians. 8 I’ll take you to the land I already lifted and held my hand to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and I’ll give it to you as an inheritance. I’m Lifegiver!’” 9 Moses said this to Israelites. Still, they did not understand him because of their impatient spirit from severe servitude.

10 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, 11 “Go, reason with Pharaoh, the king of restrictive Egypt that he must release Israelites from his land.” 12 But Moses replied to Lifegiver, “If Israelites did not listen to me, then how will Pharaoh listen to me who is of unrefined arguments?” 13 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them instructions concerning Israelites, then for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt to bring Israelites out of the land of Egypt.

14 These are the leaders of their fathers’ households: The sons of Reuben, the firstborn son of Israel, were Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. These were the tribes of Reuben.

15 Simeon's sons were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. Those were the families of Simeon.

16 Now, these are the names of Levi's sons, according to their pedigrees: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. The years of Levi’s life were 137 years. 17 The sons of Gershon, by their families, were Libni and Shimei. 18 Kohath's sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. The years of Kohath’s life was 133 years. 19 Merari's sons were Mahli and Mushi. These were the tribes of Levi, according to their pedigrees. 20 Amram married his father’s sister Jochebed, and she birthed him, Aaron and Moses. The years of Amram’s life were 137 years. 21 Izhar's sons were Korah, Nepheg, and Zikri. 22 Uzziel's sons were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri. 23 Aaron married Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she birthed him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. 24 Korah's sons were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. These were the Korahite families. 25 Eleazar son of Aaron then married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she birthed him Phinehas. These are the leaders of the fathers’ households of Levi according to their families. 26 This is the same Aaron and Moses to whom Lifegiver said, “Bring Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their masses.” 27 These are them that were speaking to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to bring Israelites out of Egypt - this was the same Moses and Aaron.

28 When Lifegiver spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29 he said to him, “I’m Lifegiver. Tell Pharaoh the king of Egypt all that I’m saying to you.” 30 But Moses said before Lifegiver, “Since I’ve unrefined arguments, how will Pharaoh yield to me?”

The First Strike: Bloody Water

Exodus 7

1 So Lifegiver said to Moses, “Look, I’ll render you powerful before Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your channel. 2 You are to speak everything I instruct you, and your brother Aaron is to explain to Pharaoh that he must release Israelites from his land. 3 Even though I’ll press Pharaoh’s heart hard, and I’ll intensify and multiply my miraculous manifestations and my wonders in the land of Egypt, 4 Pharaoh will not yield to you. But I’ll release and stretch my hand over Egypt, and I’ll lead and marshal my masses and armies to bring my people Israelites out of the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. 5 Then the Egyptians will realise that I’m Lifegiver when I’ve stretched and extended my hand against Egypt and have brought and led Israelites from among them." 6 Moses and Aaron did exactly as Lifegiver had instructed them to do.

7 Moses was 80 years old, and Aaron was 83 years old when they spoke to Pharaoh. 8 Lifegiver said to Moses and Aaron, 9 “When Pharaoh will be threatening you, you are to respond; 'We’ll perform a miracle for you.' Then you are to say to Aaron; ‘Take up your rod and throw it in front of Pharaoh.’ It will become a monstrous snake."

10 When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh, they did just as Lifegiver had instructed them – Aaron threw and rolled his rod before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a monstrous snake.

11 Then Pharaoh also called the scientists and magicians, and the magicians of Egypt by their mesmerism did the same thing. 12 Each man threw down his rod, and the rods became monstrous snakes. But Aaron’s rod gobbled and swallowed up their rods. 13 He pressed Pharaoh’s heart. He did not listen to them, as Lifegiver had said. 14 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hard; he is refusing to release the people. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning. When you see him walking to the water, stand near the riverbank opposite, holding in your hand the rod that was turned into a snake. 16 Say to him, ‘Lifegiver, the deity of the Hebrews, sent me to you to say, “Release my people, so that they may worship me in the desert!” But until now you have not agreed. 17 This is what Lifegiver says: ‘You’ll acknowledge that I’m Lifegiver. Note, I’ll strike the water of the River with the rod that is in my hand, and it will turn into blood. 18 The fish in the River will die, the River will stink, and the Egyptians will be disgusted to drink water from the River.”’” 19 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your rod and stretch your hand over Egypt's waters – over their rivers, over their streams, over their ponds and over all their water reservoirs so that it becomes blood.’ This is so that there may be blood all over Egypt’s ground, wood and stone.”

20 Moses and Aaron did just as Lifegiver had instructed. He raised the rod, struck and scourged the water that was in the Nile in front of Pharaoh's eyes and before the eyes of his officials. Instantly, all the water that was in the River was turned to blood. 21 Then the fish that were in the River died, the Nile began to stink. Egyptians could not drink the water from the Nile. There was blood everywhere in the land of Egypt! 22 But the Egyptian magicians caused the same through their mesmerism. So, Pharaoh’s heart remained stubborn. Then he did not listen to Moses and Aaron – just as Lifegiver had said. 23 Then Pharaoh turned away and went into his palace. He never concentrated his mind on it again. 24 All the Egyptians dug around the River for drinking water because they could not drink the water of the Nile. 25 Seven full days passed after Lifegiver had struck and plagued the Nile.

The Second Strike: Massive Frogs

Exodus 8

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “Release my people that they may worship me! 2 But if you refuse to release them, then I’ll strike and plague your entire territory with frogs. 3 The River will breed frogs, and they’ll come up and go into your palace, in your bedroom and on top of your bed and into the houses of your officials and your people, and in your ovens and your kneading troughs. 4 Frogs will jump up against you, your people, and all your officials.”’”

5 Lifegiver spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers and the pools, for the frogs to come up all over the land of Egypt.’” 6 Aaron stretched out his hand over the water of Egypt. Frogs then jumped up and covered the land of Egypt. 7 The magicians did likewise with their mesmerism, but they brought more frogs on the land of Egypt.

8 Pharaoh then called Moses and Aaron and asked, “Pray to Lifegiver that he may remove the frogs from my people and me, and I’ll release the people that they may sacrifice to Lifegiver.” 9 Moses said to Pharaoh, “Explain to me – when must I intercede for you, your officials, and your people for the frogs to be removed from you and your houses, so that they only stay in the Nile?” 10 He answered, “Tomorrow.” Then Moses said, “It will be as you request, so that you may acknowledge that there is no one as powerful as Lifegiver. 11 The frogs will withdraw from you, your houses, your servants, and your people. They’ll only stay in the Nile.”

12 Then Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh's company. Moses cried out to Lifegiver concerning the frogs that he had brought on Pharaoh. 13 Lifegiver did according to Moses’ request – the frogs died from the houses, the villages and the fields. 14 They piled them in heaps and heaps. As a result, the country stank.

15 When Pharaoh realised that there was relief, he hardened and toughened his heart and did not listen to them, just as Lifegiver had said.

The Third Strike: Gnat Swarms

16 Lifegiver then said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch and extend your rod, then strike and beat up the dust of the ground, and it will become gnats throughout the entire land of Egypt.’” 17 Then they did so; Aaron stretched and extended his hand with his staff, he struck and beat up the dust of the ground. It turned to gnats on humans and animals. All the dust of the land turned to gnats throughout the entire country of Egypt. 18 The magicians tried their mesmerism to bring out and spread gnats, but they were unable. So, there were gnats on people and animals. 19 The magicians admitted to Pharaoh, “It is Supermights' finger!” But Pharaoh’s heart remained stubborn, and he would not listen to them, as Lifegiver had said.

The Fourth Strike: Fly Swarms

20 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Wake up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he goes to the water. Tell him, ‘This is what Lifegiver says, “Release my people that they may worship me! 21 But if you do not release my people, I’m then going to unleash and spread massive swarms of flies on you and your officials and your people, and in your houses. The homes of the Egyptians will be full and flowing with flies, and even the land they touch. 22 But on that day and time, I’ll differentiate the land of Goshen, where my people live - no swarms of flies will be there. The intention is that you may recognise that I, Lifegiver, am present in this land. 23 I’ll make a difference between your people and my people. This particular sign will happen tomorrow.”’”

24 Lifegiver did so; a thick swarm of flies came into Pharaoh’s house and the houses of his officials, and throughout the entire land of Egypt. The property was damaged because of the presence of swarms of flies.

25 Pharaoh then called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your deity in the land.” 26 But Moses said, “It is not appropriate to do so because we’ll sacrifice to Lifegiver our deity with what is a sacrilege to Egyptians. Imagine if we slaughter and sacrifice before the disgusted eyes of the Egyptians, will they not pelt us with stones? 27 We’ll go on a three-day journey into the desert and sacrifice to Lifegiver our deity, as he has instructed us.” 28 Pharaoh said then, “I’ll release you so that you may go sacrifice to Lifegiver your deity in the desert, provided you’ll not go very far. Intercede for me.” 29 Moses agreed, “I’m going to leave you to go and pray to Lifegiver so that the swarms of flies may leave from Pharaoh, from his officials, and from his people tomorrow provided Pharaoh will not act deceitfully again and will not fail to release the people to go to sacrifice to Lifegiver.”

30 So Moses left Pharaoh to pray to Lifegiver, 31 and Lifegiver did as Moses asked. He withdrew the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his officials, and his people. Not one remained! 32 But this time again Pharaoh hardened and toughened his heart, and still, he would not release the people.

The Fifth Strike: Livestock Death

Exodus 9

1 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘This is what Lifegiver, the deity of the Hebrews, says, 'Release my people that they may worship me! 2 But if you refuse to release them and still retain them, 3 watch out the hand of Lifegiver will be on your livestock in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds and the flocks - a terrible epidemic. 4 But Lifegiver will distinguish between Israel's livestock and the livestock of Egypt, but nothing will die from all Israelites.’”

5 Lifegiver set an appointed time, saying, “Tomorrow Lifegiver will carry this thing in the land.” 6 So Lifegiver did and carried out this thing the next day; all the livestock of Egypt died, but from the livestock of Israel, not one thing died. 7 Pharaoh sent and checked, and there was not one thing from the livestock of Israelites that had died. But Pharaoh’s heart remained stubborn, and as a result, he did not release the people.

The Sixth Strike: Blistering Boils

8 Then Lifegiver said to Moses and Aaron, “Take a handful of furnace ashes, and have Moses scatter it towards the sky in Pharaoh’s view. 9 It will become floating dust over the whole land of Egypt and will break out as an epidemic of blistering boils on human beings and animals in the entire land of Egypt.” 10 They then took furnace ashes and stood before Pharaoh, Moses spread it skywards. It became blistering boils on both people and animals. 11 Even the magicians could not resist Moses because of the boils that were on the magicians and all the Egyptians. 12 Though Lifegiver pressed and urged Pharaoh’s heart, he did not yield to them, just as Lifegiver had predicted to Moses.

The Seventh Strike: Hailstorm

13 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Wake up early in the morning. Stand in front of Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what Lifegiver, the deity of the Hebrews, says: ‘Release my people so that they may worship me! 14 For this round, I’ll release and send all my fatal strikes on your very core, your officials’ and your people’s, so that you may know that there is no one like me in the whole world. 15 By this time, I could have stretched my hand and struck you and your people with a fatal plague, and you would have been erased from the Earth. 16 But for this purpose I’ve caused you to survive: to display and showcase my power, so that my name may be celebrated in all the world. 17 You are still lifting yourself against my people, failing to release them. 18 Mark it, about this time tomorrow, I’m going to cause it to rain down a very severe hail, to hail such as it has never happened in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. 19 So now broadcast it everywhere that they all withdraw and bring to safety your livestock and everything you have in the fields. Every person and animal that is trapped in the field, and is not brought inside, will die when the hailstorm falls on them.”’”

20 Any royalty and Pharaoh’s officials who respected and dreaded Lifegiver's warning hurried to bring their servants and livestock inside. 21 But those who disregarded Lifegiver's warning in their hearts refused and left their servants and their animals in the field. 22 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand skywards to cause hail in all the land of Egypt, on human beings and animals, and on every vegetation in the field of the land of Egypt.” 23 When Moses stretched out his rod toward the sky, Lifegiver sent thunder and hail, and fire struck the land; Lifegiver caused hailstorm to fall on the land of Egypt. 24 Hail fell, and lightning flashed with the hail. The hailstorm was so severe - there had not been any like it in the entire country of Egypt since it had become a nation. 25 The hailstorm struck everything in the fields, whether human or animal, throughout the whole land of Egypt. The hailstorm crushed every vegetation in the field, and it broke all the trees of the field to pieces. 26 Only in the area of Goshen, where Israelites were, was there no hail.

27 So Pharaoh relented and invited Moses and Aaron. He said to them, “I’ve repented this time! Lifegiver is fair, and my people and I are guilty. 28 Appeal to Lifegiver because the mighty thunders and storm are too much! I’ll release you, and you’ll no longer stay.” 29 Moses said to him, “As soon as I leave and exit the city, I’ll lift and raise my hands to Lifegiver. Then the thunder will stop, and there will be no storm anymore so that you may acknowledge that the Earth is Lifegiver’s. 30 But I know that you and your servant do not yet respect Lifegiver Supermights' dignity. 31 This time the cotton and the barley were crushed because the barley was producing green grains and the cotton was producing bolls. 32 But wheat and rye were not affected because they were not yet in bloom."

33 When Moses had left and exited the city, away from Pharaoh and the people, he then spread his hands towards Lifegiver. The thunderbolts and the hailstorm stopped, and the rain was no longer falling on the land. 34 When Pharaoh realised that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he misbehaved again - he and his servants hardened their hearts. 35 Pharaoh’s heart remained hard. As a result, he did not release Israelites, as Lifegiver had said through Moses.

The Eighth Strike: Locusts

Exodus 10

1 Lifegiver told Moses, “Go to Pharaoh because I’ve further pressed and pushed his heart, and his officials’ hearts, to showcase my other signs before him. 2 This is so that you’ll retell and narrate it to your sons’ and your son’s children and their children how I gleaned the Egyptians, and about the signs that I displayed among them, that you may know that I’m Lifegiver.” 3 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh to tell him, “This is what Lifegiver, the deity of the Hebrews, asked: ‘How long will you continue to refuse to humble yourself before me? Release my people so that they may worship me 4 because if you refuse to release my people, I’m going to bring up locusts into your country. 5 They’ll cover and conceal the entire surface of the land so much that no one will be able to see and look at the ground. They’ll destroy the rest of whatever survived and remained after the hail. They’ll destroy every stalk that sprouts up from the field. 6 They’ll fill your palace, the houses of your officials, and all the houses of Egyptians, such as not even your fathers or your grandfathers have ever seen since the day they had been on Earth until this day!’” Then Moses turned his face and left Pharaoh's company.

7 Pharaoh’s officials asked him, “For how long will you let this man continue to ensnare and trap us? Release the people so that they may worship and serve Lifegiver their deity. Do you not yet care that Egypt is destroyed?”

8 Moses and Aaron were then brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, worship and serve Lifegiver your deity. Exactly who and who will be going?” 9 Moses responded, “We’ll go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters. We’ll travel with our flocks and our herds because we’ll hold a sacrificial festival for Lifegiver.” 10 He said to them, “Lifegiver will have to be with you for sure if I’ll release you and your children because I see mischief right on your face! 11 No! Just go with men only to worship and serve Lifegiver because that is what you requested.” Moses and Aaron were chased away from Pharaoh’s presence.

12 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Stretch your hand over the land of Egypt for locusts to come over the land of Egypt to eat and finish every plant of the ground and land, everything that the hailstorm left over.”

13 Moses stretched and swung his rod over the land of Egypt. Lifegiver blew the easterly wind on the land that entire day and the whole night. When the morning came, the easterly wind had lifted and blown in the locusts! 14 The locusts went up all over the entire country of Egypt and settled in all the regions of Egypt. There had never been such a massive swarm of locusts before them, and there will never be afterwards. 15 They filled and covered the entire surface of the ground, so much that the land was invisible. They then ate and finished every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left, leaving no kind of greenery on trees or plants in the field through the entire country of Egypt.

16 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron urgently and said, “I’ve misbehaved against Lifegiver your deity, and against you! 17 Please forgive my misbehaviour this once only, and pray to Lifegiver your deity that he may remove this disaster immediately.” 18 Then he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with Lifegiver. 19 Lifegiver reversed the fast, strong sea wind that lifted and removed the locusts and blew them back into the Red Sea. Not one locust was left in the entire territory of Egypt. 20 Lifegiver pressed and urged Pharaoh’s heart. Still, he would not release Israelites.

The Ninth Strike: Groping Darkness

21 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Stretch your hand skywards. Let there be darkness all over the land of Egypt, groping darkness.” 22 So Moses stretched and spread out his hand skywards, and three days there was very thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt. 23 Not one person could see another, and no one could move from their place for three days. But the people of Israel had light in their sites. 24 Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, “Go, worship and serve Lifegiver – only your flocks and herds will stay. Even your families may travel with you.” 25 But Moses replied, “You must also give us offerings and sacrifices to present to Lifegiver our deity. 26 Even our livestock will also go with us - not anything on the hoof will be left behind! We must take from it to serve and worship Lifegiver our deity. We do not even know how we must serve and worship Lifegiver until we get there.” 27 Lifegiver pressed and urged Pharaoh’s heart, but he was not willing to release them. 28 Pharaoh told him, “Go away from me! Save yourself! Never see my face again because the day you see my face, you’ll die!” 29 Moses said, “You have spoken well! I’ll never see your face again, forever.”

The Tenth Strike: Firstborn Fatalities

Exodus 11

1 Lifegiver said to Moses, “I’ll bring yet another plague on Pharaoh and Egypt. After that, he’ll release you from here. When he releases you, he’ll expel, drive and chase you out completely from here. 2 Please speak in the audience of the people. Let every man ask from their nearest neighbour, and every woman from her nearest neighbour, items of silver and items of gold.”

3 Now Lifegiver made the people favourable in the eyes of the Egyptians. Moreover, Moses, as a person, was well respected in the land of Egypt, in the opinion of Pharaoh’s officials and the people's opinion. 4 Moses had then announced, “This is what Lifegiver says: ‘About midnight I’ll go among Egyptians, 5 and all the firstborns in the land of Egypt will die, from Pharaoh's eldest son sitting on his throne to the eldest son of the female servant behind the millstone, and all the firstborns of the animals. 6 There will be such a great cry of distress throughout the entire country of Egypt, such as there never was like it, nor ever will there be any again. 7 But among Israelites, not even a dog will lap its tongue against any person or animal so that you may know that Lifegiver distinguishes between Egypt and Israel.’ 8 All these officials of yours will come down to me humbly pleading, ‘Leave, you and all the people who follow you.’ Then after that, I’ll leave.” Then Moses had left Pharaoh in blazing anger. 9 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders may be intensified in the land of Egypt.”

10 So Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, and Lifegiver pressed and pushed Pharaoh’s heart. Yet, he would not release Israelites from his land.

First Annual Passover and Departure

Exodus 12

1 Then Lifegiver had told Moses and Aaron while they were in the country of Egypt, 2 “This month is going to be the starting of months for you - it will be the first month of your year. 3 Speak to the entire community of Israel and say, ‘On the tenth day of this month each man must take a lamb for themselves according to their fathers’ family – a lamb for a family. 4 If the family is too small to have a lamb, he and his neighbouring kinsman and family are to take a lamb according to the number of people, each person according to their estimated portion. 5 Your lambkin must be a healthy one-year-old male selected from the sheep or the goats. 6 You must keep the animals until the fourteenth day of this month. Then the entire gathering of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at dusk. 7 They must take some of the blood to apply it on the two sides of the doorframe and the upper doorframe of the houses where they’ll eat it. 8 They must eat and finish the meat the same night, roasted over the fire, with unraised bread and bitter herbs. 9 Don't eat it raw or cooked by boiling it in water but roast it on the fire with its head, legs and its inside organs. 10 None of it must remain until morning. You must burn whatever remains until morning with fire. 11 Here's how you must eat it - your belts on your waists, your sandals on your feet, your staff in your hand. You must eat it in a hurry. It is Lifegiver’s Passover sacrifice. 12 I’ll pass over the land of Egypt on that night, and I’ll kill all the firstborns in the country of Egypt, from people and animals. I, Lifegiver, will punish all the gods of Egypt. 13 The blood on your houses where you are will be a differentiating mark. When I look and see the blood, I’ll pass over, and the fatal plague will not fall on you to destroy you when I attack the country of Egypt.

14 This day will be a reminder for you, and you’ll celebrate it as a festival to Lifegiver – you’ll observe it as a regular festival forever. 15 For seven days you must eat unraised bread. From the first day, you must get rid of yeast from your houses because anyone who eats raised bread from the first day until the seventh day will be removed from Israel. 16 There will be a holy convocation on the first day and the seventh day. This will be a sacred gathering for you. No work of any kind on it must be done on them, except when all people eat – that alone may be done. 17 So you’ll keep the Feast of Unraised Bread because on that very day I would have brought you out en masse out of the land of Egypt. So you must observe this day in your posterity as a perpetual custom. 18 On the first day of the month, from the fourteenth day of the month, at dusk, you’ll eat unraised bread until the twenty-first day of the month at sundown. 19 There must be no yeast found in your homes for seven days because whoever eats what is fermented, whether a foreigner or native in the land, such person will be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 You are not to eat anything fermented; in all the residences you must eat unraised bread.’”

21 Then Moses called all the seniors of Israel, and told them, “Go and select for yourselves a lamb for your families and slaughter a Passover offering. 22 You are to take a branch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike it on the upper door frame and some of the blood that is in the basin on the two sides of the doorframe. None of you must go out the door of his house until morning. 23 Lifegiver will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the top of the door frame and the two sides of the door frame, then Lifegiver will skip over the door, and he’ll not direct the destroyer to get into your houses and strike. 24 You must be careful to observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children until eternity. 25 When you enter the land that Lifegiver will give to you, just as he said, you must still observe this ceremony. 26 Then when your children ask you, ‘What is this ceremony?’ 27 you’ll say, ‘This is the sacrifice of Lifegiver’s Passover, when he passed over the houses of Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down Egyptians and spared our families.’” The people bowed down and worshipped.

28 Then Israelites went away and did as Lifegiver had strictly instructed Moses and Aaron, they did exactly. 29 At midnight, Lifegiver attacked all the firstborns in the country of Egypt, from Pharaoh’s eldest son who sat on the throne to the eldest son of the prisoner who was in the prison cell, and all the firstborns of the animals. 30 Pharaoh got up in the night, and all his officials and all Egyptians, and there was a big scream in Egypt, for there was no house in which there was not someone dead. 31 Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron in the night and said, “Get up, leave from among my people, both you and Israelites! Go, serve and worship Lifegiver as you have asked! 32 Take your flocks and your herds too, just as you have asked, and leave. But bless me also.”

33 The Egyptians were urging because of the people, sending them out of the land straightaway, for they thought, “We’ll all be dead!” 34 So the people took and carried their dough before it was risen, with their kneading troughs tied on their wrappers around their shoulders.

35 Now Israelites had done as Moses had told them – they had asked from the Egyptians items of silver and items of gold and clothing. 36 Lifegiver had made the people favourable in the eyes of the Egyptians, and they had given them whatever they wanted. They plundered and depleted Egyptians.

37 Israelites started their journey from Rameses to Succoth. About 600,000 men were on foot, besides their dependents. 38 A massive mixed crowd also went up together with them, flocks and herds – numerous and big livestock. 39 They baked unraised round flour cakes using the dough they had brought from Egypt, for it was without yeast. It's because they were rushed out of Egypt and were not able to delay; they could not prepare provisions for themselves either.

40 Israel's temporary stay after they had settled in Egypt was 430 years in total. 41 At the end of the 430 years, on that significant day, all the masses of Lifegiver went out of the land of Egypt. 42 It was the same night of observance Lifegiver brought them out from the land of Egypt. This is the same night all Israel was to observe to Lifegiver for ages.

43 Lifegiver said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the ordinance of the Passover. No one born of foreigners may eat it, altogether. 44 But everyone’s servant, bought for money, circumcised, may eat it. 45 A foreigner and a hired servant must not eat it. 46 It must be eaten in one house; you are not to bring any of its meat outside the house, and you must not break a bone of it. 47 The whole community of Israel must observe it.

48 “When a foreigner lives among you and wants to observe the Passover to Lifegiver, all his males must be circumcised, and then he may join and observe it, and he’ll be like a native of the land, but no uncircumcised person may eat it. 49 The same principle will be required of the native and the foreigner living among you.”

50 The Israelites did as Lifegiver had strictly instructed Moses and Aaron; they did it correctly. 51 On that very day, Lifegiver brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt according to the appointed time.

Firstborns Consecrated to Lifegiver

Exodus 13

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Set apart for me all firstborns, whatever opens the womb first among Israelites, whether it is a human being or animal.”

3 Moses said to the people, “Keep remembering this day on which you came out of Egypt, from the house of bondage, for Lifegiver has brought you from there with a powerful hand. No raised bread may be eaten. 4 On this day, in the month of Abib, you went out. 5 It will happen because Lifegiver will bring you to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which he swore to your forefathers to give to you, a land flowing with milk and honey. You are to use and keep this month for this ceremony. 6 For seven days you must eat unraised bread, and on the seventh day, there is to be a festival to Lifegiver. 7 Unraised bread must be freely eaten and devoured for seven days. No raised bread will be seen among you. No yeast may be seen among you witlitreyour reach. 8 You are to explain to your children during that period and say, ‘It's because of what Lifegiver did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ 9 It will be evidence at your disposal and memory between your eyes so that Lifegiver’s custom may be in your mouth because with a mighty hand Lifegiver brought you out of Egypt. 10 You must observe and celebrate this as a customary festival from year to year. 11 When Lifegiver brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your forefathers, and he eventually gives it to you, 12 you are to present to Lifegiver all that first opens the womb. Every firstling out of an animal that you have – the males will be Lifegiver’s. 13 Every firstling of a donkey you must repurchase with a lamb, and if you do not repurchase it, then you must break its neck. Every firstborn of human beings among your children you must repurchase. 14 In the future, when your sons ask you ‘Why this?’ you are to tell him, ‘The powerful hand of Lifegiver brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.’ 15 When, because Pharaoh made it hard to release us, Lifegiver killed all the firstborns in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of human beings to the firstborn of animals. Based on that I’m sacrificing to Lifegiver all males that first open the womb, but all my firstborn sons I repurchase.’ 16 It will be a distinguishing sign at your disposal and on your foreheads between your eyes since with a mighty hand Lifegiver brought you out of Egypt.”

Crossing the Opened Red Sea

17 When Pharaoh had released the people, Supermights did not lead them the way through the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer. It's because Supermights thought, “In case the people regret and return to Egypt when they encounter war!” 18 So Supermights led the people around through the way of the desert to the Red Sea. But Israelites went out in battle formation through the land of Egypt.

19 Moses fetched and took away the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had caused Israelites to swear and promise under oath, saying “Supermights will definitely visit you, and you are to carry my bones with you from this place.”

20 They started their journey from Sukkoth and camped in Etham, on the outskirts of the desert. 21 Lifegiver went ahead of them during the day as a column of cloud leading them in the way, and during the night as a spire of fire giving them light - so they could travel day and night. 22 He never removed the column of cloud during the day and the cone of fire during the night in front of the people.

Exodus 14

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and said; 2 “Tell Israelites to turn around and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. You are to camp by the sea in front of Baal Zephon just opposite it. 3 Pharaoh will think regarding the Israelites, ‘They are still muddled up in the land – the desert has locked them in.’ 4 I’ll press and urge Pharaoh’s heart, and he’ll pursue them. I’ll be hard on Pharaoh and upon of all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I’m Lifegiver.” So, this is what they did.

5 It was announced to the king of Egypt that the people had run away. The heart of Pharaoh and his officials turned against the people. The king and his officials asked, “What is this thing we’ve done? For we’ve released and freed Israel from serving us!” 6 Then he prepared and hitched his chariots and took his troops with him. 7 He took six hundred prime cavalries, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over all of them. 8 So Lifegiver stirred and pressed the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he chased after Israelites. Israelites were being delivered with higher power. 9 The Egyptians pursued them, and all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army who reached them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-Zephon.

10 When Pharaoh approached, Israelites lifted their eyes, and the Egyptians were marching after them, and they were exceedingly terrified. The Israelites cried out to Lifegiver, 11 and they said to Moses, “Is it from the lack of graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the desert? Why have you done this against us, to bring us out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the thing we warned you against, saying; ‘Leave us alone to slave as subjects of Egyptians because it is better for us to slave as subjects of Egyptians more than dying in the desert!’” 13 Moses then said to the people; “Don't be afraid! Stand and watch Lifegiver's deliverance which he’ll effect today; for the Egyptians who you see today, you’ll never see again, forever. 14 Lifegiver will fight for you, and you must be still.”

15 Lifegiver said to Moses; “Why are you crying out to me. Speak to Israelites that they may move. 16 You must raise your rod and stretch it out over the sea direction and break it open that Israelites may go through the dry ground of the sea. 17 As for me, watch, I’m going to press and harden the hearts of the Egyptians. They’ll come in after them. I’ll be hard on Pharaoh and all his army, chariots and horse riders. 18 Then Egypt will know that I’m Lifegiver when I’ve prevailed over Pharaoh’s chariots and horsemen.”

19 The messenger of Supermights who led in front of the band of Israel moved and followed from behind them. The column of the cloud moved off their faces and took a stand behind them. 20 It went between the army of Egypt and the band of Israel, becoming cloudy darkness and light by night so that on these conditions none came near the other the whole night.

21 Then Moses lifted his hand above the sea. Lifegiver himself moved the sea by a mighty easterly wind that whole night, setting and making the dry sea-land by splitting the water. 22 The Israelites walked on the sea on dry ground: the water was a wall on the right side and the left hand. 23 Then the Egyptians pursued them and came in behind them into the centre of the sea, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots and horse riders.

24 During the morning watch, Lifegiver leaned over and looked out towards the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud. He then disturbed and confused the army of the Egyptians. 25 He turned in the wheels of their chariots that they were difficult to drive. The Egyptians said; “Let us flee away from Israel because Lifegiver is fighting the Egyptians.”

26 Lifegiver then said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water may flow over Egyptians, on their chariots and their horsemen!” 27 Then Moses lifted his hand above the sea, and the water returned to its regular flow when daylight appeared. Although the Egyptians were fleeing on horseback before it, Lifegiver tossed the Egyptians down in the centre of the sea. 28 The water returned and overwhelmed the chariots and the horse riders and the entire army of Pharaoh that was coming after them into the sea, to the point that not even one of them survived! 29 But Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground, with the water as a wall for them on their right side and their left side. 30 This is how Lifegiver delivered and saved Israel on that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw and found the Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea. 31 When Israel witnessed the high power that Lifegiver exercised against the Egyptians, the people revered and feared Lifegiver, and they trusted Moses, Lifegiver's servant.

Israel’s Triumph Song

Exodus 15

1 Then Moses and Israelites sang this song to Lifegiver:

I sing to Lifegiver

for he has majestically triumphed

The horse and the rider

he has thrown into the sea.

2 Lifegiver is my strength and music,

He is my salvation; he is my Supermights,

I’ll celebrate and exalt my ancestors’ Supermights

3 Lifegiver is the champion of war,

Lifegiver is his name.

4 Pharaoh’s chariots and army

he hurled into the sea.

His best captains sank in the Red Sea.

5 The oceanic floods overwhelmed them.

They sank deep down like plummets.

6 Your right hand Lifegiver

was awesome in power.

7 Your right hand Lifegiver

shattered the adversary.

In the greatness of your excellence

you overthrew those that rebelled against you

and sent your fury that consumed them as debris

8 With the breath of your nose

the water gathered together,

Gushing streams stood still

like piling heaps.

Deepwater supply froze

in the middle of the sea.

9 The enemy thought;

“I’ll pursue, I’ll reach.

I’ll plunder booty

and my appetite will be satisfied.

I’ll draw my sword

and my hand will dispossess them.”

10 You blew your breath

and the sea overwhelmed them.

They sank as pulverised lead

in the big waves.

11 Who is like you Lifegiver

among the gods?

Who is like you Lifegiver

in greatness and holiness?

Fearful in praises and performing miracles!

12 You stretched your right hand

and the Earth engulfed them

In your mercy, you have led the people

whom you repurchased.

You led them with care by your strength

to the holy pleasant place.

14 When the nationalities hear they’ll tremble.

Terror will seize the inhabitants of Palestine.

15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified.

Trembling will grip the leaders of Moab.

All the inhabitants of Canaan will faint.

16 Dread and terror will settle on them.

By the greatness of your power,

they’ll be struck dumb as a stone.

Till your people pass through Lifegiver,

Till the people that you purchased cross over.

17 You’ll come and plant them

in the mountain of your inheritance,

In the place you have appointed

for your sacred residence Lifegiver,

the sacred place your hands

have established my lord.

18 Lifegiver will reign forever and ever.

19 Indeed, the horses of Pharaoh came in

with chariots and horse riders into the sea.

Lifegiver turned back and turned the seawater on them.

But the Israelites traversed on dry ground in the middle of the sea.

20 Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took up a tambourine in her hand. All the women broke out after her with their tambourines and with dances. 21 Then Miriam sang antiphonally; “Sing to Lifegiver for he has majestically triumphed. The horse and the rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Lifegiver Provided Water, Manna and Quails

22 Then Moses led the Israelites away from the Red Sea and brought them to the desert of Shur. They travelled in the desert for three days and did not find water. 23 When they came to Marah, they were not able to drink the water from Marah because it was bitter, and after that, its name was called Marah. 24 Then the people grumbled to Moses, saying; “What can we drink?” 25 Then he cried out to Lifegiver and Lifegiver directed him to a tree he threw into the water, the water became sweet immediately. He had set in place a conditional limitation to test them. 26 Then he said, “If you’ll diligently obey Lifegiver, your deity and will do what is right in his eyes and pay attention to his instructions and observe all he sets up, cause none of all these diseases on you which I inflicted on the Egyptians, for I, Lifegiver, am your healer.”

27 Then they arrived in Elim where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees they then camped next to the water.

Exodus 16

1 Then they journeyed on from Elim. The entire crowd of Israelites arrived in the desert of Sin which is between Elim and Sinai on the fifteenth day of the second month after their leaving the land of Egypt.

2 In the desert, the entire crowd of Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron. 3 Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by Lifegiver’s hand in the land of Egypt, sitting next to the meat pots, eating plenty food rather than you bringing us into this desert to kill this entire multitude with hunger!”

4 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Look, I’m about to rain food from the sky for you. The people are to go out to gather a portion daily so that I may put them to the test whether they’ll follow my instructions or not. 5 But on the sixth day when they collect and provide for what they need, it will then become double the portion they gather day by day.”

6 Moses and Aaron told all the Israelites, “Tonight you’ll acknowledge that it was Lifegiver that brought and led you out of the land of Egypt. 7 Then in the morning you’ll see and witness the glory of Lifegiver because he has heard your complaints against Lifegiver. Who are we to complain against us?” 8 Moses said, “Lifegiver will give you meat to eat tonight and enough food in the morning because Lifegiver has heard your complaints against him. What are we? Your complaints are not against us but are against Lifegiver.”

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the entire crowd of Israelites, ‘Come before Lifegiver because he has heard your complaints.’”

10 While Aaron was speaking to the entire crowd of Israelites, as they turned and looked toward the desert, the glory of Lifegiver appeared in the cloud. 11 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 12 “I’ve heard the complaints of Israelites. Tell them, ‘Tonight you’ll eat meat but, in the morning, you’ll be filled with food, so that you may know that I’m Lifegiver your deity.’”

13 In the evening quails came and overfilled the camp, and in the morning, there was a layer of dew all over the camp. 14 When the layer of dew had vapourised, there was on the surface of the desert a fine flaky peel covering the ground. 15 When Israelites noticed it, they asked one another, “This, what is it?” because they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the food that Lifegiver has given you to eat. 16 This is what Lifegiver has instructed: ‘Each person is to gather from it what he can eat, a measure per person according to the number of your people; each one will pick it up for everyone that is in their tent.’”

17 Israelites did so, and they gathered – some more, some less. 18 But when they measured it with a 2-litre container, the one who gathered much had no surplus, and the one who gathered less lacked nothing; each one had gathered their food ration.

19 Moses told them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” 20 But some did not listen to Moses; some of them kept some of it until the morning and it was filled with worms and stinking, and Moses was angry with them.

21 So they gathered it each morning, each person according to their food ration, and when the sun got hot, it would liquefy.

22 Then on the sixth day, they gathered double, twice the 2 litres each; and all the leaders of the community came and talked to Moses. 23 He said to them, “This is what Lifegiver had said: ‘Tomorrow is the weekly Sabbath, a sacred Sabbath for Lifegiver. Bake and cook whatever you would bake; boil whatever you would boil; whatever is left preserve for yourselves until the next day.’” 24 So they left and preserved it until the next day, as Moses had instructed, and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. 25 Moses said, “Eat some today, for today is a Sabbath of Lifegiver; today you’ll not find any in the field. 26 Six days you’ll collect and gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will nothing.”

27 Some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it but they found nothing. 28 So Lifegiver said to Moses, “Up to when will you refuse to obey my commandments and my directives? 29 See, because Lifegiver has given you the Sabbath, that is why he is giving you food for two days on the sixth day. Each person is to stay in their place; let no one go out of their homes on the seventh day.” 30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 31 The people of Israel called its name “manna.” It was like white coriander seed and tasted like wafers with honey.

32 Moses said, “This is the word Lifegiver has instructed: ‘Fill a 2-litre container with it to be kept for your posterity to come, so that they may see and look at the food I fed you with in the desert when I brought you out of the country of Egypt.’” 33 Moses said to Aaron, “Take a pot and put in it a 2-litre full of manna and place it before Lifegiver to be preserved for generations.” 34 As Lifegiver instructed Moses, so Aaron placed it before the evidence to be preserved.

35 Now Israelites ate and fed on manna for forty years until they came to habitable land; they even ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. 36 Then an omer [about 2-litre container] was ten percent of an ephah [about 22 litre container].

Exodus 17

1 The entire crowd of Israelites journeyed on from the Desert of Sin, journeying according to Lifegiver’s directive and they camped in Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Then the people protested against Moses, and they demanded, “Give us water to drink!” Moses said to them, “Why do you complain against me? Why do you test and try Lifegiver but the people were thirsty for water, and they complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt – to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” 4 Then Moses called on Lifegiver, “What will I do with this nation? They are almost ready to stone me!” 5 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Crossover ahead of the people; take with you some of the seniors of Israel and take in your hand your rod with which you struck and scourged the watercourses. Go now. 6 I’m going to be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb, and you’ll strike the rock. Then the water will come out, and the people will drink.” Then Moses did so in full view of the seniors of Israel. 7 He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah because of the contention of Israelites and because of their questioning Lifegiver, asking, “Is Lifegiver among us or not?”

Israelite Defeat Amalekites

8 Then Amalek came to wage war against Israel in Rephidim. 9 Moses then instructed Joshua; “Choose fighters to go and engage in war against Amalek tomorrow. I’ll stand on the hilltop with the rod of Supermights in my hand.”

10 So Joshua did as Moses had told him to fight Amalek. Moses, Aaron and Hur climbed up to the hilltop. 11 Whenever Moses raised his hands, Israel would prevail, but whenever he rested his hands, Amalek would prevail. 12 When the hands of Moses were tired, they brought a stone and placed it under him, and he settled them on it. Aaron and Hur propped his hands, one on one side and the other on the other side, and so his hands became steady until the sun went down. 13 So Joshua flattened and defeated Amalek and his troops with the tip of the sword.

14 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Record this in a book as a reminder. Repeat it in Joshua’s hearing since I’ll obliterate and erase the memory of Amalek from under the sky." 15 Moses built an altar, and he called it “Lifegiver is my flagstaff 16 because Lifegiver’s hand on the throne has been raised that Lifegiver will wage war on Amalek from generation to generation,” he said.

Jethro’s Visit and Advice

Exodus 18

1 Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses’ relative-in-law, heard and paid attention to all that Supermights had done for Moses and for his people Israel; that Lifegiver had brought Israel out of Egypt.

2 Jethro, Moses’ relative-in-law, took and brought Moses’ wife Zipporah after he had sent her 3 and her two sons back. One of the two sons was named Gershom because Moses had said, “I’ve been a foreigner in a foreign land,” 4 The other was Eliezer because Moses had said, “The deity of my father has been my help and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.” 5 Jethro, Moses’ relative-in-law, with Moses’ sons and his wife, came to Moses in the desert there where he was camping near the mountain of Supermights. 6 He announced to Moses, “I, Jethro, your relative-in-law, have brought you your wife and her two sons with her.” 7 Moses came out to meet his relative-in-law and bowed down and hugged him; they each asked about each other’s welfare, and then they went into the tent. 8 Moses recounted to his relative-in-law all that Lifegiver had done to Pharaoh and Egypt for Israel’s sake, and all the hardship that had come on them along the way, and Lifegiver’s deliverance. 9 Jethro was glad because of all the good things that Lifegiver had done for Israel, when he delivered them from the hand of Egypt. 10 Jethro said, “Blessed be Lifegiver who has delivered you from the hand of Egypt, and from the hand of Pharaoh, and that he delivered and rescued the people from under the Egyptians’ hand! 11 Now I know that Lifegiver is greater than all the gods since he was against them in the manner in which they had acted presumptuously.” 12 Then Jethro, Moses’ relative-in-law, brought an incinerated sacrifice to slaughter for Supermights. Aaron and all the seniors of Israel then arrived to eat a meal with Moses’ relative-in-law Moses in the presence of Supermights.

13 As it would happen, the next day Moses sat down to judge and vindicate the people, and the people took a stand before Moses from morning until evening. 14 When Moses’ relative-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this that you are doing to the people? Why are you sitting by yourself, and all the people take a stand before you from morning till evening?” 15 Moses said to his father-in-law, “It's because the people come to me to inquire regarding Supermights. 16 When they have a dispute, they come to me and I judge between one person and another, and I consider and make known the prescriptions of Supermights and his laws.” 17 Moses’ relative-in-law said to him, “The way you are doing it is not the best! 18 You’ll foolishly wear off, both you and these people who are with you because this judicial task is too much for you; you can't do it alone. 19 Now listen to my sound advice, and Supermights will be with you: You continue for the people before Supermights; you go and present their cases before Supermights. 20 Teach and explain principles and laws, reveal and make known the way they must walk and the work that they must do. 21 You must identify from among the people capable persons, reverent of Supermights, people of integrity, haters of dishonest profit, and place them over them as leaders of thousands, then leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties and leaders of ten. 22 They’ll judge and decide disputes for the people all the time and will bring all difficult cases to you. But every minor case they’ll decide so that it will be easier for you and they’ll bear the responsibility together with you. 23 If you implement and institute this system, Supermights giving orders, then you would be able to withstand everything. These people will go to their homes in peace.” 24 Moses listened to the suggestion of his father-in-law and implemented everything that he said.

25 Moses chose capable people from all Israel, and he made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, and leaders of tens. 26 They judged and vindicated the people all the time. The hard and difficult cases they would bring to Moses, but every minor case they would decide themselves.

27 Then Moses withdrew and accompanied his relative-in-law. He released him, and he travelled back to his area.

Israel’s Divine Encounter at Sinai

Exodus 19

1 In the third month after Israelites had left the land of Egypt, on that very day, they entered the Desert of Sinai. 2 They had journeyed from Rephidim, and reached the Desert of Sinai. They then camped in the desert. Israel camped in front of the mountain.

3 Moses went up to Supermights, and Lifegiver called him from the mountain, “This is what you’ll tell Jacob's family, and explain to the Israelites: 4 ‘You saw what I did to Egyptians, lifting you on eagle’s wings and bringing you to myself. 5 Now, if you’ll listen and obey my voice, keep and observe my agreement, you’ll become a unique treasure above all people, for the whole Earth is mine. 6 You’ll be my reign of priests and holy people. These are the words that you must say to the people of Israel.”

7 So Moses went and called the seniors of the nation and explained before their faces and in their presence all these statements which Lifegiver had instructed. 8 Then the people replied together and said; “All that Lifegiver has instructed we’ll do.” Then Moses returned and brought back the people's responses to Lifegiver.

9 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “See, I’ll come to you in a dense dark cloud so that the people will hear when I speak with you and trust you always.” Moses reported and made known the words of the people to Lifegiver.

10 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Make them wash their clothes. 11 Be ready on the third day because on the third-day Lifegiver will come down on Mount Sinai in full view of the whole nation. 12 You must set boundaries and cordon off the people on every side and say, ‘Guard yourselves not to go up the mountain or touch its edge. Whoever touches the mountain will be put to death! 13 No hand may touch him except that he be pelted with stones, or he is aimed and shot at with arrows - whether animal or human being he must not remain alive. When the trumpet sounds, they may climb up the mountain.”

14 Then Moses descended from the mountain to the people. He sanctified and consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. 15 Then he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day. Do not draw near women.”

16 Then it was on the morning of the third day that there were thunders, lightning, a dense dark cloud on the mountain and a loud sound of the trumpet. All the people in the camp were terrified.

17 Then Moses brought the people up from the camp to meet Supermights. They stopped at the foot of the mountain. 18 Then Mount Sinai was covered in smoke because Lifegiver had come down on it in a fire, and its smoke went up as the smoke of a chimney, and the whole mountain had a big tremour. 19 When the volume of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses kept speaking, and Supermights kept answering him with thundering. 20 Lifegiver came down the towards the top of Mount Sinai, and Lifegiver called Moses to the top of the mountain, then Moses went up. 21 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, before they break through to gaze at Lifegiver, and many of them be struck down. 22 Let the priests also, who will come near towards Lifegiver, consecrate themselves, in case Lifegiver spreads out.”

23 Moses said to Lifegiver, “The people are not able to climb up to Mount Sinai because you warned us and said, ‘Cordon off the mountain and hallow it.’” 24 Lifegiver said to him, “Go, get down, then come up, Aaron with you but don't let the priests and the people break through to climb up to Lifegiver in case he reaches out.” 25 So Moses descended to the people and spoke accordingly.

The Ten Commandments and People’s Reactions

Exodus 20

1 Supermights spoke and pronounced all these words:

2 “I, Lifegiver, am your deity, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

3 “Never have other gods besides me.

4 “Never carve any image of any shape that is from Heavens above or that which is from the Earth below, or that which is in the water beneath the Earth.

5 Never prostrate yourself to serve them because I, Lifegiver, your deity, am a provokable deity; punishing the perversity of the forebears to the next generation, down to the third and fourth of my enemies, 6 and showing favour to thousands of those who love me and observe my instructions.

7 “Never invoke and incite the name of Lifegiver, your deity inappropriately for Lifegiver will not hold him guiltless and innocent whoever invokes and incites his name inappropriately.

8 “Remember to commemorate and sacralise the Sabbath day. 9 Six days you’ll do your work and conduct all your business. 10 But the seventh day is for Lifegiver, your deity’s Sabbath. Do not do any work - you, your son, your daughter, your male servant or female servant, your animal, or the guest in your premises. 11 This is because in six days Lifegiver made and finished the Celestial Bodies and the whole Earth, the sea and everything that is within, and rested on the seventh day. As a result, Lifegiver especially blessed the Sabbath and designated it as holy.

12 “Honour and respect your father and your mother so that your days may be long on the land which Lifegiver your deity is giving you.

13 “Never murder.

14 “Never commit adultery.

15 “Never steal.

16 “Never testify as an untrue witness against your fellow.

17 “Never desire your fellow’s home. Never desire your fellow’s wife, his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that is your fellow’s.”

18 All the people watched and saw thunder and the lightning, the sound of the trumpet and the smoky mountain. When the people saw it, they trembled and stood far off. 19 They then said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we’ll listen. Do not let Supermights speak with us in case we perish.” 20 Moses said to the people, “Don’t be afraid, for Supermights has come to put you to the test so that the fear of him may be upon your faces so that you might not sin.”

21 The people stood far off. Moses drew nearer the thick dark cloud where Supermights was. 22 Lifegiver said to Moses: “This is what you’ll tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen that I spoke with you from Heaven. 23 Never make rival Supermights of silver. Never make for yourselves Supermights s of gold.

24 ‘You must make me a ground altar, and you’ll offer on it your sacrifices and your peace and thanks offerings, your sheep and your cattle. In every place where I’ll memorialise and mark my name, I’ll come to you, and I’ll bless you. 25 If you make me a stone altar, you must not build it from cut stones because if you wield your tool on it, you have desecrated it. 26 And you must not go up by stairs to my altar so that your nudity is not denuded upon it.’

Exodus 16

1 Then they journeyed on from Elim. The entire crowd of Israelites arrived in the desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai on the fifteenth day of the second month after their leaving the land of Egypt.

2 In the desert, the entire crowd of Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron. 3 Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by Lifegiver’s hand in the land of Egypt, sitting next to the meat pots, eating plenty food rather than you bringing us into this desert to kill this entire multitude with hunger!”

4 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Look, I’m about to rain food from the sky for you. The people are to go out to gather a portion daily so that I may put them to the test whether they’ll follow my instructions or not. 5 But on the sixth day when they collect and provide for what they need, it will then become double the portion they gather day by day.”

6 Moses and Aaron told all the Israelites, “Tonight, you’ll acknowledge that it was Lifegiver that brought and led you out of the land of Egypt. 7 Then in the morning you’ll see and witness the glory of Lifegiver because he has heard your complaints against Lifegiver. Who are we to complain against us?” 8 Moses said, “Lifegiver will give you meat to eat tonight and enough food in the morning because Lifegiver has heard your complaints against him. What are we? Your complaints are not against us but are against Lifegiver.”

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the entire crowd of Israelites, ‘Come before Lifegiver because he has heard your complaints.’”

10 While Aaron was speaking to the entire crowd of Israelites, as they turned and looked toward the desert, the glory of Lifegiver appeared in the cloud. 11 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 12 “I’ve heard the complaints of Israelites. Tell them, ‘Tonight you’ll eat meat but, in the morning, you’ll be filled with food, so that you may know that I’m Lifegiver your deity.’”

13 In the evening, quails came and packed the camp, and in the morning, there was a layer of dew all over the camp. 14 When the layer of dew had vapourised, there was on the surface of the desert, a fine flaky peel covering the ground. 15 When Israelites noticed it, they asked one another, “This, what is it?” because they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the food that Lifegiver has given you to eat. 16 This is what Lifegiver has instructed: ‘Each person is to gather from it what he can eat, a measure per person according to the number of your people; each one will pick it up for everyone that is in their tent.’”

17 Israelites did so, and they gathered – some more, some less. 18 But when they measured it with a 2-litre container, the one who gathered much had no surplus, and the one who gathered less lacked nothing; each one had gathered their food ration.

19 Moses told them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” 20 But some did not listen to Moses; some of them kept some of it until the morning, and it was filled with worms and stinking, and Moses was angry with them.

21 So they gathered it each morning, each person according to their food ration, and when the sun got hot, it would liquefy.

22 Then on the sixth day, they gathered double, twice the 2 litres each; and all the leaders of the community came and talked to Moses. 23 He said to them, “This is what Lifegiver had said: ‘Tomorrow is the weekly Sabbath, a sacred Sabbath for Lifegiver. Bake and cook whatever you would bake. Boil whatever you would boil. Whatever is left, you are to preserve for yourselves until the next day.’” 24 So they left and preserved it until the next day, as Moses had instructed. It did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. 25 Moses said, “Eat some today, for today is a Sabbath of Lifegiver; today you’ll not find any in the field. 26 Six days you’ll collect and gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will nothing.”

27 Some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found nothing. 28 So Lifegiver said to Moses, “Up to when will you refuse to obey my commandments and my directives? 29 See, because Lifegiver has given you the Sabbath, that is why he is giving you food for two days on the sixth day. Each person is to stay in their place; let no one go out of their homes on the seventh day.” 30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 31 The people of Israel called its name “manna.” It was like white coriander seed and tasted like wafers with honey.

32 Moses said, “This is the word Lifegiver has instructed: ‘Fill a 2-litre container with it to be kept for your posterity to come, so that they may see and look at the food I fed you witlitrethe desert when I brought you out of the country of Egypt.’” 33 Moses said to Aaron, “Take a pot and put in it a 2-litre full of manna and place it before Lifegiver to be preserved for generations.” 34 As Lifegiver instructed Moses, so Aaron placed it before the evidence to be preserved.

35 Now Israelites ate and fed on manna for forty years until they came to a habitable land; they even ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. 36 Then an omer [about 2-litre container]. It was ten percent of an ephah [about 22-litre container].

Exodus 17

1 The entire crowd of Israelites journeyed on from the Desert of Sin, journeying according to Lifegiver’s directive. They camped in Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Then the people protested against Moses. They demanded, “Give us water to drink!” Moses said to them, “Why do you complain against me? Why do you test and try Lifegiver but the people were thirsty for water. They complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt – to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” 4 Then Moses called on Lifegiver, “What will I do with this nation? They are almost ready to stone me!” 5 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Crossover ahead of the people; take with you some of the seniors of Israel and take in your hand your rod with which you struck and scourged the watercourses. Go now. 6 I’m going to be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb, and you’ll strike the rock. Then the water will come out, and the people will drink.” Then Moses did so in full view of the seniors of Israel. 7 He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah because of the contention of Israelites and because of their questioning Lifegiver, asking, “Is Lifegiver among us or not?”

Israelite Defeat Amalekites

8 Then Amalek came to wage war against Israel in Rephidim. 9 Moses then instructed Joshua; “Choose fighters to go and engage in war against Amalek tomorrow. I’ll stand on the hilltop with the rod of Supermights in my hand.”

10 So Joshua did as Moses had told him to fight Amalek. Moses, Aaron and Hur climbed up to the hilltop. 11 Whenever Moses raised his hands, Israel would prevail, but whenever he rested his hands, Amalek would prevail. 12 When the hands of Moses were tired, they brought a stone and placed it under him, and he settled them on it. Aaron and Hur propped his hands, one on one side and the other on the other side, and so his hands became steady until the sun went down. 13 So Joshua flattened and defeated Amalek and his troops with the tip of the sword.

14 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Record this in a book as a reminder. Repeat it in Joshua’s hearing since I’ll obliterate and erase the memory of Amalek from under the sky." 15 Moses built an altar, and called it “Lifegiver is my flagstaff 16 because Lifegiver’s hand on the throne has been raised that Lifegiver will wage war on Amalek from generation to generation,” he said.

Jethro’s Visit and Advice

Exodus 18

1 Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses’ relative-in-law, heard and paid attention to all that Supermights had done for Moses and for his people Israel; that Lifegiver had brought Israel out of Egypt.

2 Jethro, Moses’ relative-in-law, took and brought Moses’ wife Zipporah after he had sent her 3 and her two sons back. One of the two sons was named Gershom because Moses had said, “I’ve been a foreigner in a foreign land.” 4 The other was Eliezer because Moses had said, “The deity of my father has been my help, and he delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.” 5 Jethro, Moses’ relative-in-law, with Moses’ sons and his wife, came to Moses in the desert there where he was camping near the mountain of Supermights. 6 He announced to Moses, “I, Jethro, your relative-in-law, have brought you your wife and her two sons with her.” 7 Moses came out to meet his relative-in-law and bowed down and hugged him; they each asked about each other’s welfare, and then they went into the tent. 8 Moses recounted to his relative-in-law all that Lifegiver had done to Pharaoh and Egypt for Israel’s sake, and every hardship that had come on them along the way, and Lifegiver’s deliverance. 9 Jethro was glad because of all the good things that Lifegiver had done for Israel when he delivered them from the hand of Egypt. 10 Jethro said, “Blessed be Lifegiver who has delivered you from the hand of Egypt, and from the hand of Pharaoh, and that he delivered and rescued the people from under the Egyptians’ hand! 11 Now I know that Lifegiver is greater than all the gods since he was against them in the manner in which they had acted presumptuously.” 12 Then Jethro, Moses’ relative-in-law, brought an incinerated sacrifice to slaughter for Supermights. Aaron and all the seniors of Israel later arrived to eat a meal with Moses’ relative-in-law Moses in the presence of Supermights.

13 As it would happen, the next day, Moses sat down to judge and vindicate the people, and the people took a stand before Moses from morning until evening. 14 When Moses’ relative-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this that you are doing to the people? Why are you sitting by yourself and all the people take a stand before you from morning till evening?” 15 Moses said to his father-in-law, “It's because the people come to me to inquire regarding Supermights. 16 When they have a dispute, they come to me, and I judge between one person and another. I consider and make known the prescriptions of Supermights and his laws.” 17 Moses’ relative-in-law said to him, “The way you are doing it is not the best! 18 You’ll foolishly wear off, both you and these people who are with you because this judicial task is too much for you; you can't do it alone. 19 Now listen to my sound advice, and Supermights will be with you: You continue for the people before Supermights; you go and present their cases before Supermights. 20 Teach and explain principles and laws, reveal and make known the way they must walk and the work that they must do. 21 You must identify from among the people capable persons, reverent of Supermights, people of integrity, haters of dishonest profit, and place them over them as leaders of thousands, then leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties and leaders of ten. 22 They’ll judge and decide disputes for the people all the time and will bring all difficult cases to you. But every minor case they’ll decide so that it will be easier for you and they’ll bear the responsibility together with you. 23 If you implement and institute this system, Supermights giving orders, then you would be able to withstand everything. These people will go to their homes in peace.” 24 Moses listened to the suggestion of his father-in-law and implemented everything that he said.

25 Moses chose capable people from all Israel, and he made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, and leaders of tens. 26 They judged and vindicated the people all the time. The hard and difficult cases they would bring to Moses, but every minor case they would decide themselves.

27 Then Moses withdrew and accompanied his relative-in-law. He released him, and he travelled back to his area.

Israel’s Divine Encounter at Sinai

Exodus 19

1 In the third month after Israelites had left the land of Egypt, on that very day, they entered the Desert of Sinai. 2 They had journeyed from Rephidim, and reached the Desert of Sinai. They then camped in the desert. Israel camped in front of the mountain.

3 Moses went up to Supermights, and Lifegiver called him from the mountain, “This is what you’ll tell Jacob's family, and explain to the Israelites: 4 ‘You saw what I did to Egyptians, lifting you on eagle’s wings and bringing you to myself. 5 Now, if you’ll listen and obey my voice, keep and observe my agreement, you’ll become a unique treasure above all people, for the whole Earth is mine. 6 You’ll be my reign of priests and holy people. These are the words that you must say to the people of Israel.”

7 So Moses went and called the seniors of the nation and explained before their faces and in their presence all these statements which Lifegiver had instructed. 8 Then the people replied together and said; “All that Lifegiver has instructed we’ll do.” Then Moses returned and brought back the people's responses to Lifegiver.

9 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “See, I’ll come to you in a dense dark cloud so that the people will hear when I speak with you and trust you always.” Moses reported and made known the words of the people to Lifegiver.

10 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Make them wash their clothes. 11 Be ready on the third day because on the third-day Lifegiver will come down on Mount Sinai in full view of the whole nation. 12 You must set boundaries and cordon off the people on every side and say, ‘Guard yourselves not to go up the mountain or touch its edge. Whoever touches the mountain will be put to death! 13 No hand may touch him except that he be pelted with stones, or he is aimed and shot at with arrows. Whether animal or human being, he must not remain alive. When the trumpet sounds, they may climb up the mountain.”

14 Then Moses descended from the mountain to the people. He sanctified and consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. 15 Then he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day. Do not draw near women.”

16 Then it was on the morning of the third day that there were thunders, lightning, a dense dark cloud on the mountain and a loud sound of the trumpet. All the people in the camp were terrified.

17 Then Moses brought the people up from the camp to meet Supermights. They stopped at the foot of the mountain. 18 Then Mount Sinai was covered in smoke because Lifegiver had come down on it in a fire, and its smoke went up as the smoke of a chimney, and the whole mountain had a big tremour. 19 When the volume of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses kept speaking, and Supermights kept answering him with thundering. 20 Lifegiver came down the towards the top of Mount Sinai, and Lifegiver called Moses to the top of the mountain, then Moses went up. 21 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, before they break through to gaze at Lifegiver, and many of them be struck down. 22 Let the priests also, who will come near towards Lifegiver, consecrate themselves, in case Lifegiver spreads out.”

23 Moses said to Lifegiver, “The people are not able to climb up to Mount Sinai because you warned us and said, ‘Cordon off the mountain and hallow it.’” 24 Lifegiver said to him, “Go, get down, then come up, Aaron with you but don't let the priests and the people break through to climb up to Lifegiver in case he reaches out.” 25 So Moses descended to the people and spoke accordingly.

The Ten Commandments and People’s Reactions

Exodus 20

1 Supermights spoke and pronounced all these words:

2 “I, Lifegiver, am your deity, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

3 “Never have other gods besides me.

4 “Never carve any image of any shape that is from Heavens above or that which is from the Earth below, or that which is in the water beneath the Earth.

5 Never prostrate yourself to serve them because I, Lifegiver, your deity, am a provokable deity; punishing the perversity of the forebears to the next generation, down to the third and fourth of my enemies, 6 and showing favour to thousands of those who love me and observe my instructions.

7 “Never invoke and incite the name of Lifegiver, your deity inappropriately for Lifegiver will not hold him guiltless and innocent whoever invokes and incite his name inappropriately.

8 “Remember to commemorate and sacralise the Sabbath day. 9 Six days you’ll do your job and conduct all your business. 10 But the seventh day is to Lifegiver, your deity’s Sabbath. Do not do any business - you, your son, your daughter, your male servant or female servant, your animal, or the guest in your premises. 11 This is because in six days Lifegiver made and finished the Celestial Bodies and the whole Earth, the sea and everything that is within, and rested on the seventh day. As a result, Lifegiver especially blessed the Sabbath and designated it as holy.

12 “Honour and respect your father and your mother so that your days may be long on the land which Lifegiver your deity is giving you.

13 “Never murder.

14 “Never commit adultery.

15 “Never steal.

16 “Never testify as an untrue witness against your fellow.

17 “Never desire your fellow’s home. Never desire your fellow’s wife, his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that is your fellow’s.”

18 All the people watched and saw the thunder and the lightning, the sound of the trumpet and the smoky mountain. When the people saw it, they trembled and stood far off. 19 They then said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we’ll listen. Do not let Supermights speak with us in case we perish.” 20 Moses said to the people, “Don’t be afraid, for Supermights has come to put you to the test so that the fear of him may be upon your faces so that you might not sin.”

21 The people stood far off. Moses drew nearer the thick dark cloud where Supermights was. 22 Lifegiver said to Moses: “This is what you’ll tell the people of Israel: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I spoke with you from Heaven. 23 Never make rival Supermights s of silver. Never make for yourselves Supermights s of gold.

24 ‘You must make me a ground altar, and you’ll offer on it your sacrifices and your peace and thanks offerings, your sheep and your cattle. In every place where I’ll memorialise and mark my name, I’ll come to you, and I’ll bless you. 25 If you make me a stone altar, you must not build it from cut stones because if you wield your tool on it, you have desecrated it. 26 And you must not go up by stairs to my altar so that your nudity is not denuded upon it.’

Social Bylaws for Israelites

Exodus 21

1 “These are the statutes that you’ll set before them: 2 “If you get a Hebrew servant, then he is to serve you for six years, but in the seventh year he may go free. 3 If he came on his own, he would leave by himself. If he is a wife’s husband, then his wife will leave with him. 4 If his boss gave him a wife, and she births sons or daughters, the wife and the children will become her boss', and he’ll leave by himself. 5 But if the servant should assertively say, ‘I love my boss and owner, my wife and my children; I’ll rather not go free,’ 6 then his boss must bring him to the judges. He must bring him to the hinges or gatepost then his boss will pierce the ear with a piercer, and he must serve him till his life’s end.

7 “If a man relinquishes and surrenders his daughter to be a handmaid, she must not leave as male servant leave. 8 If she is repulsive to her boss who had engaged her for himself, then he must let someone repurchase her, he has no right to sell her to strange people since he has dealt with her deceitfully. 9 If he engages her to his son, he must deal with her customarily as a daughter-in-law. 10 If he marries another, her food, her clothing, her conjugal rights will not be withdrawn. 11 If he does not provide these three, she’ll leave freely without repaying.

12 “Whoever strikes another and he dies, must be put to death. 13 Furthermore, if he does not lie in wait, but Supermights allows it to meet his hand, then I’ll designate you a place to which you must escape. 14 But if a person boils on his fellow to strategically murder him, remove him from witlitremy altar that he may be killed.

15 “Whoever beats his father or his mother will be killed.

16 “Whoever kidnaps a person and sells them, if found in their hand, they’ll be put to death. 17 “Whoever belittles their father or their mother must be killed.

18 “If men fight, and one punches and strikes their counterpart with a stone or with a fist, and the other does not die but lies down in bed, 19 and if then they get up and walk about outside by their walking stick, then the one who punched him is acquitted from punishment. He must pay for the loss of time to heal completely. 20 But if someone fatally strikes his male servant or even his female servant with a weapon and [the servant] dies in his hand, he’ll be avengingly punished. 21 But if [the servant] survives a day or two, he [the wounding boss] will not be penalised because he [proprietor] is his [servant’s] income.

Additional

22 “If anyone fights and hurts a pregnant woman such that her baby comes out and yet no harm happens, he’ll be condemned and punished as the woman’s husband will impose on him as permitted by judges. 23 But if damage results, then you’ll exchange life for life, 24 an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, hand for a hand, foot for a foot, 25 a scar for a scar, a bruise for a bruise, a blow for a blow.

26 “If anyone woundingly strikes the eye of his male servant or even the eye of his female servant that it is completely destroyed, he’ll let him go free him for the sake of his eye. 27 If he knocks out his male servant’s tooth or the tooth of his female servant, he’ll let him go free him for the sake of his tooth.

28 “If a bull violently gores a man or even a woman to death, the bull must be stoned to death, and its meat must not be eaten. The bull owner is acquitted. 29 But if the bull has been addicted to goring from previous time, and its owner has been warned, and he has not guarded it, but it has killed a man or a woman, the bull must be stoned, and its owner must also be killed. 30 If there be a fixed ransom money on it, then he must give a ransom for its life, whatsoever is fixed on it. 31 If it has gored a son or has gored a daughter, this rule will apply. 32 If the bull gores a male servant or a female servant, he [the bull owner] will pay their owner [servant’s] thirty pieces of money and the bull must be stoned.

33 “If a person will open a cistern or if a person will dig a hole and does not cover it, and a bull or a male donkey falls in it, 34 the owner of the pit must make a payment, giving the money to the owner of the [animal] he killed. 35 And if someone’s bull fatally hurts his fellow’s bull, and it dies then they must sell the live bull and equally divide the money. Even the dead [animal] must be shared. 36 Or if it is known that the bull has gored in previous times and its owner did not guard it, he [the goring bull’s owner] must make a payment, a bull for a bull - the dead [bull] will be brought about.

Exodus 22

1 “If anyone steals a bull or a sheep and slaughters or sells it, he must repay it, five cows for a bull and four lambs for a sheep. 2 “If a thief is caught burgling and he is beaten to death, there is no bloodguiltiness. 3 If the sun rises on him, there’s blood guiltiness, and he must fully repay. If he has nothing, he must be sold for his theft. 4 If the stolen thing happens to be found in his possession alive, a cow, even a donkey or sheep must be compensated twice.

5 “If anyone causes a farm or a vineyard to be grazed over by putting his animal to feed in another’s farm’s best part, then the best part of his farm and the best of his vineyard must make repayment.

6 “If a fire breaks out and catches thorn bushes so that the stack of sheaves or the standing corn or the farm is devoured, the causer of the fire must fully repay.

7 “If anyone brings to his friend money or articles to be taken care of, and they are stolen out of the person’s home, and if the thief is caught, let him repay twice. 8 If the thief is not caught, the house owner will be brought to the judges if he has not stretched out his hand to his friend’s property.

9 For all cases of crime, for cows, for donkeys, for sheep, for clothes and any lost items that one claims to be his, the case of both must be brought before judges and whoever the judges declare as guilty must pay twice to his fellow. 10 If a person brings to his friend a donkey or a cow or a sheep or any animal for safekeeping, and it dies, or is crippled or is taken captive with no one seeing, 11 then there will be an oath of Lifegiver authenticating innocence between the two if he has not stretched out his hand to his friend’s property. The owner must accept and not require repayment. 12 But if it was stolen away next to him, he’ll repay the owner. 13 If it is torn in pieces, he must bring it for evidence, and he [the owner] will not require repayment of the torn animal.

14 “And if anyone borrows from his fellow and it is torn into pieces, or it dies, the owner, by its lack, will require repayment. 15 The owner must not be reimbursed if it was hired equivalent to its worth.

16 “And if anyone seduces a virgin that is not engaged and sleeps with her, he must give dowry for her and wed her to be his wife. 17 If her father utterly refuses to grant permission, he must pay dowry money for virgins. 18 “Never allow a witch to remain alive.

19 “Everyone who has sexual connection with an animal must be executed.

20 “Whoever sacrifices to gods except to Lifegiver alone must be mutilated.

21 “You must never ill-treat a foreigner. Never oppress him because you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

22 “You must never afflict any widow or orphan. 23 If you afflict, depress and violate them in any way and because of that they cry for help to me, I’ll hear and respond to their cry of distress. 24 Then my anger will be kindled, and I’ll destroy you with a sword, and your wives will become widows and your children orphans.

25 “If you lend money to even my poor people among you, you must not become a creditor, never raise or add interest. 26 If you hold and take by a pledge your fellow ’s dress, return it to him by sunset arrival, 27 for it is his only covering apparel, it is his covering skin. What must he sleep with? It will happen because he cries for help to me, I’ll hear, and because of it, I’ll graciously lean down.

28 “Never treat the judges with contempt. Never curse the ruler of your people.

29 “Do not delay your produce and your juices. Give me the eldest of your sons. 30 This you must also do with your oxen and your sheep. Seven days it may be with its mother, but on the eighth day you must deliver them up.

31 “You’ll be holy people, never eat meat torn by wild animals. Throw it to the dogs.

Exodus 23

1 “Never give any false report. Never take a stand and side with the wicked to be a malicious witness.

2 “Never be a crowd follower for evil. Never testify in dispute to pervert justice and persecute many to turn aside. 3 Never patronise a poor person in their case.

4 “If you encounter your adversary’s bull or his donkey going astray you must return it back to him. 5 If you discover the donkey of your enemy crouching under its burden, refrain from abandoning it. You must free and loosen it with him.

6 “You must not pervert justice in the lawsuits of your poor people. 7 Keep your distance from deceptive and fraudulent business. Do not destroy the innocent and lawful because I’ll not justify one guilty of a crime.

8 “Never receive a bribe because a bribe makes the clear-sighted blind and distorts the words of the just.

9 “You must never oppress a foreigner because you are experientially acquainted with the life of a foreigner since you were foreigners in the country of Egypt.

10 “Six years you are to sow and fructify your land, gathering in its produce. 11 But the seventh [year] you are to rest and let it lie fallow so that the poor people may eat. What they leave behind the wild animals will eat. In the same way, you are to deal with your vineyards and olive groves. 12 Six days you must do your business, and on the seventh day, you are to rest so that your ox, your donkey may rest and that the child of your female servant and the guest may refresh themselves.

13 “Observe everything that I’ve instructed you. Never bring to mind the names of other gods, and never let it be heard from your mouth.

14 “Three times a year observe pilgrim festivals. 15 You are to observe and treasure the Festival of Unraised Bread. In the appointed month of Abib in which you came out of Egypt, you are to eat unraised bread seven days as instructed. You may not appear before me empty.

16 “In addition, during the Festival of [Early] Harvest - the early fruits of your products that you have sown in the field and during the Festival of Ingathering [Late Harvest] - end of the year when you have harvested and brought in your produce from the field. 17 At these three-yearly occasions, all your males must appear with before the Master, Lifegiver.

18 “Do not offer sacrificial blood with raised bread. The sacrificial fat must not remain until the morning. 19 You are to bring the first of the early fruits of your land to the temple of Lifegiver, your deity. You must not cook a kid in its mother’s milk.

20 “Look, I’m sending my Messenger in front of you to protect you on the way to bring you to the place which I’ve appointed. 21 Watch out in his presence. Obey his voice. Do not provoke him because he’ll not tolerate your apostasy because of my glory witlitrehim. 22 But if you listen and obey his voice and you do all that I instruct then I’ll be a hostile enemy to your enemies and assaulting adversary to your harassers. 23 Since my Messenger will proceed before you and bring you to the Amorites and Hittites, Perizzites and Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites and efface them.

24 “Never bow down to their gods; do not serve them or follow their practices. Instead, you must destroy and smash their columnar images into pieces. 25 Serve and worship Lifegiver your deity, and he’ll significantly bless your grain and water, and remove disease from among you. 26 Nothing will miscarry and be childless in your territory and land. I’ll extend the number of your years.

27 “I’ll send and broadcast the terror of me before you and stir and confuse all the people that you’ll invade. I’ll make all your opponents turn their backs against you. 28 I’ll free and unleash stinging wasps ahead to harass and drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you. 29 I’ll not force them out ahead of you in one year in case the land becomes uninhabited, and the wild animals increase against you. 30 Gradually, I’ll drive them out ahead of you until you also grow to take possession of the land. 31 I’ll also set and mark your territory from the Red Sea as far as the Sea of Palestine and from the desert as far as the River Euphrates because I’ll deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand. You’ll force them out ahead of you.

32 “Cut no covenantal alliances with their rulers. 33 They must not live in your land in case they cause you to sin, and you incur guilt, for if you serve and worship their Supermights s it will certainly be a snare to you.”

Exodus 24

1 Then he said to Moses, “Ascend to Lifegiver - you, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu and seventy from the seniors of Israel. Worship from a distance. 2 Moses alone may approach towards Lifegiver. But they’ll not draw nearer. The people must not ascend.”

3 Moses came and related to the people the entire speech of Lifegiver and all the statutes, and all the people responded with one voice and said; “All the words which Lifegiver has spoken we’ll do.” 4 Then Moses wrote and recorded all the words of Lifegiver and woke up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain - twelve columns according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 Then he sent forth young men of the people of Israel to bring up incinerated sacrifices and sacrificed peace offerings of bulls to Lifegiver.

6 Then Moses took half of the blood and poured it into bowls. Half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant read it in the audience of the people. Then they said, “All that Lifegiver has said we’ll do and obey.”

8 Then Moses fetched and took some of the blood and sprinkled it upon the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that Lifegiver has cut with you based on these words.”

9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the seniors of Israel went up. 10 They saw an appearance of Supermights of Israel - instead of his feet a transparent art of sapphire essence [azure] like the sky in its brightness. 11 Against the nobles of Israelites, he did not release his hand though they had a glimpse of Supermights. Then they ate and drank.

12 Then Lifegiver said to Moses; “Come up to me witlitrethe mountain and stand there and I’ll produce and give you polished stone plates, the law and the commandments that I’ve engraved directly.” 13 Then Moses stood up. His attendant Joshua and Moses ascended further up the mountain of Supermights. 14 Then he told the elders, “Remain here until we return among you. Here are Aaron and Hur with you. Whatever leader has a cause may approach them.” 15 Then Moses went further up the mountain, and the cloud covered and hid the mountain. 16 Then the glory of Lifegiver settled upon Mount Sinai. The cloud covered it six days, and on the seventh day, he called Moses from the cloud. 17 Then the appearance of the glory of Lifegiver on the mountain summit was like devouring flames in the eyes of Israelites. 18 Then Moses went into the depth of the cloud and went up the mountain. Moses remained in the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 25

1 Lifegiver then spoke to Moses and said: 2 “Speak to Israelites that they may bring me an offering out of each one who freely offers to bring me an offering. 3 These are the offerings which you’ll receive out of them - gold, silver, brass, 4 blue and purple, scarlet and crimson fine linen, goats 5 and ram’s leather dyed red, antelope’s leather, acacia timber, 6 olive oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, 7 onyx stones, gems to be set in the priestly cape and in the breast piece. 8 Let them make me a sanctuary that I may live among them; 9 everything I’m presenting and showing you - the model sanctuary habitat, and models of all the utensils - make it so.

10 “They are to make a cabinet of acacia wood – its length is to be one metre, its width 70 centimetres, and its height 70 centimetres. 11 Overlay it with a layer of pure gold both inside and on the outside. In addition, apply a touch of canary-gold on every side. 12 Mould four golden rings and thrust them into the four corners - two rings on one side and two rings on the other side. 13 Produce acacia timber bars and overlay them with gold. 14 Strike and revert the bars into the plank of the cabinet that the gathered cabinet may be lifted. 15 The bars must last in the rings of the cabinet and must never be removed. 16 Put into the gathered cabinet evidence that I’ll assign.

17 “Make the covering plate pure gold, its length one metre, and its width 70 centimetres. 18 Make two gold moulded messenger images set over the two edges of covering the plate. 19 Make one cherub image on one edge and the other cherub image on the other edge of the covering plate. Make and set the two cherubim images on the two edges. 20 The messenger images are to spread wings upwards hedging the covering plate with their wings. They are to face one towards each other. Their faces are to lie towards the covering plates.

21 Place and set the covering plate over the top of the cabinet and in the cabinet put and add the evidence that I’ll assign. 22 There I’ll meet and speak with you from above the covering plate, from between the two messenger images which are on top of the Cabinet of Recorded Evidence of everything that I’ve given charge to Israelites.

23 Make a table of acacia timber 88 centimetres long and 44 centimetres long and 66 centimetres high. 24 Overlay it with pure gold and make a golden moulding every side. 25 Make a broad palm high corbel around it and apply a golden moulding on every side. 26 Make four rings of gold put and set the rings in the four corners that are on the four legs. 27 Alongside the corbel, the rings will become receptacles of the bars to lift and carry the table. 28 Make and finish the bars of acacia timber with an overlay of canary-gold so to carry the table. 29 Make bowls, spoons, jugs and basins with which to pour. Make them pure gold. 30 Place on the table the display bread before me regularly.

31 “You are to make the lampstand of pure metallic gold. You are to make the lampstand, its base, its stalks, its cup bulb, its calyx are to be from the same material. 32 Six stalks must come out from its side - three stalks of a candlestick from one side and three stalks of a candlestick from another side. 33 Three cups shaped like an almond in one stalk, a bulb and a calyx. Three cups almond-shaped in the other stalk, a bulb and a calyx. That way, a bulb and calyx in the six stalks that were coming out of the lampstand. 34 On the lampstand were four almond-shaped cups, its bulbs and calyx, 35 with a bud under the first two stalks from it, and a bud under the next two stalks from it, and a bud under the third two stalks from it, according to the six stalks that come out from the lampstand. 36 Their bulbs and their stalks are to be from the same material of pure metallic gold. 37 Produce and provide seven lamps, and then bring up its lamps on it, so that it will give light to the area around it. 38 Its trimmers and its trimmer trays are to be of pure gold. 39 All these articles are to be made out of 34 kilogrammes of pure gold. 40 See to it that it is made according to the model which you were shown in the mountain.

Exodus 26

The Sanctuary Tabernacle

1 “Make the sanctuary habitat with ten drapes of fine woven linen; violet, purple and ruby fabric. With embroidered cherubim designs you are to make them. 2 The length of each drape must be twelve metres long and the width of each drape is to be two metres. All the drapes must be one size. 3 Five drapes must be joined together one to another. The other five drapes joined together on the other. 4 Make blue loops on the edge connecting the other drape from the end into a seam - that way make the outer edge of the drape a seam of another. 5 Make 50 loops in one drape and 50 loops you must make in the edge of the other drape that is joining another so that the loops may correspond one to another. 6 Make 50 golden hooks to join. Couple the drapes to each other to become a unified set.

7 “Make goat’s drapes to be a covering over the cabin. Make eleven drapes. 8 The length of each drape will be thirteen metres and the width of each drape two metres - the eleven drapes must be one size. 9 Join and couple the five drapes by themselves and the six drapes by themselves. Fold double the sixth drape to the front side of the tent. 10 Make the fifty loops on the edge of one drape’s end joint and fifty loops on the edge of the drape which joins the other. 11 Make the fifty hooks of steel. Then bring and pull in the hooks into the loops. Join and couple the tent to become unified. 12 The excess that remains of the drapes of the tent - the half drape that remains - must overrun over the backside of the sanctuary habitat. 13 The one metre on the one side and the one metre on the one side that remains in the length of the drapes of the tent continue to hang over the sides of the sanctuary habitat on this side and the other side to cover it.

14 “Make a ram’s tanned skin covering for the tent as well as a fine leather covering on top.

15 “Make and produce slabs of acacia timber to stand upright. 16 Each slab must be four metres long and 66 centimetres wide. 17 Two projecting rods in each slab are to be interspersed together against another. This way, you are to make all the slabs of the sanctuary habitat.

18 Make and produce slabs for the sanctuary habitat, 20 slabs for the southern side of the southern quarter. 19 Then prepare 40 sockets of silver under the 20 slabs; two sockets under one slab for its two projecting rods and two sockets under another slab for its two projecting rods. 20 And for the second side of the sanctuary habitat on the northern side: 20 slabs. 21 Then their 40 silver sockets, two rods under one slab and two sockets under another socket. 22 For the tent’s western flanks, you are to make six slabs. 23 And for the tent’s western flanks you are to make six slabs. 24 They are to be articulated at the bottom and are to be articulated together at the top with one ring. After that, they’ll be both brought for the two corners. 25 There are to be eight slabs and their sixteen silver rods, two sockets under each slab and two rods under each slab.

26 “You are to make acacia wood bars; five for the slabs of each side of the tent. 27 Then five bars for the slabs on the other side of the sanctuary habitat and five bars for the slabs on the other side of the tent for the western flanks. 28 The middle bar is to run across the slabs from end to end. 29 You are to overlay the slabs with gold and make gold rings to place the bars, and you are to overlay and cover the bars with gold. 30 Erect and position the tent according to its plan shown you in the mountain. 31 You are to make a curtain of blue, purple and deep red yarn and fine woven linen. Artistic embroidery designs of cherubim patterns are to be made. 32 Hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold and on golden hooks and four silver sockets. 33 Fasten and hang the yarn with clasps and then bring it through witlitrethe temple as the separating curtain for the Cabinet of Evidence. It will make a distinction between the Sanctuary and the Sacred Sanctuary. 34 Bring and put the covering plate on the Cabinet of Evidence in the Sacred Sanctuary. 35 Place and set the table from outside the veil and the lampstand opposite the table on the southward side of the tent and place the table on the north side. 36 “Make a blue, purple and deep red woven veil for the door of the tent, a tapestry of multiple colours. 37 Produce for the veil five pillars of acacia and overlay them with gold and cast five steel sockets.

Exodus 27

1 Prepare and make an acacia-wood altar, 2.25 metres long and 2.25 metres wide. The altar will be squared and one and a half metres high. 2 Carve the horns on its four corners. Overlay it with steel. 3 Make its pans to contain its ashes, its spade and its basins, its forks, and its trays and its utensils made of steel. 4 Make a grating steel net halfway under its ledge. In addition to the net, make four steel rings above its four corners. 5 Put it under the edge of the altar from below, so that the net may become halfway up the altar. 6 Make bars for the altar, bars of acacia timber, and overlay them with steel. 7 And the bars are to be put into rings so that the bars will be on two sides of the altar when carrying it. 8 Hollow and shape it [the altar] with slabs. Just as he showed you in the mountain, that is how it is to be produced.

9 “Finish and surround the courtyard of the sanctuary habitat. On the southward south side, there are to be woven linen drapes for the courtyard, forty-five metres long on the first side 10 with twenty pillars and their twenty steel sockets, hooks for the pillars and their silver clasping rings. 11 Likewise, for its length on the northern side are to be drapes of forty-five metres long and their twenty pillars and their twenty steel sockets and their silver clasping rings. 12 Then the breadth of the court on the western side are to be hangings of 22 metres - their pillars ten and their ten sockets. 13 Then the breadth of the court on the eastward side, towards the sunrise, are to be drapes of twenty-two metres. 14 The drapes on one side of the gate are to be 7 metres long, with their three pillars and their three sockets. 15 On the second side, there are to be drapes 7 metres long, with their three pillars and their three sockets. 16 For the gate of the courtyard, there is to be a tapestry of 9 metres of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine weaved linen, skillfully embroidered, with four pillars and their four sockets. 17 All the pillars around the courtyard are to be fastened with silver hooks; their hooks are to be silver and their sockets steel. 18 The length of the courtyard is to be forty-five metres and the width twenty-three metres, and the height of the fine weaved linen drapes are to be two metres, with their steel sockets. 19 All the utensils of the sanctuary habitat for whatever use, all the stakes and all courtyard pins must be steel.

20 “You are to order and instruct Israelites to bring you pure olive oil extracted for the luminary light to burn regularly 21 in the tent of assembly outside the curtain that is in front of the Evidence. Aaron and his sons are to keep it set in place from evening till morning before Lifegiver. It will be an everlasting customary practice among Israelites.

Exodus 28

1 “You are to then approach and offer Aaron your brother and his sons from among Israelites to serve as officiating priests - Aaron, Nadab [generous] and Abihu [he is my father], Eleazar [Supermights has helped] and Ithamar [coast of palms], Aaron’s sons. 2 You are to then make splendid and dignified sanctuary clothes for Aaron your brother. 3 You are to then speak to all skillful minds whom I’ve filled with the inspiration of wisdom so that they design and produce Aaron’s attire for his investiture as the officiating priest. 4 Now, these are the clothes that they are to make: a breast piece, a priestly cape, a robe, a reticulated tunic, a turban, and a waistband. They are to make sanctuary clothes for your brother Aaron and for his sons to serve as my priests. 5 They are to take and mix gold, violet, purple, deep red, and white linen.

6 “They are to make and produce the priestly cape designed work of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and white weaved linen. 7 Finish the two shoulder pieces. Join them at the two end joints. 8 The woven belt which will be over the priestly cape will be the same material of gold, violet, purple and deep red and white weaved linen.

9 “You are to take and place two gemstones and engrave on them names of Israelites; 10 six names from on top of one stone and six names on top of the remaining stone, genealogically. 11 With the skill of a stone engraver, you are to engrave and carve sealed inscriptions with the names of Israelites. You are to set and emboss them in plated gold. 12 You are to place and fix the two stones over the shoulders of the priestly cape as memorial stones for Israelites. Aaron will bear and carry their names before Lifegiver upon his two shoulders as a reminder. 13 You are to make golden brocades 14 and two-stringed chains of pure gold at the edges of the woven designs you are going to make. Fasten and tighten the stringed chain to the brocades. 15 Then you are to produce a plaited design decisional breast piece, woven into the priestly cape. You are to make it golden, violet, purple, and red woven linen. 16 It must be altogether double quadrate, 23 centimetres long and 23 centimetres wide. 17 You are to set in four rows of stone casings of precious stones - the first-row ruby, topaz and emerald; 18 the second row - turquoise, sapphire and jasper. 19 The third-row jacinth, an agate and amethyst. 20 Then the fourth-row a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They are to be set in gold in their casings. 21 The stones will be with the names of Israel’s children’s 12 names, each engraved upon and signed in lasting honour of the 12 tribes. 22 On the breastplate, you are to make linked thick chains - pure gold design 23, and you are to fit upon the breast piece two gold rings. You are to then set and attach the two rings to the corners of the breast piece. 24 You are to assign and attach two golden chords to the two rings at the edges of the breast piece. 25 Then the two edges of the two chords you are to attach on the two brocades and attach them on the shoulder pieces of the priestly cape and then attach them to the shoulder pieces of the priestly cape’s front side. 26 You are to make two golden rings and place them upon the two edges of the breast piece upon its margin that is on the inner side of the priestly cape. 27 You are to make two more gold rings and attach them to the bottom of the two shoulder pieces on the front of the priestly cape, towards the seam above the waistband of the cape. 28 They are to tie and fasten the breast piece by its rings to the cape’s rings with a blue thread so that it may be above the cape’s waistband so that the breast piece will not be loose from the priestly cape. 29 Aaron will carry and bear the names of the sons of Israel on the decisional breast piece over his heart when he goes into the sacred place, as a memorial before Lifegiver continually.

30 “You are to insert into the decisional breast piece of justice the Urim [flames] and Thummim [perfections] - and they are to be placed upon Aaron’s breast when he goes into the presence of Lifegiver. Aaron is to regularly bear and present the inquiries of the people of Israel on his breast before Lifegiver.

31 “Then you are to design and make the covering robe of the priestly cape entirely blue. 32 There must be a collar in its top centre using an embroidered seam around its collar, a corselet collar that cannot be torn. 33 Then on to its hem, you are to attach blue, purple and scarlet pomegranate shaped ornaments all around its hem, separated by golden bells from every side. 34 A golden bell and a pomegranate shaped ornament, a bell and a pomegranate shaped ornament on the hem of the robe all around. 35 It will happen as Aaron ministers, his sound will be heard entering the sanctuary in Lifegiver’s presence, and as he comes out, that he did not die.

36 “You are to make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it an engraved inscription; Holy to Lifegiver. 37 You are to drill into it a blue string. It is to be on the turban. It is to be on the front face of the turban. 38 It will be on Aaron’s forehead so that Aaron may carry and bear the guilt of the sanctuary which the people of Israel will confess in all the consecrated offerings. It will always be on his forehead for their acceptance in the presence of Lifegiver. 39 You are to embroider the fine linen robe. You are to make the fine linen turban, and you are to make the multi-coloured waist belt.

40 “You are to make Aaron’s sons’ robes, and you are to make for them waist belts and headbands for dignity and honour. 41 You are to dress, clothe, robe and adorn Aaron, your brother and his sons with him, then anoint them, consecrating and fully empowering and devoting them so that they may serve as my priests. 42 You are to make them linen underwear to cover their nudity - they are to be from the waist until the thighs. 43 These are to be on Aaron and his sons when they come into the tent of assembly or when they approach the altar to serve in the sanctuary so that they do not incur guilt and die. It is to be a restriction for futurity for him and his posterity afterwards.

Exodus 29

1 “This is the task you are to do to sanctify them so that they may serve as my priests: Bring one bullock and two healthy rams, 2 unraised bread and unfermented perforated cakes mixed with oil, and unraised wafers smeared with oil. Prepare them in fine wheat flour. 3 You are to bring them in one basket and present them in the basket, along with the bullock and the two rams. 4 Present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the tent of assembly. Bathe them with water. 5 You are to fetch and bring clothes. Then clothe and dress Aaron with Aaron’s robe and the robe of the priestly cape, then the priestly cape, then the breastplate, then belt him up with the artistic belt. 6 You must put the turban on his head, produce and thrust the holy crown on the turban. 7 You are to fetch and bring the anointing oil and pour it on his head, then anoint him. 8 You are to bring then and present his sons and dress and robe them. 9 Then wrap Aaron and his sons with waistbands, and put headbands on them. Then priesthood will be theirs forever. This is how you are to consecrate and charge Aaron and his sons:

10 “The bullock is to be presented before the tent of assembly. Then Aaron and his sons are to stretch and lean their hands on the head of the bullock. 11 You are to slaughter and kill the bullock before Lifegiver at the entrance of the tent of assembly. 12 You are to take some of the bullock’s blood, apply it on the horns of the altar with your finger. You are to then pour all the blood at the base of the altar. 13 You are to fetch and bring all the fat that fills and covers the internal organs, the caudate lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and the fat that is on them. Burn them on the altar. 14 But the meat of the bullock and its skin and its dung you are to burn with fire outside the camp. It is a purification offering.

15 “You are to take one ram. Then Aaron and his sons will stretch and lean their hands on the head of the ram. 16 You are to slaughter and kill the ram. Then you are to take and bring its blood and sprinkle it on every side of the altar. 17 You must cut the ram into pieces and wash its internal organs and its legs. Place its pieces together on its head. 18 Then sacrifice and burn the whole ram on the altar. It is Lifegiver’s incinerated sacrifice - a delightful fragrance, a fire offering to Lifegiver.

19 “You are to fetch and bring the other ram. Then Aaron and his sons are to stretch and lean their hands on the ram’s head. 20 You are to slaughter and kill the ram and take some of its blood and apply it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and the tip of the right ear of his sons and the of the thumb of the right hand and the thumb of the right foot. Then strew and sprinkle the blood on around the altar. 21 You must take some of the blood that is on the altar and some anointing oil and sprinkle them on Aaron and his clothing and his sons and his sons’ clothing together. This is so that he and his clothing and his sons and his sons’ clothing is sanctified together.

22 “You must take from the ram the fat and the rum and the fat that fills and covers the internal organs, the caudate lobe of the liver and the two kidneys and that fat that is on them, and the right thigh - because it is a ram of consecration. 23 Then one loaf of bread and one perforated fat cake and one wafer from the basket of unraised bread that was before Lifegiver; 24 you must put all these in Aaron's hands and in the hands of his sons to be moved to and fro before Lifegiver as a wave offering. 25 You are to receive them from their hands and burn them on the altar for an incinerated sacrifice, for a delightful fragrance before Lifegiver. It is a fire offering to Lifegiver. 26 You are to fetch and bring the breast of the ram of Aaron’s consecration and wave it for a wave offering before Lifegiver. It will be your portion. 27 You are to separate and sanctify the breast of the wave offering and the shoulder of heave-offering, which is waved, which is heaved from Aaron’s and his sons’ ram of consecration. 28 It will be Aaron’s and his sons’ by law forever, through the people of Israel, from the slaughter of their peace offerings, a contribution to Lifegiver.

29 “Afterwards, Aaron’s sacred clothing will be his son’s and they’ll be anointed, consecrated and committed to their hands. 30 Among his sons, the replacement priest will wear them seven days when he is introduced to the tent of assembly to serve in the sanctuary.

31 “You must take the ram of consecration and boil and cook its meat in the sacred place. 32 Aaron and his sons are to eat and devour the ram’s meat and the bread that is in the basket at the entrance of the tent of assembly. 33 Then they are to eat that by which atonement was made to consecrate, confirm and charge them to set them apart. But an outsider may not eat them because they are holy. 34 If some of the meat of consecration and some of the bread be left over until the morning, then you are to burn up its excess with fire. It must not be eaten because it is holy.

35 “This is how you are to do for Aaron and his sons all that I’ve charged you. Seven days you are to consecrate and empower them. 36 You are to offer a bullock daily, a sin offering for atonement. You are to purify the altar when you have done atonement. You are to anoint it to sanctify it. 37 You are to make atonement for the altar for seven days. It must be an altar set apart as holy. Everything that touches the altar will be holy. 38 “This is what you are to offer on the altar day by day continually and regularly: two quality lambs a year old. 39 The one lamb you are to offer at dawn and the other lamb you are to offer at dusk. 40 With the first lamb a ten percent of fine flour mixed with forty percent of a 6-litre container of pressed oil and a forty percent part of a 6-litre container of poured wine. 41 The second lamb you are to offer at dusk you are to prepare as the offering of the morning and as well as its poured drink as a delightful fragrance fire offering to Lifegiver, 42 a regular incinerated sacrifice habitually at the entrance of the tent of assembly before Lifegiver where I’ll often meet you to speak to you there. 43 There I’ll meet the people of Israel and will set it apart by my splendour. 44 I’ll consecrate and sanctify the tent of assembly and the altar. I’ll set apart Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. 45 I’ll live among the people of Israel, and I’ll be their Supermights. 46 They’ll acknowledge that I’m Lifegiver the Supermights who brought and led them out of the land of Egypt so that I may live among them: I’m Lifegiver their Supermights.

Exodus 30

1 “You are to carve an altar made of acacia wood for burning incense. 2 Its length is to be 46 centimetres and its breadth 46 centimetres; it will be square. Its height is to be one metre; with horns on the sides. 3 You are to overlay it with splendid pure gold - its top, its sides around as well as its horns. You are to make it a golden moulding all around. 4 You are to make two golden rings under the moulding on its two beams on its two sides. Make it be receptacles of the bars - with these you are to carry it.

5 “You are to prepare and make bars of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 6 You must put it in front of the curtain that is before the Cabinet of Evidence in front of the atonement plate that is above the Evidence, where I’ll meet you. 7 Aaron must burn fragrant incense on it morning by morning; whenever he dresses and trims the lamps, he is to burn incense. 8 When Aaron sets up and trims the lamps at night, he is to burn incense; it is to be a constant smoke before Lifegiver habitually. 9 You must never bring up another incense on it, not even incinerated sacrifice, the meal offering, the drink offering will be set up on it. 10 Aaron must make atonement on its horns once a year with some of the blood of the expiatory sin offering. He is to atone once a year habitually. He is sanctified and set apart to Lifegiver.”

11 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses saying: 12 “When you conduct a population census of Israel as their overseer, each person must pay a ransom for their life to Lifegiver as you count them so that there will be no epidemic among them when you number them. 13 Everyone that qualifies to be numbered from among them will pay this; half a rand of the sanctuary currency. The twenty coins half a rand will be a tribute to Lifegiver. 14 Everyone that qualifies to be numbered, from twenty-year-old youth and upwards, will give an offering to Lifegiver. 15 The wealthy are not to increase it, and the poor are not to reduce some of the half the amount when they give and pay tribute to Lifegiver to atone on account of your lives.

16 “You are to collect and receive atonement money from among the people of Israel, and you’ll devote it for the service of the tent of assembly. It will be a reminder to the people of Israel to atone for your lives before Lifegiver.”

17 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses saying; 18 “You are to make a steel basin with a steel stand for washing. You must place it between the tent of assembly and the altar. You are to put water in it. 19 Aaron and his sons are to wash and bathe their hands and feet from it 20 when they enter the tent of assembly. They are to bathe with water so that they do not die when they come near the altar to minister and sacrifice the fire offering to Lifegiver. 21 They must wash their hands and their feet so that they do not die. It is prescribed forever to his posterity and their generations.”

22 Lifegiver spoke to Moses saying: 23 “You are to get the best spices of pure myrrh 500 grams. Halve the sweet cinnamon to 250 grams and the sweet calamus to 250 grams, 24 500 grams of cassia bark according to the weights of the sanctuary. Six litres of olive oil 25 you are to mix it into aromatic sacred anointing oil, a spice mixture undertaken by a pharmacist to be sacred anointing oil.

26 “You are to smear and anoint the tent of assembly and the Cabinet of Evidence with it, 27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its accessories, the altar of incense, 28 the altar of sacrifice and all its utensils, and the basin and its stand. 29 This was you are to sanctify them so that they are set apart and made holy; everything that touches them will be holy. 30 You are to anoint Aaron and his sons and sanctify them so that they serve as my priests.

31 “You are to speak to the people of Israel saying; ‘This will be a sacred anointing oil through your generations.’ 32 It must not be poured on ordinary people’s bodies. You are not to produce any like its composition. It is holy, and it must remain holy to you. 33 Any person that mixes perfume like it, whoever applies some of it on an outsider must be cut off from his people.

34 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Collect sweet spice drops, onycha and galbanum spices, with clear frankincense, each must be strong. 35 You are to then make it into aromatic incense produced by a pharmacist. It must be purely and sacredly pulverised. 36 You are to pulverise some of it to be fine and put some of it in front of the Cabinet of Evidence in the tent of assembly where I’ll meet with you; it is to be holy and set apart. 37 The incense which you’ll make, you’ll not make it for yourselves according to its composition. It will be set apart for Lifegiver. 38 Any person that makes anything like its scent must be cut off from his people.”

Exodus 31

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Look, I’ve called Bezaleel by name, the son of Uri the grandson of Hur of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I’ve filled him with the Supermights' Spirit in skill, in intelligence, in knowledge, and in all craftsmanship 4 to invent artistic designs made with gold, with silver, and with steel, 5 in carving and setting stones, in cutting timber to use in various projects. 6 I’ve also assigned along with him Aholiab, son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, and in the hearts of all of these prudent hearted I’ve put wisdom so that they may do and accomplish everything I’ve instructed you and them: 7 the tent of assembly, the Cabinet of Evidence, the atonement top that is on it, all the utensils of the tent, 8 the table with its utensils, the bright lamp stand with all its accessories, the altar of incense, 9 the altar for the sacrifice with all its tools, the basin with its stand, 10 the stitched clothing; the sacred wardrobe for Aaron the priest and the wardrobe for his sons to wear as priests, 11 the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the sanctuary. They’ll make all these as I’ve instructed you.”

12 Lifegiver said to Moses, 13 “You are to speak to the people of Israel, ‘Indeed you must surely keep my Sabbaths, for it is a sign between you and myself throughout your generations, that you may understand that I’m Lifegiver who sanctifies you. 14 You are to keep and observe the Sabbath, for it is set apart for you. Everyone who defiles it must die death; indeed, if anyone does any work on it, then that person will be removed from among his people. 15 Six days work may be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of sacred rest to Lifegiver; anyone who does work on the Sabbath day will die death. 16 The people of Israel must keep and observe the Sabbath. They are to observe and celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a lasting covenant. 17 It is a sign between the people of Israel and me forever; for in six days Lifegiver made and finished the Celestial Bodies and the Earth, and on the seventh day he rested and refreshed himself.’”

18 When he had finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, then he gave him two asseveration tablets, stone tablets inscribed with Supermights ’s finger.

Exodus 32

1 Because the people considered Moses to have delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered next to Aaron and said to him; “Stand up. Make us Supermights s who will go before us because this Moses, the man who brought us from the land of Egypt, we do not know what happened to him.” 2 So Aaron said to them, “Crush the golden earrings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” 3 Then all the people snatched and crushed the golden earrings that were on their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 He then received it from their hand, and forged it with an engraving tool. He then made it a molten calf. They then said; “This is your deity, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.” 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. Then Aaron made an announcement and said, “Tomorrow will be a festival to Lifegiver.” 6 They woke up early the next day and offered sacrifices and brought thanks offering. Then the people sat down to eat and to feast then stood up to dance.

7 Then Lifegiver said to Moses; “Go down because your people which you brought from the land of Egypt have become corrupt. 8 They have suddenly veered from the course which I had instructed them - they have made a molten calf for themselves and have worshipped it. They have sacrificed to it saying; “This is your deity, Israel, who brought you from the land of Egypt.” 9 Then Lifegiver said to Moses; “I’ve seen and watched; look, this is a nation of stubborn and obstinate people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may blaze up to destroy them. From you, I’ll make you a great nation.” 11 But Moses became grieved and entreated Lifegiver, his Supermights and said; “Lifegiver, why does your anger blaze up against your people who you brought up from the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?” 12 Why should Egyptians boast and say; ‘For mischief, he led them out to kill them in the mountains and to obliterate them from the face of the Earth.’ Then relinquish your blazing anger and relent of this calamity against your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel your servants to whom you swore by yourself and said; ‘I’ll increase and multiply your posterity like the stars of the sky and I’ll give all this land that I’ve promised to your posterity, and they’ll inherit it forever.''' 14 Then Lifegiver relented of the calamity which he threatened to do to his people.

15 Moses turned and descended from the mountain. The two attestation slabs were in his hand. The tables were written over both sides, over one side and on the other side, they were engraved. 16 The slabs were the work of Supermights, and the writing was Supermights' handwriting, engraved on the slabs. 17 When Joshua heard and listened to the sound of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses; “There is the sound of war in the camp.” 18 Moses replied; “It is not the response to the shout of victory. It is not the response of defeat. It's the sound of singing that I hear.”

19 When he came near the camp when he saw and noticed the calf and the dancing, Moses’ anger blazed up, and he hurled and threw down the tablets from his hands, and broke them at the foot of the mountain. 20 He then took and snatched the calf which they had made and burnt it in the fire and crushed until it was powder and he strew it over the gushing water that the people of Israel would drink.

21 Moses then said to Aaron; “What did these people do to you that you brought such great sin on them?” 22 Then Aaron said; “May the anger of my master not blaze up. You know by experience that these people are mischievous. 23 They said to me; “Make us gods who will lead us because this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him. 24 So I then said; ‘Whoever has gold, crush it. So, they gave it to me. Then I threw it in the fire. Then this calf emerged. 25 Then Moses realised that the people were indeed neglected because Aaron had exposed them to shameful inkling. 26 Then Moses stood at the entrance of the camp and asked; “Who is on Lifegiver’s side?” Then all the people of Levi gathered themselves to him. 27 He then said to them; “This is the instruction of Lifegiver; ‘Every person must fasten his sword by his flank. Go in and out, from entrance to entrance throughout the camp and kill every consenting person, every consenting friend, and every consenting neighbour.’” 28 The people of Levi carried out Moses’ instruction. About 3000 people died that day.

29 Moses said; “Today, you have devoted your hand to Lifegiver because each of you was against his son, and against his brother. Today he has given you a blessing.”

30 The next day Moses came to say to the people; “You have committed an insolent sin this time. I’ll go up to Lifegiver perhaps I can atone for your sin.”

31 So Moses returned to Lifegiver and said; “Ah now, I pray! These people have committed an insolent sin and have made themselves deities of gold. 32 Now rather forgive their sin. If not, please erase me off from your record book where you have written.” 33 Then Lifegiver said to Moses; “Whoever has incurred guilt, I’ll erase from my book. 34 Go now and lead and guide the people to where I promised. Look, my Messenger will go before you today to visit and bring punishment on them for their sin.”

35 Then Lifegiver inflicted and struck the people because of what they had done - worshipping a calf that Aaron had made.

Exodus 33

1 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Go up from here, you and the people whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I’ll give it to your posterity.’ 2 I’ll send a messenger ahead of you, and I’ll drive and put away the Canaanite, the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. 3 But I’ll not go up to the land flowing with milk and honey among you because you are obstinate and stubborn people in case I destroy you on the way.” 4 When the people heard and listened to this bad news, they lamented. No person put on their adornments. 5 For Lifegiver had said to Moses; “Say to the people of Israel, ‘You are an obstinate and stubborn people. If I go up with you for a moment, I’ll destroy you. Now strip off your adornments from you so that I may consider what to do to you.” 6 So the people of Israel had stripped and plucked off their adornments by Mount Horeb.

7 Then Moses fetched and took away the tent and pitched it off outside the camp, far off from the camp and called it the tent of assembly. Everyone who happened to seek Lifegiver would go out to the tent of assembly outside the camp. 8 Whenever Moses happened to go out to the tent, each of the people would rise and stand up inside their tent entrance. Every person would watch and follow Moses until he had entered the tent. 9 It would happen that as Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and remain at the entrance of the tent, and he would speak with Moses. 10 When the people saw and watched the pillar of cloud stand at the tent entrance, all the people would rise and worship, everyone in their entrance. 11 Lifegiver would speak to Moses face to face, the way a person speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his servant, Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not leave the tent.

12 Moses then said to Lifegiver; “See, you had said to me; ‘Fetch and bring up these people.’ But you have not revealed and declared the one who you have appointed to accompany me. You called and revealed your name and have proven to be gracious in my sight. 13 Now please, if I’ve found favour in your sight, please reveal to me your way, that I may learn to know you, that I may continue to find favour in your sight, seeing that this nation are your people.” 14 Then he said, “My face will lead you to give you rest.” 15 Then he [Moses] said to him; “If your face does not lead us, do not carry us anywhere from here. 16 How will it be known that your people and I’ve found favour in your sight except you go with us as distinguished people from all the people that are on the face of the Earth?” 17 Then Lifegiver said to Moses; “I’ll indeed do and grant this request which you have expressed because you have found favour in my sight and I appointed you by name. 18 Then he said; “I plead with you, let me see and look at your splendour.” 19 Then he said; “I’ll make all my excellence to pass through before your face and I’ll declare the name of Lifegiver in your presence. I show favour and compassion to whoever I’m gracious to, and I’ll show love and compassion to whomever I’ll show mercy.” 20 But he said; “You’ll not be able to see and look at my face because no human being sees me and live.” 21 Lifegiver said; “There’s a place near me and you’ll stand on a cliff. 22 It will happen while my splendour passes over that I’ll put you in the crevice of the cliff, and I’ll overshadow you with my hand while I pass over. 23 Then I’ll withdraw and remove my hand, and you’ll see a glimpse of my back, but my face will not be seen.

Exodus 34

1 Lifegiver then said to Moses; “Carve two slabs of stone like the first. Then I’ll write on the slabs of stone the words that were in the first slabs which you broke in pieces. 2 Be prepared at dawn and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai. Present yourself there to me on the mountain top. 3 No one is to come up with you. Don't let anyone be seen throughout the entire mountain. Not even the flocks and the herds are to graze towards the front of that mountain.”

4 Then he carved two slabs of stone like the first. Moses then woke up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai as Lifegiver had instructed him. He carried the two stone slabs in his hand.

5 Lifegiver descended in the cloud and stood there with him and mentioned the name of Lifegiver. 6 Lifegiver Then Lifegiver passed through over his face and proclaimed Lifegiver, Lifegiver, the compassionate and gracious Supermights, slow to anger, abundant in kindness and faithfulness, 7 maintaining kindness to thousands, forgiving perversity, rebellion, sin and not exempting from punishment the guilty, returning the perversity of the fathers on the children, and on the grandchildren, on the third generation and the fourth generation.” 8 Then Moses quickly bowed his head down toward the ground and worshipped.

9 Then he said; “If I’ve found favour in your sight, my Lord, will you please go among us though we are an obstinate and stubborn people. Pardon our perversity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance. 10 Then he said; “Look, I’m going to cut an agreement in the sight of all your people. I’ll perform wonderful things such as has never been created in all the Earth in any nation. All the people among you’ll see and look at the work of Lifegiver because it is an astonishing thing that I’ll do with you. 11 Keep and observe whatever I instruct you today. Look, I’ll drive out of your faces and in your presence the Amorite, and the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 12 Be careful in case you cut a treaty with the inhabitants of the land that you are entering in case it becomes a snare in among you. 13 But rather destroy and break down their altars, break their columns and cut down their images 14 because you are not to worship any other deity because Lifegiver’s character is provokable and jealous of Deities. 15 Be careful lest you cut a treaty with the inhabitants of the land, then when they prostitute themselves following their gods and sacrificing to their deities, they invite you to eat some of his sacrifices. 16 Then you take some of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters prostitute themselves following their gods. Your children then prostitute themselves for their gods. 17 You are not to make yourselves melted gods.

18 You are to keep the Festival of Unraised Bread. Seven days you are to eat unraised bread as I instructed you in the time appointed time of the month of Abib [March/April] because, in the month of Abib, you came out from Egypt. 19 Everything that opens the womb first is mine, everything that drops a male firstborn among your livestock, ox and sheep. 20 But the firstborn of a donkey you are to repurchase with a lamb, and if you do not repurchase it, then you are to break its neck. Every firstborn of your sons, you are to repurchase, and none will appear before me empty.

21 During the six days, you are to work, but on the seventh day, you are to rest even during the ploughing season and harvest you are to rest. 22 You are to observe the Feast of Weeks - the first fruits of the wheat harvest and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year. 23 On three occasions in a year, all your males are to appear and present themselves before the master, Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel. 24 Since I’ll drive out the nationalities out of your presence and widen and enlarge your territory, no person will desire and covet your land when you go up to appear and present yourselves before Lifegiver your deity three times in the year.

25 “You must not offer drops of blood of my sacrifice with the leavened thing; not even the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover must remain until the morning.

26 “The first of the first fruits of your land you are to bring to the house of Lifegiver your deity. You are not to cook a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

27 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Write and inscribe these words because, according to these words, I’ve made an agreement with you and with Israel.”

28 So he was there with Lifegiver forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread, and he did not drink water. He wrote on the stone slabs the words of the agreement, the ten commandments.

29 Now when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two attestation slabs in his hand – when he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face glowed while he spoke with him. 30 Then when Aaron and all the people of Israel saw and noticed Moses, the skin of his face glowed. They were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called them over, Aaron and all the community leaders came back to him, and Moses spoke to them. 32 Just after that, all the people of Israel approached, and he instructed them all that Lifegiver had said to him on Mount Sinai.

33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. 34 But when Moses entered the presence of Lifegiver to speak with him, he would remove and put aside the veil until he came out. Then he would come out and tell the people of Israel, the mighty prince, what he had been instructed. 35 When the people of Israel would see the appearance of the face of Moses, because the skin of Moses’ face glowed, Moses would return the veil on his face until he went into to speak with him.

Exodus 35

1 Then Moses gathered and assembled the entire community of the people of Israel and said to them; “These are the words which Lifegiver has instructed you to do. 2 In six days work may be finished but the seventh day will be to you sacred, a sabbath of rest to Lifegiver. Anyone who performs work on it will be executed. 3 You are not to ignite fire in any of your residential places on Sabbath day.”

4 Moses spoke to the entire community of the Israelites, saying; “There’s another matter for which Lifegiver has given orders. He has said; 5 ‘Collect from among you an offering to Lifegiver, whoever is of a willing heart to gather and bring a contribution to Lifegiver, gold, silver, steel, 6 blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, fine linen, goat’s hair, 7 ram skins dyed red, fine leather, acacia wood, 8 olive oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, 9 onyx stones, and other precious stones for installation in the priestly cape and the breast piece.

10 Every skilled person among you must come to design and make all that Lifegiver has instructed and commissioned: 11 the sanctuary habitat, its tent, its covers and boards, its hooks, its slabs, its bolts and bars, its pillars and its sockets and bases 12 the cabinet, and its bars and its sides, the covering lid, and the covering and separating curtain; 13 the table and its legs and all its utensils and the display bread, 14 the lampstand for the light and its accessories, its lamps, and oil for the light, 15 and the altar of incense with its bars, the anointing oil, and the fragrant incense, the hanging for the door at the entrance of the sanctuary habitat, 16 the altar for the sacrifice with its steel grating that is on it, its bars, and all its utensils, the steel basin and its base and stand, 17 the drapes of the surrounding court, its pillars and its sockets, and the curtain for the entrance to the court, 18 tent pegs for the sanctuary habitat and tent pegs for the court and their ropes and cords, 19 the stitched cloths for serving in the sacred sanctuary, the sacred clothes for Aaron the priest, and the clothes for his sons to serve as priests.”

20 Then the entire community of the people of Israel went out from the presence of Moses. 21 Everyone who came had their heart stirred, and everyone whom the spirit made willing came and brought Lifegiver’s contribution to the work of the tent of assembly, and all its service and the holy clothes. 22 They came, men and women, as many as they had willing hearts. They brought bracelets, earrings and rings, golden ornaments and every article of gold. Everyone that came waved an offering of gold to Lifegiver. 23 Every person who was in possession of blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, fine linen, goats’ hair, ram skins dyed red, or fine leather brought them. 24 Everyone that was raising a contribution of silver or bronze came and brought it as an offering to Lifegiver. Also, everyone who found acacia wood for any work of the service brought it. 25 Every woman who was of skilled mind spun with her hands and brought what she had spun; yarn of blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, or fine linen.

26 Then all the women whose heart stirred them up and were skilled twirled and spun goat’s hair. 27 The leaders came and brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted for the priestly cape and the breast piece, 28 and spices and olive oil for the light, for the anointing oil and fragrant incense. 29 The people of Israel brought a willing offering to Lifegiver, every man and woman whose heart inspired and impressed them to bring various items that Lifegiver had instructed them to bring by the direction of Moses.

30 Then Moses said to the people of Israel; “Look, by name Lifegiver has mentioned Bezaleel, son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 31 He has filled him with Supermights’ Spirit in skill, in intelligence, in knowledge, and in all craftsmanship 32 to invent artistic designs made with gold, with silver, and with steel, 33 and in carving and setting stones, in cutting timber to use in various projects. 34 He has also put it in his heart to teach, he and Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 He has filled them with a skilled mind to produce various artistic works, to imagine and mix colours in blue, in purple, in red-dyed fine linen, to weave and to apply it to any use, and to invent artistic designs.

Exodus 36

1 “Then Bezaleel and Holiab and every person with skill, in whom Lifegiver has put skill and knowledge to know how to make and produce various products for use in the sanctuary, will make everything that Lifegiver has instructed.”

2 So Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab and every skilled person in whose heart Lifegiver had put the skill, everyone whose heart stirred them up to come according to the work that must be done. 3 They received from in front of Moses himself all the contributions that the people of Israel had brought for the work and use of the sanctuary project. They still brought to him contributions morning by morning. 4 Then all the skilled people that were doing and producing various elements of the sanctuary each brought persons from their businesses which they were doing.

5 They then spoke to Moses and told him; “The people are bringing much more than enough for the work of the project whatever it was that Lifegiver had instructed them to do.” 6 Moses then gave a message to be announced across the camp, saying; “Let no man and woman make anything more for the contribution of the sanctuary.” So, the people were restrained from bringing. 7 The materials they had were enough to complete the entire project, and there would be leftovers.

8 All the skilled minds did the work and project of the sanctuary habitat. He made the sanctuary habitat with ten drapes of fine woven linen; violet, purple and ruby fabric. With embroidered cherubim designs he made them. 9 The length of each curtain was twelve metres long, and the width of each drape was two metres. All the drapes were one size. 10 They joined and linked five drapes together. Then the other five drapes he joined to each other.

11 They then made blue loops on the seams of one curtain on the edge the sewed set. He did the same thing on the terminal side of the curtain in the second sewed set. 12 They made fifty loops in every drape. They then made fifty loops on the end drape that was in the second sewed set. The loops clasped witlitreeach other. 13 He made fifty golden hooks, joined and linked the drapes to one another with the hooks, so it became one tent.

14 Then he made drapes of goats’ covering on the ground of the sanctuary habitat. He made eleven drapes. 15 The length of one drape was 13 metres, and the width of one drape was two metres. The eleven drapes were of the same size. 16 He joined and coupled five drapes by themselves and six drapes by themselves.

17 Then he made fifty loops on the terminal seam of the drape in the sewed set, and he made fifty loops on the seam of the second sewed set. 18 Then he made fifty steel hooks to join and link the tent together to become unified.

19 Then he made ram’s tanned skin covering for the tent and a fine leather covering on top. 20 Then he made and produced erect acacia wood slabs for the tent. 21 The length of each slab was four metres long and 66 centimetres wide. 22 One slab had two projecting rods of equal distance from one another. This way were all slabs made for the sanctuary habitat. 23 He made and prepared boards for the sanctuary habitat: 20 slabs for the southern side of the southern quarter. 24 He made 40 silver sockets under the 20 slabs – two sockets under one slab for its two projecting rods and two sockets under another slab for his two projecting rods. 25 Then for the second side of the sanctuary habitat on the northern corner: he made 20 slabs 26 and their 40 silver sockets, two rods under one slab and two sockets under another socket. 27 Then for the tent’s westward flanks, he made six slabs. 28 He made two slabs for the corners of the sanctuary habitat ’s flanks. 29 He articulated them at the bottom, and he articulated them together at its top with one ring. This way, he made both of them for the two corners. 30 So there were eight slabs and their sixteen silver rods and two rods under each slab. 31 Then he made acacia wood bars; five for the slabs for one side of the tent 32 and five bars for the slabs of the other side of the sanctuary habitat and five bars for the slabs on the other side of the tent for the westward flanks. 33 He made and brought about the middle bar to run across the slabs from end to end. 34 He overlaid the slabs with gold and made golden rings to place the bars, and he overlaid and covered the bars with gold. 35 Then he produced and made a curtain of blue, purple and deep red yarn and fine woven linen with artistic embroidery designs of cherubim patterns. 36 He then prepared for it four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, and he fastened it on golden hooks and four silver sockets. 37 He then made for the tent entrance blue, purple and deep red woven veil, a tapestry of multi-coloured colours. 38 It had five pillars and hooks. Then he overlaid their heights and their rails with gold. But their five sockets were silver.

Exodus 37

1 Bezalel made the Cabinet of acacia wood; its length was one metre, its width 70 centimetres, and its height 70 centimetres. 2 He overlaid it with pure gold from inside and on the outside and made a golden moulding around it. 3 He fixed four golden rings on its corners; two rings on one side and two rings on the other side. 4 Then he made bars of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. 5 Then he inserted and thrust the bars into the rings on the sides of the Cabinet to lift and carry the Cabinet. 6 Then he made the covering plate of pure gold its length one metre, and its width was 70 centimetres.

7 Then he made two metallic gold cherubim figurines. He made them on the edges of the covering plate. 8 One cherub statuette was from on the edge of the other side and another cherub statuette on the other edge of the other side. Out of the covering plate, he made and trimmed the cherubim figurines on its two sides. 9 The cherubim figurines spread their wings upward and were hedging their wings over the covering plate, facing each other. The faces of the cherubim statuettes were towards the covering plate.

10 He made and finished the acacia wooden table. Its length was 88 centimetres long and 44 centimetres long and 66 centimetres high. 11 He overlaid it with pure gold and made a golden moulding around it. 12 He also made a high palm corbel around it and made a golden moulding around the corbel. 13 He cast four golden rings, distributed and set the rings on the four corners where its four legs were. 14 Juxtaposed with the corbel were the rings, the receptacles for the bars to lift and carry the table. 15 To lift and move the table, he made and finished the bars of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. 16 In pure gold, he also made and finished the utensils which would be spread out on the table - dishes, spoons, basins, jugs, with which to pour.

17 He then made and finished the lampstand of pure metallic gold. He made the lampstand, its base, its stalks, its cups and its calyx are to be from the same material. 18 Six stalks were going out of sideways, three stalks of candlestick from one side and three stalks of candlestick from another side. 19 Three cups shaped like an almond in one stalk, a bulb and a calyx. Three cups almond-shaped in the other stalk, a bulb and a calyx. That way, a bulb and calyx in the six stalks that were coming out of the lampstand. 20 On the lampstand were four almond-shaped cups, its bulbs and calyx 21 with a bud under the first two stalks from it, and a bud under the next two stalks from it, and a bud under the third two stalks from it, according to the six stalks that come out from the lampstand. 22 Their bulbs and their stalks were from the same material of pure metallic gold. 23 He made and finished its seven lamps and its trimmers and its trimmer pans of pure gold. 24 He made it [lampstand] and all its items out of 35 kilograms of pure gold.

25 Then he made and finished the acacia wood incense altar. Its length was 46 centimetres and its width 46 centimetres. It was square. Its height was one metre; with horns on the sides. 26 He overlaid its top and every side and its horns with splendid pure gold. He also made a golden moulding around all around. 27 He also made two golden rings under the moulding on its two beams on its two sides, receptacles of the bars with which to carry it. 28 He made and finished two bars of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

29 He made and produced the sacred anointing oil and the pure fragrant incense a product of a pharmacist.

Exodus 38

1 Then he made and finished an acacia wood altar of incinerated sacrifice. Its length was 2.25 metres long and 2.25 metres wide. The altar was squared, and its height was one and a half metres. 2 He carved the horns on its four corners. Its horns were part of it, and he overlaid it with steel. 3 He made and finished all the utensils of the sacrificial altar, the pans and the spade, the basins and bowls, the fork and trays. All the utensils he made of steel. 4 He also made a grating steel net halfway under its ledge. 5 He then welded four rings for the four ends of the steel grating as receptacles for the bars. 6 He made and finished the bars of acacia wood and overlaid them with steel. 7 He inserted and thrust the bars into the rings on the sides of the altar for carrying it. He made the hollow [of the altar] with slabs.

8 He made and finished the steel washbasin and its steel stand. It could be viewed by the masses when they assembled at the entrance of the tent of assembly.

9 He made and finished the courtyard on the right southern side. The drapes of the courtyard were 50 metres of fine woven linen. 10 Their pillars were twenty, and their steel sockets twenty. The pegs of their pillars and their binders were silver. 11 For the northern side were 50 metres [of drapes]. Their pillars were twenty, and their steel sockets twenty. The pegs of their pillars and their clasps were silver. 12 For the western side were 25 metres of drapes. Their pillars were ten, and their steel sockets ten. The pegs of their pillars and their clasps were silver. 13 For the eastern side, the sunrise side were 25 metres [of drapes]. 14 The drapes of the upper side were 7.5 metres. Their pillars were three, and their sockets were three. 15 For the second side of the courtyard entrance from this side through that side were drapes of 7.5 metres. Their pillars were three, and their sockets were three. 16 All the drapes around the courtyard were fine woven linen. 17 The sockets of the pillars were steel. The pegs of the pillars and their binders were silver, and the overlaying of their tops were silver. All the pillars of the courtyard were galvanised with silver.

18 The drape for the entrance of the courtyard was multi-coloured tapestry - blue, purple and crimson red fine woven linen. Its length was 10 metres, and its height and width were 2.5 metres matching to the drapes of the courtyard. 19 Their pillars were four and their sockets of steel four. Their binders were of silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver clasps. 20 All the pegs of the tent and the courtyard all around were steel.

21 This is the review of the sanctuary habitat report as it was recorded on the basis of the instruction of Moses, effected by Levites under the direction of Ithamar, the son of Aaron, the priest. 22 Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the grandson of Hur of the tribe of Judah made and finished all that Lifegiver instructed Moses to set in order. 23 With him was Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, a manufacturer, a designer, and a weaver in violet, purple and crimson red yarn and fine linen. 24 All the gold that was used for all the things used for the sanctuary, the gold contribution, was 986 kilograms and 8030 grams, according to the weight of the sanctuary. 25 The silver of those of the community that was counted was 3400 kilograms and 19,525 grams, according to the weight of the sanctuary. 26 Fifty cents per head for 603,550, that is, half a rand according to the currency of the sanctuary, for everyone who crossed over to be numbered, from twenty-year-old children and upwards. 27 The 3400 kilograms of silver was poured out and used to cast the sockets of the sanctuary and the sockets of the curtain - a hundred times sockets of hundred times kilograms, a kilogram for a socket. 28 From the 19,525 grams, he made hooks for the pillars and overlaid their tops and galvanised them. 29 The steel contribution was 2625 kilograms and 26,400 grams. 30 He made and finished the sockets for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the steel altar, its steel grating and all the utensil of the altar, 31 the sockets of the courtyard all around, the sockets of the courtyard entrance and all the pegs of the sanctuary habitat and all the pegs of the courtyard all around.

Exodus 39

1 From the blue, purple, and crimson red yarn, they then made woven clothes for serving in the sanctuary. They made and finished the holy clothes for Aaron as Lifegiver instructed and had given orders to Moses. 2 He made and finished the priestly cape of gold, blue, purple, gold and crimson red and fine woven linen. 3 They hammered and beat the gold into, and they cut it into strips to weave into the blue, into the purple, and into the crimson red yarn and the fine linen artistic designs. 4 They then made shoulder pieces for it and attached it by the two joining seams.

5 The artistic priestly cape that was over it was the same design of gold, blue, purple and crimson red fine woven linen, as Lifegiver had instructed and given the orders to Moses. 6 They trimmed and fitted gemstones and cased them in golden brocades, engraved them as seals engraved with the names of Israelites. 7 He then put them on the shoulders of the priestly cape as memorial stones for Israelites, as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses. 8 Then he made and finished the artistic design of the breast piece, like the design of the priestly cape of gold, blue, purple and crimson red fine woven linen. 9 It was square - they made and finished the breast piece as a doubled spread. Its length was doubled over the spread of its width.

10 They completed it with four rows of stones, a row of ruby, topaz, and emerald. This was the first row. 11 The second row had emerald, sapphire and diamond 12 and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; 13 and the fourth row, a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They were cased in gold brocades. 14 On the stones were the names of Israelites, twelve according to their names, engraved as a signature, every man’s name on for the twelve tribes.

15 On the ends of the breast piece, they made braided designs of chains of pure gold. 16 They made two golden brocades and two golden rings. They then put and fixed the two rings on the two corners of the breast piece. 17 They put the two braided golden chains in the two rings on the ends of the breast piece. 18 The two ends of the two braided chains they attached to the two brocades, and they attached them on the shoulder pieces of the priestly cape at the opposite front sides of it.

19 They made two golden rings and fixed them on the two ends of the breast piece, along with its edge, which was on the inner side of the priestly cape. 20 They also made two golden rings and attached them on the bottom of two shoulders of the priestly cape juxtaposed to the front seam just above the waistband of the priestly cape. 21 They tied and bound the breast piece by its rings to the rings of the priestly cape with a blue thread so that it was above the waistband of the priestly cape so that the breast piece would not be loose from above the priestly cape, as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

22 He then made and finished the robe of the priestly robe of woven design - entirely blue. 23 Then there was a collar in the middle of the robe, a corselet collar with a round brim so that it could not be torn.

24 Then they made pomegranate shaped ornaments of the blue, purple, and crimson red coil on the hems. 25 Then they made bells of pure gold and put and set the bells between the pomegranate shaped ornaments around the hem of the robe, all around between the pomegranates shaped ornaments. 26 There was a bell and a pomegranate ornament, a bell and a pomegranate ornament throughout, from every side of the hem of the robe of serving, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

27 They made and finished underwears of fine linen, woven designs, for Aaron and his sons.

28 There were also turbans of fine linen, embellished bonnets of fine linen, and linen trousers of fine woven linen, 29 a waistband of fine woven linen, the blue, purple and crimson red of multi-coloured embroidery, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

30 Then they made and finished the plate of the sacred crown of pure gold and engraved on it an inscription engraved as a signature; HOLY TO Lifegiver. 31 They attached to it a blue string to attach it above the turban, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

32 So all the work of the sanctuary habitat of the tent of the assembly was completed, and the people of Israel had done all that Lifegiver had instructed and given the orders to Moses - they it did exactly. 33 They carried and brought in the sanctuary habitat to Moses, the tent and all its furniture, its hooks, its slabs, its bars and its pillars and its sockets, 34 and the coverings of the red dyed rams’ skins, the covering of fine leather and the covering curtain, 35 the Cabinet of Evidence and its bars and the covering mercy-seat plate, 36 the table and all its accessories and the display bread, 37 the pure lamp stand frame, its lights and lamps to be set in rows, its accessories and the oil for the light, 38 then the golden altar and the anointing oil, the fragrant incense, the curtain for the tent entrance, 39 the steel altar and its steel grating, its bars and all its instruments and accessories, the washbasin and its base and its stand, 40 the drapes of the courtyard and its enclosure, its pillars and its sockets, the curtain for the courtyard covering and entrance, its strings, its pegs and all the items to be used in the sanctuary habitat and the tent of assembly, 41 the sewn clothes for serving in the sacred sanctuary, the sacred clothes for Aaron, the priest, and his sons’ clothes to serve as priests.

42 The people of Israel did and finished all the work according to all Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses. 43 Moses viewed and inspected all the work and saw that they had done it as Lifegiver had instructed - they had done it exactly. So, Moses thanked them.

Exodus 40

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “On the first day of the first month you are to erect and set up the habitat of the tent of assembly. 3 You are to place the Cabinet of Evidence in it and shield the Cabinet with the special curtain. 4 You are to go in and bring in the table. Set and arrange the things that are to be set on it. Go and bring in the lampstand, mount it and install its lamps. 5 You are to set and fasten the golden incense altar in front of the Cabinet of Evidence. Then bring and place the curtain of the sanctuary habitat entrance. 6 You are to take and place the altar of incinerated sacrifice in front of the door of the sanctuary of the tent of assembly. 7 You are to take and place the washbasin between the tent of assembly and the altar, and you are to pour water in it. 8 You are to bring and install the courtyard around. Then bring and install the curtain at the courtyard entrance. 9 You are to receive and use the anointing oil. Anoint and smear the sanctuary habitat and all that is in it. You are to sanctify it and all its utensils. It will become holy. 10 You are to then anoint and smear the altar of the incinerated sacrifice and all its accessories. Sanctify and dedicate the altar, and it will be a sanctified and dedicated altar. 11 You are to anoint and consecrate the washbasin and sanctify its stand. 12 You are to then approach and take Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of assembly and bathe them with water. 13 Then you are to dress and let Aaron put on the holy clothes and anoint and consecrate him so that he may serve me as a priest. 14 You are to bring his sons and dress them in robes. 15 You are to anoint them as you anointed and consecrated their father so that they serve me as priests. Their anointing will come to last as an everlasting priesthood in their generation.”

16 Moses did everything that Lifegiver had instructed him. He did it exactly. 17 It happened in the first month in the second year in the second year, on the first day of the first month, the sanctuary habitat was erected.

18 When Moses erected and established the sanctuary habitat, he fastened and struck its sockets. Then he took and placed its slabs. He then took and fastened its bolts then erected and established its pillars. 19 Then he spread and stretched out the tent on the ground of the sanctuary habitat. Then he extended and fixed the covering of the tent from the upper top to the ground, just as Lifegiver has instructed and given orders to Moses.

20 He took and placed the evidence into the Cabinet. He then took and thrust the bars through the Cabinet. He lifted and placed the covering lid on top of the Cabinet. 21 He brought and carried the Cabinet into the sanctuary habitat. Then he placed and hung the covering curtain, covered and shut it in over the Cabinet of the Evidence, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

22 He then brought and placed the table in the tent of assembly on the northward side of the sanctuary habitat, from outside the curtain. 23 Then he arranged the bread in a pile upon it [the table] before Lifegiver, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

24 Then he took and set up the lampstand in the tent of assembly on the table on the south side of the sanctuary habitat. 25 Then he mounted the lamps before Lifegiver, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses. 26 He took and placed the golden altar in the tent of assembly in front of the curtain. 27 Then he burnt fragrant incense on it, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

28 He took and set up the curtain at the entrance of the sanctuary habitat. 29 He also put the altar of incinerated sacrifice by the entrance of the sanctuary habitat of the tent of assembly. He then offered on it on its behalf the incinerated sacrifice and a grain offering, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses. 30 Then he took and placed the washbasin between the tent of assembly and the altar and poured water in it for washing, 31 and Moses and Aaron and his sons washed and bathed their feet out of it.

32 Whenever they entered the tent of assembly, and whenever they approached the altar, they washed, just as Lifegiver had instructed and given orders to Moses.

33 Then he erected the courtyard around the sanctuary habitat and the altar. Then he took and installed the curtain of the courtyard entrance. So, Moses finished and ended the work.

34 Then the cloud-mass covered and concealed the tent of assembly. Then the splendour of Lifegiver surrounded and filled the sanctuary habitat. 35 Moses was unable to enter in the tent of assembly because the cloud-mass had settled over it and the splendour of Lifegiver had surrounded and filled the sanctuary habitat.

36 Whenever the cloud was lifted from the top of the sanctuary habitat, the people of Israel would travel onward in all their journeys. 37 Whenever the cloud-mass was not lifted, they would not journey on until the day it would be lifted. 38 Since then Lifegiver’s cloud was on the sanctuary habitat during the day, and at night it became fire in the eyes of the entire house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Leviticus 1

Instructions for Meat Sacrifices

1 Then Lifegiver called Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Assembly saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘When anyone that is among you approaches for an offering to Lifegiver, you are to approach and present your offering from the animals from the herd and the flock.

Beef Sacrifice

3 “‘If his offering is an incinerated sacrifice from the herd, he must voluntarily present a healthy male at the entrance of the tent of assembly before Lifegiver. 4 He must lay his hand on the head of the incinerated sacrifice, and it will be accepted to be atoning for him. 5 Then he must slaughter and sacrifice the beef bullock before Lifegiver and the priests. Aaron’s sons will approach and bring the blood, sprinkle and apply the blood on every side of the altar which is at the entrance of the tent of assembly. 6 He is to skin and spread the incinerated sacrifice and cut it up into pieces of meat. 7 The sons of Aaron, the priest, are to ignite the altar-fire. On the altar, they are to arrange pieces of wood over the fire. 8 The priests, Aaron’s sons, are to prepare and arrange the pieces of meat, the head and the suet over the wood that is on the fire that is on the altar. 9 But he must wash the internal organs and its legs with water. Then the priests must burn and sacrifice all of it on the altar to be an ascending delightful fragrant fire sacrifice to Lifegiver.

Sacrifice from the Flock

10 “‘If his offering is from the flocks, from the sheep or the goats for the incinerated sacrifice, he must present a healthy male. 11 He is to slaughter it on the north side of the altar before Lifegiver. Then Aaron’s sons, the priests are to sprinkle and apply its blood on every side of the altar. 12 He must cut it up into pieces. With its head and its suet, the priests are to prepare and arrange it on the pieces of wood which are on the fire which is on the altar. 13 But he must wash the internal organs and the legs with water. The priest is to approach and burn all of it on the altar. It is an ascending delightful fragrant fire sacrifice to Lifegiver.

Sacrifice from Birds

14 “‘If the incinerated sacrifice for his offering to Lifegiver is from flying creatures, he must then bring and present his offering from doves or young pigeons. 15 The priest must approach towards the altar, wring and crack its head off and burn it on the altar. Then its blood is to be drained on the wall of the altar. 16 He must remove and dispose its craw with its feathers and throw it besides the front side of the altar into the rack of the ashes. 17 Then tear open with its wings without separating it. Then the priest must burn it on the altar on the pieces of wood that are on the altar fire. It is an ascending delightful fragrant fire sacrifice to Lifegiver.

Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Assembly saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘When anyone that is among you approaches for an offering to Lifegiver, you are to approach and present your offering from the animals from the herd and the flock.

Beef Sacrifice

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Sacrifice from the Flock

10 “‘If his offering is from the flocks, from the sheep or the goats for the incinerated sacrifice, he must present a healthy male. 11 He is to slaughter it on the north side of the altar before Lifegiver. Then Aaron’s sons, the priests are to sprinkle and apply its blood on every side of the altar. 12 He must cut it up into pieces. With its head and its suet, the priests are to prepare and arrange it on the pieces of wood which are on the fire which is on the altar. 13 But he must wash the internal organs and the legs with water. The priest is to approach and burn all of it on the altar. It is an ascending delightful fragrant fire sacrifice to Lifegiver.

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Leviticus 2

1 “‘When a person presents a meal offering to Lifegiver, his offering will be fine flour. He is to pour oil and put frankincense in it. 2 He must bring it to the priests, Aaron’s sons. From it he must scoop a handful of the fine flour, from its oil, and in addition to that, all its frankincense. Then the priest shall kindle and burn the memorial offering on the altar to be a delightfully smelling fire offering to Lifegiver. 3 The rest of the meal offering belongs to Aaron and his sons set apart and sacred from the fire offering of Lifegiver.

Regulations for Meal Offerings

4 “‘When you present a meal offering baked in an oven it must be unraised cakes of fine flour daubed with oil - unraised think cakes daubed with oil. 5 If your offering is a meal offering on a grill, it must be of fine unleavened flour smeared with oil. 6 Flatten it in pieces and pour oil on it - it is a meal offering. 7 If your offering is a meal offering on a saucepan, it must be fried of fine flour with oil. 8 You are to bring and send in a meal offering that is made from these to Lifegiver. When presented to the priests, he’ll bring it to the altar. 9 Then the priest must take away some of the apportioned offering as its memorial portion and will burn it on the altar as a delightfully smelling fire offering to Lifegiver. 10 The rest of the meal offering belongs to Aaron and his sons set apart and sacred from the fire offering of Lifegiver.

Other Meal Offering Regulations

11 “No meal offering which you present to Lifegiver will be made with leaven because you must never burn any leaven and any honey as a fire offering to Lifegiver. 12 As for offering of the first fruits, you may bring them, but they must never go up on the altar as a delightful aroma. 13 Every offering of the meal offering must be seasoned with salt. You are not to allow the salt of the covenant of Supermights to be missing from your offering. On all your offerings you are present salt.

First fruit Offering Regulations

14 “‘If you present a meal offering of your first fruits to Lifegiver, you are to approach and present the meal offering of your first fruits tender grain ears roasted by fire. 15 You must apply oil on it and throw frankincense on it - it is a meal offering. 16 The priest will kindle and burn the memorial portion from the grain and its oil and all of the frankincense - it is a fire offering to Lifegiver.

Leviticus 3 Instructions for Peace Sacrifices

Instructions for Peace Sacrifices

1 “‘If his offering is a peace sacrifice offering, if he presents an offering from the cattle, whether male or female, he must offer it healthy before Lifegiver. 2 He must lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it at the entrance of the tent of assembly. Aaron’s sons, the priests must sprinkle and apply the blood on every side of the altar. 3 Then he’ll offer some of the sacrifice of peace offering as a fire offering to Lifegiver. The fat that fills and covers the offal and all the fat that is on the inner organs, 4 the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the hips and the caudate lobe of the liver must be plucked away along with the kidneys. 5 Then Aaron’s sons must burn it on the altar in addition to the incinerated sacrifice which is on the pieces of wood that is on the altar fire. It is an ascending delightful fragrant fire sacrifice to Lifegiver.

Instructions for Mutton Peace Sacrifices

6 “‘Then if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering to Lifegiver is from the flock, male or female, he must offer it healthy. 7 If he is presenting a sheep and lamb for his offering, then he is to present it before Lifegiver. 8 He must lay and position his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it before the tent of assembly. Aaron’s sons sprinkle and apply its blood on every side of the altar. 9 Then he must present some of the sacrifice of the peace offering as a fire offering to Lifegiver. The entire rump and its fat must be removed along with the backbone and the fat that fills and covers the internal organs and all the fat that is on the innards. 10 Both kidneys and the fat that is on them and the hips and above the caudate lobe of the liver, along with the kidneys are to be removed. 11 Then the priest must burn it on the altar as a food fire offering to Lifegiver.

Instructions for Peace Sacrifices from Goat

12 “‘If his offering is a goat, then he must offer it before Lifegiver. 13 He must lay and position his hand on its head and slaughter it in front of the tent of assembly. Aaron’s sons will sprinkle and apply its blood on every side of the altar. 14 He must present some of it as his offering as a fire offering to the living Lifegiver. The fat that fills and covers the internal organs and all the fact that is on the innards. 15 The two kidneys and the fat that is on them and that is on the hips, and above the caudate lobe of the liver along with the kidneys must be removed. 16 The priest will burn them on the altar as food of fire offering for a delightful smell. All fat is Lifegiver’s. 17 This is a perpetual prescription for your generations in all your residences - you are to never eat any fat and blood.’”

Leviticus 4 Instructions for Unintentional Sins

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the people of Israel saying; ‘If an individual incurs guilt unintentionally against any of the instructions of Lifegiver about things which must not be violated, he is to do any one of these:

Priest’s Atonement

3 “‘If the anointed priest incurs guilt by sinning the people, then he must present on account of his sin which he has sinned a healthy young beef bullock to Lifegiver for a sin offering. 4 He must bring and lead the bullock through the entrance of the tent of assembly before Lifegiver. He must lay and rest his hand on the bullock’s head. Then he must slaughter and sacrifice the bullock before Lifegiver. 5 The anointed priest must take some of the bullock’s blood and bring it in the tent of assembly. 6 Then the priest must dip and plunge his finger in the blood and spurt some of the blood seven times before Lifegiver before the curtain of the sanctuary. 7 The priest must then apply some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense before Lifegiver which is in the tent of assembly. Then he must spill all the blood of the bullock at the base of the altar of incinerated sacrifice which is at the entrance of the tent of assembly. 8 “‘Then he must lift off all the fat from the bull of the sin offering, the fat that fills and covers the internal organs and all the fat that is on the innards. 9 Both kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the hips, and above the caudate lobe of the liver along with the kidneys are to be removed. 10 Just as it is lifted off from the bullock of the sacrifice of peace offerings, the priest will burn them on the altar of incinerated sacrifice. 11 The skin of the bullock and all its meat, its head, its legs, its internal organs and its dung and offal, 12 he is to carry the whole bullock outside the camp to a clean place of emptying ashes. Then he must burn it on the pieces of wood with fire. It must be incinerated on top of the poured ashes.

Community Atonement

13 “Then if any community of Israel errs and they have acted against certain instructions of Lifegiver which should not be violated, and the matter is hidden from the eyes of the collective, they are held guilty. 14 Then the sin which they have incurred guilt against must be acknowledged. Then the community must present a young beef bullock for the sin and bring it before the tent of assembly. 15 The seniors of the community are to lay and position their hands on the head of the bullock before the living Lifegiver. The bullock must be slaughtered before Lifegiver. 16 The anointed priest is to bring some of the bullock’s blood to the tent of assembly. 17 Then the priest is to dip his finger in some of the blood and spurt it seven times before the living Lifegiver in front of the curtain. 18 He must apply some of the blood on the horns of the altar which is before Lifegiver which is in the tent of assembly. He is to spill all the blood at the base of the altar of the incinerated sacrifice which is at the entrance of the tent of assembly. 19 “‘He is to lift off all its fat from it and burn it on the altar. 20 He is to do with the bullock as he does with the bullock for a sin offering. He is to do this: he must atone on their behalf, and they’ll be forgiven. 21 He must carry and bring the bullock from there outside the camp and incinerate it as he burns the first bullock - it is a sin offering for the community.

Leader’s Atonement

22 “‘When a leader sins and commits sin unintentionally against any one of the instructions of Lifegiver, his Supermights, which should not be violated, and he acknowledges his guilt, 23 or his sin which he has incurred guilt for is made known to him, he is to bring and lead in as his offering, a healthy goat buck. 24 He is to lay his hand on the goat’s head and slaughter it in the place where they slaughter and kill incinerated sacrifice before Lifegiver - it is a sin offering. 25 Then the priest must take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and apply it on the horns of the altar of incinerated sacrifice. He must spill its blood at the base of the altar of incinerated sacrifice. 26 Then he must burn all of its fat on the altar as the fat of the sacrifice of peace offering. The priest must then atone on his behalf for his sin, and he’ll be forgiven.

Individual’s Atonement

27 “‘If any person from the people of the land sins unintentionally and violates any of the instructions of Lifegiver which must not be violated, and acknowledges his guilt, 28 or his sin for which he incurred guilt is made known to him, then he must bring as his offering a healthy goat buck for his sin for which has incurred guilt. 29 He must take hold of it and lay his hand on the head of the sin offering. He must slaughter and sacrifice the sin offering in the place of the incinerated sacrifice. 30 The priest must take some of the blood with his finger and apply it on the horns of the altar of incinerated sacrifice and must spill all its blood at the base of the altar. 31 Then he must remove all of its fat as the fat is removed from the sacrifices of peace offering. Then the priest must burn it on the altar for a delightful fragrance to Lifegiver. Then the priest will atone on his behalf, and his sin will be forgiven. 32 “‘If he brings a lamb for a sin offering, he must bring a healthy ewe. 33 He must take hold of it and lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it as the sin offering in the place where they slaughter and sacrifice the incinerated sacrifice. 34 Then the priest must take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and apply it on the horns of the altar of incinerated sacrifice. He must spill all its blood at the base of the altar. 35 he’ll remove all the fat as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifices of the peace offering. Then the priest will burn it on the altar of fire sacrifices of Lifegiver. Then the priest will atone for the forgiveness of the offender’s sin.

Leviticus 5

1 “‘When a person sins in that he hears a public curse against one who fails to testify and he is a witness (he either saw or knew what had happened), and he does not make it known, then he’ll bear his punishment for iniquity. 2 Or when there is a person who touches anything ceremonially unclean, whether the carcass of an unclean wild animal, or the carcass of an unclean domesticated animal, or the carcass of an unclean creeping thing, even if he did not realize it, but he has become unclean and is guilty; 3 or when he touches human uncleanness with regard to anything by which he can become unclean, even if he did not realize it, but he has later come to know it and is guilty; 4 or when a person swears an oath, speaking thoughtlessly with his lips, whether to do bad or to do good, with regard to anything which the individual might speak thoughtlessly in an oath, even if he did not realize it, but he himself has later come to know it and is guilty with regard to one of these oaths – 5 when an individual becomes guilty with regard to one of these things he must confess how he has sinned, 6 and he must bring his penalty for guilt to Lifegiver for his sin that he has committed, a female from the flock, whether a female sheep or a female goat, for a sin offering. So, the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin. 7 “‘If he cannot afford an animal from the flock, he must bring his penalty for guilt for his sin that he has committed, two turtledoves or two young pigeons, to Lifegiver, one for a sin offering and one for sacrifice. 8 He must bring them to the priest and present first the one that is for a sin offering. The priest must pinch its head at the nape of its neck, but must not sever the head from the body. 9 Then he must sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the wall of the altar, and the remainder of the blood must be squeezed out at the base of the altar – it is a sin offering. 10 The second bird he must make a sacrifice according to the standard regulation. So, the priest will make atonement on behalf of this person for his sin which he has committed, and he’ll be forgiven. 11 “‘If he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he must bring as his offering for his sin which he has committed a tenth of an ephah of choice wheat flour for a sin offering. He must not place olive oil on it, and he must not put frankincense on it, because it is a sin offering. 12 He must bring it to the priest, and the priest must scoop out from it a handful as its memorial portion and offer it up in smoke on the altar on top of the other gifts of Lifegiver – it is a sin offering. 13 So the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin which he has committed by doing one of these things, and he’ll be forgiven. The remainder of the offering will belong to the priest like the grain offering.’” 14 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 15 “When a person commits a trespass and sins by straying unintentionally from the regulations about Lifegiver’s sacred things, then he must bring his penalty for guilt to Lifegiver, a flawless ram from the flock, convertible into silver shekels according to the standard of the sanctuary shekel, for a guilt offering. 16 And whatever sacred thing he violated he must restore and must add one fifth to it and give it to the priest. So, the priest will make atonement on his behalf with the guilt offering ram, and he’ll be forgiven.” 17 “If a person sins and violates any of Lifegiver’s commandments which must not be violated (although he did not know it at the time, but later realizes he is guilty), then he’ll bear his punishment for iniquity 18 and must bring a flawless ram from the flock, convertible into silver shekels, for a guilt offering to the priest. So, the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his error which he committed (although he himself had not known it) and he’ll be forgiven. 19 It is a guilt offering; he was surely guilty before Lifegiver.”

Leviticus 6

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “When a person sins and commits a trespass against Lifegiver by deceiving his fellow citizen in regard to something held in trust, or a pledge, or something stolen, or by extorting something from his fellow citizen, 3 or has found something lost and denies it and swears falsely concerning any one of the things that someone might do to sin – 4 when it happens that he sins and he is found guilty, then he must return whatever he had stolen, or whatever he had extorted, or the thing that he had held in trust, or the lost thing that he had found, 5 or anything about which he swears falsely. He must restore it in full and add one fifth to it; he must give it to its owner when he is found guilty. 6 Then he must bring his guilt offering to Lifegiver, a flawless ram from the flock, convertible into silver shekels, for a guilt offering to the priest. 7 So the priest will make atonement on his behalf before Lifegiver, and he’ll be forgiven for whatever he has done to become guilty.” 8 (6:1) Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 9 “Command Aaron and his sons, ‘This is the law of the sacrifice. The sacrifice is to remain on the hearth on the altar all night until morning, and the fire of the altar must be kept burning on it. 10 Then the priest must put on his linen robe and must put linen leggings over his bare flesh, and he must take up the fatty ashes of the sacrifice that the fire consumed on the altar, and he must place them beside the altar. 11 Then he must take off his clothes and put on other clothes, and he must bring the fatty ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place, 12 but the fire which is on the altar must be kept burning on it. It must not be extinguished. So, the priest must kindle wood on it morning by morning, and he must arrange the sacrifice on it and offer the fat of the peace offering up in smoke on it. 13 A continual fire must be kept burning on the altar. It must not be extinguished. 14 “‘This is the law of the grain offering. The sons of Aaron are to present it before Lifegiver in front of the altar, 15 and the priest must take up with his hand some of the choice wheat flour of the grain offering and some of its olive oil, and all of the frankincense that is on the grain offering, and he must offer its memorial portion up in smoke on the altar as a soothing aroma to Lifegiver. 16 Aaron and his sons are to eat what is left over from it. It must be eaten unraised in a sacred place; they are to eat it in the courtyard of the Meeting Tent. 17 It must not be baked with yeast. I’ve given it as their portion from my gifts. It is most holy, like the sin offering and the guilt offering. 18 Every male among the sons of Aaron may eat it. It is a perpetual allotted portion throughout your generations from the gifts of Lifegiver. Anyone who touches these gifts must be holy.’” 19 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 20 “This is the offering of Aaron and his sons which they must present to Lifegiver on the day when he is anointed: a tenth of an ephah of choice wheat flour as a continual grain offering, half of it in the morning and half of it in the evening. 21 It must be made with olive oil on a griddle, and you must bring it well soaked, so you must present a grain offering of broken pieces as a soothing aroma to Lifegiver. 22 The high priest who succeeds him from among his sons must do it. It is a perpetual statute; it must be offered up in smoke as a whole offering to Lifegiver. 23 Every grain offering of a priest must be a whole offering; it must not be eaten.” 24 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 25 “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is the law of the sin offering. In the place where the sacrifice is slaughtered the sin offering must be slaughtered before Lifegiver. It is most holy. 26 The priest who offers it for sin is to eat it. It must be eaten in a sacred place, in the court of the Meeting Tent. 27 Anyone who touches its meat must be holy, and whoever spatters some of its blood on a garment, you must wash whatever he spatters it on in a sacred place. 28 Any clay vessel it is boiled in must be broken, and if it was boiled in a bronze vessel, then that vessel must be rubbed out and rinsed in water. 29 Any male among the priests may eat it. It is most holy. 30 But any sin offering from which some of its blood is brought into the Meeting Tent to make atonement in the sanctuary must not be eaten. It must be burned up in the fire.

Leviticus 7

1 “‘This is the law of the guilt offering. It is most holy. 2 In the place where they slaughter the sacrifice they must slaughter the guilt offering, and the officiating priest must splash the blood against the altar’s sides. 3 Then the one making the offering must present all its fat: the fatty tail, the fat covering the entrails, 4 the two kidneys and the fat on their sinews, and the protruding lobe on the liver (which he must remove along with the kidneys). 5 Then the priest must offer them up in smoke on the altar as a gift to Lifegiver. It is a guilt offering. 6 Any male among the priests may eat it. It must be eaten in a sacred place. It is most holy. 7 The law is the same for the sin offering and the guilt offering; it belongs to the priest who makes atonement with it. 8 “‘As for the priest who presents someone’s sacrifice, the hide of that sacrifice which he presented belongs to him. 9 Every grain offering which is baked in the oven or made in the pan or on the grill belongs to the priest who presented it. 10 Every grain offering, whether mixed with olive oil or dry, belongs to all the sons of Aaron, each one alike. 11 “‘This is the law of the peace offering sacrifice which he is to present to Lifegiver. 12 If he presents it on account of thanksgiving, along with the thank offering sacrifice, he must present unraised loaves mixed with olive oil, unraised wafers smeared with olive oil, and well soaked ring-shaped loaves made of choice wheat flour mixed with olive oil. 13 He must present this grain offering in addition to ring-shaped loaves of leavened bread which regularly accompany the sacrifice of his thanksgiving peace offering. 14 He must present one of each kind of grain offering as a contribution offering to Lifegiver; it belongs to the priest who splashes the blood of the peace offering. 15 The meat of his thanksgiving peace offering must be eaten on the day of his offering; he must not set any of it aside until morning. 16 “‘If his offering is a votive or freewill sacrifice, it may be eaten on the day he presents his sacrifice, and also the leftovers from it may be eaten on the next day, 17 but the leftovers from the meat of the sacrifice must be burned up in the fire on the third day. 18 If some of the meat of his peace offering sacrifice is ever eaten on the third day it will not be accepted; it will not be accounted to the one who presented it, since it is spoiled, and the person who eats from it will bear his punishment for iniquity. 19 The meat which touches anything ceremonially unclean must not be eaten; it must be burned up in the fire. As for ceremonially clean meat, everyone who is ceremonially clean may eat the meat. 20 The person who eats meat from the peace offering sacrifice which belongs to Lifegiver while his uncleanness persists will be cut off from his people. 21 When a person touches anything unclean (whether human uncleanness, or an unclean animal, or an unclean detestable creature) and eats some of the meat of the peace offering sacrifice which belongs to Lifegiver, that person will be cut off from his people.’” 22 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 23 “Tell the Israelites, ‘You must not eat any fat of an ox, sheep, or goat. 24 Moreover, the fat of an animal that has died of natural causes and the fat of an animal torn by beasts may be used for any other purpose, but you must certainly never eat it. 25 If anyone eats fat from the animal from which he presents a gift to Lifegiver, that person will be cut off from his people. 26 And you must not eat any blood of the birds or the domesticated land animals in any of the places where you live. 27 Any person who eats any blood – that person will be cut off from his people.’” 28 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 29 “Tell the Israelites, ‘The one who presents his peace offering sacrifice to Lifegiver must bring his offering to Lifegiver from his peace offering sacrifice. 30 With his own hands, he must bring Lifegiver’s gifts. He must bring the fat with the breast to wave the breast as a wave offering before Lifegiver, 31 and the priest must offer the fat up in smoke on the altar, but the breast will belong to Aaron and his sons. 32 The right thigh you must give as a contribution offering to the priest from your peace offering sacrifices. 33 The one from Aaron’s sons who presents the blood of the peace offering and fat will have the right thigh as his share, 34 for the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution offering I’ve taken from the Israelites out of their peace offering sacrifices and have given them to Aaron, the priest and to his sons from the people of Israel as a perpetual allotted portion.’” 35 This is the allotment of Aaron and the allotment of his sons from Lifegiver’s gifts on the day Moses presented them to serve as priests to Lifegiver. 36 This is what Lifegiver commanded to give to them from the Israelites on the day Moses anointed them – a perpetual allotted portion throughout their generations. 37 This is the law for the sacrifice, the grain offering, the sin offering, the guilt offering, the ordination offering, and the peace offering sacrifice, 38 which Lifegiver commanded Moses on Mount Sinai on the day he commanded the Israelites to present their offerings to Lifegiver in the desert of Sinai.

Leviticus 8

1 Then Lifegiver said to Moses: 2 “Take and bring Aaron together with his sons, the garments, the anointing oil, the sin sacrifice bull, the two rams and the basket of Unraised Bread, 3 and gather the entire community at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.” 4 So Moses did just as Lifegiver instructed him, and the community gathered at the entrance of the Meeting Tent. 5 Then Moses spoke to the community: “This is what Lifegiver has directed to be done.” 6 Moses then brought Aaron and his sons near the front, and bathed them with water. 7 Then he clothed Aaron with the vest, wrapped the sash around him and clothed him with the robe. Then, he put the ephod on him and placed on him the decorated band of the ephod, and fastened the ephod tightly on him with the band. 8 He then put the breast piece on him and fixed the Urim and Thummim into the breast piece. 9 Finally, he placed the turban on his head and attached the gold plate, the sacred diadem, on the front of the turban just as Lifegiver had directed Moses. 10 Moses then scooped the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything inside it. This way he consecrated them. 11 Next, he applied some of the oil on the altar seven times, and this is how he anointed the altar, all its appliances and the wash basin together with its stand, to consecrate them. 12 Then he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head, and anointed him to consecrate him. 13 Moses also brought Aaron’s sons forward, clothed them with tunics, wrapped sashes around them, and wrapped headbands on them just as Lifegiver had commanded Moses. 14 Then he brought the sin sacrifice bull near, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the sin sacrifice bull, 15 and he slaughtered it. Moses then took the blood and applied it all around on the horns of the altar with his finger and decontaminated the altar. Then he emptied the rest of the blood at the base of the altar and so consecrated it to make atonement on it. 16 Then he removed all the fat from the entrails, the protruding lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and their fat. Then Moses offered it all up in smoke on the altar, 17 but the rest of the bull; its hide, its meat, and its dung – he totally incinerated outside the camp just as Lifegiver had commanded Moses. 18 Then he presented the sacrificial ram. Aaron together with his sons then laid their hands on the head of the ram, 19 and he slaughtered it. Then Moses splashed the blood against the altar’s sides. 20 Then he cut the ram into pieces, and Moses offered the head, the pieces, and the fat in smoke, 21 but the entrails and the legs he washed with water. Moses offered the entire ram up in smoke on the altar – it was a sacrifice for a soothing aroma, a gift to Lifegiver, just as Lifegiver had commanded Moses. 22 Then he presented the second ram as the ram of installation. Aaron and his sons then laid their hands on the ram's head, 23 and he slaughtered it. Then Moses took some of its blood and applied it on Aaron’s right earlobe, on his right-hand thumb and on his right foot's big toe. 24 Next, he brought Aaron’s sons forward. Moses applied some of the blood on their right earlobes, on their right thumbs and on the big toes of their right feet. Moses then splashed the rest of the blood against the altar’s sides. 25 Then he removed the fatty portions - the fatty tail, all the fat on the entrails, the protruding lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and their fat and the right thigh. 26 Then from the basket of Unraised Bread that was before Lifegiver he picked up one unraised loaf, one bread loaf mixed with olive oil and one wafer, and he placed them over the fatty portions and on the right thigh. 27 He then put all of them on Aaron's and his sons' palms, who waved them as a wave offering before Lifegiver. 28 Then Moses removed them from their palms and offered them up in smoke on the altar on top of the sacrifice – they were an installation offering for a soothing aroma; it was a gift to Lifegiver. 29 Finally, Moses took the breast, and he waved it as a wave offering before Lifegiver from the ram of installation. It was Moses’ share just as Lifegiver had directed Moses. 30 Moses then took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that was on the altar, and he sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, as well as on his sons and his sons’ garments with him. This way he dedicated Aaron, his garments, and his sons and his sons’ garments with him.

31 Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons, “Boil the meat at the entrance of the Meeting Tent, and you must eat it there together with the bread, which is in the installation offering basket, just as I’ve directed, saying, ‘Aaron and his sons must eat it,’ 32 but the rest of the meat and the bread you must burn with fire. 33 Then you must not leave the entrance of the Meeting Tent for seven days until the day when your days of installation are over, because you must be inaugurated over a seven-day period. 34 What has been done on this day Lifegiver has commanded to be done to make atonement for you. 35 You must remain at the entrance of the Meeting Tent day and night for seven days and keep close watch and observe Lifegiver so that you do not die. This is what I was instructed.” 36 So Aaron and his sons did all the things Lifegiver had directed through Moses.

Leviticus 9

1 On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel, 2 and said to Aaron, “Take for yourself a bull calf for a sin offering and a ram for a sacrifice, both flawless, and present them before Lifegiver. 3 Then tell the Israelites: ‘Take a male goat for a sin offering and a calf and lamb, both a year old and flawless, for a sacrifice, 4 and an ox and a ram for peace offerings to sacrifice before Lifegiver, and a grain offering mixed with olive oil, for today Lifegiver is going to appear to you.’” 5 So they took what Moses had commanded to the front of the Meeting Tent and the whole congregation presented them and stood before Lifegiver. 6 Then Moses said, “This is what Lifegiver has commanded you to do so that the glory of Lifegiver may appear to you.” 7 Moses then said to Aaron, “Approach the altar and make your sin offering and your sacrifice, and make atonement on behalf of yourself and on behalf of the people; and also make the people’s offering and make atonement on behalf of them just as Lifegiver has commanded.” 8 So Aaron approached the altar and slaughtered the sin offering calf which was for himself. 9 Then Aaron’s sons presented the blood to him and he dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar, and the rest of the blood he poured out at the base of the altar. 10 The fat and the kidneys and the protruding lobe of the liver from the sin offering he offered up in smoke on the altar just as Lifegiver had commanded Moses, 11 but the flesh and the hide he completely burned up outside the camp. 12 He then slaughtered the sacrifice, and his sons handed the blood to him and he splashed it against the altar’s sides. 13 The sacrifice itself they handed to him by its parts, including the head, and he offered them up in smoke on the altar, 14 and he washed the entrails and the legs and offered them up in smoke on top of the sacrifice on the altar. 15 Then he presented the people’s offering. He took the sin offering male goat, which was for the people, slaughtered it, and performed a decontamination rite with it like the first one. 16 He then presented the sacrifice, and did it according to the standard regulation. 17 Next he presented the grain offering, filled his hand with some of it, and offered it up in smoke on the altar in addition to the morning sacrifice. 18 Then he slaughtered the ox and the ram – the peace offering sacrifices which were for the people – and Aaron’s sons handed the blood to him and he splashed it against the altar’s sides. 19 As for the fat parts from the ox and from the ram (the fatty tail, the fat covering the entrails, the kidneys, and the protruding lobe of the liver), 20 they set those on the breasts and he offered the fat parts up in smoke on the altar. 21 Finally Aaron waved the breasts and the right thigh as a wave offering before Lifegiver just as Moses had commanded. 22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them and descended from making the sin offering, the sacrifice, and the peace offering. 23 Moses and Aaron then entered into the Meeting Tent. When they came out, they blessed the people, and the glory of Lifegiver appeared to all the people. 24 Then fire went out from the presence of Lifegiver and consumed the sacrifice and the fat parts on the altar, and all the people saw it, so they shouted loudly and fell down with their faces to the ground.

Leviticus 10

1 Then Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, each took his fire pan and put fire in it, set incense on it, and presented strange fire before Lifegiver, which he had not commanded them to do. 2 So fire went out from the presence of Lifegiver and consumed them so that they died before Lifegiver. 3 Moses then said to Aaron, “This is what Lifegiver spoke: ‘Among the ones close to me I’ll show myself holy, and in the presence of all the people I’ll be honored.’” So, Aaron kept silent. 4 Moses then called to Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel, Aaron’s uncle, and said to them, “Come near, carry your brothers away from the front of the sanctuary to a place outside the camp.” 5 So they came near and carried them away in their tunics to a place outside the camp just as Moses had spoken. 6 Then Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his other two sons, “Do not dishevel the hair of your heads and do not tear your garments, so that you do not die and so that wrath does not come on the whole congregation. Your brothers, all the house of Israel, are to mourn the burning which Lifegiver has caused, 7 but you must not go out from the entrance of the Meeting Tent lest you die, for Lifegiver’s anointing oil is on you.” So, they acted according to the word of Moses. 8 Then Lifegiver spoke to Aaron, 9 “Do not drink wine or strong drink, you and your sons with you, when you enter into the Meeting Tent, so that you do not die, which is a perpetual statute throughout your generations, 10 as well as to distinguish between the sacred and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, 11 and to teach the Israelites all the principles that Lifegiver has spoken to them through Moses.” 12 Then Moses spoke to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his remaining sons, “Take the grain offering which remains from the gifts of Lifegiver and eat it unraised beside the altar, for it is most holy. 13 You must eat it in a sacred place because it is your allotted portion and the allotted portion of your sons from the gifts of Lifegiver, for this is what I’ve been commanded. 14 Also, the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution offering you must eat in a ceremonially clean place, you and your sons and daughters with you, for they have been given as your allotted portion and the allotted portion of your sons from the peace offering sacrifices of the Israelites. 15 The thigh of the contribution offering and the breast of the wave offering they must bring in addition to the gifts of the fat parts to wave them as a wave offering before Lifegiver, and it will belong to you and your sons with you for a perpetual statute just as Lifegiver has commanded.” 16 Later Moses sought diligently for the sin offering male goat, but it had actually been burnt. So, he became angry at Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s remaining sons, saying, 17 “Why did you not eat the sin offering in the sanctuary? For it is most sacred and he gave it to you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement on their behalf before Lifegiver. 18 See here! Its blood was not brought into the sacred place within! You should certainly have eaten it in the sanctuary just as I commanded!” 19 But Aaron spoke to Moses, “See here! Just today they presented their sin offering and their sacrifice before Lifegiver and such things as these have happened to me! If I had eaten a sin offering today would Lifegiver have been pleased?” 20 When Moses heard this explanation, he was satisfied.

Leviticus 11

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, 2 “Tell the Israelites: ‘This is the kind of creature you may eat from among all the animals that are on the land. 3 You may eat any among the animals that has a divided hoof (the hooves are completely split in two) and that also chews the cud. 4 However, you must not eat these from among those that chew the cud and have divided hooves: The camel is unclean to you because it chews the cud even though its hoof is not divided. 5 The rock badger is unclean to you because it chews the cud even though its hoof is not divided. 6 The hare is unclean to you because it chews the cud even though its hoof is not divided. 7 The pig is unclean to you because its hoof is divided (the hoof is completely split in two), even though it does not chew the cud. 8 You must not eat from their meat and you must not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you. 9 “‘These you can eat from all creatures that are in the water: Any creatures in the water that have both fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the streams, you may eat. 10 But any creatures that do not have both fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the streams, from all the swarming things of the water and from all the living creatures that are in the water, are detestable to you. 11 Since they are detestable to you, you must not eat their meat and their carcass you must detest. 12 Any creature in the water that does not have both fins and scales is detestable to you. 13 “‘These you are to detest from among the birds – they must not be eaten, because they are detestable: the griffon vulture, the bearded vulture, the black vulture, 14 the kite, the buzzard of any kind, 15 every kind of crow, 16 the eagle owl, the short-eared owl, the long-eared owl, the hawk of any kind, 17 the little owl, the cormorant, the screech owl, 18 the white owl, the scops owl, the osprey, 19 the stork, the heron of any kind, the hoopoe, and the bat. 20 “‘Every winged swarming thing that walks on all fours is detestable to you. 21 However, this you may eat from all the winged swarming things that walk on all fours, which have jointed legs to hop with on the land. 22 These you may eat from them: the locust of any kind, the bald locust of any kind, the cricket of any kind, the grasshopper of any kind. 23 But any other winged swarming thing that has four legs is detestable to you. 24 “‘By these you defile yourselves; anyone who touches their carcass will be unclean until the evening, 25 and anyone who carries their carcass must wash his clothes and will be unclean until the evening. 26 “‘All animals that divide the hoof but it is not completely split in two and do not chew the cud are unclean to you; anyone who touches them becomes unclean. 27 All that walk on their paws among all the creatures that walk on all fours are unclean to you. Anyone who touches their carcass will be unclean until the evening, 28 and the one who carries their carcass must wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening; they are unclean to you. 29 “‘Now this is what is unclean to you among the swarming things that swarm on the land: the rat, the mouse, the large lizard of any kind, 30 the Mediterranean gecko, the spotted lizard, the wall gecko, the skink, and the chameleon. 31 These are the ones that are unclean to you among all the swarming things. Anyone who touches them when they die will be unclean until evening. 32 Also, anything they fall on when they die will become unclean – any wood vessel or garment or article of leather or sackcloth. Any such vessel with which work is done must be immersed in water and will be unclean until the evening. Then it will become clean. 33 As for any clay vessel they fall into, everything in it will become unclean and you must break it. 34 Any food that may be eaten which becomes soaked with water will become unclean. Anything drinkable in any such vessel will become unclean. 35 Anything their carcass may fall on will become unclean. An oven or small stove must be smashed to pieces; they are unclean, and they’ll stay unclean to you. 36 However, a spring or a cistern which collects water will be clean, but one who touches their carcass will be unclean. 37 Now, if such a carcass falls on any sowing seed which is to be sown, it is clean, 38 but if water is put on the seed and such a carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you. 39 “‘Now if an animal that you may eat dies, whoever touches its carcass will be unclean until the evening. 40 One who eats from its carcass must wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening, and whoever carries its carcass must wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening. 41 Every swarming thing that swarms on the land is detestable; it must not be eaten. 42 You must not eat anything that crawls on its belly or anything that walks on all fours or on any number of legs of all the swarming things that swarm on the land, because they are detestable. 43 Do not make yourselves detestable by any of the swarming things. You must not defile yourselves by them and become unclean by them, 44 for I’m Lifegiver your deity and you are to sanctify yourselves and be sacred because I’m holy. You must not defile yourselves by any of the swarming things that creep on the ground, 45 for I’m Lifegiver who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your deity, and you are to be sacred because I’m holy. 46 This is the law of the land animals, the birds, all the living creatures that move in the water, and all the creatures that swarm on the land, 47 to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between the living creatures that may be eaten and the living creatures that must not be eaten.’”

Leviticus 12

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Tell the Israelites, ‘When a woman produces offspring and bears a male child, she’ll be unclean seven days, as she is unclean during the days of her menstruation. 3 On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin must be circumcised. 4 Then she’ll remain thirty-three days in blood purity. She must not touch anything sacred and she must not enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled. 5 If she bears a female child, she’ll be impure fourteen days as during her menstrual flow, and she’ll remain sixty-six days in blood purity. 6 “‘When the days of her purification are completed for a son or for a daughter, she must bring a one-year-old lamb for a sacrifice and a young pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering to the entrance of the Meeting Tent, to the priest. 7 The priest is to present it before Lifegiver and make atonement on her behalf, and she’ll be clean from her flow of blood. This is the law of the one who bears a child, for the male or the female child. 8 If she cannot afford a sheep, then she must take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a sacrifice and one for a sin offering, and the priest is to make atonement on her behalf, and she’ll be clean.’”

Leviticus 13

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 2 “When someone has a swelling or a scab or a bright spot on the skin of his body that may become a diseased infection, he must be brought to Aaron the priest or one of his sons, the priests. 3 The priest must then examine the infection on the skin of the body, and if the hair in the infection has turned white and the infection appears to be deeper than the skin of the body, then it is a diseased infection, so when the priest examines it he must pronounce the person unclean. 4 “If it is a white bright spot on the skin of his body, but it does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and the hair has not turned white, then the priest is to quarantine the person with the infection for seven days. 5 The priest must then examine it on the seventh day, and if, as far as he can see, the infection has stayed the same and has not spread on the skin, then the priest is to quarantine the person for another seven days. 6 The priest must then examine it again on the seventh day, and if the infection has faded and has not spread on the skin, then the priest is to pronounce the person clean. It is a scab, so he must wash his clothes and be clean. 7 If, however, the scab is spreading further on the skin after he has shown himself to the priest for his purification, then he must show himself to the priest a second time. 8 The priest must then examine it, and if the scab has spread on the skin, then the priest is to pronounce the person unclean. It is a disease. 9 “When someone has a diseased infection, he must be brought to the priest. 10 The priest will then examine it, and if a white swelling is on the skin, it has turned the hair white, and there is raw flesh in the swelling, 11 it is a chronic disease on the skin of his body, so the priest is to pronounce him unclean. The priest must not merely quarantine him, for he is unclean. 12 If, however, the disease breaks out on the skin so that the disease covers all the skin of the person with the infection from his head to his feet, as far as the priest can see, 13 the priest must then examine it, and if the disease covers his whole body, he is to pronounce the person with the infection clean. He has turned all white, so he is clean. 14 But whenever raw flesh appears in it he’ll be unclean, 15 so the priest is to examine the raw flesh and pronounce him unclean – it is diseased. 16 If, however, the raw flesh once again turns white, then he must come to the priest. 17 The priest will then examine it, and if the infection has turned white, the priest is to pronounce the person with the infection clean – he is clean. 18 “When someone’s body has a boil on its skin and it heals, 19 and in the place of the boil there is a white swelling or a reddish white bright spot, he must show himself to the priest. 20 The priest will then examine it, and if it appears to be deeper than the skin and its hair has turned white, then the priest is to pronounce the person unclean. It is a diseased infection that has broken out in the boil. 21 If, however, the priest examines it, and there is no white hair in it, it is not deeper than the skin, and it has faded, then the priest is to quarantine him for seven days. 22 If it is spreading further on the skin, then the priest is to pronounce him unclean. It is an infection. 23 But if the bright spot stays in its place and has not spread, it is the scar of the boil, so the priest is to pronounce him clean. 24 “When a body has a burn on its skin and the raw area of the burn becomes a reddish white or white bright spot, 25 the priest must examine it, and if the hair has turned white in the bright spot and it appears to be deeper than the skin, it is a disease that has broken out in the burn. The priest is to pronounce the person unclean. It is a diseased infection. 26 If, however, the priest examines it and there is no white hair in the bright spot, it is not deeper than the skin, and it has faded, then the priest is to quarantine him for seven days. 27 The priest must then examine it on the seventh day, and if it is spreading further on the skin, then the priest is to pronounce him unclean. It is a diseased infection. 28 But if the bright spot stays in its place, has not spread on the skin, and it has faded, then it is the swelling of the burn, so the priest is to pronounce him clean, because it is the scar of the burn. 29 “When a man or a woman has an infection on the head or in the beard, 30 the priest is to examine the infection, and if it appears to be deeper than the skin and the hair in it is reddish yellow and thin, then the priest is to pronounce the person unclean. It is scall, a disease of the head or the beard. 31 But if the priest examines the scall infection and it does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and there is no black hair in it, then the priest is to quarantine the person with the scall infection for seven days. 32 The priest must then examine the infection on the seventh day, and if the scall has not spread, there is no reddish yellow hair in it, and the scall does not appear to be deeper than the skin, 33 then the individual is to shave himself, but he must not shave the area affected by the scall, and the priest is to quarantine the person with the scall for another seven days. 34 The priest must then examine the scall on the seventh day, and if the scall has not spread on the skin and it does not appear to be deeper than the skin, then the priest is to pronounce him clean. So, he is to wash his clothes and be clean. 35 If, however, the scall spreads further on the skin after his purification, 36 then the priest is to examine it, and if the scall has spread on the skin the priest is not to search further for reddish yellow hair. The person is unclean. 37 If, as far as the priest can see, the scall has stayed the same and black hair has sprouted in it, the scall has been healed; the person is clean. So, the priest is to pronounce him clean. 38 “When a man or a woman has bright spots – white bright spots – on the skin of their body, 39 the priest is to examine them, and if the bright spots on the skin of their body are faded white, it is a harmless rash that has broken out on the skin. The person is clean. 40 “When a man’s head is bare so that he is balding in back, he is clean. 41 If his head is bare on the forehead so that he is balding in front, he is clean. 42 But if there is a reddish white infection in the back or front bald area, it is a disease breaking out in his back or front bald area. 43 The priest is to examine it, and if the swelling of the infection is reddish white in the back or front bald area like the appearance of a disease on the skin of the body, 44 he is a diseased man. He is unclean. The priest must surely pronounce him unclean because of his infection on his head. 45 “As for the diseased person who has the infection, his clothes must be torn, the hair of his head must be unbound, he must cover his mustache, and he must call out ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ 46 The whole time he has the infection he’ll be continually unclean. He must live in isolation, and his place of residence must be outside the camp. 47 “When a garment has a diseased infection in it, whether a wool or linen garment, 48 or in the warp or woof of the linen or the wool, or in leather or anything made of leather, 49 if the infection in the garment or leather or warp or woof or any article of leather is yellowish green or reddish, it is a diseased infection and it must be shown to the priest. 50 The priest is to examine and then quarantine the article with the infection for seven days. 51 He must then examine the infection on the seventh day. If the infection has spread in the garment, or in the warp, or in the woof, or in the leather – whatever the article into which the leather was made – the infection is a malignant disease. It is unclean. 52 He must burn the garment or the warp or the woof, whether wool or linen, or any article of leather which has the infection in it. Because it is a malignant disease it must be burned up in the fire. 53 But if the priest examines it and the infection has not spread in the garment or in the warp or in the woof or in any article of leather, 54 the priest is to command that they wash whatever has the infection and quarantine it for another seven days. 55 The priest must then examine it after the infection has been washed out, and if the infection has not changed its appearance even though the infection has not spread, it is unclean. You must burn it up in the fire. It is a fungus, whether on the back side or front side of the article. 56 But if the priest has examined it and the infection has faded after it has been washed, he is to tear it out of the garment or the leather or the warp or the woof. 57 Then if it still appears again in the garment or the warp or the woof, or in any article of leather, it is an outbreak. Whatever has the infection in it you must burn up in the fire. 58 But the garment or the warp or the woof or any article of leather which you wash and infection disappears from it is to be washed a second time and it will be clean.” 59 This is the law of the diseased infection in the garment of wool or linen, or the warp or woof, or any article of leather, for pronouncing it clean or unclean.

Leviticus 14

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “This is the law of the diseased person on the day of his purification, when he is brought to the priest. 3 The priest is to go outside the camp and examine the infection. If the infection of the diseased person has been healed, 4 then the priest will command that two live clean birds, a piece of cedar wood, a scrap of crimson fabric, and some twigs of hyssop be taken up for the one being cleansed. 5 The priest will then command that one bird be slaughtered into a clay vessel over fresh water. 6 Then he is to take the live bird along with the piece of cedar wood, the scrap of crimson fabric, and the twigs of hyssop, and he is to dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird slaughtered over the fresh water, 7 and sprinkle it seven times on the one being cleansed from the disease, pronounce him clean, and send the live bird away over the open countryside. 8 “The one being cleansed must then wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and bathe in water, and so be clean. Then afterward he may enter the camp, but he must live outside his tent seven days. 9 When the seventh day comes he must shave all his hair – his head, his beard, his eyebrows, all his hair – and he must wash his clothes, bathe his body in water, and so be clean. 10 “On the eighth day he must take two flawless male lambs, one flawless yearling female lamb, three-tenths of an ephah of choice wheat flour as a grain offering mixed with olive oil, and one log of olive oil, 11 and the priest who pronounces him clean will have the man who is being cleansed stand along with these offerings before Lifegiver at the entrance of the Meeting Tent. 12 “The priest is to take one male lamb and present it for a guilt offering along with the log of olive oil and present them as a wave offering before Lifegiver. 13 He must then slaughter the male lamb in the place where the sin offering and the sacrifice are slaughtered, in the sanctuary, because, like the sin offering, the guilt offering belongs to the priest; it is most holy. 14 Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the right earlobe of the one being cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. 15 The priest will then take some of the log of olive oil and pour it into his own left hand. 16 Then the priest is to dip his right forefinger into the olive oil that is in his left hand, and sprinkle some of the olive oil with his finger seven times before Lifegiver. 17 The priest will then put some of the rest of the olive oil that is in his hand on the right earlobe of the one being cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the blood of the guilt offering, 18 and the remainder of the olive oil that is in his hand the priest is to put on the head of the one being cleansed. So, the priest is to make atonement for him before Lifegiver. 19 “The priest must then perform the sin offering and make atonement for the one being cleansed from his impurity. After that he is to slaughter the sacrifice, 20 and the priest is to offer the sacrifice and the grain offering on the altar. So, the priest is to make atonement for him and he’ll be clean. 21 “If the person is poor and does not have sufficient means, he must take one male lamb as a guilt offering for a wave offering to make atonement for himself, one-tenth of an ephah of choice wheat flour mixed with olive oil for a grain offering, a log of olive oil, 22 and two turtledoves or two young pigeons, which are witlitrehis means. One will be a sin offering and the other a sacrifice. 23 “On the eighth day he must bring them for his purification to the priest at the entrance of the Meeting Tent before Lifegiver, 24 and the priest is to take the male lamb of the guilt offering and the log of olive oil and wave them as a wave offering before Lifegiver. 25 Then he is to slaughter the male lamb of the guilt offering, and the priest is to take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the right earlobe of the one being cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. 26 The priest will then pour some of the olive oil into his own left hand, 27 and sprinkle some of the olive oil that is in his left hand with his right forefinger seven times before Lifegiver. 28 Then the priest is to put some of the olive oil that is in his hand on the right earlobe of the one being cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the place of the blood of the guilt offering, 29 and the remainder of the olive oil that is in the hand of the priest he is to put on the head of the one being cleansed to make atonement for him before Lifegiver. 30 “He will then make one of the turtledoves or young pigeons, which are witlitrehis means, 31 a sin offering and the other a sacrifice along with the grain offering. So, the priest is to make atonement for the one being cleansed before Lifegiver. 32 This is the law of the one in whom there is a diseased infection, who does not have sufficient means for his purification.” 33 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 34 “When you enter the land of Canaan which I’m about to give to you for a possession, and I put a diseased infection in a house in the land you are to possess, 35 then whoever owns the house must come and declare to the priest, ‘Something like an infection is visible to me in the house.’ 36 Then the priest will command that the house be cleared before the priest enters to examine the infection so that everything in the house does not become unclean, and afterward the priest will enter to examine the house. 37 He is to examine the infection, and if the infection in the walls of the house consists of yellowish green or reddish eruptions, and it appears to be deeper than the surface of the wall, 38 then the priest is to go out of the house to the doorway of the house and quarantine the house for seven days. 39 The priest must return on the seventh day and examine it, and if the infection has spread in the walls of the house, 40 then the priest is to command that the stones that had the infection in them be pulled and thrown outside the city into an unclean place. 41 Then he is to have the house scraped all around on the inside, and the plaster which is scraped off must be dumped outside the city into an unclean place. 42 They are then to take other stones and replace those stones, and he is to take other plaster and replaster the house. 43 “If the infection returns and breaks out in the house after he has pulled out the stones, scraped the house, and it is replastered, 44 the priest is to come and examine it, and if the infection has spread in the house, it is a malignant disease in the house. It is unclean. 45 He must tear down the house, its stones, its wood, and all the plaster of the house, and bring all of it outside the city to an unclean place. 46 Anyone who enters the house all the days the priest has quarantined it will be unclean until evening. 47 Anyone who lies down in the house must wash his clothes. Anyone who eats in the house must wash his clothes. 48 “If, however, the priest enters and examines it, and the infection has not spread in the house after the house has been replastered, then the priest is to pronounce the house clean because the infection has been healed. 49 Then he is to take two birds, a piece of cedar wood, a scrap of crimson fabric, and some twigs of hyssop to decontaminate the house, 50 and he is to slaughter one bird into a clay vessel over fresh water. 51 He must then take the piece of cedar wood, the twigs of hyssop, the scrap of crimson fabric, and the live bird, and dip them in the blood of the slaughtered bird and in the fresh water, and sprinkle the house seven times. 52 So he is to decontaminate the house with the blood of the bird, the fresh water, the live bird, the piece of cedar wood, the twigs of hyssop, and the scrap of crimson fabric, 53 and he is to send the live bird away outside the city into the open countryside. So, he is to make atonement for the house and it will be clean. 54 “This is the law for all diseased infections, for scall, 55 for the diseased garment, for the house, 56 for the swelling, for the scab, and for the bright spot, 57 to teach when something is unclean and when it is clean. This is the law for dealing with infectious disease.”

Leviticus 15

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean. 3 Now this is his uncleanness in regard to his discharge – whether his body secretes his discharge or blocks his discharge, he is unclean. All the days that his body has a discharge or his body blocks his discharge, this is his uncleanness. 4 “‘Any bed the man with a discharge lies on will be unclean, and any furniture he sits on will be unclean. 5 Anyone who touches his bed must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 6 The one who sits on the furniture the man with a discharge sits on must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 7 The one who touches the body of the man with a discharge must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 8 If the man with a discharge spits on a person who is ceremonially clean, that person must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 9 Any means of riding the man with a discharge rides on will be unclean. 10 Anyone who touches anything that was under him will be unclean until evening, and the one who carries those items must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 11 Anyone whom the man with the discharge touches without having rinsed his hands in water must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 12 A clay vessel which the man with the discharge touches must be broken, and any wooden utensil must be rinsed in water.

13 “‘When the man with the discharge becomes clean from his discharge he is to count off for himself seven days for his purification, and he must wash his clothes, bathe in fresh water, and be clean. 14 Then on the eighth day he is to take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and he is to present himself before Lifegiver at the entrance of the Tent of assembly and give them to the priest, 15 and the priest is to make one of them a sin offering and the other a sacrifice. So, the priest is to make atonement for him before Lifegiver for his discharge.

16 “‘When a man has a seminal emission, he must bathe his whole body in water and be unclean until evening, 17 and he must wash in water any clothing or leather that has semen on it, and it will be unclean until evening. 18 When a man has sexual intercourse with a woman and there is a seminal emission, they must bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

19 “‘When a woman has a discharge and her discharge is blood from her body, she is to be in her menstruation seven days, and anyone who touches her will be unclean until evening. 20 Anything she lies on during her menstruation will be unclean, and anything she sits on will be unclean. 21 Anyone who touches her bed must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 22 Anyone who touches any furniture she sits on must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 23 If there is something on the bed or on the furniture she sits on, when he touches it he’ll be unclean until evening, 24 and if a man actually has sexual intercourse with her so that her menstrual impurity touches him, then he’ll be unclean seven days and any bed he lies on will be unclean.

25 “‘When a woman’s discharge of blood flows many days not at the time of her menstruation, or if it flows beyond the time of her menstruation, all the days of her discharge of impurity will be like the days of her menstruation – she is unclean. 26 Any bed she lies on all the days of her discharge will be to her like the bed of her menstruation, any furniture she sits on will be unclean like the impurity of her menstruation, 27 and anyone who touches them will be unclean, and he must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 28 “‘If she becomes clean from her discharge, then she is to count off for herself seven days, and afterward she’ll be clean. 29 Then on the eighth day she must take for herself two turtledoves or two young pigeons and she must bring them to the priest at the entrance of the Tent of assembly, 30 and the priest is to make one a sin offering and the other a sacrifice. So, the priest is to make atonement for her before Lifegiver from her discharge of impurity.

31 “‘Thus you are to set the Israelites apart from their impurity so that they do not die in their impurity by defiling my sanctuary habitat which is in their midst. 32 This is the law of the one with a discharge: the one who has a seminal emission and becomes unclean by it, 33 the one who is sick in her menstruation, the one with a discharge, whether male or female, and a man who has sexual intercourse with an unclean woman.’”

Leviticus 16

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron’s two sons when they approached the presence of Lifegiver and died, 2 and Lifegiver said to Moses: “Tell Aaron your brother that he must not enter at any time into the sacred place inside the veil-canopy in front of the atonement plate that is on the Cabinet so that he may not die, for I’ll appear in the cloud over the atonement plate.

3 “In this way Aaron is to enter into the sanctuary – with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a sacrifice. 4 He must put on a sacred linen tunic, linen leggings are to cover his body, and he is to wrap himself with a linen sash and wrap his head with a linen turban. They are sacred garments, so he must bathe his body in water and put them on. 5 He must also take two male goats from the congregation of the Israelites for a sin offering and one ram for a sacrifice. 6 Then Aaron is to present the sin offering bull which is for himself and is to make atonement on behalf of himself and his household. 7 He must then take the two goats and stand them before Lifegiver at the entrance of the Tent of assembly, 8 and Aaron is to cast lots over the two goats, one lot for Lifegiver and one lot for Azazel. 9 Aaron must then present the goat which has been designated by lot for Lifegiver, and he is to make it a sin offering, 10 but the goat which has been designated by lot for Azazel is to be stood alive before Lifegiver to make atonement on it by sending it away to Azazel into the desert.

11 “Aaron is to present the sin offering bull which is for himself, and he is to make atonement on behalf of himself and his household. He is to slaughter the sin offering bull, which is for himself, 12 and take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before Lifegiver and a full double handful of finely ground fragrant incense, and bring them inside the veil-canopy. 13 He must then put the incense on the fire before Lifegiver, and the cloud of incense will cover the atonement plate, which is above the Cabinet of Evidence, so that he’ll not die. 14 Then he is to take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the eastern face of the atonement plate, and in front of the atonement plate he is to sprinkle some of the blood seven times with his finger.

15 “He must then slaughter the sin offering goat which is for the people. He is to bring its blood inside the veil-canopy, and he is to do with its blood just as he did to the blood of the bull: He is to sprinkle it on the atonement plate and in front of the atonement plate. 16 So he is to make atonement for the sacred place from the impurities of the Israelites and from their transgressions with regard to all their sins, and thus he is to do for the Tent of assembly which resides with them in the midst of their impurities. 17 Nobody is to be in the Tent of assembly when he enters to make atonement in the sacred place until he goes out, and he has made atonement on his behalf, on behalf of his household, and on behalf of the whole assembly of Israel.

18 “Then he is to go out to the altar which is before Lifegiver and make atonement for it. He is to take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it all around on the horns of the altar. 19 Then he is to sprinkle on it some of the blood with his finger seven times, and cleanse and consecrate it from the impurities of the Israelites.

20 “When he has finished purifying the sacred place, the Tent of assembly, and the altar, he is to present the live goat. 21 Aaron is to lay his two hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities of the Israelites and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins, and thus he is to put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the desert by the hand of a man standing ready. 22 The goat is to bear on itself all their iniquities into an inaccessible land, so he is to send the goat away in the desert.

23 “Aaron must then enter the Tent of assembly and take off the linen garments which he had put on when he entered the sanctuary, and leave them there. 24 Then he must bathe his body in water in a sacred place, put on his clothes, and go out and make his sacrifice and the people’s sacrifice. So, he is to make atonement on behalf of himself and the people.

25 “Then he is to offer up the fat of the sin offering in smoke on the altar, 26 and the one who sent the goat away to Azazel must wash his clothes, bathe his body in water, and afterward he may reenter the camp. 27 The bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought to make atonement in the sacred place, must be brought outside the camp and their hide, their flesh, and their dung must be burned up, 28 and the one who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may reenter the camp.

29 “This is to be a perpetual statute for you. In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you must humble yourselves and do no work of any kind, both the native citizen and the foreigner who resides in your midst, 30 for on this day atonement is to be made for you to cleanse you from all your sins; you must be clean before Lifegiver. 31 It is to be a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must humble yourselves. It is a perpetual statute.

32 “The priest who is anointed and ordained to act as high priest in place of his father is to make atonement. He is to put on the linen garments, the sacred garments, 33 and he is to purify the Most Holy Place, he is to purify the Tent of assembly and the altar, and he is to make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. 34 This is to be a perpetual statute for you to make atonement for the Israelites for all their sins once a year.” So, he did just as Lifegiver had instructed Moses.

Leviticus 17

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites, and tell them: ‘This is the word that Lifegiver has instructed: 3 “Blood guilt will be accounted to any man from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox or a lamb or a goat inside the camp or outside the camp, 4 but has not brought it to the entrance of the Tent of assembly to present it as an offering to Lifegiver before the sanctuary habitat of Lifegiver. He has shed blood, so that man will be cut off from the midst of his people. 5 This is so that the Israelites will bring their sacrifices that they are sacrificing in the open field to Lifegiver at the entrance of the Tent of assembly to the priest and sacrifice them there as peace offering sacrifices to Lifegiver. 6 The priest is to splash the blood on the altar of Lifegiver at the entrance of the Tent of assembly, and offer the fat up in smoke for a soothing aroma to Lifegiver. 7 So they must no longer offer their sacrifices to the goat demons, acting like prostitutes by going after them. This is to be a perpetual statute for them throughout their generations.

8 “You are to say to them: ‘Any man from the house of Israel or from the foreigners who reside in their midst, who offers a sacrifice or a sacrifice 9 but does not bring it to the entrance of the Tent of assembly to offer it to Lifegiver – that person will be cut off from his people.

10 “‘Any man from the house of Israel or from the foreigners who reside in their midst who eats any blood, I’ll set my face against that person who eats the blood, and I’ll cut him off from the midst of his people, 11 for the life of every living thing is in the blood. So, I myself have assigned it to you on the altar to make atonement for your lives, for the blood makes atonement by means of the life. 12 Therefore, I’ve said to the Israelites: No person among you is to eat blood, and no resident foreigner who lives among you is to eat blood.

13 “‘Any man from the Israelites or from the foreigners who reside in their midst who hunts a wild animal or a bird that may be eaten must pour out its blood and cover it with soil, 14 for the life of all flesh is its blood. So, I’ve said to the Israelites: You must not eat the blood of any living thing because the life of every living thing is its blood – all who eat it will be cut off.

15 “‘Any person who eats an animal that has died of natural causes or an animal torn by beasts, whether a native citizen or a foreigner, must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening; then he becomes clean. 16 But if he does not wash his clothes and does not bathe his body, he’ll bear his punishment for iniquity.’”

Leviticus 18

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘I’m Lifegiver your deity! 3 You must not do as they do in the land of Egypt where you have been living, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan into which I’m about to bring you; you must not walk in their principles. 4 You must observe my regulations and you must be sure to walk in my principles. I’m Lifegiver your deity. 5 So you must keep my principles and my regulations; anyone who does so will live by keeping them. I’m Lifegiver.

6 “‘No man is to approach any close relative to have sexual intercourse with her. I’m Lifegiver. 7 You must not expose your father’s nakedness by having sexual intercourse with your mother. She is your mother; you must not have intercourse with her. 8 You must not have sexual intercourse with your father’s wife; she is your father’s nakedness. 9 You must not have sexual intercourse with your sister, whether she is your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether she is born in the same household or born outside it; you must not have sexual intercourse with either of them. 10 The nudity of your son’s daughter also your daughter’s daughter, their privates you must not open, because they are your own nudity. 11 The nudity of your father’s wife’s daughter, birthed from your father, that is your sister - never open her privates. 12 Never open the privates of your father’s sister; that is your father’s flesh. 13 Never open the privates of your mother’s sister; that is your mother’s flesh. 14 Never expose the nudity of your father’s brother; never come upon his wife - that is your aunt. 15 Never open the privates of your daughter-in-law; that is your son’s wife. Never open her privates. 16 Never open the privates of your brother’s wife; that is your brother’s nudity. 17 Never open the privates of a woman and her daughter. Never take her son’s daughter, her daughter’s daughter to open their privates, they are close relatives - that is wicked. 18 Never take a woman with another as a rival, opening privates of both in their lifetime.

19 “‘You must not approach a woman in her menstrual impurity to have sexual intercourse with her. 20 You must not have sexual intercourse with the wife of your fellow citizen to become unclean with her. 21 You must not give any of your children as an offering to Molech, so that you do not profane the name of your deity. I’m Lifegiver! 22 You must not have sexual intercourse with a male as one has sexual intercourse with a woman; it is a detestable act. 23 You must not have sexual intercourse with any animal to become defiled with it, and a woman must not stand before an animal to have sexual intercourse with it; it is a perversion.

24 “‘Do not defile yourselves with any of these things, for the nationalities which I’m about to drive out before you have been defiled with all these things. 25 Therefore the land has become unclean and I’ve brought the punishment for its iniquity upon it, so that the land has vomited out its inhabitants. 26 You yourselves must obey my principles and my regulations and must not do any of these disgusting things, both the native citizen and the resident foreigner in your midst, 27 for the people who were in the land before you have done all these disgusting things, and the land has become unclean. 28 So do not make the land vomit you out because you defile it just as it has vomited out the nationalities that were before you. 29 For if anyone does any of these disgusting things , the persons who do them will be cut off from the midst of their people. 30 You must obey my charge to not practice any of the abominable principles that have been done before you, so that you do not defile yourselves by them. I’m Lifegiver your deity.’”

Leviticus 19

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the whole community of the Israelites and tell them, ‘You must be sacred because I, Lifegiver your deity, am holy. 3 Each of you must respect his mother and his father, and you must keep my Sabbaths. I’m Lifegiver your deity. 4 Do not turn to idols, and you must not make for yourselves deities of cast metal. I’m Lifegiver your deity.

5 “‘When you sacrifice a peace offering sacrifice to Lifegiver, you must sacrifice it so that it is accepted for you. 6 It must be eaten on the day of your sacrifice and on the following day, but what is left over until the third day must be burned up. 7 If, however, it is eaten on the third day, it is spoiled, it will not be accepted, 8 and the one who eats it will bear his punishment for iniquity because he has profaned what is sacred to Lifegiver. That person will be cut off from his people.

9 “‘When you gather in the harvest of your land, you must not completely harvest the corner of your field, and you must not gather up the gleanings of your harvest. 10 You must not pick your vineyard bare, and you must not gather up the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You must leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I’m Lifegiver your deity.

11 “‘You must not steal, you must not tell lies, and you must not deal falsely with your fellow citizen. 12 You must not swear falsely in my name, so that you do not profane the name of your deity. I’m Lifegiver. 13 You must not oppress your neighbor or commit robbery against him. You must not withhold the wages of the hired laborer overnight until morning. 14 You must not curse a deaf person or put a stumbling block in front of a blind person. You must revere your deity; I’m Lifegiver.

15 “‘You must not deal unjustly in judgment: you must neither show partiality to the poor nor honor the rich. You must judge your fellow citizen fairly. 16 You must not go about as a slanderer among your people. You must not stand idly by when your neighbor’s life is at stake. I’m Lifegiver. 17 You must not hate your brother in your heart. You must surely reprove your fellow citizen so that you do not incur sin on account of him. 18 You must not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people, but you must love your neighbor as yourself. I’m Lifegiver. 19 You must keep my principles. You must not allow two different kinds of your animals to breed, you must not sow your field with two different kinds of seed, and you must not wear a garment made of two different kinds of fabric.

20 “‘When a man has sexual intercourse with a woman, although she is a slave woman designated for another man and she has not yet been ransomed, or freedom has not been granted to her, there will be an obligation to pay compensation. They must not be put to death, because she was not free. 21 He must bring his guilt offering to Lifegiver at the entrance of the Tent of assembly, a guilt offering ram, 22 and the priest is to make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before Lifegiver for his sin that he has committed, and he’ll be forgiven of his sin that he has committed.

23 “‘When you enter the land and plant any fruit tree, you must consider its fruit to be forbidden. Three years it will be forbidden to you; it must not be eaten. 24 In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, praise offerings to Lifegiver. 25 Then in the fifth year you may eat its fruit to add its produce to your harvest. I’m Lifegiver your deity. 26 “‘You must not eat anything with the blood still in it. You must not practice either divination or soothsaying. 27 You must not round off the corners of the hair on your head or ruin the corners of your beard. 28 You must not slash your body for a dead person or incise a tattoo on yourself. I’m Lifegiver. 29 Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, so that the land does not practice prostitution and become full of lewdness. 30 “‘You must keep my Sabbaths and fear my sanctuary. I’m Lifegiver. 31 Do not turn to the spirits of the dead and do not seek familiar spirits to become unclean by them. I’m Lifegiver your deity. 32 You must stand up in the presence of the aged, honor the presence of an elder, and fear your deity. I’m Lifegiver. 33 When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him. 34 The foreigner who resides with you must be to you like a native citizen among you; so you must love him as yourself, because you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. I’m Lifegiver your deity. 35 You must not do injustice in the regulation of measures, whether of length, weight, or volume. 36 You must have honest balances, honest weight unit, an honest grain measure, and an honest litre. I’m Lifegiver your deity who brought you out from the land of Egypt. 37 You must be sure to obey all my principles and regulations. I’m Lifegiver.’”

Leviticus 20

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “You are to say to the Israelites, ‘Any man from the Israelites or from the foreigners who reside in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death; the people of the land must pelt him with stones. 3 I myself will set my face against that man and cut him off from the midst of his people, because he has given some of his children to Molech and thereby defiled my sanctuary and profaned my sacred name. 4 If, however, the people of the land shut their eyes to that man when he gives some of his children to Molech so that they do not put him to death, 5 I myself will set my face against that man and his clan. I’ll cut off from the midst of their people both him and all who follow after him in spiritual prostitution, to commit prostitution by worshiping Molech.

6 “‘The person who turns to the spirits of the dead and familiar spirits to commit prostitution by going after them, I’ll set my face against that person and cut him off from the midst of his people. 7 “‘You must sanctify yourselves and be holy, because I’m Lifegiver your deity. 8 You must be sure to obey my principles. I’m Lifegiver who sanctifies you.

9 “‘If anyone curses his father and mother he must be put to death. He has cursed his father and mother; his blood guilt is on himself. 10 If a man commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death. 11 If a man has sexual intercourse with his father’s wife, he has exposed his father’s nakedness. Both of them must be put to death; their blood guilt is on themselves. 12 If a man has sexual intercourse with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death. They have committed perversion; their blood guilt is on themselves. 13 If a man has sexual intercourse with a male as one has sexual intercourse with a woman, the two of them have committed an abomination. They must be put to death; their blood guilt is on themselves. 14 If a man has sexual intercourse with both a woman and her mother, it is lewdness. Both he and they must be burned to death, so there is no lewdness in your midst. 15 If a man has sexual intercourse with any animal, he must be put to death, and you must kill the animal. 16 If a woman approaches any animal to have sexual intercourse with it, you must kill the woman, and the animal must be put to death; their blood guilt is on themselves.

17 “‘If a man has sexual intercourse with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or his mother, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace. They must be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has exposed his sister’s nakedness; he’ll bear his punishment for iniquity. 18 If a man has sexual intercourse with a menstruating woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her fountain of blood and she has exposed the fountain of her blood, so both of them must be cut off from the midst of their people. 19 You must not expose the nakedness of your mother’s sister and your father’s sister, for such a person has laid bare his own close relative. They must bear their punishment for iniquity. 20 If a man has sexual intercourse with his aunt, he has exposed his uncle’s nakedness; they must bear responsibility for their sin, they’ll die childless. 21 If a man has sexual intercourse with his brother’s wife, it is indecency. He has exposed his brother’s nakedness; they’ll be childless. 22 “‘You must be sure to obey all my principles and regulations, so that the land to which I’m about to bring you to take up residence there does not vomit you out. 23 You must not walk in the principles of the nation which I’m about to drive out before you, because they have done all these things and I’m filled with disgust against them. 24 So I’ve said to you: You yourselves will possess their land and I myself will give it to you for a possession, a land flowing with milk and honey. I’m Lifegiver your deity who has set you apart from the other peoples. 25 Therefore you must distinguish between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean, and you must not make yourselves detestable by means of an animal or bird or anything that creeps on the ground – creatures I’ve distinguished for you as unclean. 26 You must be sacred to me because I, Lifegiver, am holy, and I’ve set you apart from the other peoples to be mine.

27 “‘A man or woman who has in them a spirit of the dead or a familiar spirit must be put to death. They must pelt them with stones; their blood guilt is on themselves.’”

Leviticus 21

1 Lifegiver said to Moses: “Say to the priests, the sons of Aaron – say to them, ‘For a dead person no priest is to defile himself among his people, 2 except for his close relative who is near to him: his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, his brother, 3 and his virgin sister who is near to him, who has no husband; he may defile himself for her. 4 He must not defile himself as a husband among his people so as to profane himself. 5 Priests must not have a bald spot shaved on their head, they must not shave the corner of their beard, and they must not cut slashes in their body.

6 “‘They must be sacred to their Supermights, and they must not profane the name of their Supermights, because they are the ones who present Lifegiver’s gifts, the food of their Supermights. Therefore, they must be holy. 7 They must not take a wife defiled by prostitution, nor are they to take a wife divorced from her husband, for the priest is sacred to his Supermights. 8 You must sanctify him because he presents the food of your deity. He must be sacred to you because I, Lifegiver who sanctifies you all, am holy. 9 If a daughter of a priest profanes herself by engaging in prostitution, she is profaning her father. She must be burned to death.

10 “‘The high priest – who is greater than his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil is poured, who has been ordained to wear the priestly garments – must neither dishevel the hair of his head nor tear his garments. 11 He must not go where there is any dead person; he must not defile himself even for his father and his mother. 12 He must not go out from the sanctuary and must not profane the sanctuary of his Supermights, because the dedication of the anointing oil of his Supermights is on him. I’m Lifegiver. 13 He must take a wife who is a virgin. 14 He must not marry a widow, a divorced woman, or one profaned by prostitution; he may only take a virgin from his people as a wife. 15 He must not profane his children among his people, for I’m Lifegiver who sanctifies him.’” 16 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 17 “Tell Aaron, ‘No man from your descendants throughout their generations who has a physical flaw is to approach to present the food of his Supermights. 18 Certainly no man who has a physical flaw is to approach: a blind man, or one who is lame, or one with a slit nose, or a limb too long, 19 or a man who has had a broken leg or arm, 20 or a hunchback, or a dwarf, or one with a spot in his eye, or a festering eruption, or a feverish rash, or a crushed testicle. 21 No man from the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a physical flaw may step forward to present Lifegiver’s gifts; he has a physical flaw, so he must not step forward to present the food of his Supermights. 22 He may eat both the most sacred and the sacred food of his Supermights, 23 but he must not go into the veil-canopy or step forward to the altar because he has a physical flaw. Thus, he must not profane my sacred places, for I’m Lifegiver who sanctifies them.’” 24 So Moses spoke these things to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites.

Leviticus 22

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Tell Aaron and his sons that they must deal respectfully with the sacred offerings of the Israelites, which they consecrate to me, so that they do not profane my sacred name. I’m Lifegiver. 3 Say to them, ‘Throughout your generations, if any man from all your descendants approaches the sacred offerings which the Israelites consecrate to Lifegiver while he is impure, that person must be cut off from before me. I’m Lifegiver. 4 No man from the descendants of Aaron who is diseased or has a discharge may eat the sacred offerings until he becomes clean. The one who touches anything made unclean by contact with a dead person, or a man who has a seminal emission, 5 or a man who touches a swarming thing by which he becomes unclean, or touches a person by which he becomes unclean, whatever that person’s impurity – 6 the person who touches any of these will be unclean until evening and must not eat from the sacred offerings unless he has bathed his body in water. 7 When the sun goes down he’ll be clean, and afterward he may eat from the sacred offerings, because they are his food. 8 He must not eat an animal that has died of natural causes or an animal torn by beasts and thus become unclean by it. I’m Lifegiver. 9 They must keep my charge so that they do not incur sin on account of it and therefore die because they profane it. I’m Lifegiver who sanctifies them.

10 “‘No lay person may eat anything holy. Neither a priest’s lodger nor a hired laborer may eat anything holy, 11 but if a priest buys a person with his own money, that person may eat the sacred offerings, and those born in the priest’s own house may eat his food. 12 If a priest’s daughter marries a lay person, she may not eat the sacred contribution offerings, 13 but if a priest’s daughter is a widow or divorced, and she has no children so that she returns to live in her father’s house as in her youth, she may eat from her father’s food, but no lay person may eat it. 14 “‘If a man eats a sacred offering by mistake, he must add one fifth to it and give the sacred offering to the priest. 15 They must not profane the sacred offerings which the Israelites contribute to Lifegiver, 16 and so cause them to incur a penalty for guilt when they eat their sacred offerings, for I’m Lifegiver who sanctifies them.’”

17 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 18 “Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites and tell them, ‘When any man from the house of Israel or from the foreigners in Israel presents his offering for any of the votive or freewill offerings which they present to Lifegiver as a sacrifice, 19 if it is to be acceptable for your benefit it must be a flawless male from the cattle, sheep, or goats. 20 You must not present anything that has a flaw, because it will not be acceptable for your benefit. 21 If a man presents a peace offering sacrifice to Lifegiver for a special votive offering or for a freewill offering from the herd or the flock, it must be flawless to be acceptable; it must have no flaw.

22 “‘You must not present to Lifegiver something blind, or with a broken bone, or mutilated, or with a running sore, or with a festering eruption, or with a feverish rash. You must not give any of these as a gift on the altar to Lifegiver. 23 As for an ox or a sheep with a limb too long or stunted, you may present it as a freewill offering, but it will not be acceptable for a votive offering. 24 You must not present to Lifegiver something with testicles that are bruised, crushed, torn, or cut off; you must not do this in your land. 25 Even from a foreigner you must not present the food of your deity from such animals as these, for they are ruined and flawed; they’ll not be acceptable for your benefit.’” 26 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 27 “When an ox, lamb, or goat is born, it must be under the care of its mother seven days, but from the eighth day onward it will be acceptable as an offering gift to Lifegiver. 28 You must not slaughter an ox or a sheep and its young on the same day. 29 When you sacrifice a thanksgiving offering to Lifegiver, you must sacrifice it so that it is acceptable for your benefit. 30 On that very day it must be eaten; you must not leave any part of it over until morning. I’m Lifegiver.

31 “You must be sure to do my commandments. I’m Lifegiver. 32 You must not profane my sacred name, and I’ll be sanctified in the midst of the Israelites. I’m Lifegiver who sanctifies you, 33 the one who brought you out from the land of Egypt to be your deity. I’m Lifegiver.”

Leviticus 23

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘These are Lifegiver’s specified festivals which you must proclaim as sacred events – my regular festivals: 3 “Work may be done for six days but the seventh day is a Sabbath of utmost rest, a sacred invitation. You are not to be busy in any employment - it is Lifegiver’s Sabbath wherever you live.”

4 “‘These are Lifegiver’s appointed times, sacred assemblies, which you must proclaim at their appointed time. 5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, is a Passover offering to Lifegiver. 6 Then on the fifteenth day of the same month will be the festival of Unraised Bread to Lifegiver; seven days you must eat Unraised Bread. 7 On the first day there will be a sacred assembly for you; you must not do any regular work. 8 You must present a gift to Lifegiver for seven days, and the seventh day is a sacred assembly; you must not do any regular work.’”

9 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 10 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you enter the land that I’m about to give to you and you gather in its harvest, then you must bring the sheaf of the first portion of your harvest to the priest, 11 and he must wave the sheaf before Lifegiver to be accepted for your benefit – on the day after the Sabbath the priest is to wave it. 12 On the day you wave the sheaf you must also offer a flawless yearling lamb for a sacrifice to Lifegiver, 13 along with its grain offering, two tenths of an ephah of choice wheat flour mixed with olive oil, as a gift to Lifegiver, a soothing aroma, and its drink offering, one fourth of a litre of wine. 14 You must not eat bread, roasted grain, or fresh grain until this very day, until you bring the offering of your deity. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all the places where you live.

15 “‘You must count for yourselves seven weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day you bring the wave offering sheaf; they must be complete weeks. 16 You must count fifty days – until the day after the seventh Sabbath – and then you must present a new grain offering to Lifegiver. 17 From the places where you live you must bring two loaves of bread for a wave offering; they must be made from two tenths of an ephah of fine wheat flour, baked with yeast, as first fruits to Lifegiver. 18 Along with the loaves of bread, you must also present seven flawless yearling lambs, one young bull, and two rams. They are to be a sacrifice to Lifegiver along with their grain offering and drink offerings, a gift of a soothing aroma to Lifegiver. 19 You must also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two yearling lambs for a peace offering sacrifice, 20 and the priest is to wave them – the two lambs – along with the bread of the first fruits, as a wave offering before Lifegiver; they’ll be sacred to Lifegiver for the priest.

21 “‘On this very day you must proclaim an assembly; it is to be a sacred assembly for you. You must not do any regular work. This is a perpetual statute in all the places where you live throughout your generations. 22 When you gather in the harvest of your land, you must not completely harvest the corner of your field, and you must not gather up the gleanings of your harvest. You must leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I’m Lifegiver your deity.’”

23 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 24 “Tell the Israelites, ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you must have a complete rest, a memorial announced by loud horn blasts, a sacred assembly. 25 You must not do any regular work, but you must present a gift to Lifegiver.’”

26 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 27 “The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It is to be a sacred assembly for you, and you must humble yourselves and present a gift to Lifegiver. 28 You must not do any work on this particular day, because it is a day of atonement to make atonement for yourselves before Lifegiver your deity. 29 Indeed, any person who does not behave with humility on this particular day will be cut off from his people. 30 As for any person who does any work on this particular day, I’ll exterminate that person from the midst of his people! 31 You must not do any work. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all the places where you live. 32 It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must humble yourselves on the ninth day of the month in the evening, from evening until evening you must observe your Sabbath.” 33 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 34 “Tell the Israelites, ‘On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Festival of Temporary Shelters for seven days to Lifegiver. 35 On the first day is a sacred assembly; you must do no regular work. 36 For seven days you must present a gift to Lifegiver. On the eighth day there is to be a sacred assembly for you, and you must present a gift to Lifegiver. It is a solemn assembly day; you must not do any regular work.

37 “‘These are the appointed times of Lifegiver that you must proclaim as sacred assemblies to present a gift to Lifegiver – sacrifice, grain offering, sacrifice, and drink offerings, each day according to its regulation, 38 besides the Sabbaths of Lifegiver and all your gifts, votive offerings, and freewill offerings which you must give to Lifegiver.

39 “‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you gather in the produce of the land, you must celebrate a pilgrim festival of Lifegiver for seven days. On the first day is a complete rest and on the eighth day is complete rest. 40 On the first day you must take for yourselves branches from majestic trees – palm branches, branches of leafy trees, and willows of the brook – and you must rejoice before Lifegiver your deity for seven days. 41 You must celebrate it as a pilgrim festival to Lifegiver for seven days in the year. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you must celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 You must live in temporary shelters for seven days; every native citizen in Israel must live in temporary shelters, 43 so that your future generations may know that I made the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I’m Lifegiver your deity.’” 44 So Moses spoke to the Israelites about the appointed times of Lifegiver.

Leviticus 24

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Instruct the Israelites to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. 3 Outside the veil-canopy of the congregation in the Tent of assembly Aaron must arrange it from evening until morning before Lifegiver continually. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations. 4 On the ceremonially pure lampstand he must arrange the lamps before Lifegiver continually.

5 “You must take choice wheat flour and bake twelve loaves; there must be two tenths of an ephah of flour in each loaf, 6 and you must set them in two rows, six in a row, on the ceremonially pure table before Lifegiver. 7 You must put pure frankincense on each row, and it will become a memorial portion for the bread, a gift to Lifegiver. 8 Each Sabbath day Aaron must arrange it before Lifegiver continually; this portion is from the Israelites as a perpetual covenant. 9 It will belong to Aaron and his sons, and they must eat it in a sacred place because it is most sacred to him, a perpetual allotted portion from the gifts of Lifegiver.”

10 Now an Israelite woman’s son whose father was an Egyptian went out among the Israelites, and the Israelite woman’s son and an Israelite man had a fight in the camp. 11 The Israelite woman’s son misused the Name and cursed, so they brought him to Moses. (Now his mother’s name was Shelomith daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) 12 So they placed him in custody until they were able to make a clear legal decision for themselves based on words from the mouth of Lifegiver. 13 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 14 “Bring the one who cursed outside the camp, and all who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the whole congregation is to stone him to death. 15 Moreover, you are to tell the Israelites, ‘If any man curses his Supermights he’ll bear responsibility for his sin, 16 and one who misuses the name of Lifegiver must surely be put to death. The whole congregation must surely stone him, whether he is a foreigner or a native citizen; when he misuses the Name, he must be put to death.

17 “‘If a man beats any person to death, he must be put to death. 18 One who beats an animal to death must make restitution for it, life for life. 19 If a man inflicts an injury on his fellow citizen, just as he has done it must be done to him – 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth – just as he inflicts an injury on another person that same injury must be inflicted on him. 21 One who beats an animal to death must make restitution for it, but one who beats a person to death must be put to death. 22 There will be one regulation for you, whether a foreigner or a native citizen, for I’m Lifegiver your deity.’”

23 Then Moses spoke to the Israelites and they brought the one who cursed outside the camp and stoned him with stones. So, the Israelites did just as Lifegiver had instructed Moses.

Leviticus 25

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai: 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you enter the land that I’m giving you, the land must observe Lifegiver’s Sabbath. 3 You may cultivate your land for six years - you may prune your vineyard, harvest and garner the produce. 4 On the seventh year the land is to have a sabbatical year of utmost rest – Lifegiver’s Sabbath. You are not cultivate your land or prune your vineyard 5 and vintage at harvest time. You are not to reap or gather the grapes of your unpruned vines. It is to be a year of utmost land rest. 6 The produce during the sabbath year of the land can be used as food - for your male employee and female employee, for your labourer and for the outsider who temporarily resides with you. 7 The entire balance of the produce will be feed for your livestock and the wildlife in your territory.

8 “‘You must count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, and the days of the seven weeks of years will amount to forty-nine years. 9 You must sound loud horn blasts – in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, on the Day of Atonement – you must sound the horn in your entire land. 10 So you must consecrate the fiftieth year, and you must proclaim a release in the land for all its inhabitants. That year will be your jubilee; each one of you must return to his property and each one of you must return to his clan. 11 That fiftieth year will be your jubilee; you must not sow the land, harvest its regrowth, or pick the grapes of its unpruned vines. 12 Because that year is a jubilee, it will be sacred to you – you may eat its produce from the field.

13 “‘In this year of jubilee you must each return to your property. 14 If you make a sale to your fellow citizen or buy from your fellow citizen, no one is to wrong his brother. 15 You may buy it from your fellow citizen according to the number of years since the last jubilee; he may sell it to you according to the years of produce that are left. 16 The more years there are, the more you may make its purchase price, and the fewer years there are, the less you must make its purchase price, because he is only selling to you a number of years of produce. 17 No one is to oppress his fellow citizen, but you must fear your deity, because I’m Lifegiver your deity. 18 You must obey my principles and my regulations; you must be sure to keep them so that you may live securely in the land. 19 “‘The land will give its fruit and you may eat until you are satisfied, and you may live securely in the land. 20 If you say, ‘What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not sow and gather our produce?’ 21 I’ll charge my blessing for you in the sixth year so that it may yield the produce for three years, 22 and you may sow the eighth year and eat from that sixth year’s produce – old produce. Until you bring in the ninth year’s produce, you may eat old produce. 23 The land must not be sold without reclaim because the land belongs to me, for you are foreigners and residents with me. 24 In all your landed property you must provide for the right of redemption of the land.

25 “‘If your brother becomes impoverished and sells some of his property, his near repurchaser is to come to you and repurchase what his brother sold. 26 If a man has no repurchaser, but he prospers and gains enough for its redemption, 27 he is to calculate the value of the years it was sold, refund the balance to the man to whom he had sold it, and return to his property. 28 If he has not prospered enough to refund a balance to him, then what he sold will belong to the one who bought it until the jubilee year, but it must revert in the jubilee and the original owner may return to his property. 29 “‘If a man sells a residential house in a walled city, its right of redemption must extend until one full year from its sale; its right of redemption must extend to a full calendar year. 30 If it is not repurchased before the full calendar year is ended, the house in the walled city will belong without reclaim to the one who bought it throughout his generations; it will not revert in the jubilee. 31 The houses of villages, however, which have no wall surrounding them must be considered as the field of the land; they’ll have the right of redemption and must revert in the jubilee. 32 As for the cities of the Levites, the houses in the cities which they possess, the Levites must have a perpetual right of redemption. 33 Whatever someone among the Levites might repurchase – the sale of a house which is his property in a city – must revert in the jubilee, because the houses of the cities of the Levites are their property in the midst of the Israelites. 34 Moreover, the open field areas of their cities must not be sold, because that is their perpetual possession.

35 “‘If your brother becomes impoverished and is indebted to you, you must support him; he must live with you like a foreign resident. 36 Do not take interest or profit from him, but you must fear your deity and your brother must live with you. 37 You must not lend him your money at interest and you must not sell him food for profit. 38 I’m Lifegiver your deity who brought you out from the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan – to be your deity.

39 “‘If your brother becomes impoverished with regard to you so that he sells himself to you, you must not subject him to slave service. 40 He must be with you as a hired worker, as a resident foreigner; he must serve with you until the year of jubilee, 41 but then he may go free, he and his children with him, and may return to his family and to the property of his ancestors. 42 Since they are my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt, they must not be sold in a slave sale. 43 You must not rule over him harshly, but you must fear your deity.

44 “‘As for your male and female slaves who may belong to you – you may buy male and female slaves from the nationalities all around you. 45 Also you may buy slaves from the children of the foreigners who reside with you, and from their families that are with you, whom they have fathered in your land, they may become your property. 46 You may give them as inheritance to your children after you to possess as property. You may enslave them perpetually. However, as for your brothers the Israelites, no man may rule over his brother harshly.

47 “‘If a resident foreigner who is with you prospers and your brother becomes impoverished with regard to him so that he sells himself to a resident foreigner who is with you or to a member of a foreigner’s family, 48 after he has sold himself he retains a right of redemption. One of his brothers may repurchase him, 49 or his uncle or his cousin may repurchase him, or anyone of the rest of his blood relatives – his family – may repurchase him, or if he prospers he may repurchase himself. 50 He must calculate with the one who bought him the number of years from the year he sold himself to him until the jubilee year, and the cost of his sale must correspond to the number of years, according to the rate of wages a hired worker would have earned while with him. 51 If there are still many years, in keeping with them he must refund most of the cost of his purchase for his redemption, 52 but if only a few years remain until the jubilee, he must calculate for himself in keeping with the remaining years and refund it for his redemption. 53 He must be with the one who bought him like a yearly hired worker. The one who bought him must not rule over him harshly in your sight. 54 If, however, he is not repurchased in these ways, he must go free in the jubilee year, he and his children with him, 55 because the Israelites are my own servants; they are my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I’m Lifegiver your deity.

Leviticus 26

1 “‘You must not make for yourselves idols, so you must not set up for yourselves a carved image or a pillar, and you must not place a sculpted stone in your land to bow down before it, for I’m Lifegiver your deity. 2 You must keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary. I’m Lifegiver.

3 “‘If you walk in my principles and are sure to obey my commandments, 4 I’ll give you your rains in their time so that the land will give its yield and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. 5 Threshing season will extend for you until the season for harvesting grapes, and the season for harvesting grapes will extend until sowing season, so you’ll eat your bread until you are satisfied, and you’ll live securely in your land. 6 I’ll grant peace in the land so that you’ll lie down to sleep without anyone terrifying you. I’ll remove harmful animals from the land, and no sword of war will pass through your land. 7 You’ll pursue your enemies and they’ll fall before you by the sword. 8 Five of you’ll pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you’ll pursue ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword. 9 I’ll turn to you, make you fruitful, multiply you, and maintain my agreement with you. 10 You’ll still be eating stored produce from the previous year and will have to clean out what is stored from the previous year to make room for new.

11 “‘I’ll put my sanctuary habitat in your midst and I’ll not abhor you. 12 I’ll walk among you, and I’ll be your deity and you’ll be my people. 13 I’m Lifegiver your deity who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from being their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and caused you to walk upright. 14 “‘If, however, you do not obey me and keep all these commandments – 15 if you reject my principles and abhor my regulations so that you do not keep all my commandments and you break my agreement – 16 I for my part will do this to you: I’ll inflict horror on you, consumption and fever, which diminish eyesight and drain away the vitality of life. You’ll sow your seed in vain because your enemies will eat it. 17 I’ll set my face against you. You’ll be struck down before your enemies, those who hate you’ll rule over you, and you’ll flee when there is no one pursuing you.

18 “‘If, in spite of all these things, you do not obey me, I’ll discipline you seven times more on account of your sins. 19 I’ll break your strong pride and make your sky like iron and your land like bronze. 20 Your strength will be used up in vain, your land will not give its yield, and the trees of the land will not produce their fruit.

21 “‘If you walk in hostility against me and are not willing to obey me, I’ll increase your adversity seven times according to your sins. 22 I’ll send the wild animals against you and they’ll bereave you of your children, annihilate your cattle, and diminish your population so that your roads will become deserted.

23 “‘If in spite of these things you do not allow yourselves to be disciplined and you walk in hostility against me, 24 I myself will also walk in hostility against you and strike you seven times on account of your sins. 25 I’ll bring on you an avenging sword, a agreement vengeance. Although you’ll gather together into your cities, I’ll send pestilence among you and you’ll be given into enemy hands. 26 When I break off your supply of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven; they’ll ration your bread by weight, and you’ll eat and not be satisfied.

27 “‘If in spite of this you do not obey me but walk in hostility against me, 28 I’ll walk in hostile rage against you and I myself will also discipline you seven times on account of your sins. 29 You’ll eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters. 30 I’ll destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars, and I’ll stack your dead bodies on top of the lifeless bodies of your idols. I’ll abhor you. 31 I’ll lay your cities waste and make your sanctuaries desolate, and I’ll refuse to smell your soothing aromas. 32 I myself will make the land desolate and your enemies who live in it will be appalled. 33 I’ll scatter you among the nationalities and unsheathe the sword after you, so your land will become desolate and your cities will become a waste.

34 “‘Then the land will make up for its Sabbaths all the days it lies desolate while you are in the land of your enemies; then the land will rest and make up its Sabbaths. 35 All the days of the desolation it will have the rest it did not have on your Sabbaths when you lived on it.

36 “‘As for the ones who remain among you, I’ll bring despair into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a blowing leaf will pursue them, and they’ll flee as one who flees the sword and fall down even though there is no pursuer. 37 They’ll stumble over each other as those who flee before a sword, though there is no pursuer, and there will be no one to take a stand for you before your enemies. 38 You’ll perish among the nationalities; the land of your enemies will consume you. 39 “‘As for the ones who remain among you, they’ll rot away because of their iniquity in the lands of your enemies, and they’ll also rot away because of their ancestors’ iniquities which are with them. 40 However, when they confess their iniquity and their ancestors’ iniquity which they committed by trespassing against me, by which they also walked in hostility against me 41 (and I myself will walk in hostility against them and bring them into the land of their enemies), and then their uncircumcised hearts become humbled and they make up for their iniquity, 42 I’ll remember my agreement with Jacob and also my agreement with Isaac and also my agreement with Abraham, and I’ll remember the land. 43 The land will be abandoned by them in order that it may make up for its Sabbaths while it is made desolate without them, and they’ll make up for their iniquity because they have rejected my regulations and have abhorred my principles. 44 In spite of this, however, when they are in the land of their enemies I’ll not reject them and abhor them to make a complete end of them, to break my agreement with them, for I’m Lifegiver their Supermights. 45 I’ll remember for them the agreement with their ancestors whom I brought out from the land of Egypt in the sight of the nationalities to be their Supermights. I’m Lifegiver.’”

46 These are the principles, regulations, and instructions which Lifegiver established between himself and the Israelites at Mount Sinai through Moses.

Leviticus 27

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When a man makes a special votive offering based on the conversion value of persons to Lifegiver, 3 the conversion value of the male from twenty years old up to sixty years old is fifty shekels by the standard of the sanctuary shekel. 4 If the person is a female, the conversion value is thirty shekels. 5 If the person is from five years old up to twenty years old, the conversion value of the male is twenty shekels, and for the female ten shekels. 6 If the person is one month old up to five years old, the conversion value of the male is five shekels of silver, and for the female the conversion value is three shekels of silver. 7 If the person is from sixty years old and older, if he is a male the conversion value is fifteen shekels, and for the female ten shekels. 8 If he is too poor to pay the conversion value, he must stand the person before the priest and the priest will establish his conversion value; according to what the man who made the vow can afford, the priest will establish his conversion value.

9 “‘If what is vowed is a kind of animal from which an offering may be presented to Lifegiver, anything which he gives to Lifegiver from this kind of animal will be holy. 10 He must not replace or exchange it, good for bad or bad for good, and if he does indeed exchange one animal for another animal, then both the original animal and its substitute will be holy. 11 If what is vowed is an unclean animal from which an offering must not be presented to Lifegiver, then he must stand the animal before the priest, 12 and the priest will establish its conversion value, whether good or bad. According to the assessed conversion value of the priest, thus it will be. 13 If, however, the person who made the vow repurchases the animal, he must add one fifth to its conversion value. 14 “‘If a man consecrates his house as sacred to Lifegiver, the priest will establish its conversion value, whether good or bad. Just as the priest establishes its conversion value, thus it will stand. 15 If the one who consecrates it repurchases his house, he must add to it one fifth of its conversion value in silver, and it will belong to him. 16 “‘If a man consecrates to Lifegiver some of his own landed property, the conversion value must be calculated in accordance with the amount of seed needed to sow it, a homer of barley seed being priced at fifty shekels of silver. 17 If he consecrates his field in the jubilee year, the conversion value will stand, 18 but if he consecrates his field after the jubilee, the priest will calculate the price for him according to the years that are left until the next jubilee year, and it will be deducted from the conversion value. 19 If, however, the one who consecrated the field repurchases it, he must add to it one fifth of the conversion price and it will belong to him. 20 If he does not repurchase the field, but sells the field to someone else, he may never repurchase it. 21 When it reverts in the jubilee, the field will be sacred to Lifegiver like a permanently dedicated field; it will become the priest’s property. 22 “‘If he consecrates to Lifegiver a field he has purchased, which is not part of his own landed property, 23 the priest will calculate for him the amount of its conversion value until the jubilee year, and he must pay the conversion value on that jubilee day as something that is sacred to Lifegiver. 24 In the jubilee year the field will return to the one from whom he bought it, the one to whom it belongs as landed property. 25 Every conversion value must be calculated by the standard of the sanctuary shekel; twenty gerahs to the shekel. 26 “‘Surely no man may consecrate a firstborn that already belongs to Lifegiver as a firstborn among the animals; whether it is an ox or a sheep, it belongs to Lifegiver. 27 If, however, it is among the unclean animals, he may ransom it according to its conversion value and must add one fifth to it, but if it is not repurchased it must be sold according to its conversion value.

28 “‘Surely anything which a man permanently dedicates to Lifegiver from all that belongs to him, whether from people, animals, or his landed property, must be neither sold nor repurchased; anything permanently dedicated is most sacred to Lifegiver. 29 Any human being who is permanently dedicated must not be ransomed; such a person must be put to death. 30 “‘Any tithe of the land, from the grain of the land or from the fruit of the trees, belongs to Lifegiver; it is sacred to Lifegiver. 31 If a man repurchases part of his tithe, however, he must add one fifth to it. 32 All the tithe of herd or flock, everything which passes under the rod, the tenth one will be sacred to Lifegiver. 33 The owner must not examine the animals to distinguish between good and bad, and he must not exchange it. If, however, he does exchange it, both the original animal and its substitute will be holy. It must not be repurchased.’”

34 These are the commandments which Lifegiver instructed Moses to tell the Israelites at Mount Sinai.

Moses’ Fourth Book

NUMBERS

Numbers 1

1 Now Lifegiver spoke to Moses in the tent of assembly in the desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites departed from the land of Egypt. He said: 2 “Take a census of the entire Israelite community by their clans and families, counting the name of every individual male. 3 You and Aaron are to number all in Israel who can serve in the army, those who are twenty years old or older, by their divisions. 4 And to help you there is to be a man from each tribe, each man the head of his family. 5 Now these are the names of the men who are to help you: from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur; 6 ​​​​​​​from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai; 7 ​​​​​​​from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab; 8 ​​​​​​​from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar; 9 ​​​​​​​from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon; 10 ​​​​​​​from the sons of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud; from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur; 11 ​​​​​​​from Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni; 12 ​​​​​​​from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai; 13 ​​​​​​​from Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran; 14 ​​​​​​​from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel; 15 ​​​​​​​from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.” 16 These were the ones Designated from the community, leaders of their ancestral tribes. They were the heads of the thousands of Israel. 17 So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been mentioned specifically by name, 18 and they assembled the entire community together on the first day of the second month. Then the people recorded their ancestry by their clans and families, and the men who were twenty years old or older were listed by name individually, 19 just as Lifegiver had instructed Moses. And so, he numbered them in the desert of Sinai. 20 And they were as follows: The descendants of Reuben, the firstborn son of Israel: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name individually. 21 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Reuben were 46,500. 22 From the descendants of Simeon: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males numbered of them twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name individually. 23 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Simeon were 59,300. 24 From the descendants of Gad: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 25 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Gad were 45,650. 26 From the descendants of Judah: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 27 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Judah were 74,600. 28 From the descendants of Issachar: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 29 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Issachar were 54,400. 30 From the descendants of Zebulun: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 31 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Zebulun were 57,400. 32 From the sons of Joseph: From the descendants of Ephraim: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 33 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Ephraim were 40,500. 34 From the descendants of Manasseh: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 35 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Manasseh were 32,200. 36 From the descendants of Benjamin: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 37 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Benjamin were 35,400. 38 From the descendants of Dan: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 39 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Dan were 62,700. 40 From the descendants of Asher: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 41 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Asher were 41,500. 42 From the descendants of Naphtali: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name. 43 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Naphtali were 53,400. 44 These were the men whom Moses and Aaron numbered along with the twelve leaders of Israel, each of whom was from his own family. 45 All the Israelites who were twenty years old or older, who could serve in Israel’s army, were numbered according to their families. 46 And all those numbered totaled 603,550. 47 But the Levites, according to the tribe of their fathers, were not numbered among them. 48 Lifegiver had said to Moses, 49 “Only the tribe of Levi you must not number or count with the other Israelites. 50 But appoint the Levites over the booth of the testimony, over all its furnishings and over everything in it. They must carry the booth and all its furnishings; and they must attend to it and camp around it. 51 Whenever the booth is to move, the Levites must take it down, and whenever the booth is to be reassembled, the Levites must set it up. Any unauthorized person who approaches it must be killed. 52 “The Israelites will camp according to their divisions, each man in his camp, and each man by his standard. 53 But the Levites must camp around the booth of the testimony, so that Lifegiver’s anger will not fall on the Israelite community. The Levites are responsible for the care of the booth of the testimony.” 54 The Israelites did according to all that Lifegiver instructed Moses – that is what they did.

Numbers 2

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and to Aaron: 2 “Every one of the Israelites must camp under his standard with the emblems of his family; they must camp at some distance around the tent of assembly. 3 “Now those who will be camping on the east, toward the sunrise, are the divisions of the camp of Judah under their standard. The leader of the people of Judah is Nahshon son of Amminadab. 4 Those numbered in his division are 74,600. 5 Those who will be camping next to them are the tribe of Issachar. The leader of the people of Issachar is Nethanel son of Zuar. 6 Those numbered in his division are 54,400. 7 Next will be the tribe of Zebulun. The leader of the people of Zebulun is Eliab son of Helon. 8 Those numbered in his division are 57,400. 9 All those numbered of the camp of Judah, according to their divisions, are 186,400. They’ll travel at the front. 10 “On the south will be the divisions of the camp of Reuben under their standard. The leader of the people of Reuben is Elizur son of Shedeur. 11 Those numbered in his division are 46,500. 12 Those who will be camping next to them are the tribe of Simeon. The leader of the people of Simeon is Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai. 13 Those numbered in his division are 59,300. 14 Next will be the tribe of Gad. The leader of the people of Gad is Eliasaph son of Deuel. 15 Those numbered in his division are 45,650. 16 All those numbered of the camp of Reuben, according to their divisions, are 151,450. They’ll travel second. 17 “Then the tent of assembly with the camp of the Levites will travel in the middle of the camps. They’ll travel in the same order as they camped, each in his own place under his standard. 18 “On the west will be the divisions of the camp of Ephraim under their standard. The leader of the people of Ephraim is Elishama son of Amihud. 19 Those numbered in his division are 40,500. 20 Next to them will be the tribe of Manasseh. The leader of the people of Manasseh is Gamaliel son of Pedahzur. 21 Those numbered in his division are 32,200. 22 Next will be the tribe of Benjamin. The leader of the people of Benjamin is Abidan son of Gideoni. 23 Those numbered in his division are 35,400. 24 All those numbered of the camp of Ephraim, according to their divisions, are 108,100. They’ll travel third. 25 “On the north will be the divisions of the camp of Dan, under their standards. The leader of the people of Dan is Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai. 26 Those numbered in his division are 62,700. 27 Those who will be camping next to them are the tribe of Asher. The leader of the people of Asher is Pagiel son of Ocran. 28 Those numbered in his division are 41,500. 29 Next will be the tribe of Naphtali. The leader of the people of Naphtali is Ahira son of Enan. 30 Those numbered in his division are 53,400. 31 All those numbered of the camp of Dan are 157,600. They’ll travel last, under their standards.” 32 These are the Israelites, numbered according to their families. All those numbered in the camps, by their divisions, are 603,550. 33 But the Levites were not numbered among the other Israelites, as Lifegiver instructed Moses. 34 So the Israelites did according to all that Lifegiver instructed Moses; that is the way they camped under their standards, and that is the way they traveled, each with his clan and family.

Numbers 3

1 Now these are the records of Aaron and Moses when Lifegiver spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai. 2 These are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he consecrated to minister as priests. 4 Nadab and Abihu died before Lifegiver when they offered strange fire before Lifegiver in the desert of Sinai, and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests in the presence of Aaron their father. 5 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 6 “Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may serve him. 7 They are responsible for his needs and the needs of the whole community before the tent of assembly, by attending to the service of the booth. 8 And they are responsible for all the furnishings of the tent of assembly, and for the needs of the Israelites, as they serve in the booth. 9 You are to assign the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they’ll be assigned exclusively to him out of all the Israelites. 10 So you are to appoint Aaron and his sons, and they’ll be responsible for their priesthood; but the unauthorized person who comes near must be put to death.” 11 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 12 “Look, I myself have taken the Levites from among the Israelites instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the Israelites. So, the Levites belong to me, 13 because all the firstborn are mine. When I destroyed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I set apart for myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They belong to me. I’m Lifegiver.” 14 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses in the desert of Sinai: 15 “Number the Levites by their clans and their families; every male from a month old and upward you are to number.” 16 So Moses numbered them according to the word of Lifegiver, just as he had been instruct ed. 17 These were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 18 These are the names of the sons of Gershon by their families: Libni and Shimei. 19 The sons of Kohath by their families were: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. 20 The sons of Merari by their families were Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites by their clans. 21 From Gershon came the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimeites; these were the families of the Gershonites. 22 Those of them who were numbered, counting every male from a month old and upward, were 7,500. 23 The families of the Gershonites were to camp behind the booth toward the west. 24 Now the leader of the clan of the Gershonites was Eliasaph son of Lael. 25 And the responsibilities of the Gershonites in the tent of assembly included the booth, the tent with its covering, the curtain at the entrance of the tent of assembly, 26 the hangings of the courtyard, the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard that surrounded the booth and the altar, and their ropes, plus all the service connected with these things. 27 From Kohath came the family of the Amramites, the family of the Izharites, the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites; these were the families of the Kohathites. 28 Counting every male from a month old and upward, there were 8,600. They were responsible for the care of the sanctuary. 29 The families of the Kohathites were to camp on the south side of the booth. 30 Now the leader of the clan of the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan son of Uzziel. 31 Their responsibilities included the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they ministered, the curtain, and all their service. 32 Now the head of all the Levitical leaders was Eleazar son of Aaron the priest. He was appointed over those who were responsible for the sanctuary. 33 From Merari came the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites; these were the families of Merari. 34 Those of them who were numbered, counting every male from a month old and upward, were 6,200. 35 Now the leader of the clan of the families of Merari was Zuriel son of Abihail. These were to camp on the north side of the booth. 36 The appointed responsibilities of the Merarites included the frames of the booth, its crossbars, its posts, its sockets, its utensils, plus all the service connected with these things, 37 and the pillars of the courtyard all around, with their sockets, their pegs, and their ropes. 38 But those who were to camp in front of the booth on the east, in front of the tent of assembly, were Moses, Aaron, and his sons. They were responsible for the needs of the sanctuary and for the needs of the Israelites, but the unauthorized person who approached was to be put to death. 39 All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered by the word of Lifegiver, according to their families, every male from a month old and upward, were 22,000. 40 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Number all the firstborn males of the Israelites from a month old and upward, and take the number of their names. 41 And take the Levites for me – I’m Lifegiver – instead of all the firstborn males among the Israelites, and the livestock of the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the livestock of the Israelites.” 42 So Moses numbered all the firstborn males among the Israelites, as Lifegiver had instructed him. 43 And all the firstborn males, by the number of the names from a month old and upward, totaled 22,273. 44 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 45 “Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn males among the Israelites, and the livestock of the Levites instead of their livestock. And the Levites will be mine. I’m Lifegiver. 46 And for the redemption of the 273 firstborn males of the Israelites who exceed the number of the Levites, 47 collect five shekels for each one individually; you are to collect this amount in the currency of the sanctuary shekel (this shekel is twenty gerahs). 48 And give the money for the redemption of the excess number of them to Aaron and his sons.” 49 So Moses took the redemption money from those who were in excess of those repurchased by the Levites. 50 From the firstborn males of the Israelites he collected the money, 1,365 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel. 51 Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of Lifegiver, as Lifegiver had instructed Moses.

Numbers 4

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 2 “Take a census of the Kohathites from among the Levites, by their families and by their clans, 3 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, all who enter the company to do the work in the tent of assembly. 4 This is the service of the Kohathites in the tent of assembly, relating to the most sacred things. 5 When it is time for the camp to journey, Aaron and his sons must come and take down the screening curtain and cover the Cabinet of Evidence with it. 6 Then they must put over it a covering of fine leather and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue, and then they must insert its poles. 7 “On the table of the presence they must spread a blue cloth, and put on it the dishes, the pans, the bowls, and the pitchers for pouring, and the Bread of the Presence must be on it continually. 8 They must spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover the same with a covering of fine leather; and they must insert its poles. 9 “They must take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light, with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its trays, and all its oil vessels, with which they service it. 10 Then they must put it with all its utensils in a covering of fine leather, and put it on a carrying beam. 11 “They must spread a blue cloth on the gold altar, and cover it with a covering of fine leather; and they must insert its poles. 12 Then they must take all the utensils of the service, with which they serve in the sanctuary, put them in a blue cloth, cover them with a covering of fine leather, and put them on a carrying beam. 13 Also, they must take away the ashes from the altar and spread a purple cloth over it. 14 Then they must place on it all its implements with which they serve there – the trays, the meat forks, the shovels, the basins, and all the utensils of the altar – and they must spread on it a covering of fine leather, and then insert its poles. 15 “When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is ready to journey, then the Kohathites will come to carry them; but they must not touch any sacred thing, or they’ll die. These are the responsibilities of the Kohathites with the tent of assembly. 16 “The appointed responsibility of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest is for the oil for the light, and the spiced incense, and the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil; he also has the appointed responsibility over all the booth with all that is in it, over the sanctuary and over all its furnishings.” 17 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 18 “Do not allow the tribe of the families of the Kohathites to be cut off from among the Levites; 19 but in order that they’ll live and not die when they approach the most sacred things, do this for them: Aaron and his sons will go in and appoint each man to his service and his responsibility. 20 But the Kohathites are not to go in to watch while the sacred things are being covered, or they’ll die.” 21 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 22 “Also take a census of the Gershonites, by their clans and by their families. 23 You must number them from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, all who enter the company to do the work of the tent of assembly. 24 This is the service of the families of Gershonites, as they serve and carry it. 25 They must carry the curtains for the booth and the tent of assembly with its covering, the covering of fine leather that is over it, the curtains for the entrance of the tent of assembly, 26 the hangings for the courtyard, the curtain for the entrance of the gate of the court, which is around the booth and the altar, and their ropes, along with all the furnishings for their service and everything that is made for them. So, they are to serve. 27 “All the service of the Gershonites, whether carrying loads or for any of their work, will be at the direction of Aaron and his sons. You’ll assign them all their tasks as their responsibility. 28 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites concerning the tent of assembly. Their responsibilities will be under the authority of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest. 29 “As for the sons of Merari, you are to number them by their families and by their clans. 30 You must number them from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, all who enter the company to do the work of the tent of assembly. 31 This is what they are responsible to carry as their entire service in the tent of assembly: the frames of the booth, its crossbars, its posts, its sockets, 32 and the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their sockets, tent pegs, and ropes, along with all their furnishings and everything for their service. You are to assign by names the items that each man is responsible to carry. 33 This is the service of the families of the Merarites, their entire service concerning the tent of assembly, under the authority of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.” 34 So Moses and Aaron and the leaders of the community numbered the Kohathites by their families and by clans, 35 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered the company for the work in the tent of assembly; 36 and those of them numbered by their families were 2,750. 37 These were those numbered from the families of the Kohathites, everyone who served in the tent of assembly, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of Lifegiver by the authority of Moses. 38 Those numbered from the Gershonites, by their families and by their clans, 39 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered the company for the work in the tent of assembly – 40 those of them numbered by their families, by their clans, were 2,630. 41 These were those numbered from the families of the Gershonites, everyone who served in the tent of assembly, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of Lifegiver. 42 Those numbered from the families of the Merarites, by their families, by their clans, 43 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered the company for the work in the tent of assembly – 44 those of them numbered by their families were 3,200. 45 These are those numbered from the families of the Merarites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of Lifegiver by the authority of Moses. 46 All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered by their families and by their clans, 47 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered to do the work of service and the work of carrying relating to the tent of assembly – 48 those of them numbered were 8,580. 49 According to the word of Lifegiver they were numbered, by the authority of Moses, each according to his service and according to what he was to carry. Thus, were they numbered by him, as Lifegiver had instructed Moses.

Numbers 5

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Instruct the Israelites to expel from the camp every leper, everyone who has a discharge, and whoever becomes defiled by a corpse. 3 You must expel both men and women; you must put them outside the camp, so that they’ll not defile their camps, among which I live.” 4 So the Israelites did so, and expelled them outside the camp. As Lifegiver had spoken to Moses, so the Israelites did. 5 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 6 “Tell the Israelites, ‘When a man or a woman commits any sin that people commit, thereby breaking faith with Lifegiver, and that person is found guilty, 7 then he must confess his sin that he has committed and must make full reparation, add one fifth to it, and give it to whomever he wronged. 8 But if the individual has no close relative to whom reparation can be made for the wrong, the reparation for the wrong must be paid to Lifegiver for the priest, in addition to the ram of atonement by which atonement is made for him. 9 Every offering of all the Israelites’ sacred things that they bring to the priest will be his. 10 Every man’s sacred things will be his; whatever any man gives the priest will be his.’” 11 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 12 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘If any man’s wife goes astray and behaves unfaithfully toward him, 13 and a man has sexual intimacy with her without her husband knowing it, and it is hidden that she has defiled herself, since there was no witness against her, nor was she caught – 14 and if jealous feelings come over him and he becomes suspicious of his wife, when she is defiled; or if jealous feelings come over him and he becomes suspicious of his wife, when she is not defiled – 15 then the man must bring his wife to the priest, and he must bring the offering required for her, one tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he must not pour olive oil on it or put frankincense on it, because it is a grain offering of suspicion, a grain offering for remembering, for bringing iniquity to remembrance. 16 “‘Then the priest will bring her near and have her stand before Lifegiver. 17 The priest will then take sacred water in a pottery jar, and take some of the dust that is on the floor of the booth, and put it into the water. 18 Then the priest will have the woman stand before Lifegiver, uncover the woman’s head, and put the grain offering for remembering in her hands, which is the grain offering of suspicion. The priest will hold in his hand the bitter water that brings a curse. 19 Then the priest will put the woman under oath and say to the her, “If no other man has had sexual intimacy with you, and if you have not gone astray and become defiled while under your husband’s authority, may you be free from this bitter water that brings a curse. 20 But if you have gone astray while under your husband’s authority, and if you have defiled yourself and some man other than your husband has had sexual intimacy with you….” 21 Then the priest will put the woman under the oath of the curse and will say to the her, “Lifegiver make you an attested curse among your people, if Lifegiver makes your thigh fall away and your abdomen swell; 22 and this water that causes the curse will go into your stomach, and make your abdomen swell and your thigh rot.” Then the woman must say, “Amen, amen.” 23 “‘Then the priest will write these curses on a scroll and then scrape them off into the bitter water. 24 he’ll make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings a curse will enter her to produce bitterness. 25 The priest will take the grain offering of suspicion from the woman’s hand, wave the grain offering before Lifegiver, and bring it to the altar. 26 Then the priest will take a handful of the grain offering as its memorial portion, burn it on the altar, and afterward make the woman drink the water. 27 When he has made her drink the water, then, if she has defiled herself and behaved unfaithfully toward her husband, the water that brings a curse will enter her to produce bitterness – her abdomen will swell, her thigh will fall away, and the woman will become a curse among her people. 28 But if the woman has not defiled herself, and is clean, then she’ll be free of ill effects and will be able to bear children. 29 “‘This is the law for cases of jealousy, when a wife, while under her husband’s authority, goes astray and defiles herself, 30 or when jealous feelings come over a man and he becomes suspicious of his wife; then he must have the woman stand before Lifegiver, and the priest will carry out all this law upon her. 31 Then the man will be free from iniquity, but that woman will bear the consequences of her iniquity.’”

Numbers 6

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and tell them, ‘When either a man or a woman takes a special vow, to take a vow as a Nazirite, to separate himself to Lifegiver, 3 he must separate himself from wine and strong drink, he must drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from strong drink, nor may he drink any juice of grapes, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins. 4 All the days of his vocation he must not eat anything that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin. 5 “‘All the days of the vow of his separation no razor may be used on his head until the time is fulfilled for which he separated himself to Lifegiver. he’ll be holy, and he must let the locks of hair on his head grow long. 6 “‘All the days that he separates himself to Lifegiver he must not contact a dead body. 7 He must not desecrate himself even for his father or his mother or his brother or his sister if they die, because the consecration for his Supermights is on his head. 8 All the days of his vocation he must be sacred to Lifegiver. 9 “‘If anyone dies very suddenly beside him and he defiles his consecrated head, then he must shave his head on the day of his purification – on the seventh day he must shave it. 10 On the eighth day he is to bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest, to the entrance to the tent of assembly. 11 Then the priest will offer one for a purification offering and the other as a sacrifice, and make atonement for him, because of his transgression in regard to the corpse. So, he must reconsecrate his head on that day. 12 He must rededicate to Lifegiver the days of his separation and bring a male lamb in its first year as a reparation offering, but the former days will not be counted because his consecration was defiled. 13 “‘Now this is the law of the Nazirite: When the days of his consecration are fulfilled, he must be brought to the entrance of the tent of assembly, 14 and he must present his offering to Lifegiver: one male lamb in its first year without blemish for a sacrifice, one ewe lamb in its first year without blemish for a purification offering, one ram without blemish for a peace offering, 15 and a basket of bread made without yeast, cakes of fine flour mixed with olive oil, wafers made without yeast and smeared with olive oil, and their grain offering and their drink offerings. 16 “‘Then the priest must present all these before Lifegiver and offer his purification offering and his sacrifice. 17 Then he must offer the ram as a peace offering to Lifegiver, with the basket of bread made without yeast; the priest must also offer his grain offering and his drink offering. 18 “‘Then the Nazirite must shave his consecrated head at the entrance to the tent of assembly and must take the hair from his consecrated head and put it on the fire where the peace offering is burning. 19 And the priest must take the boiled shoulder of the ram, one cake made without yeast from the basket, and one wafer made without yeast, and put them on the hands of the Nazirite after he has shaved his consecrated head; 20 then the priest must wave them as a wave offering before Lifegiver; it is a sacred portion for the priest, together with the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the raised offering. After this the Nazirite may drink wine.’ 21 “This is the law of the Nazirite who vows to Lifegiver his offering according to his consecration, as well as whatever else he can provide. Thus, he must fulfill his vow that he makes, according to the law of his consecration.” 22 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 23 “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is the way you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 ​​​​​​​ “Lifegiver bless you and protect you; 25 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; 26 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”’ 27 So they’ll put my name on the Israelites, and I’ll bless them.”

Numbers 7

1 When Moses had completed setting up the booth, he anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings, and he anointed and consecrated the altar and all its utensils. 2 Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of their clans, made an offering. They were the leaders of the tribes; they were the ones who had been supervising the numbering. 3 They brought their offering before Lifegiver, six covered carts and twelve oxen – one cart for every two of the leaders, and an ox for each one; and they presented them in front of the booth. 4 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 5 “Receive these gifts from them, that they may be used in doing the work of the tent of assembly; and you must give them to the Levites, to every man as his service requires.” 6 So Moses accepted the carts and the oxen and gave them to the Levites. 7 He gave two carts and four oxen to the Gershonites, as their service required; 8 and he gave four carts and eight oxen to the Merarites, as their service required, under the authority of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest. 9 But to the Kohathites he gave none, because the service of the sacred things, which they carried on their shoulders, was their responsibility. 10 The leaders offered gifts for the dedication of the altar when it was anointed. And the leaders presented their offering before the altar. 11 For Lifegiver said to Moses, “They must present their offering, one leader for each day, for the dedication of the altar.” 12 The one who presented his offering on the first day was Nahshon son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah. 13 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels, and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 14 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 15 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 16 one male goat for a purification offering; 17 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Nahshon son of Amminadab. 18 On the second day Nethanel son of Zuar, leader of Issachar, presented an offering. 19 He offered for his offering one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 20 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 21 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 22 one male goat for a purification offering; 23 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Nethanel son of Zuar. 24 On the third day Eliab son of Helon, leader of the Zebulunites, presented an offering. 25 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 26 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 27 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 28 one male goat for a purification offering; 29 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliab son of Helon. 30 On the fourth day Elizur son of Shedeur, leader of the Reubenites, presented an offering. 31 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 32 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 33 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 34 one male goat for a purification offering; 35 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elizur son of Shedeur. 36 On the fifth day Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, leader of the Simeonites, presented an offering. 37 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 38 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels; 39 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 40 one male goat for a purification offering; 41 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Sheloumiel son of Zurishaddai. 42 On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, leader of the Gadites, presented an offering. 43 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 44 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels; 45 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 46 one male goat for a purification offering; 47 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliasaph son of Deuel. 48 On the seventh day Elishama son of Ammihud, leader of the Ephraimites, presented an offering. 49 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 50 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 51 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 52 one male goat for a purification offering; 53 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elishama son of Ammihud. 54 On the eighth day Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, leader of the Manassehites, presented an offering. 55 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 56 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 57 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 58 one male goat for a purification offering; 59 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Gamaliel son of Pedahzur. 60 On the ninth day Abidan son of Gideoni, leader of the Benjaminites, presented an offering. 61 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 62 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 63 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 64 one male goat for a purification offering; 65 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Abidan son of Gideoni. 66 On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Amishaddai, leader of the Danites, presented an offering. 67 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 68 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 69 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 70 one male goat for a purification offering; 71 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahiezer son of Amishaddai. 72 On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Ocran, leader of the Asherites, presented an offering. 73 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 74 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense; 75 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 76 one male goat for a purification offering; 77 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Pagiel son of Ocran. 78 On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, leader of the Naphtalites, presented an offering. 79 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; 80 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels; 81 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a sacrifice; 82 one male goat for a purification offering; 83 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahira son of Enan. 84 This was the dedication for the altar from the leaders of Israel, when it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve silver sprinkling bowls, and twelve gold pans. 85 Each silver platter weighed 130 shekels, and each silver sprinkling bowl weighed 70 shekels. All the silver of the vessels weighed 2,400 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel. 86 The twelve gold pans full of incense weighed 10 shekels

each, according to the sanctuary shekel; all the gold of the pans weighed 120 shekels. 87 All the animals for the sacrifice were 12 young bulls, 12 rams, 12 male lambs in their first year, with their grain offering, and 12 male goats for a purification offering. 88 All the animals for the sacrifice for the peace offering were 24 young bulls, 60 rams, 60 male goats, and 60 lambs in their first year. These were the dedication offerings for the altar after it was anointed. 89 Now when Moses went into the tent of assembly to speak with Lifegiver, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the atonement lid that was on the Cabinet of Evidence, from between the two cherubim. Thus, he spoke to him.

Numbers 8

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to Aaron and tell him, ‘When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps are to give light in front of the lampstand.’” 3 And Aaron did so; he set up the lamps to face toward the front of the lampstand, as Lifegiver instructed Moses. 4 This is how the lampstand was made: It was beaten work in gold; from its shaft to its flowers it was beaten work. According to the pattern which Lifegiver had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand. 5 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 6 “Take the Levites from among the Israelites and purify them. 7 And do this to them to purify them: Sprinkle water of purification on them; then have them shave all their body and wash their clothes, and so purify themselves. 8 Then they are to take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with olive oil; and you are to take a second young bull for a purification offering. 9 You are to bring the Levites before the tent of assembly and assemble the entire community of the Israelites. 10 Then you are to bring the Levites before Lifegiver, and the Israelites are to lay their hands on the Levites; 11 and Aaron is to offer the Levites before Lifegiver as a wave offering from the Israelites, that they may do the work of Lifegiver. 12 When the Levites lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, offer the one for a purification offering and the other for a whole sacrifice to Lifegiver, to make atonement for the Levites. 13 You are to have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them as a wave offering to Lifegiver. 14 And so you are to separate the Levites from among the Israelites, and the Levites will be mine. 15 “After this, the Levites will go in to do the work of the tent of assembly. So you must cleanse them and offer them like a wave offering. 16 For they are entirely given to me from among the Israelites. I’ve taken them for myself instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn sons of all the Israelites. 17 For all the firstborn males among the Israelites are mine, both humans and animals; when I destroyed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I set them apart for myself. 18 So I’ve taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn sons among the Israelites. 19 I’ve given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the Israelites, to do the work for the Israelites in the tent of assembly, and to make atonement for the Israelites, so there will be no plague among the Israelites when the Israelites come near the sanctuary.” 20 So Moses and Aaron and the entire community of the Israelites did this with the Levites. According to all that Lifegiver instructed Moses concerning the Levites, this is what the Israelites did with them. 21 The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothing; then Aaron presented them like a wave offering before Lifegiver, and Aaron made atonement for them to purify them. 22 After this, the Levites went in to do their work in the tent of assembly before Aaron and before his sons. As Lifegiver had instructed Moses concerning the Levites, so they did. 23 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 24 “This is what pertains to the Levites: At the age of twenty-five years and upward one may begin to join the company in the work of the tent of assembly, 25 and at the age of fifty years they must retire from performing the work and may no longer work. 26 They may assist their colleagues in the tent of assembly, to attend to needs, but they must do no work. This is the way you must establish the Levites regarding their duties.”

Numbers 9

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses in the desert of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt: 2 “The Israelites are to observe the Passover at its appointed time. 3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you are to observe it at its appointed time; you must keep it in accordance with all its principles and all its customs.” 4 So Moses instructed the Israelites to observe the Passover. 5 And they observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight in the desert of Sinai; in accordance with all that Lifegiver had instructed Moses, so the Israelites did. 6 It happened that some men who were ceremonially defiled by the dead body of a man could not keep the Passover on that day, so they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day. 7 And those men said to him, “We are ceremonially defiled by the dead body of a man; why are we kept back from offering Lifegiver’s offering at its appointed time among the Israelites?” 8 So Moses said to them, “Remain here and I’ll hear what Lifegiver will instruct concerning you.” 9 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 10 “Tell the Israelites, ‘If any of you or of your posterity become ceremonially defiled by touching a dead body, or are on a journey far away, then he may observe the Passover to Lifegiver. 11 They may observe it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight; they are to eat it with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs. 12 They must not leave any of it until morning, nor break any of its bones; they must observe it in accordance with every statute of the Passover. 13 But the man who is ceremonially clean, and was not on a journey, and fails to keep the Passover, that person must be cut off from his people. Because he did not bring Lifegiver’s offering at its appointed time, that man must bear his sin. 14 If a resident foreigner lives among you and wants to keep the Passover to Lifegiver, he must do so according to the statute of the Passover, and according to its custom. You must have the same statute for the resident foreigner and for the one who was born in the land.’” 15 On the day that the booth was set up, the cloud covered the booth – the tent of the testimony – and from evening until morning there was a fiery appearance over the booth. 16 This is the way it used to be continually: The cloud would cover it by day, and there was a fiery appearance by night. 17 Whenever the cloud was taken up from the booth, then after that the Israelites would begin their journey; and in whatever place the cloud settled, there the Israelites would make camp. 18 At the commandment of Lifegiver the Israelites would begin their journey, and at the commandment of Lifegiver they would make camp; as long as the cloud remained settled over the booth they would camp. 19 When the cloud remained over the booth many days, then the Israelites obeyed the instructions of Lifegiver and did not journey. 20 When the cloud remained over the booth a number of days, they remained camped according to Lifegiver’s commandment, and according to Lifegiver’s commandment they would journey. 21 And when the cloud remained only from evening until morning, when the cloud was taken up the following morning, then they traveled on. Whether by day or by night, when the cloud was taken up they traveled. 22 Whether it was for two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud prolonged its stay over the booth, the Israelites remained camped without traveling; but when it was taken up, they traveled on. 23 At the commandment of Lifegiver they camped, and at the commandment of Lifegiver they traveled on; they kept the instructions of Lifegiver according to the commandment of Lifegiver, by the authority of Moses.

Numbers 10

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Make two trumpets of silver; you are to make them from a single hammered piece. You’ll use them for assembling the community and for directing the traveling of the camps. 3 When they blow them both, all the community must come to you to the entrance of the tent of assembly. 4 “But if they blow with one trumpet, then the leaders, the heads of the thousands of Israel, must come to you. 5 When you blow an alarm, then the camps that are located on the east side must begin to travel. 6 And when you blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that are located on the south side must begin to travel. An alarm must be sounded for their journeys. 7 But when you assemble the community, you must blow, but you must not sound an alarm. 8 The sons of Aaron, the priests, must blow the trumpets; and they’ll be to you for an eternal ordinance throughout your generations. 9 If you go to war in your land against an adversary who opposes you, then you must sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you’ll be remembered before Lifegiver your deity, and you’ll be saved from your enemies. 10 “Also in the time when you rejoice, such as on your appointed festivals or at the beginnings of your months, you must blow with your trumpets over your sacrifices and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings, so that they may become a memorial for you before your deity: I’m Lifegiver your deity.” 11 On the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, the cloud was taken up from the booth of the testimony. 12 So the Israelites set out on their journeys from the desert of Sinai; and the cloud settled in the desert of Paran. 13 This was the first time they set out on their journey according to the commandment of Lifegiver, by the authority of Moses. 14 The standard of the camp of the Judahites set out first according to their companies, and over his company was Nahshon son of Amminadab. 15 Over the company of the tribe of Issacharites was Nathanel son of Zuar, 16 and over the company of the tribe of the Zebulunites was Elion son of Helon. 17 Then the booth was dismantled, and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set out, carrying the booth. 18 The standard of the camp of Reuben set out according to their companies; over his company was Elizur son of Shedeur. 19 Over the company of the tribe of the Simeonites was Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, 20 and over the company of the tribe of the Gadites was Eliasaph son of Deuel. 21 And the Kohathites set out, carrying the articles for the sanctuary; the booth was to be set up before they arrived. 22 And the standard of the camp of the Ephraimites set out according to their companies; over his company was Elishama son of Ammihud. 23 Over the company of the tribe of the Manassehites was Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, 24 and over the company of the tribe of Benjaminites was Abidan son of Gideoni. 25 The standard of the camp of the Danites set out, which was the rear guard of all the camps by their companies; over his company was Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai. 26 Over the company of the tribe of the Asherites was Pagiel son of Ocran, 27 and over the company of the tribe of the Naphtalites was Ahira son of Enan. 28 These were the traveling arrangements of the Israelites according to their companies when they traveled. 29 Moses said to Hobab son of Reuel, the Midianite, Moses’ father-in-law, “We are journeying to the place about which Lifegiver said, ‘I’ll give it to you.’ Come with us and we’ll treat you well, for Lifegiver has promised good things for Israel.” 30 But Hobab said to him, “I’ll not go, but I’ll go instead to my own land and to my kindred.” 31 Moses said, “Do not leave us, because you know places for us to camp in the desert, and you could be our guide. 32 And if you come with us, it is certain that whatever good things Lifegiver will favor us with, we’ll share with you as well.” 33 So they traveled from the mountain of Lifegiver three days’ journey; and the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver was traveling before them during the three days’ journey, to find a resting place for them. 34 ​And the cloud of Lifegiver was over them by day, when they traveled from the camp. 35 And when the Cabinet traveled, Moses would say, “Rise up, O Lifegiver! May your enemies be scattered, and may those who hate you flee before you!” 36 And when it came to rest he would say, “Return, O Lifegiver, to the many thousands of Israel!”

Numbers 11

1 When the people complained, it displeased Lifegiver. When Lifegiver heard it, his anger burned, and so the fire of Lifegiver burned among them and consumed some of the outer parts of the camp. 2 When the people cried to Moses, he prayed to Lifegiver, and the fire died out. 3 So he called the name of that place Taberah because there the fire of Lifegiver burned among them. 4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them craved more desirable foods, and so the Israelites wept again and said, “If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we used to eat freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. 6 But now we are dried up, and there is nothing at all before us except this manna!” 7 (Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. 8 And the people went about and gathered it, and ground it with mills or pounded it in mortars; they baked it in pans and made cakes of it. It tasted like fresh olive oil. 9 And when the dew came down on the camp in the night, the manna fell with it.) 10 Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and when the anger of Lifegiver was kindled greatly, Moses was also displeased. 11 And Moses said to Lifegiver, “Why have you afflicted your servant? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of this entire people on me? 12 Did I conceive this entire people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your arms, as a foster father bears a nursing child,’ to the land which you swore to their fathers? 13 From where shall I get meat to give to this entire people, for they cry to me, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat!’ 14 I’m not able to bear this entire people alone, because it is too heavy for me! 15 But if you are going to deal with me like this, then kill me immediately. If I’ve found favor in your sight then do not let me see my trouble.” 16 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Gather to me seventy men of the seniors of Israel, whom you know are seniors of the people and officials over them, and bring them to the tent of assembly; let them take their position there with you. 17 Then I’ll come down and speak with you there, and I’ll take part of the spirit that is on you, and will put it on them, and they’ll bear some of the burden of the people with you, so that you do not bear it all by yourself. 18 “And say to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you’ll eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of Lifegiver, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat, for life was good for us in Egypt?” Therefore Lifegiver will give you meat, and you’ll eat. 19 You’ll eat, not just one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, 20 but a whole month, until it comes out your nostrils and makes you sick, because you have despised Lifegiver who is among you and have wept before him, saying, “Why did we ever come out of Egypt?”’” 21 Moses said, “The people around me are 600,000 on foot; but you say, ‘I’ll give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.’ 22 Would they have enough if the flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? If all the fish of the sea were caught for them, would they have enough?” 23 And Lifegiver said to Moses, “Is Lifegiver’s hand shortened? Now you’ll see whether my word to you’ll come true or not!” 24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of Lifegiver. He then gathered seventy men of the seniors of the people and had them stand around the booth. 25 And Lifegiver came down in the cloud and spoke to them, and he took some of the Spirit that was on Moses and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but did not do so again. 26 But two men remained in the camp; one’s name was Eldad, and the other’s name was Medad. And the spirit rested on them. (Now they were among those in the registration, but had not gone to the booth.) So they prophesied in the camp. 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!” 28 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his choice young men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” 29 Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for me? I wish that all Lifegiver’s people were prophets, that Lifegiver would put his Spirit on them!” 30 Then Moses returned to the camp along with the seniors of Israel. 31 Now a wind went out from Lifegiver and brought quail from the sea, and let them fall near the camp, about a day’s journey on this side, and about a day’s journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about three feet high on the surface of the ground. 32 And the people stayed up all that day, all that night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail. The one who gathered the least gathered ten homers, and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. 33 But while the meat was still between their teeth, before they chewed it, the anger of Lifegiver burned against the people, and Lifegiver struck the people with a very great plague. 34 So the name of that place was called Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people that craved different food. 35 The people traveled from Kibroth Hattaavah to Hazeroth, and they stayed at Hazeroth.

Numbers 12

1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married (for he had married an Ethiopian woman). 2 They said, “Has Lifegiver only spoken through Moses? Has he not also spoken through us?” And Lifegiver heard it. 3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more so than any man on the face of the Earth.) 4 Lifegiver spoke immediately to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam: “The three of you come to the tent of assembly.” So the three of them went. 5 And Lifegiver came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent; he then called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 Lifegiver said, “Hear now my words: If there is a prophet among you, I Lifegiver will make myself known to him in a vision; I’ll speak with him in a dream. 7 My servant Moses is not like this; he is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I’ll speak face to face, openly, and not in riddles; and he’ll see the form of Lifegiver. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” 9 The anger of Lifegiver burned against them, and he departed. 10 When the cloud departed from above the tent, Miriam became leprous as snow. Then Aaron looked at Miriam, and she was leprous! 11 So Aaron said to Moses, “O my lord, please do not hold this sin against us, in which we’ve acted foolishly and have sinned! 12 Do not let her be like a baby born dead, whose flesh is half-consumed when it comes out of its mother’s womb!” 13 Then Moses cried to Lifegiver, “Heal her now, O Supreme Supermights.” 14 Lifegiver said to Moses, “If her father had only spit in her face, would she not have been disgraced for seven days? Shut her out from the camp seven days, and afterward she can be brought back in again.” 15 So Miriam was shut outside of the camp for seven days, and the people did not journey on until Miriam was brought back in. 16 After that the people moved from Hazeroth and camped in the desert of Paran.

Numbers 13

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Send out men to investigate the land of Canaan, which I’m giving to the Israelites. You are to send one man from each ancestral tribe, each one a leader among them.” 3 So Moses sent them from the desert of Paran at the instruction of Lifegiver. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. 4 Now these were their names: from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zaccur; 5 from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori; 6 from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh; 7 from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph; 8 from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun; 9 from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu; 10 from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi; 11 from the tribe of Joseph, namely, the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi son of Susi; 12 from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli; 13 from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael; 14 from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vopshi; 15 from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki. 16 These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to investigate the land. And Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua. 17 When Moses sent them to investigate the land of Canaan, he told them, “Go up through the Negev, and then go up into the hill country 18 and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, few or many, 19 and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or fortified cities, 20 and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether or not there are forests in it. And be brave, and bring back some of the fruit of the land.” Now it was the time of year for the first ripe grapes. 21 So they went up and investigated the land from the desert of Zin to Rehob, at the entrance of Hamath. 22 When they went up through the Negev, they came to Hebron where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, descendants of Anak, were living. (Now Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a staff between two men, as well as some of the pomegranates and the figs. 24 That place was called the Eshcol Valley, because of the cluster of grapes that the Israelites cut from there. 25 They returned from investigating the land after forty days. 26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and to the whole community of the Israelites in the desert of Paran at Kadesh. They reported to the whole community and showed the fruit of the land. 27 They told Moses, “We went to the land where you sent us. It is indeed flowing with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 But the inhabitants are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. Moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the land of the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.” 30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses, saying, “Let us go up and occupy it, for we are well able to conquer it.” 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against these people, because they are stronger than we are!” 32 Then they presented the Israelites with a discouraging report of the land they had investigated, saying, “The land that we passed through to investigate is a land that devours its inhabitants. All the people we saw there are of great stature. 33 We even saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak came from the Nephilim), and we seemed liked grasshoppers both to ourselves and to them.”

Numbers 14

1 Then all the community raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had perished in this desert! 3 Why has Lifegiver brought us into this land only to be killed by the sword, that our wives and our children should become plunder? Wouldn’t it be better for us to return to Egypt?” 4 So they said to one another, “Let’s appoint a leader and return to Egypt.” 5 Then Moses and Aaron fell down with their faces to the ground before the whole assembled community of the Israelites. 6 And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, two of those who had investigated the land, tore their garments. 7 They said to the whole community of the Israelites, “The land we passed through to investigate is an exceedingly good land. 8 If Lifegiver delights in us, then he’ll bring us into this land and give it to us – a land that is flowing with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against Lifegiver, and do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection has turned aside from them, but Lifegiver is with us. Do not fear them!” 10 However, the whole community threatened to stone them. But the glory of Lifegiver appeared to all the Israelites at the tent of assembly. 11 Lifegiver said to Moses, “How long will this people despise me, and how long will they not believe in me, in spite of the signs that I’ve done among them? 12 I’ll strike them with the pestilence, and I’ll disinherit them; I’ll make you into a nation that is greater and mightier than they!” 13 Moses said to Lifegiver, “When the Egyptians hear it – for you brought up this people by your power from among them – 14 then they’ll tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, Lifegiver, are among this people, that you, Lifegiver, are seen face to face, that your cloud stands over them, and that you go before them by day in a pillar of cloud and in a pillar of fire by night. 15 If you kill this entire people at once, then the nationalities that have heard of your fame will say, 16 ‘Because Lifegiver was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to them, he killed them in the desert.’ 17 So now, let the power of my Lord be great, just as you have said, 18 ‘Lifegiver is slow to anger and abounding in loyal love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children until the third and fourth generations.’ 19 Please forgive the iniquity of this people according to your great loyal love, just as you have forgiven this people from Egypt even until now.” 20 Then Lifegiver said, “I’ve forgiven them as you asked. 21 But truly, as I live, all the Earth will be filled with the glory of Lifegiver. 22 For all the people have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the desert, and yet have tempted me now these ten times, and have not obeyed me, 23 they’ll by no means see the land that I swore to their fathers, nor will any of them who despised me see it. 24 Only my servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has followed me fully – I’ll bring him into the land where he had gone, and his descendants will possess it. 25 (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites were living in the valleys.) Tomorrow, turn and journey into the desert by the way of the Red Sea.” 26 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 27 “How long must I bear with this bad congregation that murmurs against me? I’ve heard the complaints of the Israelites that they murmured against me. 28 Say to them, ‘As I live, says Lifegiver, I’ll surely do to you just what you have spoken in my hearing. 29 Your dead bodies will fall in this desert – all those of you who were numbered, according to your full number, from twenty years old and upward, who have murmured against me. 30 You’ll by no means enter into the land where I swore to settle you. The only exceptions are Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 But I’ll bring in your little ones, whom you said would become victims of war, and they’ll enjoy the land that you have despised. 32 But as for you, your dead bodies will fall in this desert, 33 and your children will wander in the desert forty years and suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your dead bodies lie finished in the desert. 34 According to the number of the days you have investigated this land, forty days – one day for a year – you’ll suffer for your iniquities, forty years, and you’ll know what it means to thwart me. 35 I, Lifegiver, have said, “I’ll surely do so to all this bad congregation that has gathered together against me. In this desert they’ll be finished, and there they’ll die!”’” 36 The men whom Moses sent to investigate the land, who returned and made the whole community murmur against him by producing a bad report about the land, 37 those men who produced the bad report about the land, died by the plague before Lifegiver. 38 But Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among the men who went to investigate the land, lived. 39 When Moses told these things to all the Israelites, the people mourned greatly. 40 And early in the morning they went up to the crest of the hill country, saying, “Here we are, and we’ll go up to the place that Lifegiver instructed, for we’ve sinned.” 41 But Moses said, “Why are you now transgressing the commandment of Lifegiver? It will not succeed! 42 Do not go up, for Lifegiver is not among you, and you’ll be defeated before your enemies. 43 For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you’ll fall by the sword. Because you have turned away from Lifegiver, Lifegiver will not be with you.” 44 But they dared to go up to the crest of the hill, although neither the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver nor Moses departed from the camp. 45 So the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country swooped down and attacked them as far as Hormah.

Numbers 15

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you enter the land where you are to live, which I’m giving you, 3 and you make an offering by fire to Lifegiver from the herd or from the flock (whether a sacrifice or a sacrifice for discharging a vow or as a freewill offering or in your solemn feasts) to create a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver, 4 then the one who presents his offering to Lifegiver must bring a grain offering of one-tenth of an ephah of finely ground flour mixed with one fourth of a litreof olive oil. 5 You must also prepare one-fourth of a litreof wine for a drink offering with the sacrifice or the sacrifice for each lamb. 6 Or for a ram, you must prepare as a grain offering two-tenths of an ephah of finely ground flour mixed with one-third of a litreof olive oil, 7 and for a drink offering you must offer one-third of a litreof wine as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver. 8 And when you prepare a young bull as a sacrifice or a sacrifice for discharging a vow or as a peace offering to Lifegiver, 9 then a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of finely ground flour mixed with half a litreof olive oil must be presented with the young bull, 10 and you must present as the drink offering half a litreof wine with the fire offering as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver. 11 This is what is to be done for each ox, or each ram, or each of the male lambs or the goats. 12 You must do so for each one according to the number that you prepare. 13 “‘Every native-born person must do these things in this way to present an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver. 14 If a resident foreigner is living with you – or whoever is among you in future generations – and prepares an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver, he must do it the same way you are to do it. 15 One statute must apply to you who belong to the congregation and to the resident foreigner who is living among you, as a permanent statute for your future generations. You and the resident foreigner will be alike before Lifegiver. 16 One law and one custom must apply to you and to the resident foreigner who lives alongside you.’” 17 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 18 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you enter the land to which I’m bringing you 19 and you eat some of the food of the land, you must offer up a raised offering to Lifegiver. 20 You must offer up a cake of the first of your finely ground flour as a raised offering; as you offer the raised offering of the threshing floor, so you must offer it up. 21 You must give to Lifegiver some of the first of your finely ground flour as a raised offering in your future generations. 22 “‘If you sin unintentionally and do not observe all these commandments that Lifegiver has spoken to Moses – 23 all that Lifegiver has instructed you by the authority of Moses, from the day that Lifegiver instructed Moses and continuing through your future generations – 24 then if anything is done unintentionally without the knowledge of the community, the whole community must prepare one young bull for a sacrifice – for a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver – along with its grain offering and its customary drink offering, and one male goat for a purification offering. 25 And the priest is to make atonement for the whole community of the Israelites, and they’ll be forgiven, because it was unintentional and they have brought their offering, an offering made by fire to Lifegiver, and their purification offering before Lifegiver, for their unintentional offense. 26 And the whole community of the Israelites and the resident foreigner who lives among them will be forgiven, since all the people were involved in the unintentional offense. 27 “‘If any person sins unintentionally, then he must bring a yearling female goat for a purification offering. 28 And the priest must make atonement for the person who sins unintentionally – when he sins unintentionally before Lifegiver – to make atonement for him, and he’ll be forgiven. 29 You must have one law for the person who sins unintentionally, both for the native-born among the Israelites and for the resident foreigner who lives among them. 30 “‘But the person who acts defiantly, whether native-born or a resident foreigner, insults Lifegiver. That person must be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he has despised the word of Lifegiver and has broken his commandment, that person must be completely cut off. His iniquity will be on him.’” 32 When the Israelites were in the desert they found a man gathering wood on the Sabbath day. 33 Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and to the whole community. 34 They put him in custody, because there was no clear instruction about what should be done to him. 35 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “The man must surely be put to death; the whole community must stone him with stones outside the camp.” 36 So the whole community took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, just as Lifegiver instructed Moses. 37 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 38 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them to make tassels for themselves on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and put a blue thread on the tassel of the corners. 39 You must have this tassel so that you may look at it and remember all the commandments of Lifegiver and obey them and so that you do not follow after your own heart and your own eyes that lead you to unfaithfulness. 40 Thus you’ll remember and obey all my commandments and be sacred to your deity. 41 I’m Lifegiver your deity, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your deity. I’m Lifegiver your deity.”

Numbers 16

1 Now Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth, who were Reubenites, took men 2 and rebelled against Moses, along with some of the Israelites, 250 leaders of the community, Designated from the assembly, famous men. 3 And they assembled against Moses and Aaron, saying to them, “You take too much upon yourselves, seeing that the whole community is holy, every one of them, and Lifegiver is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the community of Lifegiver?” 4 When Moses heard it he fell down with his face to the ground. 5 Then he said to Korah and to all his company, “In the morning Lifegiver will make known who are his, and who is holy. he’ll cause that person to approach him; the person he has Designated he’ll cause to approach him. 6 Do this, Korah, you and all your company: Take censers, 7 put fire in them, and set incense on them before Lifegiver tomorrow, and the man whom Lifegiver chooses will be holy. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!” 8 Moses said to Korah, “Listen now, you sons of Levi! 9 Does it seem too small a thing to you that the Supermights of Israel has separated you from the community of Israel to bring you near to himself, to perform the service of the booth of Lifegiver, and to stand before the community to minister to them? 10 He has brought you near and all your brothers, the sons of Levi, with you. Do you now seek the priesthood also? 11 Therefore you and all your company have assembled together against Lifegiver! And Aaron – what is he that you murmur against him?” 12 Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but they said, “We’ll not come up. 13 Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of the land that flows with milk and honey, to kill us in the desert? Now do you want to make yourself a prince over us? 14 Moreover, you have not brought us into a land that flows with milk and honey, nor given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Do you think you can blind these men? We’ll not come up.” 15 Moses was very angry, and he said to Lifegiver, “Have no respect for their offering! I’ve not taken so much as one donkey from them, nor have I harmed any one of them!” 16 Then Moses said to Korah, “You and all your company present yourselves before Lifegiver – you and they, and Aaron – tomorrow. 17 And each of you take his censer, put incense in it, and then each of you present his censer before Lifegiver: 250 censers, along with you, and Aaron – each of you with his censer.” 18 So everyone took his censer, put fire in it, and set incense on it, and stood at the entrance of the tent of assembly, with Moses and Aaron. 19 When Korah assembled the whole community against them at the entrance of the tent of assembly, then the glory of Lifegiver appeared to the whole community. 20 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 21 “Separate yourselves from among this community, that I may consume them in an instant.” 22 Then they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground and said, “O Supreme Supermights, the Supermights of the spirits of all people, will you be angry with the whole community when only one man sins?” 23 So Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 24 “Tell the community: ‘Get away from around the homes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.’” 25 Then Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram; and the seniors of Israel went after him. 26 And he said to the community, “Move away from the tents of these wicked men, and do not touch anything they have, lest you be destroyed because of all their sins.” 27 So they got away from the homes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram on every side, and Dathan and Abiram came out and stationed themselves in the entrances of their tents with their wives, their children, and their toddlers. 28 Then Moses said, “This is how you’ll know that Lifegiver has sent me to do all these works, for I’ve not done them of my own will. 29 If these men die a natural death, or if they share the fate of all men, then Lifegiver has not sent me. 30 But if Lifegiver does something entirely new, and the Earth opens its mouth and swallows them up along with all that they have, and they go down alive to the grave, then you’ll know that these men have despised Lifegiver!” 31 When he had finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open, 32 and the Earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, along with their households, and all Korah’s men, and all their goods. 33 They and all that they had went down alive into the pit, and the Earth closed over them. So they perished from among the community. 34 All the Israelites who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, “What if the Earth swallows us too?” 35 Then a fire went out from Lifegiver and devoured the 250 men who offered incense. 36 (17:1) Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 37 “Tell Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to pick up the censers out of the flame, for they are holy, and then scatter the coals of fire at a distance. 38 As for the censers of these men who sinned at the cost of their lives, they must be made into hammered sheets for covering the altar, because they presented them before Lifegiver and sanctified them. They’ll become a sign to the Israelites.” 39 So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers presented by those who had been burned up, and they were hammered out as a covering for the altar. 40 It was a memorial for the Israelites, that no outsider who is not a descendant of Aaron should approach to burn incense before Lifegiver, that he might not become like Korah and his company – just as Lifegiver had spoken by the authority of Moses. 41 But on the next day the whole community of Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, “You have killed Lifegiver’s people!” 42 When the community assembled against Moses and Aaron, they turned toward the tent of assembly – and the cloud covered it, and the glory of Lifegiver appeared. 43 Then Moses and Aaron stood before the tent of assembly. 44 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 45 “Get away from this community, so that I can consume them in an instant!” But they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground. 46 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Take the censer, put burning coals from the altar in it, place incense on it, and go quickly into the assembly and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from Lifegiver – the plague has begun!” 47 So Aaron did as Moses instructed and ran into the middle of the assembly, where the plague was just beginning among the people. So he placed incense on the coals and made atonement for the people. 48 He stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped. 49 Now 14,700 people died in the plague, in addition to those who died in the event with Korah. 50 Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of assembly, and the plague was stopped.

Numbers 17

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and receive from them a staff from each tribe, one from every tribal leader, twelve staffs; you must write each man’s name on his staff. 3 You must write Aaron’s name on the staff of Levi; for one staff is for the head of every tribe. 4 You must place them in the tent of assembly before the Cabinet of the agreement where I meet with you. 5 And the staff of the man whom I choose will blossom; so I’ll rid myself of the complaints of the Israelites, which they murmur against you.” 6 So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and each of their leaders gave him a staff, one for each leader, according to their tribes – twelve staffs; the staff of Aaron was among their staffs. 7 Then Moses placed the staffs before Lifegiver in the tent of the testimony. 8 On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony – and the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted, and brought forth buds, and produced blossoms, and yielded almonds! 9 So Moses brought out all the staffs from before Lifegiver to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each man took his staff. 10 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Bring Aaron’s staff back before the testimony to be preserved for a sign to the rebels, so that you may bring their murmurings to an end before me, that they’ll not die.” 11 So Moses did as Lifegiver instructed him – this is what he did. 12 The Israelites said to Moses, “We are bound to die! We perish, we all perish! 13 (17:28) Anyone who even comes close to the booth of Lifegiver will die! Are we all to die?”

Numbers 18

1 Lifegiver said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your tribe with you must bear the iniquity of the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you must bear the iniquity of your priesthood. 2 “Bring with you your brothers, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, so that they may join with you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony. 3 They must be responsible to care for you and to care for the entire booth. However, they must not come near the furnishings of the sanctuary and the altar, or both they and you’ll die. 4 They must join with you, and they’ll be responsible for the care of the tent of assembly, for all the service of the tent, but no unauthorized person may approach you. 5 You’ll be responsible for the care of the sanctuary and the care of the altar, so that there will be no more wrath on the Israelites. 6 I myself have Designated your brothers the Levites from among the Israelites. They are given to you as a gift from Lifegiver, to perform the duties of the tent of assembly. 7 But you and your sons with you are responsible for your priestly duties, for everything at the altar and witlitrethe curtain. And you must serve. I give you the priesthood as a gift for service; but the unauthorized person who approaches must be put to death.” 8 Lifegiver spoke to Aaron, “See, I’ve given you the responsibility for my raised offerings; I’ve given all the sacred things of the Israelites to you as your priestly portion and to your sons as a perpetual ordinance. 9 Of all the most sacred offerings reserved from the fire this will be yours: Every offering of theirs, whether from every grain offering or from every purification offering or from every reparation offering which they bring to me, will be most sacred for you and for your sons. 10 You are to eat it as a most sacred offering; every male may eat it. It will be sacred to you. 11 “And this is yours: the raised offering of their gift, along with all the wave offerings of the Israelites. I’ve given them to you and to your sons and daughters with you as a perpetual ordinance. Everyone who is ceremonially clean in your household may eat of it. 12 “All the best of the olive oil and all the best of the wine and of the wheat, the first fruits of these things that they give to Lifegiver, I’ve given to you. 13 And whatever first ripe fruit in their land they bring to Lifegiver will be yours; everyone who is ceremonially clean in your household may eat of it. 14 “Everything devoted in Israel will be yours. 15 The firstborn of every womb which they present to Lifegiver, whether human or animal, will be yours. Nevertheless, the firstborn sons you must repurchase, and the firstborn males of unclean animals you must repurchase. 16 And those that must be repurchased you are to repurchase when they are a month old, according to your estimation, for five shekels of silver according to the sanctuary shekel (which is twenty gerahs). 17 But you must not repurchase the firstborn of a cow or a sheep or a goat; they are holy. You must splash their blood on the altar and burn their fat for an offering made by fire for a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver. 18 And their meat will be yours, just as the breast and the right hip of the raised offering is yours. 19 All the raised offerings of the sacred things that the Israelites offer to Lifegiver, I’ve given to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual ordinance. It is a agreement of salt forever before Lifegiver for you and for your descendants with you.” 20 Lifegiver spoke to Aaron, “You’ll have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any portion of property among them – I’m your portion and your inheritance among the Israelites. 21 See, I’ve given the Levites all the tithes in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they perform – the service of the tent of assembly. 22 No longer may the Israelites approach the tent of assembly, or else they’ll bear their sin and die. 23 But the Levites must perform the service of the tent of assembly, and they must bear their iniquity. It will be a perpetual ordinance throughout your generations that among the Israelites the Levites have no inheritance. 24 But I’ve given to the Levites for an inheritance the tithes of the Israelites that are offered to Lifegiver as a raised offering. That is why I said to them that among the Israelites they are to have no inheritance.” 25 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 26 “You are to speak to the Levites, and you must tell them, ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe that I’ve given you from them as your inheritance, then you are to offer up from it as a raised offering to Lifegiver a tenth of the tithe. 27 And your raised offering will be credited to you as though it were grain from the threshing floor or as new wine from the winepress. 28 Thus you are to offer up a raised offering to Lifegiver of all your tithes which you receive from the Israelites; and you must give Lifegiver’s raised offering from it to Aaron the priest. 29 From all your gifts you must offer up every raised offering due Lifegiver, from all the best of it, and the holiest part of it.’ 30 “Therefore you’ll say to them, ‘When you offer up the best of it, then it will be credited to the Levites as the product of the threshing floor and as the product of the winepress. 31 And you may eat it in any place, you and your household, because it is your wages for your service in the tent of assembly. 32 And you’ll bear no sin concerning it when you offer up the best of it. And you must not profane the sacred things of the Israelites, or else you’ll die.’”

Numbers 19

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron: 2 “This is the ordinance of the law which Lifegiver has instructed: ‘Instruct the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without blemish, which has no defect and has never carried a yoke. 3 You must give it to Eleazar the priest so that he can take it outside the camp, and it must be slaughtered before him. 4 Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of the blood seven times directly in front of the tent of assembly. 5 Then the heifer must be burned in his sight – its skin, its flesh, its blood, and its offal is to be burned. 6 And the priest must take cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet wool and throw them into the midst of the fire where the heifer is burning. 7 Then the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and afterward he may come into the camp, but the priest will be ceremonially unclean until evening. 8 The one who burns it must wash his clothes in water and bathe himself in water. he’ll be ceremonially unclean until evening. 9 “‘Then a man who is ceremonially clean must gather up the ashes of the red heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They must be kept for the community of the Israelites for use in the water of purification – it is a purification for sin. 10 The one who gathers the ashes of the heifer must wash his clothes and be ceremonially unclean until evening. This will be a permanent ordinance both for the Israelites and the resident foreigner who lives among them. 11 “‘Whoever touches the corpse of any person will be ceremonially unclean seven days. 12 He must purify himself with water on the third day and on the seventh day, and so will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and the seventh day, then he’ll not be clean. 13 Anyone who touches the corpse of any dead person and does not purify himself defiles the booth of Lifegiver. And that person must be cut off from Israel, because the water of purification was not sprinkled on him. he’ll be unclean; his uncleanness remains on him. 14 “‘This is the law: When a man dies in a tent, anyone who comes into the tent and all who are in the tent will be ceremonially unclean seven days. 15 And every open container that has no covering fastened on it is unclean. 16 And whoever touches the body of someone killed with a sword in the open fields, or the body of someone who died of natural causes, or a human bone, or a grave, will be unclean seven days. 17 “‘For a ceremonially unclean person you must take some of the ashes of the heifer burnt for purification from sin and pour fresh running water over them in a vessel. 18 Then a ceremonially clean person must take hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle it on the tent, on all its furnishings, and on the people who were there, or on the one who touched a bone, or one killed, or one who died, or a grave. 19 And the clean person must sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day; and on the seventh day he must purify him, and then he must wash his clothes, and bathe in water, and he’ll be clean in the evening. 20 But the man who is unclean and does not purify himself, that person must be cut off from among the community, because he has polluted the sanctuary of Lifegiver; the water of purification was not sprinkled on him, so he is unclean. 21 “‘So this will be a perpetual ordinance for them: The one who sprinkles the water of purification must wash his clothes, and the one who touches the water of purification will be unclean until evening. 22 And whatever the unclean person touches will be unclean, and the person who touches it will be unclean until evening.’”

Numbers 20

1 Then the entire community of Israel entered the desert of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. Miriam died and was buried there. 2 And there was no water for the community, and so they gathered themselves together against Moses and Aaron. 3 The people contended with Moses, saying, “If only we had died when our brothers died before Lifegiver! 4 Why have you brought up Lifegiver’s community into this desert? So that we and our cattle should die here? 5 Why have you brought us up from Egypt only to bring us to this dreadful place? It is no place for grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink!” 6 So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance to the tent of assembly. They then threw themselves down with their faces to the ground, and the glory of Lifegiver appeared to them. 7 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 8 “Take the staff and assemble the community, you and Aaron your brother, and then speak to the rock before their eyes. It will pour forth its water, and you’ll bring water out of the rock for them, and so you’ll give the community and their beasts water to drink.” 9 So Moses took the staff from before Lifegiver, just as he instructed him. 10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the community together in front of the rock, and he said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring water out of this rock for you?” 11 Then Moses raised his hand, and struck the rock twice with his staff. And water came out abundantly. So the community drank, and their beasts drank too. 12 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust me enough to show me as sacred before the Israelites, therefore you’ll not bring this community into the land I’ve given them.” 13 These are the waters of Meribah, because the Israelites contended with Lifegiver, and his holiness was maintained among them. 14 Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom: “Thus says your brother Israel: ‘You know all the hardships we’ve experienced, 15 how our ancestors went down into Egypt, and we lived in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our ancestors badly. 16 So when we cried to Lifegiver, he heard our voice and sent a messenger, and has brought us up out of Egypt. Now we are here in Kadesh, a town on the edge of your country. 17 Please let us pass through your country. We’ll not pass through the fields or through the vineyards, nor will we drink water from any well. We’ll go by the King’s Highway; we’ll not turn to the right or the left until we’ve passed through your region.’” 18 But Edom said to him, “You’ll not pass through me, or I’ll come out against you with the sword.” 19 Then the Israelites said to him, “We’ll go along the highway, and if we or our cattle drink any of your water, we’ll pay for it. We’ll only pass through on our feet, without doing anything else.” 20 But he said, “You may not pass through.” Then Edom came out against them with a large and powerful force. 21 So Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border; therefore Israel turned away from him. 22 So the entire company of Israelites traveled from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. 23 And Lifegiver spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor, by the border of the land of Edom. He said: 24 “Aaron will be gathered to his ancestors, for he’ll not enter into the land I’ve given to the Israelites because both of you rebelled against my word at the waters of Meribah. 25 Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up on Mount Hor. 26 Remove Aaron’s priestly garments and put them on Eleazar his son, and Aaron will be gathered to his ancestors and will die there.” 27 So Moses did as Lifegiver instructed; and they went up Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community. 28 And Moses removed Aaron’s garments and put them on his son Eleazar. So Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. And Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. 29 When all the community saw that Aaron was dead, the whole house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.

Numbers 21

1 When the Canaanite king of Arad who lived in the Negev heard that Israel was approaching along the road to Atharim, he fought against Israel and took some of them prisoner. 2 So Israel made a vow to Lifegiver and said, “If you’ll indeed deliver this people into our hand, then we’ll utterly destroy their cities.”

3 Lifegiver listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. So the name of the place was called Hormah. 4 Then they traveled from Mount Hor by the road to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became impatient along the way. 5 And the people spoke against Supermights and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert, for there is no bread or water, and we detest this worthless food.” 6 So Lifegiver sent poisonous snakes among the people, and they bit the people; many people of Israel died. 7 Then the people came to Moses and said, “We’ve sinned, for we’ve spoken against Lifegiver and against you. Pray to Lifegiver that he would take away the snakes from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Make a poisonous snake and set it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he’ll live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole, so that if a snake had bitten someone, when he looked at the bronze snake he lived. 10 The Israelites traveled on and camped in Oboth. 11 Then they traveled on from Oboth and camped at Iye Abarim, in the desert that is before Moab, on the eastern side. 12 From there they moved on and camped in the valley of Zered. 13 From there they moved on and camped on the other side of the Arnon, in the desert that extends from the regions of the Amorites, for Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. 14 This is why it is said in the Wars of Lifegiver, “Waheb in Suphah and the wadis, the Arnon 15 ​​​​​​​and the slope of the valleys that extends to the dwelling of Ar, and falls off at the border of Moab.” 16 And from there they traveled to Beer; that is the well where Lifegiver spoke to Moses, “Gather the people and I’ll give them water.” 17 Then Israel sang this song: “Spring up, O well, sing to it! 18 ​​​​​​​The well which the princes dug, which the leaders of the people opened with their scepters and their staffs.” And from the desert they traveled to Mattanah; 19 and from Mattanah to Nahaliel; and from Nahaliel to Bamoth; 20 and from Bamoth to the valley that is in the country of Moab, near the top of Pisgah, which overlooks the desert. 21 Then Israel sent messengers to King Sihon of the Amorites, saying, 22 “Let us pass through your land; we’ll not turn aside into the fields or into the vineyards, nor will we drink water from any well, but we’ll go along the King’s Highway until we pass your borders.” 23 But Sihon did not permit Israel to pass through his border; he gathered all his forces together and went out against Israel into the desert. When he came to Jahaz, he fought against Israel. 24 But the Israelites defeated him in battle and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the Ammonites, for the border of the Ammonites was strongly defended. 25 So Israel took all these cities; and Israel settled in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all its villages. 26 For Heshbon was the city of King Sihon of the Amorites. Now he had fought against the former king of Moab and had taken all of his land from his control, as far as the Arnon. 27 That is why those who speak in proverbs say, “Come to Heshbon, let it be built. Let the city of Sihon be established! 28 ​​​​​​​For fire went out from Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon. It has consumed Ar of Moab and citizens of the heights of Arnon. 29 ​​​​​​​Woe to you, Moab. You are ruined, O people of Chemosh! He has made his sons fugitives, and his daughters the prisoners of King Sihon of the Amorites. 30 ​​​​​​​We’ve overpowered them; Heshbon has perished as far as Dibon. We’ve shattered them as far as Nophah, which reaches to Medeba.” 31 So the Israelites lived in the land of the Amorites. 32 Moses sent spies to reconnoiter Jaazer, and they captured its villages and dispossessed the Amorites who were there. 33 Then they turned and went up by the road to Bashan. And King Og of Bashan and all his forces marched out against them to do battle at Edrei. 34 And Lifegiver said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I’ve delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand. You’ll do to him what you did to King Sihon of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon. 35 So they defeated Og, his sons, and all his people, until there were no survivors, and they possessed his land.

Numbers 22

1 The Israelites traveled on and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan River across from Jericho. 2 Balak son of Zippor saw all that the Israelites had done to the Amorites. 3 And the Moabites were greatly afraid of the people, because they were so numerous. The Moabites were sick with fear because of the Israelites. 4 So the Moabites said to the seniors of Midian, “Now this mass of people will lick up everything around us, as the bull devours the grass of the field. Now Balak son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at this time. 5 And he sent messengers to Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the Euphrates River in the land of Amaw, to summon him, saying, “Look, a nation has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the Earth, and they are settling next to me. 6 So now, please come and curse this nation for me, for they are too powerful for me. Perhaps I’ll prevail so that we may conquer them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed.” 7 So the seniors of Moab and the seniors of Midian departed with the fee for divination in their hand. They came to Balaam and reported to him the words of Balak. 8 He replied to them, “Stay here tonight, and I’ll bring back to you whatever word Lifegiver may speak to me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. 9 And Supermights came to Balaam and said, “Who are these men with you?” 10 Balaam said to Supermights, “Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent a message to me, saying, 11 “Look, a nation has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the Earth. Come now and put a curse on them for me; perhaps I’ll be able to defeat them and drive them out.” 12 But Supermights said to Balaam, “You must not go with them; you must not curse the people, for they are blessed.” 13 So Balaam got up in the morning, and said to the princes of Balak, “Go to your land, for Lifegiver has refused to permit me to go with you.” 14 So the princes of Moab departed and went back to Balak and said, “Balaam refused to come with us.” 15 Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more distinguished than the first. 16 And they came to Balaam and said to him, “Thus says Balak son of Zippor: ‘Please do not let anything hinder you from coming to me. 17 For I’ll honor you greatly, and whatever you tell me I’ll do. So come, put a curse on this nation for me.’” 18 Balaam replied to the servants of Balak, “Even if Balak would give me his palace full of silver and gold, I could not transgress the commandment of Lifegiver my Supermights to do less or more. 19 Now therefore, please stay the night here also, that I may know what more Lifegiver might say to me.” 20 Supermights came to Balaam that night, and said to him, “If the men have come to call you, get up and go with them; but the word that I’ll say to you, that you must do.” 21 So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab. 22 Then Supermights ’s anger was kindled because he went, and the messenger of Lifegiver stood in the road to oppose him. Now he was riding on his donkey and his two servants were with him. 23 And the donkey saw the messenger of Lifegiver standing in the road with his sword drawn in his hand, so the donkey turned aside from the road and went into the field. But Balaam beat the donkey, to make her turn back to the road. 24 Then the messenger of Lifegiver stood in a path among the vineyards, where there was a wall on either side. 25 And when the donkey saw the messenger of Lifegiver, she pressed herself into the wall, and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall. So he beat her again. 26 Then the messenger of Lifegiver went farther, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. 27 When the donkey saw the messenger of Lifegiver, she crouched down under Balaam. Then Balaam was angry, and he beat his donkey with a staff. 28 Then Lifegiver opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?” 29 And Balaam said to the donkey, “You have made me look stupid; I wish there were a sword in my hand, for I would kill you right now.” 30 The donkey said to Balaam, “Am not I your donkey that you have ridden ever since I was yours until this day? Have I ever attempted to treat you this way?” And he said, “No.” 31 Then Lifegiver opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the messenger of Lifegiver standing in the way with his sword drawn in his hand; so he bowed his head and threw himself down with his face to the ground. 32 The messenger of Lifegiver said to him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? Look, I came out to oppose you because what you are doing is perverse before me. 33 The donkey saw me and turned from me these three times. If she had not turned from me, I would have killed you but saved her alive.” 34 Balaam said to the messenger of Lifegiver, “I’ve sinned, for I did not know that you stood against me in the road. So now, if it is bad in your sight, I’ll go back home.” 35 But the messenger of Lifegiver said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but you may only speak the word that I’ll speak to you.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. 36 When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at a city of Moab which was on the border of the Arnon at the boundary of his territory. 37 Balak said to Balaam, “Did I not send again and again to you to summon you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?” 38 Balaam said to Balak, “Look, I’ve come to you. Now, am I able to speak just anything? I must speak only the word that Supermights puts in my mouth.” 39 So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth. 40 And Balak sacrificed bulls and sheep, and sent some to Balaam, and to the princes who were with him. 41 Then on the next morning Balak took Balaam, and brought him up to Bamoth Baal. From there he saw the extent of the nation.

Numbers 23

1 Balaam said to Balak, “Build me seven altars here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” 2 So Balak did just as Balaam had said. Balak and Balaam then offered on each altar a bull and a ram. 3 Balaam said to Balak, “Station yourself by your sacrifice, and I’ll go off; perhaps Lifegiver will come to meet me, and whatever he reveals to me I’ll tell you.” Then he went to a deserted height. 4 Then Supermights met Balaam, who said to him, “I’ve prepared seven altars, and I’ve offered on each altar a bull and a ram.” 5 Then Lifegiver put a message in Balaam’s mouth and said, “Return to Balak, and speak what I tell you.” 6 So he returned to him, and he was still standing by his sacrifice, he and all the princes of Moab. 7 Then Balaam uttered his oracle, saying, “Balak, the king of Moab, brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, ‘Come, pronounce a curse on Jacob for me; come, denounce Israel.’ 8 ​​​​​​​How can I curse one whom Supermights has not cursed, or how can I denounce one whom Lifegiver has not denounced? 9 ​​​​​​​For from the top of the rocks I see them; from the hills I watch them. Indeed, a nation that lives alone, and it will not be reckoned among the nationalities. 10 ​​​​​​​Who can count the dust of Jacob, Or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let the end of my life be like theirs.” 11 Then Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but on the contrary you have only blessed them!” 12 Balaam replied, “Must I not be careful to speak what Lifegiver has put in my mouth?” 13 Balak said to him, “Please come with me to another place from which you can observe them. You’ll see only a part of them, but you’ll not see all of them. Curse them for me from there.” 14 So Balak brought Balaam to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, where he built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. 15 And Balaam said to Balak, “Station yourself here by your sacrifice, while I meet Lifegiver there. 16 Then Lifegiver met Balaam and put a message in his mouth and said, “Return to Balak, and speak what I tell you.” 17 When Balaam came to him, he was still standing by his sacrifice, along with the princes of Moab. And Balak said to him, “What has Lifegiver spoken?” 18 Balaam uttered his oracle, and said, “Rise up, Balak, and hear; Listen to me, son of Zippor: 19 ​​​​​​​Supermights is not a man, that he should lie, nor a human being, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not make it happen? 20 ​​​​​​​Indeed, I’ve received an instruction to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot reverse it. 21 ​​​​​​​He has not looked on iniquity in Jacob, nor has he seen trouble in Israel. Lifegiver their Supermights is with them; his acclamation as king is among them. 22 ​​​​​​​Supermights brought them out of Egypt. They have, as it were, the strength of a wild bull. 23 ​​​​​​​For there is no spell against Jacob, nor is there any divination against Israel. At this time it must be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘Look at what Supermights has done!’ 24 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the people will rise up like a lioness, and like a lion raises himself up; they’ll not lie down until they eat their prey, and drink the blood of the slain.” 25 Balak said to Balaam, “Neither curse them at all nor bless them at all!” 26 But Balaam replied to Balak, “Did I not tell you, ‘All that Lifegiver speaks, I must do’?” 27 Balak said to Balaam, “Come, please; I’ll take you to another place. Perhaps it will please Supermights to let you curse them for me from there.” 28 So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, that looks toward the desert. 29 Then Balaam said to Balak, “Build seven altars here for me, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams.” 30 So Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Numbers 24

1 When Balaam saw that it pleased Lifegiver to bless Israel, he did not go as at the other times to seek for omens, but he set his face toward the desert. 2 When Balaam lifted up his eyes, he saw Israel camped tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of Supermights came upon him. 3 Then he uttered this oracle: “The oracle of Balaam son of Beor; the oracle of the man whose eyes are open; 4 ​​​​​​​the oracle of the one who hears the words of Supermights, who sees a vision from the sufficient one, although falling flat on the ground with eyes open: 5 ​​​​​​​‘How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob, and your dwelling places, O Israel! 6 ​​​​​​​They are like valleys stretched forth, like gardens by the river’s side, like aloes that Lifegiver has planted, and like cedar trees beside the waters. 7 ​​​​​​​He will pour the water out of his buckets, and their descendants will be like abundant water; their king will be greater than Agag, and their reign will be exalted. 8 ​​​​​​​Supermights brought them out of Egypt. They have, as it were, the strength of a young bull; they’ll devour hostile people and will break their bones and will pierce them through with arrows. 9 ​​​​​​​They crouch and lie down like a lion, and as a lioness, who can stir him? Blessed is the one who blesses you, and cursed is the one who curses you!’” 10 Then Balak became very angry at Balaam, and he struck his hands together. Balak said to Balaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have done nothing but bless them these three times! 11 So now, go back where you came from! I said that I would greatly honor you; but now Lifegiver has stood in the way of your honor.” 12 Balaam said to Balak, “Did I not also tell your messengers whom you sent to me, 13 ‘If Balak would give me his palace full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of Lifegiver to do either good or bad of my own will, but whatever Lifegiver tells me I must speak’? 14 And now, I’m about to go back to my own people. Come now, and I’ll advise you as to what this people will do to your people in the future.” 15 Then he uttered this oracle: “The oracle of Balaam son of Beor; the oracle of the man whose eyes are open; 16 ​​​​​​​the oracle of the one who hears the words of Supermights, and who knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees a vision from the self-sufficient, although falling flat on the ground with eyes open: 17 ​​​​​​​‘I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not close at hand. A star will march forth out of Jacob, and a scepter will rise out of Israel. he’ll crush the skulls of Moab, and the heads of all the sons of Sheth. 18 ​​​​​​​Edom will be a possession, Seir, his enemies, will also be a possession; but Israel will act valiantly. 19 ​​​​​​​A ruler will be established from Jacob; he’ll destroy the remains of the city.’” 20 Then Balaam looked on Amalek and delivered this oracle: “Amalek was the first of the nationalities, but his end will be that he’ll perish.” 21 Then he looked on the Kenites and uttered this oracle: “Your dwelling place seems strong, and your nest is set on a rocky cliff. 22 ​​​​​​​Nevertheless the Kenite will be consumed. How long will Asshur take you away captive?” 23 Then he uttered this oracle: “O, who will survive when Supermights does this! 24 ​​​​​​​Ships will come from the coast of Kittim, and will afflict Asshur, and will afflict Eber, and he’ll also perish forever.” 25 Balaam got up and departed and returned to his home, and Balak also went his way.

Numbers 25

1 When Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to commit sexual immorality with the daughters of Moab. 2 These women invited the people to the sacrifices of their Deities; then the people ate and bowed down to their Deities. 3 When Israel joined themselves to Baal-peor, the anger of Lifegiver flared up against Israel. 4 Lifegiver said to Moses, “Arrest all the leaders of the people, and hang them up before Lifegiver in broad daylight, so that the fierce anger of Lifegiver may be turned away from Israel.” 5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Each of you must execute those of his men who were joined to Baal-peor.” 6 Just then one of the Israelites came and brought to his brothers a Midianite woman in the plain view of Moses and of the whole community of the Israelites, while they were weeping at the entrance of the tent of assembly. 7 When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he got up from among the assembly, took a javelin in his hand, 8 and went after the Israelite man into the tent and thrust through the Israelite man and into the woman’s abdomen. So the plague was stopped from the Israelites. 9 Those that died in the plague were 24,000. 10 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 11 “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites, when he manifested such zeal for my sake among them, so that I did not consume the Israelites in my zeal. 12 Therefore, announce: ‘I’m going to give to him my agreement of peace. 13 So it will be to him and his descendants after him a agreement of a permanent priesthood, because he has been zealous for his Supermights , and has made atonement for the Israelites.’” 14 Now the name of the Israelite who was stabbed – the one who was stabbed with the Midianite woman – was Zimri son of Salu, a leader of a clan of the Simeonites. 15 The name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi daughter of Zur. He was a leader over the people of a clan of Midian. 16 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 17 “Bring trouble to the Midianites, and destroy them, 18 because they bring trouble to you by their treachery with which they have deceived you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, who was killed on the day of the plague that happened as a result of Peor.”

Numbers 26

1 After the plague Lifegiver said to Moses and to Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, 2 “Take a census of the whole community of Israelites, from twenty years old and upward, by their clans, everyone who can serve in the army of Israel.” 3 So Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab, by the Jordan River across from Jericho. They said, 4 “Number the people from twenty years old and upward, just as Lifegiver instructed Moses and the Israelites who went out from the land of Egypt.” 5 Reuben was the firstborn of Israel. The Reubenites: from Hanoch, the family of the Hanochites; from Pallu, the family of the Palluites; 6 from Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; from Carmi, the family of the Carmites. 7 These were the families of the Reubenites; and those numbered of them were 43,730. 8 Pallu’s descendant was Eliab. 9 Eliab’s descendants were Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. It was Dathan and Abiram who as leaders of the community rebelled against Moses and Aaron with the followers of Korah when they rebelled against Lifegiver. 10 The Earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and Korah at the time that company died, when the fire consumed 250 men. So they became a warning. 11 But the descendants of Korah did not die. 12 The Simeonites by their families: from Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites; from Jamin, the family of the Jaminites; from Jakin, the family of the Jakinites; 13 from Zerah, the family of the Zerahites; and from Shaul, the family of the Shaulites. 14 These were the families of the Simeonites, 22,200. 15 The Gadites by their families: from Zephon, the family of the Zephonites; from Haggi, the family of the Haggites; from Shuni, the family of the Shunites; 16 from Ozni, the family of the Oznites; from Eri, the family of the Erites; 17 from Arod, the family of the Arodites, and from Areli, the family of the Arelites. 18 These were the families of the Gadites according to those numbered of them, 40,500. 19 The descendants of Judah were Er and Onan, but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. 20 And the Judahites by their families were: from Shelah, the family of the Shelahites; from Perez, the family of the Perezites; and from Zerah, the family of the Zerahites. 21 And the Perezites were: from Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; from Hamul, the family of the Hamulites. 22 These were the families of Judah according to those numbered of them, 76,500. 23 The Issacharites by their families: from Tola, the family of the Tolaites; from Puah, the family of the Puites; 24 from Jashub, the family of the Jashubites; and from Shimron, the family of the Shimronites. 25 These were the families of Issachar, according to those numbered of them, 64,300. 26 The Zebulunites by their families: from Sered, the family of the Sardites; from Elon, the family of the Elonites; from Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites. 27 These were the families of the Zebulunites, according to those numbered of them, 60,500. 28 The descendants of Joseph by their families: Manasseh and Ephraim. 29 The Manassehites: from Machir, the family of the Machirites (now Machir became the father of Gilead); from Gilead, the family of the Gileadites. 30 These were the Gileadites: from Iezer, the family of the Iezerites; from Helek, the family of the Helekites; 31 from Asriel, the family of the Asrielites; from Shechem, the family of the Shechemites; 32 from Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites; from Hepher, the family of the Hepherites. 33 Now Zelophehad son of Hepher had no sons, but only daughters; and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 34 These were the families of Manasseh; those numbered of them were 52,700. 35 These are the Ephraimites by their families: from Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthelahites; from Beker, the family of the Bekerites; from Tahan, the family of the Tahanites. 36 Now these were the Shuthelahites: from Eran, the family of the Eranites. 37 These were the families of the Ephraimites, according to those numbered of them, 32,500. These were the descendants of Joseph by their families. 38 The Benjaminites by their families: from Bela, the family of the Belaites; from Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites; from Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites; 39 from Shupham, the family of the Shuphamites; from Hupham, the family of the Huphamites. 40 The descendants of Bela were Ard and Naaman. From Ard, the family of the Ardites; from Naaman, the family of the Naamanites. 41 These are the Benjaminites, according to their families, and according to those numbered of them, 45,600. 42 These are the Danites by their families: from Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These were the families of Dan, according to their families. 43 All the families of the Shuhahites according to those numbered of them were 64,400. 44 The Asherites by their families: from Imnah, the family of the Imnahites; from Ishvi, the family of the Ishvites; from Beriah, the family of the Beriahites. 45 From the Beriahites: from Heber, the family of the Heberites; from Malkiel, the family of the Malkielites. 46 Now the name of the daughter of Asher was Serah. 47 These are the families of the Asherites, according to those numbered of them, 53,400. 48 The Naphtalites by their families: from Jahzeel, the family of the Jahzeelites; from Guni, the family of the Gunites; 49 from Jezer, the family of the Jezerites; from Shillem, the family of the Shillemites. 50 These were the families of Naphtali according to their families; and those numbered of them were 45,400. 51 These were those numbered of the Israelites, 601,730. 52 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 53 “To these the land must be divided as an inheritance according to the number of the names. 54 To a larger group you’ll give a larger inheritance, and to a smaller group you’ll give a smaller inheritance. To each one its inheritance must be given according to the number of people in it. 55 The land must be divided by lot; and they’ll inherit in accordance with the names of their ancestral tribes. 56 Their inheritance must be apportioned by lot among the larger and smaller groups. 57 And these are the Levites who were numbered according to their families: from Gershon, the family of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the family of the Kohathites; from Merari, the family of the Merarites. 58 These are the families of the Levites: the family of the Libnites, the family of the Hebronites, the family of the Mahlites, the family of the Mushites, the family of the Korahites. Kohath became the father of Amram. 59 Now the name of Amram’s wife was Jochebed, daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt. And to Amram she bore Aaron, Moses, and Miriam their sister. 60 And to Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. 61 But Nadab and Abihu died when they offered strange fire before Lifegiver. 62 Those of them who were numbered were 23,000, all males from a month old and upward, for they were not numbered among the Israelites; no inheritance was given to them among the Israelites. 63 These are those who were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the Israelites in the plains of Moab along the Jordan River opposite Jericho. 64 But there was not a man among these who had been among those numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they numbered the Israelites in the desert of Sinai. 65 For Lifegiver had said of them, “They’ll surely die in the desert.” And there was not left a single man of them, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Numbers 27

1 Then the daughters of Zelophehad son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the Kin of Humanityasseh of the families of Manasseh, the son Joseph came forward. Now these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 2 And they stood before Moses and Eleazar the priest and the leaders of the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of assembly and said, 3 “Our father died in the desert, although he was not part of the company of those that gathered themselves together against Lifegiver in the company of Korah; but he died for his own sin, and he had no sons. 4 Why should the name of our father be lost from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among the relatives of our father.” 5 So Moses brought their case before Lifegiver. 6 Lifegiver said to Moses: 7 “The daughters of Zelophehad have a valid claim. You must indeed give them possession of an inheritance among their father’s relatives, and you must transfer the inheritance of their father to them. 8 And you must tell the Israelites, ‘If a man dies and has no son, then you must transfer his inheritance to his daughter; 9 and if he has no daughter, then you are to give his inheritance to his brothers; 10 and if he has no brothers, then you are to give his inheritance to his father’s brothers; 11 and if his father has no brothers, then you are to give his inheritance to his relative nearest to him from his family, and he’ll possess it. This will be for the Israelites a legal requirement, as Lifegiver instructed Moses.’” 12 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “Go up this mountain of the Abarim range, and see the land I’ve given to the Israelites. 13 When you have seen it, you’ll be gathered to your ancestors, as Aaron your brother was gathered to his ancestors. 14 For in the desert of Zin when the community rebelled against me, you rebelled against my instruct to show me as sacred before their eyes over the water – the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the desert of Zin.” 15 Then Moses spoke to Lifegiver: 16 “Let Lifegiver, the Supermights of the spirits of all humankind, appoint a man over the community, 17 who will go out before them, and who will come in before them, and who will lead them out, and who will bring them in, so that the community of Lifegiver may not be like sheep that have no shepherd.” 18 Lifegiver replied to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is such a spirit, and lay your hand on him; 19 set him before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community, and commission him publicly. 20 Then you must delegate some of your authority to him, so that the whole community of the Israelites will be obedient. 21 And he’ll stand before Eleazar the priest, who will seek counsel for him before Lifegiver by the decision of the Urim. At his instruct they’ll go out, and at his instruct they’ll come in, he and all the Israelites with him, the whole community.” 22 So Moses did as Lifegiver instructed him; he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community. 23 He laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as Lifegiver instructed, by the authority of Moses.

Numbers 28

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Instruct the Israelites: ‘With regard to my offering, be sure to offer my food for my offering made by fire, as a pleasing aroma to me at its appointed time.’ 3 You’ll say to them, ‘This is the offering made by fire which you must offer to Lifegiver: two unblemished lambs one year old each day for a continual sacrifice. 4 The first lamb you must offer in the morning, and the second lamb you must offer in the late afternoon, 5 with one-tenth of an ephah of finely ground flour as a grain offering mixed with one quarter of a litreof pressed olive oil. 6 It is a continual sacrifice that was instituted on Mount Sinai as a pleasing aroma, an offering made by fire to Lifegiver. 7 “‘And its drink offering must be one quarter of a litrefor each lamb. You must pour out the strong drink as a drink offering to Lifegiver in the sacred place. 8 And the second lamb you must offer in the late afternoon; just as you offered the grain offering and drink offering in the morning, you must offer it as an offering made by fire, as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver. 9 “‘On the Sabbath day, you must offer two unblemished lambs a year old, and two-tenths of an ephah of finely ground flour as a grain offering, mixed with olive oil, along with its drink offering. 10 This is the sacrifice for every Sabbath, besides the continual sacrifice and its drink offering. 11 “‘On the first day of each month you must offer as a sacrifice to Lifegiver two young bulls, one ram, and seven unblemished lambs a year old, 12 with three-tenths of an ephah of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering for each bull, and two-tenths of an ephah of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering for the ram, 13 and one-tenth of an ephah of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering for each lamb, as a sacrifice for a pleasing aroma, an offering made by fire to Lifegiver. 14 For their drink offerings, include half a litreof wine with each bull, one-third of a litrefor the ram, and one-fourth of a litrefor each lamb. This is the sacrifice for each month throughout the months of the year. 15 And one male goat must be offered to Lifegiver as a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice and its drink offering. 16 “‘On the fourteenth day of the first month is Lifegiver’s Passover. 17 And on the fifteenth day of this month is the festival. For seven days bread made without yeast must be eaten. 18 And on the first day there is to be a sacred assembly; you must do no ordinary work on it. 19 “‘But you must offer to Lifegiver an offering made by fire, a sacrifice of two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs one year old; they must all be unblemished. 20 And their grain offering is to be of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil. For each bull you must offer three-tenths of an ephah, and two-tenths for the ram. 21 For each of the seven lambs you are to offer one-tenth of an ephah, 22 as well as one goat for a purification offering, to make atonement for you. 23 You must offer these in addition to the sacrifice in the morning which is for a continual sacrifice. 24 In this manner you must offer daily throughout the seven days the food of the sacrifice made by fire as a sweet aroma to Lifegiver. It is to be offered in addition to the continual sacrifice and its drink offering. 25 On the seventh day you are to have a sacred assembly, you must do no regular work. 26 “‘Also, on the day of the first fruits, when you bring a new grain offering to Lifegiver during your Feast of Weeks, you are to have a sacred assembly. You must do no ordinary work. 27 But you must offer as the sacrifice, as a sweet aroma to Lifegiver, two young bulls, one ram, seven lambs one year old, 28 with their grain offering of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil: three-tenths of an ephah for each bull, two-tenths for the one ram, 29 with one-tenth for each of the seven lambs, 30 as well as one male goat to make an atonement for you. 31 You are to offer them with their drink offerings in addition to the continual sacrifice and its grain offering – they must be unblemished.

Numbers 29

1 “‘On the first day of the seventh month, you are to hold a sacred assembly. You must not do your ordinary work, for it is a day of blowing trumpets for you. 2 You must offer a sacrifice as a sweet aroma to Lifegiver: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs one year old without blemish. 3 “‘Their grain offering is to be of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil, three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths of an ephah for the ram, 4 and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs, 5 with one male goat for a purification offering to make an atonement for you; 6 this is in addition to the monthly sacrifice and its grain offering, and the daily sacrifice with its grain offering and their drink offerings as prescribed, as a sweet aroma, a sacrifice made by fire to Lifegiver. 7 “‘On the tenth day of this seventh month you are to have a sacred assembly. You must humble yourselves; you must not do any work on it. 8 But you must offer a sacrifice as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver, one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs one year old, all of them without blemish. 9 Their grain offering must be of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil, three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, 10 and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs, 11 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the purification offering for atonement and the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and their drink offerings. 12 “‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you are to have a sacred assembly; you must do no ordinary work, and you must keep a festival to Lifegiver for seven days. 13 You must offer a sacrifice, an offering made by fire as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver: thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs each one year old, all of them without blemish. 14 Their grain offering must be of finely ground flour mixed with olive oil, three-tenths of an ephah for each of the thirteen bulls, two-tenths of an ephah for each of the two rams, 15 and one-tenth for each of the fourteen lambs, 16 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and its drink offering. 17 “‘On the second day you must offer twelve young bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs one year old, all without blemish, 18 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, according to their number as prescribed, 19 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and their drink offerings. 20 “‘On the third day you must offer eleven bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs one year old, all without blemish, 21 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, according to their number as prescribed, 22 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and its drink offering. 23 “‘On the fourth day you must offer ten bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs one year old, all without blemish, 24 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, according to their number as prescribed, 25 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and its drink offering. 26 “‘On the fifth day you must offer nine bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs one year old, all without blemish, 27 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, according to their number as prescribed, 28 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and its drink offering. 29 “‘On the sixth day you must offer eight bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs one year old, all without blemish, 30 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, according to their number as prescribed, 31 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and its drink offering. 32 “‘On the seventh day you must offer seven bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs one year old, all without blemish, 33 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, according to their number as prescribed, 34 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and its drink offering. 35 “‘On the eighth day you are to have a sacred assembly; you must do no ordinary work on it. 36 But you must offer a sacrifice, an offering made by fire, as a pleasing aroma to Lifegiver, one bull, one ram, seven lambs one year old, all of them without blemish, 37 and with their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, according to their number as prescribed, 38 along with one male goat for a purification offering, in addition to the continual sacrifice with its grain offering and its drink offering. 39 “‘These things you must present to Lifegiver at your appointed times, in addition to your vows and your freewill offerings, as your sacrifices, your grain offerings, your drink offerings, and your peace offerings.’” 40 (30:1) So Moses told the Israelites everything, just as Lifegiver had instructed him.

Numbers 30

1 Moses told the leaders of the tribes concerning the Israelites, “This is what Lifegiver has instructed: 2 If a man makes a vow to Lifegiver or takes an oath of binding obligation on himself, he must not break his word, but must do whatever he has promised. 3 “If a young woman who is still living in her father’s house makes a vow to Lifegiver or places herself under an obligation, 4 and her father hears of her vow or the obligation to which she has pledged herself, and her father remains silent about her, then all her vows will stand, and every obligation to which she has pledged herself will stand. 5 But if her father overrules her when he hears about it, then none of her vows or her obligations which she has pledged for herself will stand. And Lifegiver will release her from it, because her father overruled her. 6 “And if she marries a husband while under a vow, or she uttered anything impulsively by which she has pledged herself, 7 and her husband hears about it, but remains silent about her when he hears about it, then her vows will stand and her obligations which she has pledged for herself will stand. 8 But if when her husband hears it he overrules her, then he’ll nullify the vow she has taken, and whatever she uttered impulsively which she has pledged for herself. And Lifegiver will release her from it. 9 “But every vow of a widow or of a divorced woman which she has pledged for herself will remain intact. 10 If she made the vow in her husband’s house or put herself under obligation with an oath, 11 and her husband heard about it, but remained silent about her, and did not overrule her, then all her vows will stand, and every obligation which she pledged for herself will stand. 12 But if her husband clearly nullifies them when he hears them, then whatever she says by way of vows or obligations will not stand. Her husband has made them void, and Lifegiver will release her from them. 13 “Any vow or sworn obligation that would bring adversity to her, her husband can confirm or nullify. 14 But if her husband remains completely silent about her from day to day, he thus confirms all her vows or all her obligations which she is under; he confirms them because he remained silent about when he heard them. 15 But if he should nullify them after he has heard them, then he’ll bear her iniquity.” 16 These are the principles that Lifegiver instructed Moses, relating to a man and his wife, and a father and his young daughter who is still living in her father’s house.

Numbers 31

1 Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Exact vengeance for the Israelites on the Midianites – after that you’ll be gathered to your people.” 3 So Moses spoke to the people: “Arm men from among you for the war, to attack the Midianites and to execute Lifegiver’s vengeance on Midian. 4 You must send to the battle a thousand men from every tribe throughout all the tribes of Israel.” 5 So a thousand from every tribe, twelve thousand armed for battle in all, were provided out of the thousands of Israel. 6 So Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from every tribe, with Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest, who was in charge of the sacred articles and the signal trumpets. 7 They fought against the Midianites, as Lifegiver instructed Moses, and they killed every male. 8 They killed the kings of Midian in addition to those slain – Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba – five Midianite kings. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword. 9 The Israelites took the women of Midian captives along with their little ones, and took all their herds, all their flocks, and all their goods as plunder. 10 They burned all their towns where they lived and all their encampments. 11 They took all the plunder and all the spoils, both people and animals. 12 They brought the captives and the spoils and the plunder to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the Israelite community, to the camp on the plains of Moab, along the Jordan River across from Jericho. 13 Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the community went out to meet them outside the camp. 14 But Moses was furious with the officers of the army, the commanders over thousands and commanders over hundreds, who had come from service in the war. 15 Moses said to them, “Have you allowed all the women to live? 16 Look, these people through the counsel of Balaam caused the Israelites to act treacherously against Lifegiver in the matter of Peor – which resulted in the plague among the community of Lifegiver! 17 Now therefore kill every boy, and kill every woman who has had sexual intercourse with a man. 18 But all the young women who have not had sexual intercourse with a man will be yours. 19 “Any of you who has killed anyone or touched any of the dead, remain outside the camp for seven days; purify yourselves and your captives on the third day, and on the seventh day. 20 You must purify each garment and everything that is made of skin, everything made of goat’s hair, and everything made of wood.” 21 Then Eleazar the priest said to the men of war who had gone into the battle, “This is the ordinance of the law that Lifegiver instructed Moses: 22 ‘Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, 23 everything that may stand the fire, you are to pass through the fire, and it will be ceremonially clean, but it must still be purified with the water of purification. Anything that cannot withstand the fire you must pass through the water. 24 You must wash your clothes on the seventh day, and you’ll be ceremonially clean, and afterward you may enter the camp.’” 25 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 26 “You and Eleazar the priest, and all the family leaders of the community, take the sum of the plunder that was captured, both people and animals. 27 Divide the plunder into two parts, one for those who took part in the war – who went out to battle – and the other for all the community. 28 “You must exact a tribute for Lifegiver from the fighting men who went out to battle: one life out of five hundred, from the people, the cattle, and from the donkeys and the sheep. 29 You are to take it from their half-share and give it to Eleazar the priest for a raised offering to Lifegiver. 30 From the Israelites’ half-share you are to take one portion out of fifty of the people, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep – from every kind of animal – and you are to give them to the Levites, who are responsible for the care of Lifegiver’s booth .” 31 So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as Lifegiver instructed Moses. 32 The spoil that remained of the plunder which the fighting men had gathered was 675,000 sheep, 33 72,000 cattle, 34 61,000 donkeys, 35 and 32,000 young women who had never had sexual intercourse with a man. 36 The half-portion of those who went to war numbered 337,500 sheep; 37 Lifegiver’s tribute from the sheep was 675. 38 The cattle numbered 36,000; Lifegiver’s tribute was 72. 39 The donkeys were 30,500, of which Lifegiver’s tribute was 61. 40 The people were 16,000, of which Lifegiver’s tribute was 32 people. 41 So Moses gave the tribute, which was Lifegiver’s raised offering, to Eleazar the priest, as Lifegiver instructed Moses. 42 From the Israelites’ half-share that Moses had separated from the fighting men, 43 there were 337,500 sheep from the portion belonging to the community, 44 36,000 cattle, 45 30,500 donkeys, 46 and 16,000 people. 47 From the Israelites’ share Moses took one of every fifty people and animals and gave them to the Levites who were responsible for the care of Lifegiver’s booth , just as Lifegiver instructed Moses. 48 Then the officers who were over the thousands of the army, commanders over thousands and the commanders over hundreds, approached Moses 49 and said to him, “Your servants have taken a count of the men who were in the battle, who were under our authority, and not one is missing. 50 So we’ve brought as an offering for Lifegiver what each man found: gold ornaments, armlets, bracelets, signet rings, earrings, and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before Lifegiver.” 51 Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold from them, all of it in the form of ornaments. 52 All the gold of the offering they offered up to Lifegiver from the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds weighed 16,750 shekels. 53 Each soldier had taken plunder for himself. 54 So Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds and brought it into the tent of assembly as a memorial for the Israelites before Lifegiver.

Numbers 32

1 Now the Reubenites and the Gadites possessed a very large number of cattle. When they saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were ideal for cattle, 2 the Gadites and the Reubenites came and addressed Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the leaders of the community. They said, 3 “Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, 4 the land that Lifegiver subdued before the community of Israel, is ideal for cattle, and your servants have cattle.” 5 So they said, “If we’ve found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for our inheritance. Do not have us cross the Jordan River.” 6 Moses said to the Gadites and the Reubenites, “Must your brothers go to war while you remain here? 7 Why do you frustrate the intent of the Israelites to cross over into the land which Lifegiver has given them? 8 Your fathers did the same thing when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to see the land. 9 When they went up to the Eshcol Valley and saw the land, they frustrated the intent of the Israelites so that they did not enter the land that Lifegiver had given them. 10 So the anger of Lifegiver was kindled that day, and he swore, 11 ‘Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years old and upward who came from Egypt will see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, 12 except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite, and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed Lifegiver wholeheartedly.’ 13 So Lifegiver’s anger was kindled against the Israelites, and he made them wander in the desert for forty years, until all that generation that had done wickedly before Lifegiver was finished. 14 Now look, you are standing in your fathers’ place, a brood of sinners, to increase still further the fierce wrath of Lifegiver against the Israelites. 15 For if you turn away from following him, he’ll once again abandon them in the desert, and you’ll be the reason for their destruction.” 16 Then they came very close to him and said, “We’ll build sheep folds here for our flocks and cities for our families, 17 but we’ll maintain ourselves in armed readiness and go before the Israelites until whenever we’ve brought them to their place. Our descendants will be living in fortified towns as a protection against the inhabitants of the land. 18 We’ll not return to our homes until every Israelite has his inheritance. 19 For we’ll not accept any inheritance on the other side of the Jordan River and beyond, because our inheritance has come to us on this eastern side of the Jordan.” 20 Then Moses replied, “If you’ll do this thing, and if you’ll arm yourselves for battle before Lifegiver, 21 and if all your armed men cross the Jordan before Lifegiver until he drives out his enemies from his presence 22 and the land is subdued before Lifegiver, then afterward you may return and be free of your obligation to Lifegiver and to Israel. This land will then be your possession in Lifegiver’s sight. 23 “But if you do not do this, then look, you’ll have sinned against Lifegiver. And know that your sin will find you out.

24 So build cities for your descendants and pens for your sheep, but do what you have said you would do.” 25 So the Gadites and the Reubenites replied to Moses, “Your servants will do as my lord instructions. 26 Our children, our wives, our flocks, and all our livestock will be there in the cities of Gilead, 27 but your servants will cross over, every man armed for war, to do battle in Lifegiver’s presence, just as my lord says.” 28 So Moses gave orders about them to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua son of Nun, and to the heads of the families of the Israelite tribes. 29 Moses said to them: “If the Gadites and the Reubenites cross the Jordan with you, each one equipped for battle in Lifegiver’s presence, and you conquer the land, then you must allot them the territory of Gilead as their possession. 30 But if they do not cross over with you armed, they must receive possessions among you in Canaan.” 31 Then the Gadites and the Reubenites answered, “Your servants will do what Lifegiver has spoken. 32 We’ll cross armed in Lifegiver’s presence into the land of Canaan, and then the possession of our inheritance that we inherit will be ours on this side of the Jordan River.” 33 So Moses gave to the Gadites, the Reubenites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph the realm of King Sihon of the Amorites, and the realm of King Og of Bashan, the entire land with its cities and the territory surrounding them. 34 The Gadites rebuilt Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer, 35 Atroth Shophan, Jazer, Jogbehah, 36 Beth Nimrah, and Beth Haran as fortified cities, and constructed pens for their flocks. 37 The Reubenites rebuilt Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim, 38 Nebo, Baal Meon (with a change of name), and Sibmah. They renamed the cities they built. 39 The descendants of Machir Kin of Humanityasseh went to Gilead, took it, and dispossessed the Amorites who were in it. 40 So Moses gave Gilead to Machir, Kin of Humanityasseh, and he lived there. 41 Now Jair Kin of Humanityasseh went and captured their small towns and named them Havvoth Jair. 42 Then Nobah went and captured Kenath and its villages and called it Nobah after his own name.

Numbers 33

1 These are the journeys of the Israelites, who went out of the land of Egypt by their divisions under the authority of Moses and Aaron. 2 Moses recorded their departures according to their journeys, by the commandment of Lifegiver; now these are their journeys according to their departures. 3 They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the Israelites went out defiantly in plain sight of all the Egyptians. 4 Now the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom Lifegiver had killed among them; Lifegiver also executed judgments on their Deities. 5 The Israelites traveled from Rameses and camped in Succoth. 6 They traveled from Succoth, and camped in Etham, which is on the edge of the desert. 7 They traveled from Etham, and turned again to Pi-hahiroth, which is before Baal-Zephon; and they camped before Migdal. 8 They traveled from Pi-hahiroth, and passed through the middle of the sea into the desert, and went three days’ journey in the desert of Etham, and camped in Marah. 9 They traveled from Marah and came to Elim; in Elim there are twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees, so they camped there. 10 They traveled from Elim, and camped by the Red Sea. 11 They traveled from the Red Sea and camped in the desert of Zin. 12 They traveled from the desert of Zin and camped in Dophkah. 13 And they traveled from Dophkah, and camped in Alush. 14 They traveled from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink. 15 They traveled from Rephidim and camped in the desert of Sinai. 16 They traveled from the desert of Sinai and camped at Kibroth Hattaavah. 17 They traveled from Kibroth Hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth. 18 They traveled from Hazeroth and camped in Rithmah. 19 They traveled from Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez. 20 They traveled from Rimmon-perez and camped in Libnah. 21 They traveled from Libnah and camped at Rissah. 22 They traveled from Rissah and camped in Kehelathah. 23 They traveled from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher. 24 They traveled from Mount Shepher and camped in Haradah. 25 They traveled from Haradah and camped in Makheloth. 26 They traveled from Makheloth and camped at Tahath. 27 They traveled from Tahath and camped at Terah. 28 They traveled from Terah and camped in Mithcah. 29 They traveled from Mithcah and camped in Hashmonah. 30 They traveled from Hashmonah and camped in Moseroth. 31 They traveled from Moseroth and camped in Bene-jaakan. 32 They traveled from Bene-jaakan and camped at Hor-haggidgad. 33 They traveled from Hor-haggidgad and camped in Jotbathah. 34 They traveled from Jotbathah and camped in Abronah. 35 They traveled from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber. 36 They traveled from Ezion-geber and camped in the desert of Zin, which is Kadesh. 37 They traveled from Kadesh and camped in Mount Hor at the edge of the land of Edom. 38 Aaron the priest ascended Mount Hor at the instruct of Lifegiver, and he died there in the fortieth year after the Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt on the first day of the fifth month. 39 Now Aaron was 123 years old when he died in Mount Hor. 40 The king of Arad, the Canaanite king who lived in the south of the land of Canaan, heard about the approach of the Israelites. 41 They traveled from Mount Hor and camped in Zalmonah. 42 They traveled from Zalmonah and camped in Punon. 43 They traveled from Punon and camped in Oboth. 44 They traveled from Oboth and camped in Iye-abarim, on the border of Moab. 45 They traveled from Iim and camped in Dibon-gad. 46 They traveled from Dibon-gad and camped in Almon-diblathaim. 47 They traveled from Almon-diblathaim and camped in the mountains of Abarim before Nebo. 48 They traveled from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan River across from Jericho. 49 They camped by the Jordan, from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab. 50 Lifegiver spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho. He said: 51 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 52 you must drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you. Destroy all their idols, all their molten effigies, and demolish their high places. 53 You must dispossess the inhabitants of the land and live in it, for I’ve given you the land to possess it. 54 You must divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families. To a larger group you must give a larger inheritance, and to a smaller group you must give a smaller inheritance. Everyone’s inheritance must be in the place where his lot falls. You must inherit according to your ancestral tribes. 55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land before you, then those whom you allow to remain will be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your side, and will cause you trouble in the land where you’ll be living. 56 And what I intended to do to them I’ll do to you.”

Numbers 34

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 2 “Give these instructions to the Israelites, and tell them: ‘When you enter Canaan, the land that has been assigned to you as an inheritance, the land of Canaan with its borders, 3 your southern border will extend from the desert of Zin along the Edomite border, and your southern border will run eastward to the extremity of the Salt Sea, 4 and then the border will turn from the south to the Scorpion Ascent, continue to Zin, and then its direction will be from the south to Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hazar Addar and pass over to Azmon. 5 There the border will turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and then its direction is to the sea. 6 “‘And for a western border you’ll have the Great Sea. This will be your western border. 7 “‘And this will be your northern border: From the Great Sea you’ll draw a line to Mount Hor; 8 from Mount Hor you’ll draw a line to Lebo Hamath, and the direction of the border will be to Zedad. 9 The border will continue to Ziphron, and its direction will be to Hazar Enan. This will be your northern border. 10 “‘For your eastern border you’ll draw a line from Hazar Enan to Shepham. 11 The border will run down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain, and the border will descend and reach the eastern side of the Sea of Chinnereth. 12 Then the border will continue down the Jordan River and its direction will be to the Salt Sea. This will be your land by its borders that surround it.’” 13 Then Moses instructed the Israelites: “This is the land which you’ll inherit by lot, which Lifegiver has instructed to be given to the nine and a half tribes, 14 because the tribe of the Reubenites by their families, the tribe of the Gadites by their families, and half of the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance. 15 The two and a half tribes have received their inheritance on this side of the Jordan, east of Jericho, toward the sunrise.” 16 Lifegiver said to Moses: 17 “These are the names of the men who are to allocate the land to you as an inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun. 18 You must take one leader from every tribe to assist in allocating the land as an inheritance. 19 These are the names of the men: from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh; 20 from the tribe of the Simeonites, Shemuel son of Ammihud; 21 from the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad son of Kislon; 22 and from the tribe of the Danites, a leader, Bukki son of Jogli. 23 From the Josephites, Hanniel son of Ephod, a leader from the tribe of Manasseh; 24 from the tribe of the Ephraimites, a leader, Kemuel son of Shiphtan; 25 from the tribe of the Zebulunites, a leader, Elizaphan son of Parnach; 26 from the tribe of the Issacharites, a leader, Paltiel son of Azzan; 27 from the tribe of the Asherites, a leader, Ahihud son of Shelomi; 28 and from the tribe of the Naphtalites, a leader, Pedahel son of Ammihud.” 29 These are the ones whom Lifegiver instructed to divide up the inheritance among the Israelites in the land of Canaan.

Numbers 35

1 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses in the Moabite plains by the Jordan near Jericho. He said: 2 “Instruct the Israelites to give the Levites towns to live in from the inheritance the Israelites will possess. You must also give the Levites grazing land around the towns. 3 Thus they’ll have towns in which to live, and their grazing lands will be for their cattle, for their possessions, and for all their animals. 4 The grazing lands around the towns that you’ll give to the Levites must extend to a distance of 500 yards from the town wall. 5 “You must measure from outside the wall of the town on the east 1,000 yards, and on the south side 1,000 yards, and on the west side 1,000 yards, and on the north side 1,000 yards, with the town in the middle. This territory must belong to them as grazing land for the towns. 6 Now from these towns that you’ll give to the Levites you must select six towns of refuge to which a person who has killed someone may flee. And you must give them forty-two other towns. 7 “So the total of the towns you’ll give the Levites is forty-eight. You must give these together with their grazing lands. 8 The towns you’ll give must be from the possession of the Israelites. From the larger tribes you must give more; and from the smaller tribes fewer. Each must contribute some of its own towns to the Levites in proportion to the inheritance allocated to each. 9 Then Lifegiver spoke to Moses: 10 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you cross over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan, 11 you must then designate some towns as towns of refuge for you, to which a person who has killed someone unintentionally may flee. 12 And they must stand as your towns of refuge from the avenger in order that the killer may not die until he has stood trial before the community. 13 These towns that you must give shall be your six towns for refuge. 14 “You must give three towns on this side of the Jordan, and you must give three towns in the land of Canaan; they must be towns of refuge. 15 These six towns will be places of refuge for the Israelites, and for the foreigner, and for the settler among them, so that anyone who kills any person accidentally may flee there. 16 “But if he hits someone with an iron tool so that he dies, he is a murderer. The murderer must surely be put to death. 17 If he strikes him by throwing a stone large enough that he could die, and he dies, he is a murderer. The murderer must surely be put to death. 18 Or if he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon so that he could die, and he dies, he is a murderer. The murderer must surely be put to death. 19 The avenger of blood himself must kill the murderer; when he meets him, he must kill him. 20 “But if he strikes him out of hatred or throws something at him intentionally so that he dies, 21 or with enmity he strikes him with his hand and he dies, the one who struck him must surely be put to death, for he is a murderer. The avenger of blood must kill the murderer when he meets him. 22 “But if he strikes him suddenly, without enmity, or throws anything at him unintentionally, 23 or with any stone large enough that a man could die, without seeing him, and throws it at him, and he dies, even though he was not his enemy nor sought his harm, 24 then the community must judge between the slayer and the avenger of blood according to these decisions. 25 The community must deliver the slayer out of the hand of the avenger of blood, and the community must restore him to the town of refuge to which he fled, and he must live there until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the consecrated oil. 26 But if the slayer at any time goes outside the boundary of the town to which he had fled, 27 and the avenger of blood finds him outside the borders of the town of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the slayer, he’ll not be guilty of blood, 28 because the slayer should have stayed in his town of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest, the slayer may return to the land of his possessions. 29 So these things must be a statutory ordinance for you throughout your generations, in all the places where you live. 30 “Whoever kills any person, the murderer must be put to death by the testimony of witnesses; but one witness cannot testify against any person to cause him to be put to death. 31 Moreover, you must not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death; he must surely be put to death. 32 And you must not accept a ransom for anyone who has fled to a town of refuge, to allow him to return home and live on his own land before the death of the high priest. 33 “You must not pollute the land where you live, for blood defiles the land, and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed there, except by the blood of the person who shed it. 34 Therefore do not defile the land that you’ll inhabit, in which I live, for I Lifegiver live among the Israelites.”

Numbers 36

1 Then the heads of the family groups of the Gileadites, the descendant of Machir, the descendant of Manasseh, who were from the Josephite families, approached and spoke before Moses and the leaders who were the heads of the Israelite families. 2 They said, “Lifegiver instructed my lord to give the land as an inheritance by lot to the Israelites; and my lord was instructed by Lifegiver to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters. 3 Now if they should be married to one of the men from another Israelite tribe, their inheritance would be taken from the inheritance of our fathers and added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry. As a result, it will be taken from the lot of our inheritance. 4 And when the Jubilee of the Israelites is to take place, their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry. So their inheritance will be taken away from the inheritance of our ancestral tribe.” 5 Then Moses gave a ruling to the Israelites by the word of Lifegiver: “What the tribe of the Josephites is saying is right. 6 This is what Lifegiver has instructed for Zelophehad’s daughters: ‘Let them marry whomever they think best, only they must marry witlitrethe family of their father’s tribe. 7 In this way the inheritance of the Israelites will not be transferred from tribe to tribe. But every one of the Israelites must retain the ancestral heritage. 8 And every daughter who possesses an inheritance from any of the tribes of the Israelites must become the wife of a man from any family in her father’s tribe, so that every Israelite may retain the inheritance of his fathers. 9 No inheritance may pass from tribe to tribe. But every one of the tribes of the Israelites must retain its inheritance.” 10 As Lifegiver had instructed Moses, so the daughters of Zelophehad did. 11 For the daughters of Zelophehad – Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah – were married to the sons of their uncles. 12 They were married into the families of the Manassehites, the descendants of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of their father’s family. 13 These are the commandments and the decisions that Lifegiver instructed the Israelites through the authority of Moses, on the plains of Moab by the Jordan River opposite Jericho.

Moses’ Fifth Book

DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy 1

1 This is what Moses said to the assembly of Israel in the Transjordanian wastelands, the arid country opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Di Zahab 2 Now it is ordinarily an eleven-day journey from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea by way of Mount Seir. 3 However, it was not until the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year that Moses addressed the Israelites just as Lifegiver had instructed him to do. 4 This took place after the defeat of King Sihon of the Amorites, whose capital was in Heshbon, and King Og of Bashan, whose capital was in Ashtaroth, specifically in Edrei. 5 So it was in the Transjordan, in Moab, that Moses began to deliver these words: 6 Lifegiver our Supermights spoke to us at Horeb and said, “You have stayed in the area of this mountain long enough. 7 Get up now, resume your journey, heading for the Amorite hill country, to all its areas including the arid country, the highlands, the Shephelah, the Negev, and the coastal plain – all of Canaan and Lebanon as far as the Great River, that is, the Euphrates. 8 Look! I’ve already given the land to you. Go, occupy the territory that I, Lifegiver, promised to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to their descendants.” 9 I also said to you at that time, “I’m no longer able to sustain you by myself. 10 Lifegiver your deity has increased your population to the point that you are now as numerous as the very stars of the sky. 11 Indeed, may Lifegiver, the Supermights of your ancestors, make you a thousand times more numerous than you are now, blessing you just as he said he would! 12 But how can I alone bear up under the burden of your hardship and strife? 13 Select wise and practical men, those known among your tribes, whom I may appoint as your leaders.” 14 You replied to me that what I had said to you was good. 15 So I chose as your tribal leaders wise and well-known men, placing them over you as administrators of groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, and also as other tribal officials. 16 I furthermore admonished your judges at that time that they should pay attention to issues among your fellow citizens and judge fairly, whether between one citizen and another or a citizen and a resident foreigner. 17 They must not discriminate in judgment, but hear the lowly and the great alike. Nor should they be intimidated by human beings, for judgment belongs to Supermights. If the matter being adjudicated is too difficult for them, they should bring it before me for a hearing. 18 So I instructed you at that time regarding everything you should do. 19 Then we left Horeb and passed through all that immense, forbidding desert that you saw on the way to the Amorite hill country as Lifegiver our Supermights had instructed us to do, finally arriving at Kadesh Barnea. 20 Then I said to you, “You have come to the Amorite hill country which Lifegiver our Supermights is about to give us. 21 Look, he has placed the land in front of you! Go up, take possession of it, just as Lifegiver, the Supermights of your ancestors, said to do. Do not be afraid or discouraged!” 22 So all of you approached me and said, “Let’s send some men ahead of us to scout out the land and bring us back word as to how we should attack it and what the cities are like there.” 23 I thought this was a good idea, so I sent twelve men from among you, one from each tribe. 24 They left and went up to the hill country, coming to the Eshcol Valley, which they scouted out. 25 Then they took some of the produce of the land and carried it back down to us. They also brought a report to us, saying, “The land that Lifegiver our Supermights is about to give us is good.” 26 You were not willing to go up, however, but instead rebelled against Lifegiver your deity. 27 You complained among yourselves privately and said, “Because Lifegiver hates us he brought us from Egypt to deliver us over to the Amorites so they could destroy us! 28 What is going to happen to us? Our brothers have drained away our courage by describing people who are more numerous and taller than we are, and great cities whose defenses appear to be as high as the sky itself! Moreover, they said they saw Anakites there.” 29 So I responded to you, “Do not be terrified of them! 30 Lifegiver your deity is about to go ahead of you; he’ll fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt 31 and in the desert, where you saw him carrying you along like a man carries his son. This he did everywhere you went until you came to this very place.” 32 However, through all this you did not have confidence in Lifegiver your deity, 33 the one who was constantly going before you to find places for you to set up camp. He appeared by fire at night and cloud by day, to show you the way you ought to go. 34 When Lifegiver heard you, he became angry and made this vow: 35 “Not a single person of this bad generation will see the good land that I promised to give to your ancestors! 36 The exception is Caleb son of Jephunneh; he’ll see it and I’ll give him and his descendants the territory on which he has walked, because he has wholeheartedly followed me.” 37 As for me, Lifegiver was also angry with me on your account. He said, “You also will not be able to go there. 38 However, Joshua son of Nun, your assistant, will go. Encourage him, because he’ll enable Israel to inherit the land. 39 Also, your infants, who you thought would die on the way, and your children, who as yet do not know good from bad, will go there; I’ll give them the land and they’ll possess it. 40 But as for you, turn back and head for the desert by the way to the Red Sea.” 41 Then you responded to me and admitted, “We’ve sinned against Lifegiver. We’ll now go up and fight as Lifegiver our Supermights has told us to do.” So you each put on your battle gear and prepared to go up to the hill country. 42 But Lifegiver told me: “Tell them this: ‘Do not go up and fight, because I’ll not be with you and you’ll be defeated by your enemies.’” 43 I spoke to you, but you did not listen. Instead you rebelled against Lifegiver and recklessly went up to the hill country. 44 The Amorite inhabitants of that area confronted you and chased you like a swarm of bees, striking you down from Seir as far as Hormah. 45 Then you came back and wept before Lifegiver, but he paid no attention to you whatsoever. 46 Therefore, you remained at Kadesh for a long time – indeed, for the full time.

Deuteronomy 2

1 Then we turned and set out toward the desert land on the way to the Red Sea just as Lifegiver told me to do, detouring around Mount Seir for a long time. 2 At this point Lifegiver said to me, 3 “You have circled around this mountain long enough; now turn north. 3 “You have circled around this mountain long enough; now turn north. 4 Instruct these people as follows: ‘You are about to cross the border of your relatives the descendants of Esau, who inhabit Seir. They’ll be afraid of you, so watch yourselves carefully. 5 Do not be hostile toward them, because I’m not giving you any of their land, not even a footprint, for I’ve given Mount Seir as an inheritance for Esau. 6 You may purchase food to eat and water to drink from them. 7 All along the way I, Lifegiver your deity, have blessed your every effort. I’ve been attentive to your travels through this great wasteland. These forty years I’ve been with you; you have lacked for nothing.’” 8 So we turned away from our relatives the descendants of Esau, the inhabitants of Seir, turning from the desert route, from Elat and Ezion Geber, and traveling the way of the Moab wastelands. 9 Then Lifegiver said to me, “Do not harass Moab and provoke them to war, for I’ll not give you any of their land as your territory. This is because I’ve given Ar to the descendants of Lot as their possession. 10 (The Emites used to live there, a people as powerful, numerous, and tall as the Anakites. 11 These people, as well as the Anakites, are also considered Rephaites; the Moabites call them Emites. 12 Previously the Horites lived in Seir but the descendants of Esau dispossessed and destroyed them and settled in their place, just as Israel did to the land it came to possess, the land Lifegiver gave them.) 13 Now, get up and cross the Wadi Zered.” So we did so. 14 Now the length of time it took for us to go from Kadesh Barnea to the crossing of Wadi Zered was thirty-eight years, time for all the military men of that generation to die, just as Lifegiver had vowed to them. 15 Indeed, it was the very hand of Lifegiver that eliminated them from witlitrethe camp until they were all gone. 16 So it was that after all the military men had been eliminated from the community, 17 Lifegiver said to me, 18 “Today you are going to cross the border of Moab, that is, of Ar. 19 But when you come close to the Ammonites, do not harass or provoke them because I’m not giving you any of the Ammonites’ land as your possession; I’ve already given it to Lot’s descendants as their possession. 20 (That also is considered to be a land of the Rephaites. The Rephaites lived there originally; the Ammonites call them Zamzummites. 21 They are a people as powerful, numerous, and tall as the Anakites. But Lifegiver destroyed the Rephaites in advance of the Ammonites, so they dispossessed them and settled down in their place. 22 This is exactly what he did for the descendants of Esau who lived in Seir when he destroyed the Horites before them so that they could dispossess them and settle in their area to this very day. 23 As for the Avvites who lived in settlements as far west as Gaza, Caphtorites who came from Crete destroyed them and settled down in their place.) 24 Get up, make your way across Wadi Arnon. Look! I’ve already delivered over to you Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Go ahead! Take it! Engage him in war! 25 This very day I’ll begin to fill all the people of the Earth with dread and to terrify them when they hear about you. They’ll shiver and shake in anticipation of your approach.” 26 Then I sent messengers from the Kedemoth Desert to King Sihon of Heshbon with an offer of peace: 27 “Let me pass through your land; I’ll keep strictly to the roadway. I’ll not turn aside to the right or the left. 28 Sell me food for cash so that I can eat and sell me water to drink. Just allow me to go through on foot, 29 just as the descendants of Esau who live at Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar did for me, until I cross the Jordan to the land Lifegiver our Supermights is giving us.” 30 But King Sihon of Heshbon was unwilling to allow us to pass near him because Lifegiver our Supermights had made him obstinate and stubborn so that he might deliver him over to you this very day. 31 Lifegiver said to me, “Look! I’ve already begun to give over Sihon and his land to you. Start right now to take his land as your possession.” 32 When Sihon and all his troops emerged to encounter us in battle at Jahaz, 33 Lifegiver our Supermights delivered him over to us and we struck him down, along with his sons and everyone else. 34 At that time we seized all his cities and put every one of them under divine judgment, including even the women and children; we left no survivors. 35 We kept only the livestock and plunder from the cities for ourselves. 36 From Aroer, which is at the edge of Wadi Arnon (it is the city in the wadi), all the way to Gilead there was not a town able to resist us – Lifegiver our Supermights gave them all to us. 37 However, you did not approach the land of the Ammonites, the Wadi Jabbok, the cities of the hill country, or any place else forbidden by Lifegiver our Supermights.

Deuteronomy 3

1 Next we set out on the route to Bashan, but King Og of Bashan and his whole army came out to meet us in battle at Edrei. 2 Lifegiver, however, said to me, “Don’t be afraid of him because I’ve already given him, his whole army, and his land to you. You’ll do to him exactly what you did to King Sihon of the Amorites who lived in Heshbon.” 3 So Lifegiver our Supermights did indeed give over to us King Og of Bashan and his whole army and we struck them down until not a single survivor was left. 4 We captured all his cities at that time – there was not a town we did not take from them – sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the dominion of Og in Bashan. 5 All of these cities were fortified by high walls, gates, and locking bars; in addition there were a great many open villages. 6 We put all of these under divine judgment just as we had done to King Sihon of Heshbon – every occupied city, including women and children. 7 But all the livestock and plunder from the cities we kept for ourselves. 8 So at that time we took the land of the two Amorite kings in the Transjordan from Wadi Arnon to Mount Hermon 9 (the Sidonians call Hermon Sirion and the Amorites call it Senir), 10 all the cities of the plateau, all of Gilead and Bashan as far as Salecah and Edrei, cities of the reign of Og in Bashan. 11 Only King Og of Bashan was left of the remaining Rephaites. (It is noteworthy that his sarcophagus was made of iron. Does it not, indeed, still remain in Rabbath of the Ammonites? It is thirteen and a half feet long and six feet wide according to standard measure.) 12 This is the land we brought under our control at that time: The territory extending from Aroer by the Wadi Arnon and half the Gilead hill country with its cities I gave to the Reubenites and Gadites. 13 The rest of Gilead and all of Bashan, the reign of Og, I gave to half the tribe of Manasseh. (All the region of Argob, that is, all Bashan, is called the land of Rephaim. 14 Jair, Kin of Humanityasseh, took all the Argob region as far as the border with the Geshurites and Maacathites (namely Bashan) and called it by his name, Havvoth-Jair, which it retains to this very day.) 15 I gave Gilead to Machir. 16 To the Reubenites and Gadites I allocated the territory extending from Gilead as far as Wadi Arnon (the exact middle of the wadi was a boundary) all the way to the Wadi Jabbok, the Ammonite border. 17 The Arabah and the Jordan River were also a border, from the sea of Chinnereth to the sea of the Arabah (that is, the Salt Sea), beneath the watershed of Pisgah to the east. 18 At that time I instructed you as follows: “Lifegiver your deity has given you this land for your possession. You warriors are to cross over before your fellow Israelites equipped for battle. 19 But your wives, children, and livestock (of which I know you have many) may remain in the cities I’ve given you. 20 You must fight until Lifegiver gives your countrymen victory as he did you and they take possession of the land that Lifegiver your deity is giving them on the other side of the Jordan River. Then each of you may return to his own territory that I’ve given you.” 21 I also instructed Joshua at the same time, “You have seen everything Lifegiver your deity did to these two kings; he’ll do the same to all the reigns where you are going. 22 Do not be afraid of them, for Lifegiver your deity will personally fight for you.” 23 Moreover, at that time I pleaded with Lifegiver, 24 “O, Lord Supermights , you have begun to show me your greatness and strength. (What deity in the sky or Earth can rival your works and mighty deeds?) 25 Let me please cross over to see the good land on the other side of the Jordan River – this good hill country and the Lebanon!” 26 But Lifegiver was angry at me because of you and would not listen to me. Instead, he said to me, “Enough of that! Do not speak to me anymore about this matter. 27 Go up to the top of Pisgah and take a good look to the west, north, south, and east, for you’ll not be allowed to cross the Jordan. 28 Commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, because he’ll lead these people over and will enable them to inherit the land you’ll see.” 29 So we settled down in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

Deuteronomy 4

1 Now, listen carefully Israel, pay attention to the principles and ordinances I’m about to teach you, so that you might live and go on to enter and take possession of the land that Lifegiver, the Supermights of your ancestors, is giving you. 2 Do not add a thing to what I instruct you nor subtract from it, so that you may keep the commandments of Lifegiver your deity that I’m delivering to you. 3 You have witnessed what Lifegiver did at Baal Peor, how he eradicated from your midst everyone who followed Baal Peor. 4 But you who remained faithful to Lifegiver your deity are still alive to this very day, every one of you. 5 Look! I’ve taught you principles and ordinances just as Lifegiver my Supermights told me to do, so that you might carry them out in the land you are about to enter and possess. 6 So be sure to do them, because this will testify of your wise understanding to the people who will learn of all these principles and say, “Indeed, this great nation is a very wise people.” 7 In fact, what other great nation has a Supermights so near to them like Lifegiver our Supermights whenever we call on him? 8 And what other great nation has principles and ordinances as just as this whole law that I’m about to share with you today? 9 Again, however, pay very careful attention, lest you forget the things you have seen and disregard them for the rest of your life; instead teach them to your children and grandchildren. 10 You stood before Lifegiver your deity at Horeb and he said to me, “Assemble the people before me so that I can tell them my instructions. Then they’ll learn to revere me all the days they live in the land, and they’ll instruct their children.” 11 You approached and stood at the foot of the mountain, a mountain ablaze to the sky above it and yet dark with a thick cloud. 12 Then Lifegiver spoke to you from the middle of the fire; you heard speech but you could not see anything – only a voice was heard. 13 And he revealed to you the agreement he has instructed you to keep, the ten commandments, writing them on two stone tablets. 14 Moreover, at that same time Lifegiver instructed me to teach you principles and ordinances for you to keep in the land which you are about to enter and possess. 15 Be very careful, then, because you saw no form at the time Lifegiver spoke to you at Horeb from the middle of the fire. 16 I say this so you’ll not corrupt yourselves by making an image in the form of any kind of figure. This includes the likeness of a human male or female, 17 any kind of land animal, any bird that flies in the sky, 18 anything that crawls on the ground, or any fish in the deep waters of the Earth . 19 When you look up to the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars – the whole celestial creation – you must not be seduced to worship and serve them, for Lifegiver your deity has assigned them to all the people of the world. 20 You, however, Lifegiver has selected and brought from Egypt, that iron-smelting furnace, to be his special people as you are today. 21 But Lifegiver became angry with me because of you and vowed that I would never cross the Jordan nor enter the good land that he is about to give you. 22 So I must die here in this land; I’ll not cross the Jordan. But you are going over and will possess that good land. 23 Be on guard so that you do not forget the agreement of Lifegiver your deity that he has made with you, and that you do not make an effigy of any kind, just as he has forbidden you. 24 For Lifegiver your deity is a consuming fire; he is a jealous Supermights. 25 After you have produced children and grandchildren and have been in the land a long time, if you become corrupt and make an effigy of any kind and do other bad things before Lifegiver your deity that enrage him, 26 I invoke Heaven and Earth as witnesses against you today that you’ll surely and swiftly be removed from the very land you are about to cross the Jordan to possess. You’ll not last long there because you’ll surely be annihilated. 27 Then Lifegiver will scatter you among the peoples and there will be very few of you among the nationalities where Lifegiver will drive you. 28 When you are there you’ll serve gods that are artefacts of human hands, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear, not even eat or smell. 29 But if you seek and search for Lifegiver your deity from there, you’ll find him, if, indeed, you seek him with all your heart and spirit. 30 In your distress when all these things happen to you in the latter days, if you return to Lifegiver your deity and obey him 31 (for he is a merciful Supermights ), he’ll not let you down or destroy you, for he cannot forget the agreement with your ancestors that he confirmed by oath to them. 32 Indeed, ask about the distant past, starting from the day Supermights created humankind on the Earth , and ask from one end of Celestial Body to the other, whether there has ever been such a great thing as this, or even a rumor of it. 33 Have a people ever heard the voice of Supermights speaking from the middle of fire, as you yourselves have, and lived to tell about it? 34 Or has Supermights ever before tried to deliver a nation from the middle of another nation, accompanied by judgments, signs, wonders, war, strength, power, and other very terrifying things like Lifegiver your deity did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? 35 You have been taught that Lifegiver alone is Supermights – there is no other besides him. 36 From Heaven he spoke to you in order to teach you, and on Earth he showed you his great fire from which you also heard his words. 37 Moreover, because he loved your ancestors, he chose their descendants who followed them and personally brought you out of Egypt with his great power 38 to dispossess nationalities greater and stronger than you and brought you here this day to give you their land as your property. 39 Today realize and carefully consider that Lifegiver is Supermights in Celestial Bodies above and on Earth below – there is no other! 40 Keep his principles and commandments that I’m setting forth today so that it may go well with you and your descendants and that you may enjoy longevity in the land that Lifegiver your deity is about to give you as a permanent possession. 41 Then Moses selected three cities in the Transjordan, toward the east. 42 Anyone who accidentally killed someone without hating him at the time of the accident could flee to one of those cities and be safe. 43 These cities are Bezer, in the desert plateau, for the Reubenites; Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites; and Golan in Bashan for the Manassehites. 44 This is the law that Moses set before the Israelites. 45 These are the stipulations, principles, and ordinances that Moses spoke to the Israelites after he had brought them out of Egypt, 46 in the Transjordan, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, in the land of King Sihon of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon. (It is he whom Moses and the Israelites attacked after they came out of Egypt. 47 They possessed his land and that of King Og of Bashan – both of whom were Amorite kings in the Transjordan, to the east. 48 Their territory extended from Aroer at the edge of the Arnon valley as far as Mount Siyon – that is, Hermon – 49 including all the Arabah of the Transjordan in the east to the sea of the Arabah, beneath the watershed of Pisgah.)

Deuteronomy 5

1 Then Moses called all the people of Israel together and said to them: “Listen, Israel, to the principles and ordinances that I’m about to deliver to you today; learn them and be careful to keep them! 2 Lifegiver our Supermights made a agreement with us at Horeb. 3 He did not make this agreement with our ancestors but with us, we who are here today, all of us living now. 4 Lifegiver spoke face to face with you at the mountain, from the middle of the fire. 5 (I was standing between Lifegiver and you at that time to reveal to you the message of Lifegiver, because you were afraid of the fire and would not go up the mountain.) He said: 6 “I’m Lifegiver your deity, he who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the place of slavery. 7 You must not have any other deities besides me. 8 You must not make for yourself an effigy of anything in Heaven above, on Earth below, or in the waters beneath. 9 You must not worship or serve them, for I, Lifegiver your deity, am a jealous Supermights. I punish the sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons for the sin of the fathers who reject me, 10 but I show agreement faithfulness to the thousands who choose me and keep my commandments. 11 You must not make use of the name of Lifegiver your deity for worthless purposes, for Lifegiver will not exonerate anyone who abuses his name that way. 12 Preserve and observe the Sabbath day. Sacralise it just as Lifegiver your deity has commissioned you. 13 Work for six days and carry out all your business 14 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of Lifegiver your deity. On that day don’t do any business, you, your son, your daughter, your male employee, your female employee, your ox, your donkey, any other animal, or the guest witlitreyour spaces, so that your male and female employees, like yourself, may also rest. 15 Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and that Lifegiver your deity released you from there through a violent hand and a forceful arm. As a result Lifegiver your deity commissioned you to practice to observe the Sabbath day. 16 Honor your father and your mother just as Lifegiver your deity has instructed you to do, so that your days may be extended and that it may go well with you in the land that he is about to give you. 17 You must not murder. 18 You must not commit adultery. 19 You must not steal. 20 You must not offer false testimony against another. 21 You must not desire another man’s wife, nor should you crave his house, his field, his male and female servants, his ox, his donkey, or anything else he owns.” 22 Lifegiver said these things to your entire assembly at the mountain from the middle of the fire, the cloud, and the darkness with a loud voice, and that was all he said. Then he inscribed the words on two stone tablets and gave them to me. 23 Then, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness while the mountain was ablaze, all your tribal leaders and seniors approached me. 24 You said, “Lifegiver Supermights has revealed us his glory and grandeur we’ve heard him speak from the centre of the fire. We’ve seen today that Supermights speaks to human beings and he lives. 25 But now, why should we die, because this intense fire will consume us, if we repeatedly hear the voice of Lifegiver our Supermights we’ll be consumed! 26 Who is there from the entire human race who has heard the voice of the living Supermights speaking from the middle of the fire as we’ve, and has lived? 27 You go near rather so that you can hear everything Lifegiver our Supermights is saying and then you can tell us whatever he says to you; then we’ll pay attention and do it.” 28 When Lifegiver heard you speaking to me, he said to me, “I’ve heard what these people have said to you – they have spoken well. 29 If only it would really be their desire to fear me and obey all my commandments in the future, so that it may go well with them and their descendants forever. 30 Go and tell them, ‘Return to your tents!’ 31 But as for you, remain here with me so I can declare to you all the commandments, principles, and ordinances that you are to teach them, so that they can carry them out in the land I’m about to give them.” 32 Be careful, therefore, to do exactly what Lifegiver your deity has instructed you; do not turn right or left! 33 Walk just as he has instructed you so that you may live, that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land you are going to possess.

Deuteronomy 6

1 Now these are the commandments, principles, and ordinances that Lifegiver your deity instructed me to teach you so that you may carry them out in the land where you are headed 2 and that you may so revere Lifegiver your deity that you’ll keep all his principles and instructions that I’m giving you – you, your children, and your grandchildren – all your lives, to prolong your days. 3 Hear Israel, and be careful to do this so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in number – as Lifegiver, Supermights of your ancestors, said to you, you’ll have a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 Listen carefully Israel: Lifegiver is our Supermights , Lifegiver alone! 5 Endear and love Lifegiver your deity with all you mind, your passion, and all your energy. 6 These words I’m instructing you today must be kept in mind, 7 and you must teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. 8 You should tie them as a reminder on your forearm and fasten them as symbols on your forehead. 9 Inscribe them on the doorframes of your houses and gates. 10 Then when Lifegiver your deity brings you to the land he promised your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give you – a land with large, fine cities you did not build, 11 houses filled with choice things you did not accumulate, hewn out cisterns you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant – and you eat your fill, 12 be careful not to forget Lifegiver who brought you out of Egypt, that place of slavery. 13 You must revere Lifegiver your deity, serve him, and take oaths using only his name. 14 You must not go after other Deities, those of the surrounding peoples, 15 for Lifegiver your deity, who is present among you, is a jealous Supermights and his anger will erupt against you and remove you from the land. 16 You must not put Lifegiver your deity to the test as you did at Massah. 17 Keep his commandments very carefully, as well as the stipulations and principles he instructed you to observe. 18 Do whatever is proper and good before Lifegiver so that it may go well with you and that you may enter and occupy the good land that he promised your ancestors, 19 and that you may drive out all your enemies just as Lifegiver said. 20 When your children ask you later on, “What are the stipulations, principles, and ordinances that Lifegiver our Supermights instructed you?” 21 you must say to them, “We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, but Lifegiver brought us out of Egypt in a powerful way. 22 And he brought signs and great, devastating wonders on Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on his whole family before our very eyes. 23 He delivered us from there so that he could give us the land he had promised our ancestors. 24 Lifegiver instructed us to obey all these principles and to revere him so that it may always go well for us and he may preserve us, as he has to this day. 25 We’ll be innocent if we carefully keep all these commandments before Lifegiver our Supermights , just as he demands.”

Deuteronomy 7

1 When Lifegiver your deity brings you to the land that you are going to occupy and forces out many nationalities before you – Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nationalities more numerous and powerful than you – 2 and he delivers them over to you and you attack them, you must utterly annihilate them. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy! 3 You must not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, 4 for they’ll turn your sons away from me to worship other Deities. Then the anger of Lifegiver will erupt against you and he’ll quickly destroy you. 5 Instead, this is what you must do to them: You must tear down their altars, shatter their sacred pillars, cut down their sacred Asherah poles, and burn up their idols. 6 For you are a people sacred to Lifegiver your deity. He has Designated you to be his people, prized above all others on the face of the Earth . 7 It is not because you were more numerous than all the other peoples that Lifegiver favored and chose you – for in fact you were the least numerous of all peoples. 8 Rather it is because of his love for you and his faithfulness to the promise he solemnly vowed to your ancestors that Lifegiver brought you out with great power, repurchaseing you from the place of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 So realize that Lifegiver your deity is the true Supermights , the faithful Supermights who keeps agreement faithfully with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, 10 but who pays back those who hate him as they deserve and destroys them. he’ll not ignore those who hate him but will repay them as they deserve! 11 So keep the commandments, principles, and ordinances that I today am instructing you to do. 12 If you obey these ordinances and are careful to do them, Lifegiver your deity will faithfully keep agreement with you as he promised your ancestors. 13 he’ll love and bless you, and make you numerous. he’ll bless you with many children, with the produce of your soil, your grain, your new wine, your oil, the offspring of your oxen, and the young of your flocks in the land which he promised your ancestors to give you. 14 You’ll be blessed beyond all peoples; there will be no barrenness among you or your livestock. 15 Lifegiver will protect you from all sickness, and you’ll not experience any of the terrible diseases that you knew in Egypt; instead he’ll inflict them on all those who hate you. 16 You must destroy all the people whom Lifegiver your deity is about to deliver over to you; you must not pity them or worship their Deities, for that will be a snare to you. 17 If you think, “These nationalities are more numerous than I – how can I dispossess them?” 18 you must not fear them. You must carefully recall what Lifegiver your deity did to Pharaoh and all Egypt, 19 the great judgments you saw, the signs and wonders, the strength and power by which he brought you out – thus Lifegiver your deity will do to all the people you fear. 20 Furthermore, Lifegiver your deity will release stinging wasps among them until the very last ones who hide from you perish. 21 You must not be terrified in their presence, for Lifegiver your deity, who is present among you, is a great and awesome Supermights. 22 He, Supermights who leads you, will expel the nationalities little by little. You’ll not be allowed to destroy them all at once lest the wild animals overrun you. 23 Lifegiver your deity will give them over to you; he’ll throw them into a great panic until they are destroyed. 24 he’ll hand over their kings to you and you’ll erase their very names from memory. Nobody will be able to resist you until you destroy them. 25 You must burn the images of their Deities, but do not covet the silver and gold that covers them so much that you take it for yourself and thus become ensnared by it; for it is abhorrent to Lifegiver your deity. 26 You must not bring any abhorrent thing into your house and thereby become an object of divine wrath along with it. You must absolutely detest and abhor it, for it is an object of divine wrath.

Deuteronomy 8

1 You must keep carefully all these commandments I’m giving you today so that you may live, increase in number, and go in and occupy the land that Lifegiver promised to your ancestors. 2 Remember the whole way by which he has brought you these forty years through the desert so that he might, by humbling you, test you to see if you have it witlitreyou to keep his commandments or not. 3 So he humbled you by making you hungry and then feeding you with unfamiliar manna. He did this to teach you that humankind cannot live by bread alone, but also by everything that comes from Lifegiver’s mouth. 4 Your clothing did not wear out nor did your feet swell all these forty years. 5 Be keenly aware that just as a parent disciplines his child, Lifegiver your deity disciplines you. 6 So you must keep his commandments, live according to his standards, and revere him. 7 For Lifegiver your deity is bringing you to a good land, a land of brooks, springs, and fountains flowing forth in valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, of olive trees and honey, 9 a land where you may eat food in plenty and find no lack of anything, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you can mine copper. 10 You’ll eat your fill and then praise Lifegiver your deity because of the good land he has given you. 11 Be sure you do not forget Lifegiver your deity by not keeping his commandments, ordinances, and principles that I’m giving you today. 12 When you eat your fill, when you build and occupy good houses, 13 when your cattle and flocks increase, when you have plenty of silver and gold, and when you have abundance of everything, 14 be sure you do not feel self-important and forget Lifegiver your deity who brought you from the land of Egypt, the place of slavery, 15 and who brought you through the great, fearful desert of venomous serpents and scorpions, an arid place with no water. He made water flow from a flint rock and 16 fed you in the desert with manna (which your ancestors had never before known) so that he might by humbling you test you and eventually bring good to you. 17 Be careful not to say, “My own ability and skill have gotten me this wealth.” 18 You must remember Lifegiver your deity, for he is the one who gives means to acquire wealth; if you do this he’ll confirm his agreement that he made by oath to your ancestors, even as he has to this day. 19 Now if you forget Lifegiver your deity at all and follow other Deities, worshiping and prostrating yourselves before them, I testify to you today that you’ll surely be annihilated. 20 Just like the nationalities Lifegiver is about to destroy from your sight, so he’ll do to you because you would not obey him.

Deuteronomy 9

1 Listen, Israel: Today you are about to cross the Jordan so you can dispossess the nationalities there, people greater and stronger than you who live in large cities with extremely high fortifications. 2 They include the Anakites, a numerous and tall people whom you know about and of whom it is said, “Who is able to resist the Anakites?” 3 Understand today that Lifegiver your deity who goes before you is a devouring fire; he’ll defeat and subdue them before you. You’ll dispossess and destroy them quickly just as he has told you. 4 Do not think to yourself after Lifegiver your deity has driven them out before you, “Because of my own rightness Lifegiver has brought me here to possess this land.” It is because of the wickedness of these nationalities that Lifegiver is driving them out ahead of you. 5 It is not because of your rightness, or even your inner uprightness, that you have come here to possess their land. Instead, because of the wickedness of these nationalities Lifegiver your deity is driving them out ahead of you in order to confirm the promise he made on oath to your ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 6 Understand, therefore, that it is not because of your rightness that Lifegiver your deity is about to give you this good land as a possession, for you are a stubborn people! 7 Remember – don’t ever forget – how you provoked Lifegiver your deity in the desert; from the time you left the land of Egypt until you came to this place you were constantly rebelling against him. 8 At Horeb you provoked him and he was angry enough with you to destroy you. 9 When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the agreement that Lifegiver made with you, I remained there forty days and nights, eating and drinking nothing. 10 Lifegiver gave me the two stone tablets, written by the very finger of Supermights , and on them was everything he said to you at the mountain from the midst of the fire at the time of that assembly. 11 Now at the end of the forty days and nights Lifegiver presented me with the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant. 12 And he said to me, “Get up, go down at once from here because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have sinned! They have quickly turned from the way I instructed them and have made for themselves a cast metal image.” 13 Moreover, he said to me, “I’ve taken note of these people; they are a stubborn lot! 14 Stand aside and I’ll destroy them, obliterating their very name from memory, and I’ll make you into a stronger and more numerous nation than they are.” 15 So I turned and went down the mountain while it was blazing with fire; the two tablets of the agreement were in my hands. 16 When I looked, you had indeed sinned against Lifegiver your deity and had cast for yourselves a metal calf; you had quickly turned aside from the way he had instructed you! 17 I grabbed the two tablets, threw them down, and shattered them before your very eyes. 18 Then I again fell down before Lifegiver for forty days and nights; I ate and drank nothing because of all the sin you had committed, doing such bad before Lifegiver as to enrage him. 19 For I was terrified at Lifegiver’s intense anger that threatened to destroy you. But he listened to me this time as well. 20 Lifegiver was also angry enough at Aaron to kill him, but at that time I prayed for him too. 21 As for your sinful thing that you had made, the calf, I took it, melted it down, ground it up until it was as fine as dust, and tossed the dust into the stream that flows down the mountain. 22 Moreover, you continued to provoke Lifegiver at Taberah, Massah, and Kibroth-Hattaavah. 23 And when he sent you from Kadesh-Barnea and told you, “Go up and possess the land I’ve given you,” you rebelled against Lifegiver your deity and would neither believe nor obey him. 24 You have been rebelling against him from the very first day I knew you! 25 I lay flat on the ground before Lifegiver for forty days and nights, for he had said he would destroy you. 26 I prayed to him: O, Lord Supermights , do not destroy your people, your valued property that you have powerfully repurchased, whom you brought out of Egypt by your strength. 27 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; ignore the stubbornness, wickedness, and sin of these people. 28 Otherwise the people of the land from which you brought us will say, “Lifegiver was unable to bring them to the land he promised them, and because of his hatred for them he has brought them out to kill them in the desert.” 29 They are your people, your valued property, whom you brought out with great strength and power.

Deuteronomy 10

1 At that same time Lifegiver said to me, “Carve out for yourself two stone tablets like the first ones and come up the mountain to me; also make for yourself a wooden ark. 2 I’ll write on the tablets the same words that were on the first tablets you broke, and you must put them into the ark.” 3 So I made a Cabinet of acacia wood and carved out two stone tablets just like the first ones. Then I went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hands. 4 Lifegiver then wrote on the tablets the same words, the ten commandments, which he had spoken to you at the mountain from the middle of the fire at the time of that assembly, and he gave them to me. 5 Then I turned, went down the mountain, and placed the tablets into the Cabinet I had made – they are still there, just as Lifegiver instructed me. 6 “During those days the Israelites traveled from Beeroth Bene-Yaaqan to Moserah. There Aaron died and was buried, and his son Eleazar became priest in his place. 7 From there they traveled to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a place of flowing streams. 8 At that time Lifegiver set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s covenant, to stand before Lifegiver to serve him, and to formulate blessings in his name, as they do to this very day. 9 Therefore Levi has no allotment or inheritance among his brothers; Lifegiver is his inheritance just as Lifegiver your deity told him. 10 As for me, I stayed at the mountain as I did the first time, forty days and nights. Lifegiver listened to me that time as well and decided not to destroy you. 11 Then he said to me, “Get up, set out leading the people so they may go and possess the land I promised to give to their ancestors.” 12 Now, Israel, what does Lifegiver your deity require of you except to revere him, to obey all his commandments, to love him, to serve him with all your mind and being, 13 and to keep Lifegiver’s commandments and principles that I’m giving you today for your own good? 14 The Celestial Bodies – indeed the highest Celestial Bodies – belong to Lifegiver your deity, as does the Earth and everything in it. 15 However, only to your ancestors did he show his loving favor, and he chose you, their descendants, from all peoples – as is apparent today. 16 Therefore, cleanse your heart and stop being so stubborn! 17 For Lifegiver your deity is Supermights of deities and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome Supermights who is unbiased and takes no bribe, 18 who justly treats the orphan and widow, and who loves resident foreigners, giving them food and clothing. 19 So you must love the resident foreigner because you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. 20 Revere Lifegiver your deity, serve him, be loyal to him and take oaths only in his name. 21 He is the one you should praise; he is your deity, the one who has done these great and awesome things for you that you have seen. 22 When your ancestors went down to Egypt, they numbered only seventy, but now Lifegiver your deity has made you as numerous as the stars of the sky.

Deuteronomy 11

1 You must love Lifegiver your deity and do what he requires; keep his principles, ordinances, and commandments at all times. 2 Bear in mind today that I’m not speaking to your children who have not personally experienced the judgments of Lifegiver your deity, which revealed his greatness, strength, and power. 3 They did not see the awesome deeds he performed in the midst of Egypt against Pharaoh king of Egypt and his whole land, 4 or what he did to the army of Egypt, including their horses and chariots, when he made the waters of the Red Sea overwhelm them while they were pursuing you and he annihilated them. 5 They did not see what he did to you in the desert before you reached this place, 6 or what he did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the Earth opened its mouth in the middle of the Israelite camp and swallowed them, their families, their tents, and all the property they brought with them. 7 I’m speaking to you because you are the ones who saw all the great deeds of Lifegiver! 8 Now pay attention to all the commandments I’m giving you today, so that you may be strong enough to enter and possess the land where you are headed, 9 and that you may enjoy long life in the land Lifegiver promised to give to your ancestors and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 For the land where you are headed is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, a land where you planted seed and which you irrigated by hand like a vegetable garden. 11 Instead, the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy is one of hills and valleys, a land that drinks in water from the rains, 12 a land Lifegiver your deity looks after. He is constantly attentive to it from the beginning to the end of the year. 13 Now, if you pay close attention to my commandments that I’m giving you today and love Lifegiver your deity and serve him with all your mind and being, 14 then he promises, “I’ll send rain for your land in its season, the autumn and the spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine, and olive oil. 15 I’ll provide pasture for your livestock and you’ll eat your fill.” 16 Make sure you do not turn away to serve and worship other Deities! 17 Then the anger of Lifegiver will erupt against you and he’ll close up the sky so that it does not rain. The land will not yield its produce, and you’ll soon be removed from the good land that Lifegiver is about to give you. 18 Fix these words of mine into your mind and being, and tie them as a reminder on your hands and let them be symbols on your forehead. 19 Teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. 20 Inscribe them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates 21 so that your days and those of your descendants may be extended in the land which Lifegiver promised to give to your ancestors, like the days of Heaven itself. 22 For if you carefully observe all of these commandments I’m giving you and love Lifegiver your deity, live according to his standards, and remain loyal to him, 23 then he’ll drive out all thesenationalitiesahead of you, and you’ll dispossess nationalities greater and stronger than you. 24 Every place you set your foot will be yours; your border will extend from the desert to Lebanon and from the River (that is, the Euphrates) as far as the Mediterranean Sea. 25 Nobody will be able to resist you; Lifegiver your deity will spread the fear and terror of you over the whole land on which you walk, just as he promised you. 26 Take note – I’m setting before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing if you take to heart the commandments of Lifegiver your deity that I’m giving you today, 28 and the curse if you pay no attention to his commandments and turn from the way I’m setting before you today to pursue other deities you have not known. 29 When Lifegiver your deity brings you into the land you are to possess, you must pronounce the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. 30 Are they not across the Jordan River, toward the west, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah opposite Gilgal near the oak of Moreh? 31 For you are about to cross the Jordan to possess the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you, and you’ll possess and inhabit it. 32 Be certain to keep all the principles and ordinances that I’m presenting to you today.

Deuteronomy 12

1 These are the principles and ordinances you must be careful to obey as long as you live in the land Lifegiver, the Supermights of your ancestors, has given you to possess. 2 You must by all means destroy all the places where the nationalities you are about to dispossess worship their deities – on the high mountains and hills and under every leafy tree. 3 You must tear down their altars, shatter their sacred pillars, burn up their sacred Asherah poles, and cut down the images of their Deities; you must eliminate their very memory from that place. 4 You must not worship Lifegiver your deity the way they worship. 5 But you must seek only the place he chooses from all your tribes to establish his name as his place of residence, and you must go there. 6 And there you must take your sacrifices, your sacrifices, your tithes, the personal offerings you have prepared, your votive offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. 7 Both you and your families must feast there before Lifegiver your deity and rejoice in all the output of your labor with which he has blessed you. 8 You must not do like we are doing here today, with everyone doing what seems best to him, 9 for you have not yet come to the final stop and inheritance Lifegiver your deity is giving you. 10 When you do go across the Jordan River and settle in the land he is granting you as an inheritance and you find relief from all the enemies who surround you, you’ll live in safety. 11 Then you must come to the place Lifegiver your deity chooses for his name to reside, bringing everything I’m instructing you – your sacrifices, sacrifices, tithes, the personal offerings you have prepared, and all your choice votive offerings which you devote to him. 12 You shall rejoice in the presence of Lifegiver your deity, along with your sons, daughters, male and female servants, and the Levites in your villages (since they have no allotment or inheritance with you). 13 Make sure you do not offer sacrifices in any place you wish, 14 for you may do so only in the place Lifegiver chooses in one of your tribal areas – there you may do everything I’m instructing you. 15 On the other hand, you may slaughter and eat meat as you please when Lifegiver your deity blesses you in all your villages. Both the ritually pure and impure may eat it, whether it is a gazelle or an ibex. 16 However, you must not eat blood – pour it out on the ground like water. 17 You’ll not be allowed to eat in your villages your tithe of grain, new wine, olive oil, the firstborn of your herd and flock, any votive offerings you have vowed, or your freewill and personal offerings. 18 Only in the presence of Lifegiver your deity may you eat these, in the place he chooses. This applies to you, your son, your daughter, your male and female servants, and the Levites in your villages. In that place you’ll rejoice before Lifegiver your deity in all the output of your labor. 19 Be careful not to overlook the Levites as long as you live in the land. 20 When Lifegiver your deity extends your borders as he said he would do and you say, “I want to eat meat just as I please,” you may do so as you wish. 21 If the place he chooses to locate his name is too far for you, you may slaughter any of your herd and flock he has given you just as I’ve stipulated; you may eat them in your villages just as you wish. 22 Like you eat the gazelle or ibex, so you may eat these; the ritually impure and pure alike may eat them. 23 However, by no means eat the blood, for the blood is life itself – you must not eat the life with the meat! 24 You must not eat it! You must pour it out on the ground like water. 25 You must not eat it so that it may go well with you and your children after you; you’ll be doing what is right in Lifegiver’s sight. 26 Only the sacred things and votive offerings that belong to you, you must pick up and take to the place Lifegiver will choose. 27 You must offer your sacrifices, both meat and blood, on the altar of Lifegiver your deity ; the blood of your other sacrifices you must pour out on his altar while you eat the meat. 28 Pay careful attention to all these things I’m instructing you so that it may always go well with you and your children after you when you do what is good and right in the sight of Lifegiver your deity. 29 When Lifegiver your deity eliminates the nationalities from the place where you are headed and you dispossess them, you’ll settle down in their land. 30 After they have been destroyed from your presence, be careful not to be ensnared like they are; do not pursue their deities and say, “How do these nationalities serve their Deities? I’ll do the same.” 31 You must not worship Lifegiver your deity the way they do! For everything that is abhorrent to him, everything he hates, they have done when worshiping their Deities. They even burn up their sons and daughters before their Deities! 32 (13:1) You must be careful to do everything I’m instructing you. Do not add to it or subtract from it!

Deuteronomy 13

1 Suppose a prophet or one who foretells by dreams should appear among you and show you a sign or wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder should come to pass concerning what he said to you, namely, “Let us follow other Deities” – deities whom you have not previously known – “and let us serve them.” 3 You must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer, for Lifegiver your deity will be testing you to see if you love him with all your mind and being. 4 You must follow Lifegiver your deity and revere only him; and you must observe his commandments, obey him, serve him, and remain loyal to him. 5 As for that prophet or dreamer, he must be executed because he encouraged rebellion against Lifegiver your deity who brought you from the land of Egypt, repurchaseing you from that place of slavery, and because he has tried to entice you from the way Lifegiver your deity has instructed you to go. In this way you must purge out bad from within. 6 Suppose your own full brother, your son, your daughter, your beloved wife, or your closest friend should seduce you secretly and encourage you to go and serve other deities that neither you nor your ancestors have previously known, 7 the deities of the surrounding people (whether near you or far from you, from one end of the Earth to the other). 8 You must not give in to him or even listen to him; do not feel sympathy for him or spare him or cover up for him. 9 Instead, you must kill him without fail! Your own hand must be the first to strike him, and then the hands of the whole community. 10 You must stone him to death because he tried to entice you away from Lifegiver your deity, who delivered you from the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. 11 Thus all Israel will hear and be afraid; no longer will they continue to do bad like this among you. 12 Suppose you should hear in one of your cities, which Lifegiver your deity is giving you as a place to live, that 13 some bad people have departed from among you to entice the inhabitants of their cities, saying, “Let’s go and serve other Deities” (whom you have not known before). 14 You must investigate thoroughly and inquire carefully. If it is indeed true that such a disgraceful thing is being done among you, 15 you must by all means slaughter the inhabitants of that city with the sword; annihilate with the sword everyone in it, as well as the livestock. 16 You must gather all of its plunder into the middle of the plaza and burn the city and all its plunder as a whole sacrifice to Lifegiver your deity. It will be an abandoned ruin forever – it must never be rebuilt again. 17 You must not take for yourself anything that has been placed under judgment. Then Lifegiver will relent from his intense anger, show you compassion, have mercy on you, and multiply you as he promised your ancestors. 18 Thus you must obey Lifegiver your deity, keeping all his commandments that I’m giving you today and doing what is right before him.

Deuteronomy 14

1 You are children of Lifegiver your deity. Do not cut yourselves or shave your forehead bald for the sake of the dead. 2 For you are a people sacred to Lifegiver your deity. He has Designated you to be his people, prized above all others on the face of the Earth . 3 You must not eat any forbidden thing. 4 These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat, 5 the ibex, the gazelle, the deer, the wild goat, the antelope, the wild oryx, and the mountain sheep. 6 You may eat any animal that has hooves divided into two parts and that chews the cud. 7 However, you may not eat the following animals among those that chew the cud or those that have divided hooves: the camel, the hare, and the rock badger. (Although they chew the cud, they do not have divided hooves and are therefore ritually impure to you). 8 Also the pig is ritually impure to you; though it has divided hooves, it does not chew the cud. You may not eat their meat or even touch their remains. 9 These you may eat from among water creatures: anything with fins and scales you may eat, 10 but whatever does not have fins and scales you may not eat; it is ritually impure to you. 11 All ritually clean birds you may eat. 12 These are the ones you may not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture, 13 the kite, the black kite, the flacon after its species, 14 every raven after its species, 15 the ostrich, the owl, the seagull, the falcon after its species, 16 the little owl, the long-eared owl, the white owl, 17 the jackdaw, the carrion vulture, the cormorant, 18 the stork, the heron after its species, the hoopoe, the bat, 19 and any winged thing on the ground are impure to you – they may not be eaten. 20 You may eat any clean bird. 21 You may not eat any corpse, though you may give it to the resident foreigner who is living in your villages and he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. You are a people sacred to Lifegiver your deity. Do not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk. 22 You must be certain to tithe all the produce of your seed that comes from the field year after year. 23 In the presence of Lifegiver your deity you must eat from the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the place he chooses to locate his name, so that you may learn to revere Lifegiver your deity always. 24 When he blesses you, if the place where he chooses to locate his name is distant, 25 you may convert the tithe into money, secure the money, and travel to the place Lifegiver your deity chooses for himself. 26 Then you may spend the money however you wish for cattle, sheep, wine, beer, or whatever you desire. You and your household may eat there in the presence of Lifegiver your deity and enjoy it. 27 As for the Levites in your villages, you must not ignore them, for they have no allotment or inheritance along with you. 28 At the end of every three years you must bring all the tithe of your produce, in that very year, and you must store it up in your villages. 29 Then the Levites (because they have no allotment or inheritance with you), the resident foreigners, the orphans, and the widows of your villages may come and eat their fill so that Lifegiver your deity may bless you in all the work you do.

Deuteronomy 15

1 At the end of every seven years you must declare a cancellation of debts. 2 This is the nature of the cancellation: Every creditor must remit what he has loaned to another person; he must not force payment from his fellow Israelite, for it is to be recognized as “Lifegiver’s cancellation of debts.” 3 You may exact payment from a foreigner, but whatever your fellow Israelite owes you, you must remit. 4 However, there should not be any poor among you, for Lifegiver will surely bless you in the land that he is giving you as an inheritance, 5 if you carefully obey him by keeping all these commandments that I’m giving you today. 6 For Lifegiver your deity will bless you just as he has promised; you’ll lend to many nationalities but will not borrow from any, and you’ll rule over many nationalities but they’ll not rule over you. 7 If a fellow Israelite from one of your villages in the land that Lifegiver your deity is giving you should be poor, you must not harden your heart or be insensitive to his impoverished condition. 8 Instead, you must be sure to open your hand to him and generously lend him whatever he needs. 9 Be careful lest you entertain the wicked thought that the seventh year, the year of cancellation of debts, has almost arrived, and your attitude be wrong toward your impoverished fellow Israelite and you do not lend him anything; he’ll cry out to Lifegiver against you and you’ll be regarded as having sinned. 10 You must by all means lend to him and not be upset by doing it, for because of this Lifegiver your deity will bless you in all your work and in everything you attempt. 11 There will never cease to be some poor people in the land; therefore, I’m instructing you to make sure you open your hand to your fellow Israelites who are needy and poor in your land. 12 If your fellow Hebrew – whether male or female – is sold to you and serves you for six years, then in the seventh year you must let that servant go free. 13 If you set them free, you must not send them away empty-handed. 14 You must supply them generously from your flock, your threshing floor, and your winepress – as Lifegiver your deity has blessed you, you must give to them. 15 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and Lifegiver your deity repurchased you; therefore, I’m instructing you to do this thing today. 16 However, if the servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your household, since he is well off with you, 17 you shall take an awl and pierce a hole through his ear to the door. Then he’ll become your servant permanently (this applies to your female servant as well). 18 You should not consider it difficult to let him go free, for he’ll have served you for six years, twice the time of a hired worker; Lifegiver your deity will bless you in everything you do. 19 You must set apart for Lifegiver your deity every firstborn male born to your herds and flocks. You must not work the firstborn of your bulls or shear the firstborn of your flocks. 20 You and your household must eat them annually before Lifegiver your deity in the place he chooses. 21 If they have any kind of blemish – lameness, blindness, or anything else – you may not offer them as a sacrifice to Lifegiver your deity. 22 You may eat it in your villages, whether you are ritually impure or clean, just as you would eat a gazelle or an ibex. 23 However, you must not eat its blood; you must pour it out on the ground like water.

Deuteronomy 16

1 Observe the month Abib and keep the Passover to Lifegiver your deity, for in that month he brought you out of Egypt by night. 2 You must sacrifice the Passover animal (from the flock or the herd) to Lifegiver your deity in the place where he chooses to locate his name. 3 You must not eat any yeast with it; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast, symbolic of adversity, for you came out of Egypt hurriedly. You must do this so you’ll remember for the rest of your life the day you came out of the land of Egypt. 4 There must not be a scrap of yeast witlitreyour land for seven days, nor can any of the meat you sacrifice on the evening of the first day remain until the next morning. 5 You may not sacrifice the Passover in just any of your villages that Lifegiver your deity is giving you, 6 but you must sacrifice it in the evening in the place where he chooses to locate his name, at sunset, the time of day you came out of Egypt. 7 You must cook and eat it in the place Lifegiver your deity chooses; you may return the next morning to your tents. 8 You must eat bread made without yeast for six days. The seventh day you are to hold an assembly for Lifegiver your deity ; you must not do any work on that day. 9 You must count seven weeks; you must begin to count them from the time you begin to harvest the standing grain. 10 Then you are to celebrate the Festival of Weeks before Lifegiver your deity with the voluntary offering that you’ll bring, in proportion to how he has blessed you. 11 You shall rejoice before him – you, your son, your daughter, your male and female slaves, the Levites in your villages, the resident foreigners, the orphans, and the widows among you – in the place where Lifegiver chooses to locate his name. 12 Furthermore, remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and so be careful to observe these principles. 13 You must celebrate the Festival of Temporary Shelters for seven days, at the time of the grain and grape harvest. 14 You are to rejoice in your festival, you, your son, your daughter, your male and female slaves, the Levites, the resident foreigners, the orphans, and the widows who are in your villages. 15 You are to celebrate the festival seven days before Lifegiver your deity in the place he chooses, for he’ll bless you in all your productivity and in whatever you do; so you’ll indeed rejoice! 16 Three times a year all your males must appear before Lifegiver your deity in the place he chooses for the Festival of Unraised Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Temporary Shelters; and they must not appear before him empty-handed. 17 Every one of you must give as you are able, according to the blessing of Lifegiver your deity that he has given you. 18 You must appoint judges and civil servants for each tribe in all your villages that Lifegiver your deity is giving you, and they must judge the people fairly. 19 You must not pervert justice or show favor. Do not take a bribe, for bribes blind the eyes of the wise and distort the words of the righteous. 20 You must pursue justice alone so that you may live and inherit the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you. 21 You must not plant any kind of tree as a sacred Asherah pole near the altar of Lifegiver your deity which you build for yourself. 22 You must not erect a sacred pillar, a thing Lifegiver your deity detests.

Deuteronomy 17

1 You must not sacrifice to him a bull or sheep that has a blemish or any other defect, because that is considered offensive to Lifegiver your deity. 2 Suppose a man or woman is discovered among you – in one of your villages that Lifegiver your deity is giving you – who sins before Lifegiver your deity and breaks his agreement 3 by serving other deities and worshiping them – the sun, moon, or any other Celestial Bodies which I’ve not permitted you to worship. 4 When it is reported to you and you hear about it, you must investigate carefully. If it is indeed true that such a disgraceful thing is being done in Israel, 5 you must bring to your city gates that man or woman who has done this wicked thing – that very man or woman – and you must stone that person to death. 6 At the testimony of two or three witnesses they must be executed. They cannot be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. 7 The witnesses must be first to begin the execution, and then all the people are to join in afterward. In this way you’ll purge bad from among you. 8 If a matter is too difficult for you to judge – bloodshed, legal claim, or assault – matters of controversy in your villages – you must leave there and go up to the place Lifegiver your deity chooses. 9 You’ll go to the Levitical priests and the judge in office in those days and seek a solution; they’ll render a verdict. 10 You must then do as they have determined at that place Lifegiver chooses. Be careful to do just as you are taught. 11 You must do what you are instructed, and the verdict they pronounce to you, without fail. Do not deviate right or left from what they tell you. 12 The person who pays no attention to the priest currently serving Lifegiver your deity there, or to the verdict – that person must die, so that you may purge bad from Israel. 13 Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and not be so presumptuous again. 14 When you come to the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you and take it over and live in it and then say, “I’ll select a king like all the nationalities surrounding me,” 15 you must select without fail a king whom Lifegiver your deity chooses. From among your fellow citizens you must appoint a king – you may not designate a foreigner who is not one of your fellow Israelites. 16 Moreover, he must not accumulate horses for himself or allow the people to return to Egypt to do so, for Lifegiver has said you must never again return that way. 17 Furthermore, he must not marry many wives lest his affections turn aside, and he must not accumulate much silver and gold. 18 When he sits on his royal throne he must make a copy of this law on a scroll given to him by the Levitical priests. 19 It must be with him constantly and he must read it as long as he lives, so that he may learn to revere Lifegiver his Supermights and observe all the words of this law and these principles and carry them out. 20 Then he’ll not exalt himself above his fellow citizens or turn from the commandments to the right or left, and he and his descendants will enjoy many years ruling over his reign in Israel.

Deuteronomy 18

1 The Levitical priests – indeed, the entire tribe of Levi – will have no allotment or inheritance with Israel; they may eat the sacrifices of Lifegiver and of his inheritance. 2 They’ll have no inheritance in the midst of their fellow Israelites; Lifegiver alone is their inheritance, just as he had told them. 3 This shall be the priests’ fair allotment from the people who offer sacrifices, whether bull or sheep – they must give to the priest the shoulder, the jowls, and the stomach. 4 You must give them the best of your grain, new wine, and olive oil, as well as the best of your wool when you shear your flocks. 5 For Lifegiver your deity has Designated them and their sons from all your tribes to stand and serve in his name permanently. 6 Suppose a Levite comes by his own free will from one of your villages, from any part of Israel where he is living, to the place Lifegiver chooses 7 and serves in the name of Lifegiver his Supermights like his fellow Levites who stand there before Lifegiver. 8 He must eat the same share they do, despite any profits he may gain from the sale of his family’s inheritance. 9 When you enter the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you, you must not learn the abhorrent practices of those nationalities. 10 There must never be found among you anyone who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, anyone who practices divination, an omen reader, a soothsayer, a sorcerer, 11 one who casts spells, one who conjures up spirits, a practitioner of the occult, or a necromancer. 12 Whoever does these things is abhorrent to Lifegiver and because of these detestable things Lifegiver your deity is about to drive them out from before you. 13 You must be blameless before Lifegiver your deity. 14 Those nationalities that you are about to dispossess listen to omen readers and diviners, but Lifegiver your deity has not given you permission to do such things. 15 Lifegiver your deity will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you – from your fellow Israelites; you must listen to him. 16 This accords with what happened at Horeb in the day of the assembly. You asked Lifegiver your deity : “Please do not make us hear the voice of Lifegiver our Supermights any more or see this great fire any more lest we die.” 17 Lifegiver then said to me, “What they have said is good. 18 I’ll raise up a prophet like you for them from among their fellow Israelites. I’ll put my words in his mouth and he’ll speak to them whatever I instruct . 19 I’ll personally hold responsible anyone who then pays no attention to the words that prophet speaks in my name. 20 “But if any prophet presumes to speak anything in my name that I’ve not authorized him to speak, or speaks in the name of other Deities, that prophet must die. 21 Now if you say to yourselves, ‘How can we tell that a message is not from Lifegiver?’ – 22 whenever a prophet speaks in my name and the prediction is not fulfilled, then I’ve not spoken it; the prophet has presumed to speak it, so you need not fear him.”

Deuteronomy 19

1 When Lifegiver your deity destroys the nationalities whose land he is about to give you and you dispossess them and settle in their cities and houses, 2 you must set apart for yourselves three cities in the middle of your land that Lifegiver your deity is giving you as a possession. 3 You shall build a roadway and divide into thirds the whole extent of your land that Lifegiver your deity is providing as your inheritance; anyone who kills another person should flee to the closest of these cities. 4 Now this is the law pertaining to one who flees there in order to live, if he has accidentally killed another without hating him at the time of the accident. 5 Suppose he goes with someone else to the forest to cut wood and when he raises the ax to cut the tree, the ax head flies loose from the handle and strikes his fellow worker so hard that he dies. The person responsible may then flee to one of these cities to save himself. 6 Otherwise the blood avenger will chase after the killer in the heat of his anger, eventually overtake him, and kill him, though this is not a capital case since he did not hate him at the time of the accident. 7 Therefore, I’m instructing you to set apart for yourselves three cities. 8 If Lifegiver your deity enlarges your borders as he promised your ancestors and gives you all the land he pledged to them, 9 and then you are careful to observe all these commandments I’m giving you today (namely, to love Lifegiver your deity and to always walk in his ways), then you must add three more cities to these three. 10 You must not shed innocent blood in your land that Lifegiver your deity is giving you as an inheritance, for that would make you guilty. 11 However, suppose a person hates someone else and stalks him, attacks him, kills him, and then flees to one of these cities. 12 The seniors of his own city must send for him and remove him from there to deliver him over to the blood avenger to die. 13 You must not pity him, but purge out the blood of the innocent from Israel, so that it may go well with you. 14 You must not encroach on your neighbor’s property, which will have been defined in the inheritance you’ll obtain in the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you. 15 A single witness may not testify against another person for any trespass or sin that he commits. A matter may be legally established only on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 16 If a false witness testifies against another person and accuses him of a crime, 17 then both parties to the controversy must stand before Lifegiver, that is, before the priests and judges who will be in office in those days. 18 The judges will thoroughly investigate the matter, and if the witness should prove to be false and to have given false testimony against the accused, 19 you must do to him what he had intended to do to the accused. In this way you’ll purge bad from among you. 20 The rest of the people will hear and become afraid to keep doing such bad among you. 21 You must not show pity; the principle will be a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, and a foot for a foot.

Deuteronomy 20

1 When you go to war against your enemies and see chariotry and troops who outnumber you, do not be afraid of them, for Lifegiver your deity, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, is with you. 2 As you move forward for battle, the priest will approach and say to the soldiers, 3 “Listen, Israel! Today you are moving forward to do battle with your enemies. Do not be fainthearted. Do not fear and tremble or be terrified because of them, 4 for Lifegiver your deity goes with you to fight on your behalf against your enemies to give you victory.” 5 Moreover, the officers are to say to the troops, “Who among you has built a new house and not dedicated it? He may go home, lest he die in battle and someone else dedicate it. 6 Or who among you has planted a vineyard and not benefited from it? He may go home, lest he die in battle and someone else benefit from it. 7 Or who among you has become engaged to a woman but has not married her? He may go home, lest he die in battle and someone else marry her.” 8 In addition, the officers are to say to the troops, “Who among you is afraid and fainthearted? He may go home so that he’ll not make his fellow soldier’s heart as fearful as his own.” 9 Then, when the officers have finished speaking, they must appoint unit commanders to lead the troops. 10 When you approach a city to wage war against it, offer it terms of peace. 11 If it accepts your terms and submits to you, all the people found in it will become your slaves. 12 If it does not accept terms of peace but makes war with you, then you are to lay siege to it. 13 Lifegiver your deity will deliver it over to you and you must kill every single male by the sword. 14 However, the women, little children, cattle, and anything else in the city – all its plunder – you may take for yourselves as spoil. You may take from your enemies the plunder that Lifegiver your deity has given you. 15 This is how you are to deal with all those cities located far from you, those that do not belong to these nearby nationalities. 16 As for the cities of these peoples that Lifegiver your deity is going to give you as an inheritance, you must not allow a single living thing to survive. 17 Instead you must utterly annihilate them – the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites – just as Lifegiver your deity has instructed you, 18 so that they cannot teach you all the abhorrent ways they worship their Deities, causing you to sin against Lifegiver your deity. 19 If you besiege a city for a long time while attempting to capture it, you must not chop down its trees, for you may eat fruit from them and should not cut them down. A tree in the field is not human that you should besiege it! 20 However, you may chop down any tree you know is not suitable for food, and you may use it to build siege works against the city that is making war with you until that city falls.

Deuteronomy 21

1 If a homicide victim should be found lying in a field in the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you, and no one knows who killed him, 2 your seniors and judges must go out and measure how far it is to the cities in the vicinity of the corpse. 3 Then the seniors of the city nearest to the corpse must take from the herd a heifer that has not been worked – that has never pulled with the yoke – 4 and bring the heifer down to a wadi with flowing water, to a valley that is neither plowed nor sown. There at the wadi they are to break the heifer’s neck. 5 Then the Levitical priests will approach (for Lifegiver your deity has Designated them to serve him and to pronounce blessings in his name, and to decide every judicial verdict) 6 and all the seniors of that city nearest the corpse must wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley. 7 Then they must proclaim, “Our hands have not spilled this blood, nor have we witnessed the crime. 8 Do not blame your people Israel whom you repurchased, O Lifegiver, and do not hold them accountable for the bloodshed of an innocent person.” Then atonement will be made for the bloodshed. 9 In this manner you’ll purge out the guilt of innocent blood from among you, for you must do what is right before Lifegiver. 10 When you go out to do battle with your enemies and Lifegiver your deity allows you to prevail and you take prisoners, 11 if you should see among them an attractive woman whom you wish to take as a wife, 12 you may bring her back to your house. She must shave her head, trim her nails, 13 discard the clothing she was wearing when captured, and stay in your house, lamenting for her father and mother for a full month. After that you may have sexual intimacy with her and become her husband and she your wife. 14 If you are not pleased with her, then you must let her go where she pleases. You cannot in any case sell her; you must not take advantage of her, since you have already humiliated her. 15 Suppose a man has two wives, one whom he loves more than the other, and they both bear him sons, with the firstborn being the child of the less loved wife. 16 In the day he divides his inheritance he must not appoint as firstborn the son of the favorite wife in place of the other wife’s son who is actually the firstborn. 17 Rather, he must acknowledge the son of the less loved wife as firstborn and give him the double portion of all he has, for that son is the beginning of his father’s procreative power – to him should go the right of the firstborn. 18 If a person has a stubborn, rebellious son who pays no attention to his father or mother, and they discipline him to no avail, 19 his father and mother must seize him and bring him to the seniors at the gate of his city. 20 They must declare to the seniors of his city, “Our son is stubborn and rebellious and pays no attention to what we say – he is a glutton and drunkard.” 21 Then all the men of his city must stone him to death. In this way you’ll purge out wickedness from among you, and all Israel will hear about it and be afraid. 22 If a person commits a sin punishable by death and is executed, and you hang the corpse on a tree, 23 his body must not remain all night on the tree; instead you must make certain you bury him that same day, for the one who is left exposed on a tree is cursed by Supermights. You must not defile your land which Lifegiver your deity is giving you as an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 22

1 When you see your neighbor’s ox or sheep going astray, do not ignore it; you must return it without fail to your neighbor. 2 If the owner does not live near you or you do not know who the owner is, then you must corral the animal at your house and let it stay with you until the owner looks for it; then you must return it to him. 3 You shall do the same to his donkey, his clothes, or anything else your neighbor has lost and you have found; you must not refuse to get involved. 4 When you see your neighbor’s donkey or ox fallen along the road, do not ignore it; instead, you must be sure to help him get the animal on its feet again. 5 A woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor should a man dress up in women’s clothing, for anyone who does this is offensive to Lifegiver your deity. 6 If you happen to notice a bird’s nest along the road, whether in a tree or on the ground, and there are chicks or eggs with the mother bird sitting on them, you must not take the mother from the young. 7 You must be sure to let the mother go, but you may take the young for yourself. Do this so that it may go well with you and you may have a long life. 8 If you build a new house, you must construct a guard rail around your roof to avoid being culpable in the event someone should fall from it. 9 You must not plant your vineyard with two kinds of seed; otherwise the entire yield, both of the seed you plant and the produce of the vineyard, will be defiled. 10 You must not plow with an ox and a donkey harnessed together. 11 You must not wear clothing made with wool and linen meshed together. 12 You shall make yourselves tassels for the four corners of the clothing you wear. 13 Suppose a man marries a woman, has sexual intimacy with her, and then rejects her, 14 accusing her of impropriety and defaming her reputation by saying, “I married this woman but when I had sexual intimacy with her I discovered she was not a virgin!” 15 Then the father and mother of the young woman must produce the evidence of virginity for the seniors of the city at the gate. 16 The young woman’s father must say to the elders, “I gave my daughter to this man and he has rejected her. 17 Moreover, he has raised accusations of impropriety by saying, ‘I discovered your daughter was not a virgin,’ but this is the evidence of my daughter’s virginity!” The cloth must then be spread out before the city’s elders. 18 The seniors of that city must then seize the man and punish him. 19 They’ll fine him one hundred shekels of silver and give them to the young woman’s father, for the man who made the accusation ruined the reputation of an Israelite virgin. She’ll then become his wife and he may never divorce her as long as he lives. 20 But if the accusation is true and the young woman was not a virgin, 21 the men of her city must bring the young woman to the door of her father’s house and stone her to death, for she has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by behaving like a prostitute while living in her father’s house. In this way you’ll purge bad from among you. 22 If a man is caught having sexual intimacy with a married woman both the man who had relations with the woman and the woman herself must die; in this way you’ll purge bad from Israel. 23 If a virgin is engaged to a man and another man meets her in the city and has sexual intimacy with her, 24 you must bring the two of them to the gate of that city and stone them to death, the young woman because she did not cry out though in the city and the man because he violated his neighbor’s fiancée; in this way you’ll purge bad from among you. 25 But if the man came across the engaged woman in the field and overpowered her and raped her, then only the rapist must die. 26 You must not do anything to the young woman – she has done nothing deserving of death. This case is the same as when someone attacks another person and murders him, 27 for the man met her in the field and the engaged woman cried out, but there was no one to rescue her. 28 Suppose a man comes across a virgin who is not engaged and overpowers and rapes her and they are discovered. 29 The man who has raped her must pay her father fifty shekels of silver and she must become his wife because he has violated her; he may never divorce her as long as he lives. 30 (23:1) A man may not marry his father’s former wife and in this way dishonor his father.

Deuteronomy 23

1 A man with crushed or severed genitals may not enter the assembly of Lifegiver. 2 A person of illegitimate birth may not enter the assembly of Lifegiver; to the tenth generation no one related to him may do so. 3 An Ammonite or Moabite may not enter the assembly of Lifegiver; to the tenth generation none of their descendants shall ever do so, 4 for they did not meet you with food and water on the way as you came from Egypt, and furthermore, they hired Balaam son of Beor of Pethor in Aram Naharaim to curse you. 5 But Lifegiver your deity refused to listen to Balaam and changed the curse to a blessing, for Lifegiver your deity loves you. 6 You must not seek peace and prosperity for them through all the ages to come. 7 You must not hate an Edomite, for he is your relative; you must not hate an Egyptian, for you lived as a foreigner in his land. 8 Children of the third generation born to them may enter the assembly of Lifegiver. 9 When you go out as an army against your enemies, guard yourselves against anything impure. 10 If there is someone among you who is impure because of some nocturnal emission, he must leave the camp; he may not reenter it immediately. 11 When evening arrives he must wash himself with water and then at sunset he may reenter the camp. 12 You are to have a place outside the camp to serve as a latrine. 13 You must have a spade among your other equipment and when you relieve yourself outside you must dig a hole with the spade and then turn and cover your excrement. 14 For Lifegiver your deity walks about in the middle of your camp to deliver you and defeat your enemies for you. Therefore your camp should be holy, so that he does not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you. 15 You must not return an escaped slave to his master when he has run away to you. 16 Indeed, he may live among you in any place he chooses, in whichever of your villages he prefers; you must not oppress him. 17 There must never be a sacred prostitute among the young women of Israel nor a sacred male prostitute among the young men of Israel. 18 You must never bring the pay of a female prostitute or the wage of a male prostitute into the temple of Lifegiver your deity in fulfillment of any vow, for both of these are abhorrent to Lifegiver your deity. 19 You must not charge interest on a loan to your fellow Israelite, whether on money, food, or anything else that has been loaned with interest. 20 You may lend with interest to a foreigner, but not to your fellow Israelite; if you keep this instruct Lifegiver your deity will bless you in all you undertake in the land you are about to enter to possess. 21 When you make a vow to Lifegiver your deity you must not delay in fulfilling it, for otherwise he’ll surely hold you accountable as a sinner. 22 If you refrain from making a vow, it will not be sinful. 23 Whatever you vow, you must be careful to do what you have promised, such as what you have vowed to Lifegiver your deity as a freewill offering. 24 When you enter the vineyard of your neighbor you may eat as many grapes as you please, but you must not take away any in a container. 25 When you go into the ripe grain fields of your neighbor you may pluck off the kernels with your hand, but you must not use a sickle on your neighbor’s ripe grain.

Deuteronomy 24

1 If a man marries a woman and she does not please him because he has found something offensive in her, then he may draw up a divorce document, give it to her, and evict her from his house. 2 When she has left him she may go and become someone else’s wife. 3 If the second husband rejects her and then divorces her, gives her the papers, and evicts her from his house, or if the second husband who married her dies, 4 her first husband who divorced her is not permitted to remarry her after she has become ritually impure, for that is offensive to Lifegiver. You must not bring guilt on the land which Lifegiver your deity is giving you as an inheritance. 5 When a man is newly married, he need not go into the army nor be obligated in any way; he must be free to stay at home for a full year and bring joy to the wife he has married. 6 One must not take either lower or upper millstones as security on a loan, for that is like taking a life itself as security. 7 If a man is found kidnapping a person from among his fellow Israelites, and regards him as mere property and sells him, that kidnapper must die. In this way you’ll purge bad from among you. 8 Be careful during an outbreak of leprosy to follow precisely all that the Levitical priests instruct you; as I’ve instructed them, so you should do. 9 Remember what Lifegiver your deity did to Miriam along the way after you left Egypt. 10 When you make any kind of loan to your neighbor, you may not go into his house to claim what he is offering as security. 11 You must stand outside and the person to whom you are making the loan will bring out to you what he is offering as security. 12 If the person is poor you may not use what he gives you as security for a covering. 13 You must by all means return to him at sunset the item he gave you as security so that he may sleep in his outer garment and bless you for it; it will be considered a just deed by Lifegiver your deity. 14 You must not oppress a lowly and poor servant, whether one from among your fellow Israelites or from the resident foreigners who are living in your land and villages. 15 You must pay his wage that very day before the sun sets, for he is poor and his life depends on it. Otherwise he’ll cry out to Lifegiver against you, and you’ll be guilty of sin.

16 Fathers must not be put to death for what their children do, nor children for what their fathers do; each must be put to death for his own sin. 17 You must not pervert justice due a resident foreigner or an orphan, or take a widow’s garment as security for a loan. 18 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that Lifegiver your deity repurchased you from there; therefore I’m instructing you to do all this. 19 Whenever you reap your harvest in your field and leave some unraked grain there, you must not return to get it; it should go to the resident foreigner, orphan, and widow so that Lifegiver your deity may bless all the work you do. 20 When you beat your olive tree you must not repeat the procedure; the remaining olives belong to the resident foreigner, orphan, and widow. 21 When you gather the grapes of your vineyard you must not do so a second time; they should go to the resident foreigner, orphan, and widow. 22 Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt; therefore, I’m instructing you to do all this.

Deuteronomy 25

1 If controversy arises between people, they should go to court for judgment. When the judges hear the case, they shall exonerate the innocent but condemn the guilty. 2 Then, if the guilty person is sentenced to a beating, the judge shall force him to lie down and be beaten in his presence with the number of blows his wicked behavior deserves. 3 The judge may sentence him to forty blows, but no more. If he is struck with more than these, you might view your fellow Israelite with contempt. 4 You must not muzzle your ox when it is treading grain. 5 If brothers live together and one of them dies without having a son, the dead man’s wife must not remarry someone outside the family. Instead, her late husband’s brother must go to her, marry her, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law. 6 Then the first son she bears will continue the name of the dead brother, thus preventing his name from being blotted out of Israel. 7 But if the man does not want to marry his brother’s widow, then she must go to the seniors at the town gate and say, “My husband’s brother refuses to preserve his brother’s name in Israel; he is unwilling to perform the duty of a brother-in-law to me!” 8 Then the seniors of his city must summon him and speak to him. If he persists, saying, “I don’t want to marry her,” 9 then his sister-in-law must approach him in view of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, and spit in his face. She’ll then respond, “Thus may it be done to any man who does not maintain his brother’s family line!” 10 His family name will be referred to in Israel as “the family of the one whose sandal was removed.” 11 If two men get into a hand-to-hand fight, and the wife of one of them gets involved to help her husband against his attacker, and she reaches out her hand and grabs his genitals, 12 then you must cut off her hand – do not pity her. 13 You must not have in your bag different stone weights, a heavy and a light one. 14 You must not have in your house different measuring containers, a large and a small one. 15 You must have an accurate and correct stone weight and an accurate and correct measuring container, so that your life may be extended in the land Lifegiver your deity is about to give you. 16 For anyone who acts dishonestly in these ways is abhorrent to Lifegiver your deity. 17 Remember what the Amalekites did to you on your way from Egypt, 18 how they met you along the way and cut off all your stragglers in the rear of the march when you were exhausted and tired; they were unafraid of Supermights. 19 So when Lifegiver your deity gives you relief from all the enemies who surround you in the land he is giving you as an inheritance, you must wipe out the memory of the Amalekites from under the sky – do not forget!

Deuteronomy 26

1 When you enter the land that Lifegiver your deity is giving you as an inheritance, and you occupy it and live in it, 2 you must take the first of all the ground’s produce you harvest from the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you, place it in a basket, and go to the place where he chooses to locate his name. 3 You must go to the priest in office at that time and say to him, “I declare today to Lifegiver your deity that I’ve come into the land that Lifegiver promised to our ancestors to give us.” 4 The priest will then take the basket from you and set it before the altar of Lifegiver your deity. 5 Then you must affirm before Lifegiver Your deity, “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor, and he went down to Egypt and lived there as a foreigner with a household few in number, but there he became a great, powerful, and numerous people. 6 But the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us, forcing us to do burdensome labor. 7 So we cried out to Lifegiver, the Supermights of our ancestors, and he heard us and saw our humiliation, toil, and oppression. 8 Therefore Lifegiver brought us out of Egypt with tremendous strength and power, as well as with great awe-inspiring signs and wonders. 9 Then he brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 So now, look! I’ve brought the first of the ground’s produce that you, Lifegiver, have given me.” Then you must set it down before Lifegiver your deity and worship before him. 11 You’ll celebrate all the good things that Lifegiver your deity has given you and your family, along with the Levites and the resident foreigners among you. 12 When you finish tithing all your income in the third year (the year of tithing), you must give it to the Levites, the resident foreigners, the orphans, and the widows so that they may eat to their satisfaction in your villages. 13 Then you shall say before Lifegiver your deity, “I’ve removed the sacred offering from my house and given it to the Levites, the resident foreigners, the orphans, and the widows just as you have instructed me. I’ve not violated or forgotten your commandments. 14 I’ve not eaten anything when I was in mourning, or removed any of it while ceremonially unclean, or offered any of it to the dead; I’ve obeyed you and have done everything you have instructed me. 15 Look down from your sacred dwelling place in Heaven and bless your people Israel and the land you have given us, just as you promised our ancestors – a land flowing with milk and honey.” 16 Today Lifegiver your deity is instructing you to keep these principles and ordinances, something you must do with all your heart and soul. 17 Today you have declared Lifegiver to be your deity, and that you’ll walk in his ways, keep his principles, commandments, and ordinances, and obey him. 18 And today Lifegiver has declared you to be his special people (as he already promised you) so you may keep all his commandments. 19 Then he’ll elevate you above all the nationalities he has made and you’ll receive praise, fame, and honor. You’ll be a people sacred to Lifegiver your deity, as he has said.

Deuteronomy 27

1 Then Moses and the seniors of Israel instructed the people: “Pay attention to all the commandments I’m giving you today. 2 When you cross the Jordan River to the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you, you must erect great stones and cover them with plaster. 3 Then you must inscribe on them all the words of this law when you cross over, so that you may enter the land Lifegiver your deity is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey just as Lifegiver, the Supermights of your ancestors, said to you. 4 So when you cross the Jordan you must erect on Mount Ebal these stones about which I’m instructing you today, and you must cover them with plaster. 5 Then you must build an altar there to Lifegiver your deity, an altar of stones – do not use an iron tool on them. 6 You must build the altar of Lifegiver your deity with whole stones and offer sacrifices on it to Lifegiver your deity. 7 Also you must offer fellowship offerings and eat them there, rejoicing before Lifegiver your deity. 8 You must inscribe on the stones all the words of this law, making them clear.” 9 Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel: “Be quiet and pay attention, Israel. Today you have become the people of Lifegiver your deity. 10 You must obey him and keep his commandments and principles that I’m giving you today.” 11 Moreover, Moses instructed the people that day: 12 “The following tribes must stand to bless the people on Mount Gerizim when you cross the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. 13 And these other tribes must stand for the curse on Mount Ebal: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. 14 “The Levites will call out to every Israelite with a loud voice: 15 ‘Cursed is the one who makes a carved or metal image – something abhorrent to Lifegiver, the work of the craftsman – and sets it up in a secret place.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 16 ‘Cursed is the one who disrespects his father and mother.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 17 ‘Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor’s boundary marker.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 18 ‘Cursed is the one who misleads a blind person on the road.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 19 ‘Cursed is the one who perverts justice for the resident foreigner, the orphan, and the widow.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 20 ‘Cursed is the one who has sexual intimacy with his father’s former wife, for he dishonors his father.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 21 ‘Cursed is the one who commits bestiality.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 22 ‘Cursed is the one who has sexual intimacy with his sister, the daughter of either his father or mother.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 23 ‘Cursed is the one who has sexual intimacy with his mother-in-law.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 24 ‘Cursed is the one who kills his neighbor in private.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 25 ‘Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to kill an innocent person.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’ 26 ‘Cursed is the one who refuses to keep the words of this law.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’

Deuteronomy 28

1 “If you indeed obey Lifegiver your deity and are careful to observe all his commandments I’m giving you today, Lifegiver your deity will elevate you above all the nationalities of the Earth . 2 All these blessings will come to you in abundance if you obey Lifegiver your deity : 3 You’ll be blessed in the city and blessed in the field. 4 Your children will be blessed, as well as the produce of your soil, the offspring of your livestock, the calves of your herds, and the lambs of your flocks. 5 Your basket and your mixing bowl will be blessed. 6 You’ll be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. 7 Lifegiver will cause your enemies who attack you to be struck down before you; they’ll attack you from one direction but flee from you in seven different directions. 8 Lifegiver will decree blessing for you with respect to your barns and in everything you do – yes, he’ll bless you in the land he is giving you. 9 Lifegiver will designate you as his sacred people just as he promised you, if you keep his commandments and obey him. 10 Then all the peoples of the Earth will see that you belong to Lifegiver, and they’ll respect you. 11 Lifegiver will greatly multiply your children, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your soil in the land which he promised your ancestors he would give you. 12 Lifegiver will open for you his good treasure house, the skies, to give you rain for the land in its season and to bless all you do; you’ll lend to many nationalities but you’ll not borrow from any. 13 Lifegiver will make you the head and not the tail, and you’ll always end up at the top and not at the bottom, if you obey his commandments which I’m urging you today to be careful to do. 14 But you must not turn away from all the commandments I’m giving you today, to either the right or left, nor pursue other deities and worship them. 15 “But if you ignore Lifegiver your deity and are not careful to keep all his commandments and principles I’m giving you today, then all these curses will come upon you in full force: 16 You’ll be cursed in the city and cursed in the field. 17 Your basket and your mixing bowl will be cursed. 18 Your children will be cursed, as well as the produce of your soil, the calves of your herds, and the lambs of your flocks. 19 You’ll be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out. 20 “Lifegiver will send on you a curse, confusing you and opposing you in everything you undertake until you are destroyed and quickly perish because of the bad of your deeds, in that you have forsaken me.

21 Lifegiver, the Eternal One will cause fatal pandemic disease to stick to you until he removes you from the land you are going to possess. 22 Lifegiver will crush you with an emaciating disease, and with fever and inflammation, and with heat and drought, and with plant blight and paleness. They’ll harass you to the point of death.

23 The sky above your heads will be bronze and the Earth beneath you iron. 24 Lifegiver will make the rain of your land powder and dust; it will come down on you from the sky until you are destroyed. 25 “Lifegiver will allow you to be struck down before your enemies; you’ll attack them from one direction but flee from them in seven directions and will become an object of terror to all the reigns of the Earth . 26 Your carcasses will be food for every bird of the sky and wild animal of the Earth , and there will be no one to chase them off. 27 Lifegiver will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, eczema, and scabies, all of which cannot be healed. 28 Lifegiver will also subject you to madness, blindness, and confusion of mind. 29 You’ll feel your way along at noon like the blind person does in darkness and you’ll not succeed in anything you do; you’ll be constantly oppressed and continually robbed, with no one to save you. 30 You’ll be engaged to a woman and another man will rape her. You’ll build a house but not live in it. You’ll plant a vineyard but not even begin to use it. 31 Your ox will be slaughtered before your very eyes but you’ll not eat of it. Your donkey will be stolen from you as you watch and will not be returned to you. Your flock of sheep will be given to your enemies and there will be no one to save you. 32 Your sons and daughters will be given to another people while you look on in vain all day, and you’ll be powerless to do anything about it. 33 As for the produce of your land and all your labor, a people you do not know will consume it, and you’ll be nothing but oppressed and crushed for the rest of your lives. 34 You’ll go insane from seeing all this. 35 Lifegiver will afflict you in your knees and on your legs with painful, incurable boils – from the soles of your feet to the top of your head. 36 Lifegiver will force you and your king whom you’ll appoint over you to go away to a people whom you and your ancestors have not known, and you’ll serve other deities of wood and stone there. 37 You’ll become an occasion of horror, a proverb, and an object of ridicule to all the peoples to whom Lifegiver will drive you. 38 “You’ll take much seed to the field but gather little harvest, because locusts will consume it. 39 You’ll plant vineyards and cultivate them, but you’ll not drink wine or gather in grapes, because worms will eat them. 40 You’ll have olive trees throughout your territory but you’ll not anoint yourself with olive oil, because the olives will drop off the trees while still unripe. 41 You’ll bear sons and daughters but not keep them, because they’ll be taken into captivity. 42 Whirring locusts will take over every tree and all the produce of your soil. 43 The foreigners who reside among you’ll become higher and higher over you and you’ll become lower and lower. 44 They’ll lend to you but you’ll not lend to them; they’ll become the head and you’ll become the tail! 45 All these curses will fall on you, pursuing and overtaking you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey Lifegiver your deity by keeping his commandments and principles that he has given you. 46 These curses will be a perpetual sign and wonder with reference to you and your descendants. 47 “Because you have not served Lifegiver your deity joyfully and wholeheartedly with the abundance of everything you have, 48 instead in hunger, thirst, nakedness, and poverty you’ll serve your enemies whom Lifegiver will send against you. They’ll place an iron yoke on your neck until they have destroyed you. 49 Lifegiver will raise up a distant nation against you, one from the other side of the Earth as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you’ll not understand, 50 a nation of stern appearance that will have no regard for the elderly or pity for the young. 51 They’ll devour the offspring of your livestock and the produce of your soil until you are destroyed. They’ll not leave you with any grain, new wine, olive oil, calves of your herds, or lambs of your flocks until they have destroyed you. 52 They’ll besiege all of your villages until all of your high and fortified walls collapse – those in which you put your confidence throughout the land. They’ll besiege all your villages throughout the land Lifegiver your deity has given you. 53 You’ll then eat your own offspring, the flesh of the sons and daughters Lifegiver your deity has given you, because of the severity of the siege by which your enemies will constrict you. 54 The man among you who is by nature tender and sensitive will turn against his brother, his beloved wife, and his remaining children. 55 he’ll withhold from all of them his children’s flesh that he is eating (since there is nothing else left), because of the severity of the siege by which your enemy will constrict you in your villages. 56 Likewise, the most tender and delicate of your women, who would never think of putting even the sole of her foot on the ground because of her daintiness, will turn against her beloved husband, her sons and daughters, 57 and will secretly eat her afterbirth and her newborn children (since she has nothing else), because of the severity of the siege by which your enemy will constrict you in your villages. 58 “If you refuse to obey all the words of this law, the things written in this scroll, and refuse to fear this glorious and awesome name, Lifegiver your deity, 59 then Lifegiver will increase your punishments and those of your descendants – great and long-lasting afflictions and severe, enduring illnesses. 60 he’ll infect you with all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they’ll persistently afflict you. 61 Moreover, Lifegiver will bring upon you every kind of sickness and plague not mentioned in this scroll of commandments, until you have perished. 62 There will be very few of you left, though at one time you were as numerous as the stars in the sky, because you’ll have disobeyed Lifegiver your deity. 63 This is what will happen: Just as Lifegiver delighted to do good for you and make you numerous, he’ll take delight in destroying and decimating you. You’ll be uprooted from the land you are about to possess. 64 Lifegiver will scatter you among all nationalities, from one end of the Earth to the other. There you’ll worship other deities that neither you nor your ancestors have known, deities of wood and stone. 65 Among those nationalities you’ll have no rest nor will there be a place of peaceful rest for the soles of your feet, for there Lifegiver will give you an anxious heart, failing eyesight, and a spirit of despair. 66 Your life will hang in doubt before you; you’ll be terrified by night and day and will have no certainty of surviving from one day to the next. 67 In the morning you’ll say, ‘If only it were evening!’ And in the evening you’ll say, ‘I wish it were morning!’ because of the things you’ll fear and the things you’ll see. 68 Then Lifegiver will make you return to Egypt by ship, over a route I said to you that you would never see again. There you’ll sell yourselves to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.”

Deuteronomy 29

1 (28:69) These are the words of the agreement that Lifegiver instructed Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, in addition to the agreement he had made with them at Horeb. 2 Moses proclaimed to all Israel as follows: “You have seen all that Lifegiver did in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, all his servants, and his land. 3 Your eyes have seen the great judgments, those signs and mighty wonders. 4 But to this very day Lifegiver has not given you an understanding mind, perceptive eyes, or discerning ears! 5 I’ve led you through the desert for forty years. Your clothing has not worn out nor have your sandals deteriorated. 6 You have eaten no bread and drunk no wine or beer – all so that you might know that I’m Lifegiver your deity ! 7 When you came to this place King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan came out to make war and we defeated them. 8 Then we took their land and gave it as an inheritance to Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. 9 “Therefore, keep the terms of this agreement and obey them so that you may be successful in everything you do. 10 You are standing today, all of you, before Lifegiver your deity – the heads of your tribes, your elders, your officials, every Israelite man, 11 your infants, your wives, and the foreigners living in your encampment, those who chop wood and those who carry water – 12 so that you may enter by oath into the agreement Lifegiver your deity is making with you today. 13 Today he’ll affirm that you are his people and that he is your deity, just as he promised you and as he swore by oath to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 14 It is not with you alone that I’m making this agreement by oath, 15 but with whoever stands with us here today before Lifegiver our Supermights as well as those not with us here today. 16 “(For you know how we lived in the land of Egypt and how we crossed through the nationalities as we traveled. 17 You have seen their detestable things and idols of wood, stone, silver, and gold.) 18 Beware that the heart of no man, woman, clan, or tribe among you turns away from Lifegiver our Supermights today to pursue and serve the deities of those nationalities; beware that there is among you no root producing poisonous and bitter fruit. 19 When such a person hears the words of this oath he secretly blesses himself and says, “I’ll have peace though I continue to walk with a stubborn spirit.” This will destroy the watered ground with the parched. 20 Lifegiver will be unwilling to forgive him, and his intense anger will rage against that man; all the curses written in this scroll will fall upon him and Lifegiver will obliterate his name from memory. 21 Lifegiver will single him out for judgment from all the tribes of Israel according to all the curses of the agreement written in this scroll of the law. 22 The generation to come – your descendants who will rise up after you, as well as the foreigner who will come from distant places – will see the afflictions of that land and the illnesses that Lifegiver has brought on it. 23 The whole land will be covered with brimstone, salt, and burning debris; it will not be planted nor will it sprout or produce grass. It will resemble the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which Lifegiver destroyed in his intense anger. 24 Then all the nationalities will ask, “Why has Lifegiver done all this to this land? What is this fierce, heated display of anger all about?” 25 Then people will say, “Because they abandoned the agreement of Lifegiver, the Supermights of their ancestors, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt. 26 They went and served other deities and worshiped them, deities they did not know and that he did not permit them to worship. 27 That is why Lifegiver’s anger erupted against this land, bringing on it all the curses written in this scroll. 28 So Lifegiver has uprooted them from their land in anger, wrath, and great rage and has deported them to another land, as is clear today.” 29 Secret things belong to Lifegiver our Supermights , but those that are revealed belong to us and our descendants forever, so that we might obey all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 30

1 “When you have experienced all these things, both the blessings and the curses I’ve set before you, you’ll reflect upon them in all the nationalities where Lifegiver your deity has banished you. 2 Then if you and your descendants turn to Lifegiver your deity and obey him with your whole mind and being just as I’m instructing you today, 3 Lifegiver your deity will reverse your captivity and have pity on you. he’ll turn and gather you from all the peoples among whom he has scattered you. 4 Even if your exiles are in the most distant land, from there Lifegiver your deity will gather you and bring you back. 5 Then he’ll bring you to the land your ancestors possessed and you also will possess it; he’ll do better for you and multiply you more than he did your ancestors. 6 Lifegiver your deity will also cleanse your heart and the hearts of your descendants so that you may love him with all your mind and being and so that you may live. 7 Then Lifegiver your deity will put all these curses on your enemies, on those who hate you and persecute you. 8 You’ll return and obey Lifegiver, keeping all his commandments I’m giving you today. 9 Lifegiver your deity will make the labor of your hands abundantly successful and multiply your children, the offspring of your cattle, and the produce of your soil. For Lifegiver your deity will once more rejoice over you to make you prosperous just as he rejoiced over your ancestors, 10 if you obey Lifegiver your deity and keep his commandments and principles that are written in this scroll of the law. But you must turn to him with your whole mind and being. 11 “This commandment I’m giving you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it too remote. 12 It is not in Heaven, as though one must say, “Who will go up to Heaven to get it for us and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” 13 And it is not across the sea, as though one must say, “Who will cross over to the other side of the sea and get it for us and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” 14 For the thing is very near you – it is in your mouth and in your mind so that you can do it. 15 “Look! I’ve set before you today life and prosperity on the one hand, and death and disaster on the other. 16 What I’m instructing you today is to love Lifegiver your deity, to walk in his ways, and to obey his commandments, his principles, and his ordinances. Then you’ll live and become numerous and Lifegiver your deity will bless you in the land which you are about to possess. 17 However, if you turn aside and do not obey, but are lured away to worship and serve other Deities, 18 I declare to you this very day that you’ll certainly perish! You’ll not extend your time in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess. 19 Today I invoke Celestial Bodies and Earth as witnesses against you that I’ve set life and death, blessing and curse, before you. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live! 20 I also call on you to love Lifegiver your deity, to obey him and be loyal to him, for he gives you life and enables you to live continually in the land Lifegiver promised to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Deuteronomy 31

1 Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. 2 He said to them, “Today I’m a hundred and twenty years old. I’m no longer able to get about, and Lifegiver has said to me, ‘You’ll not cross the Jordan.’ 3 As for Lifegiver your deity, he is about to cross over before you; he’ll destroy these nationalities before you and dispossess them. As for Joshua, he is about to cross before you just as Lifegiver has said. 4 Lifegiver will do to them just what he did to Sihon and Og, the Amorite kings, and to their land, which he destroyed. 5 Lifegiver will deliver them over to you and you’ll do to them according to the whole commandment I’ve given you. 6 Be strong and courageous! Do not fear or tremble before them, for Lifegiver your deity is the one who is going with you. he’ll not fail you or abandon you!” 7 Then Moses called out to Joshua in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you’ll accompany these people to the land that Lifegiver promised to give their ancestors, and you’ll enable them to inherit it. 8 Lifegiver will personally go before you. he’ll be with you. he’ll not drop or leave you. Don’t be terrified or disturbed!” 9 Then Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carry the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s covenant, and to all Israel’s elders. 10 He instructed them: “At the end of seven years, at the appointed time of the cancellation of debts, at the Feast of Temporary Shelters, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before Lifegiver your deity in the place he chooses, you must read this law before them witlitretheir hearing. 12 Gather the people – men, women, and children, as well as the resident foreigners in your villages – so they may hear and thus learn about and fear Lifegiver your deity and carefully obey all the words of this law.

13 Then their children, who have not known this law, will also hear about and learn to fear Lifegiver your deity for as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.” 14 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “The day of your death is near. Summon Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of assembly so that I can commission him.” So Moses and Joshua presented themselves in the tent of assembly. 15 Lifegiver appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud that stood above the door of the tent. 16 Then Lifegiver said to Moses, “You are about to die, and then these people will begin to prostitute themselves with the foreign deities of the land into which they are going. They’ll reject me and break my agreement that I’ve made with them. 17 At that time my anger will erupt against them and I’ll abandon them and hide my face from them until they are devoured. Many disasters and distresses will overcome them so that they’ll say at that time, ‘Have not these disasters overcome us because our Supermights is not among us?’ 18 But I’ll certainly hide myself at that time because of all the wickedness they’ll have done by turning to other Deities. 19 Now write down for yourselves the following song and teach it to the Israelites. Put it into their very mouths so that this song may serve as my witness against the Israelites! 20 For after I’ve brought them to the land I promised to their ancestors – one flowing with milk and honey – and they eat their fill and become fat, then they’ll turn to other deities and worship them; they’ll reject me and break my covenant. 21 Then when many disasters and distresses overcome them this song will testify against them, for their descendants will not forget it. I know the intentions they have in mind today, even before I bring them to the land I’ve promised.” 22 So on that day Moses wrote down this song and taught it to the Israelites, 23 and Lifegiver commissioned Joshua son of Nun, “Be strong and courageous, for you’ll take the Israelites to the land I’ve promised them, and I’ll be with you.” 24 When Moses finished writing on a scroll the words of this law in their entirety, 25 he instructed the Levites who carried the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s covenant, 26 “Take this scroll of the law and place it beside the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver your deity. It will remain there as a witness against you, 27 for I know about your rebellion and stubbornness. Indeed, even while I’ve been living among you to this very day, you have rebelled against Lifegiver; you’ll be even more rebellious after my death! 28 Gather to me all your tribal seniors and officials so I can speak to them directly about these things and call the Celestial Bodies and the Earth to witness against them. 29 For I know that after I die you’ll totally corrupt yourselves and turn away from the path I’ve instructed you to walk. Disaster will confront you in the days to come because you’ll act wickedly before Lifegiver, inciting him to anger because of your actions.” 30 Then Moses recited the words of this song from start to finish in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel.

Deuteronomy 32

1 ​​​​​​​Listen up Celestial Bodies, and I’ll speak; listen up Earth, the words of my mouth. 2 ​​​​​​​My teaching will drop like the rain, my sayings will drip like the dew, as rain drops upon the grass, and showers upon new growth. 3 ​​​​​​​For I’ll proclaim the name of Lifegiver; you must acknowledge the greatness of our Supermights. 4 ​​​​​​​As for the Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are just. He is a reliable Supermights who is never unjust, he is fair and upright. 5 ​​​​​​​His people have been unfaithful to him; they have not acted like his children – this is their sin. They are a perverse and deceitful generation. 6 ​​​​​​​Is this how you repay Lifegiver, you foolish, unwise people? Is he not your father, your creator? He has made you and established you. 7 ​​​​​​​Remember the ancient days; bear in mind the years of past generations. Ask your father and he’ll inform you, your elders, and they’ll tell you. 8 ​​​​​​​When the Most High gave the nationalities their inheritance, when he divided up humankind, he set the boundaries of the peoples, according to the number of Israel's children. 9 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver’s allotment is his people, Jacob is his special possession. 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver found him in a desolate land, in an empty wasteland where animals howl. He continually guarded him and taught him; he continually protected him like the pupil of his eye. 11 ​​​​​​​Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, so Lifegiver spread out his wings and took him, he lifted him up on his pinions. 12 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver alone was guiding him, no foreign Supermights was with him. 13 ​​​​​​​He enabled him to travel over the high terrain of the land, and he ate of the produce of the fields. He provided honey for him from the cliffs, and olive oil from the hardest of rocks, 14 ​​​​​​​butter from the herd and milk from the flock, along with the fat of lambs, rams and goats of Bashan, along with the best of the kernels of wheat; and from the juice of grapes you drank wine. 15 ​​​​​​​But Jeshurun became fat and kicked, you got fat, thick, and stuffed! Then he deserted the Supermights who made him, and treated the Rock who saved him with contempt. 16 ​​​​​​​They made him jealous with other Deities, they enraged him with abhorrent idols. 17 ​​​​​​​They sacrificed to demons, not Supermights , to deities they had not known; to new deities who had recently come along, deities your ancestors had not known about. 18 ​​​​​​​You have forgotten the Rock who fathered you, and put out of mind the Supermights who gave you birth. 19 ​​​​​​​But Lifegiver took note and despised them because his sons and daughters enraged him. 20 ​​​​​​​He said, “I’ll reject them, I’ll see what will happen to them; for they are a perverse generation, children who show no loyalty. 21 ​​​​​​​They have made me jealous with false Deities, enraging me with their worthless Deities; so I’ll make them jealous with a people they do not recognize, with a nation slow to learn I’ll enrage them. 22 ​​​​​​​For a fire has been kindled by my anger, and it burns to lowest Sheol; it consumes the Earth and its produce, and ignites the foundations of the mountains. 23 ​​​​​​​I’ll increase their disasters, I’ll use up my arrows on them. 24 ​​​​​​​They’ll be starved by drought, eaten by plague, and bitterly stung; I’ll send the teeth of wild animals against them, along with the poison of creatures that crawl in the dust. 25 ​​​​​​​The sword will make people childless outside, and terror will do so inside; they’ll destroy both the young man and the virgin, the infant and the gray-haired man. 26 ​​​​​​​“I said, ‘I want to cut them in pieces. I want to make people forget they ever existed. 27 ​​​​​​​But I fear the reaction of their enemies, for their adversaries would misunderstand and say, “Our power is great, and Lifegiver has not done all this!”’ 28 ​​​​​​​They are a nation devoid of wisdom, and there is no understanding among them. 29 ​​​​​​​I wish that they were wise and could understand this, and that they could comprehend what will happen to them.” 30 ​​​​​​​How can one man chase a thousand of them, and two pursue ten thousand; unless their Rock had delivered them up, and Lifegiver had handed them over? 31 ​​​​​​​For our enemies’ rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede. 32 ​​​​​​​For their vine is from the stock of Sodom, and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes contain venom, their clusters of grapes are bitter. 33 ​​​​​​​Their wine is snakes’ poison, the deadly venom of cobras. 34 ​​​​​​​“Is this not stored up with me?” says Lifegiver, “Is it not sealed up in my storehouses? 35 ​​​​​​​I’ll get revenge and pay them back at the time their foot slips; for the day of their disaster is near, and the impending judgment is rushing upon them!” 36 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will judge his people, and will change his plans concerning his servants; when he sees that their power has disappeared, and that no one is left, whether confined or set free. 37 ​​​​​​​He will say, “Where are their Deities, the rock in whom they sought security, 38 ​​​​​​​who ate the best of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise and help you; let them be your refuge! 39 ​​​​​​​“See now that I, indeed I, am he!” says Lifegiver, “and there is no other Supermights besides me. I kill and give life, I smash and I heal, and none can resist my power. 40 ​​​​​​​For I raise up my hand towards Heaven, and say, ‘As surely as I live forever, 41 ​​​​​​​I’ll sharpen my lightning-like sword, and my hand will grasp hold of the weapon of judgment; I’ll execute vengeance on my foes, and repay those who hate me! 42 ​​​​​​​I’ll make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword will devour flesh – the blood of the slaughtered and captured, the chief of the enemy’s leaders!’” 43 ​​​​​​​Cry out, O nationalities, with his people, for he’ll avenge his servants’ blood; he’ll take vengeance against his enemies, and make atonement for his land and people. 44 Then Moses went with Joshua son of Nun and recited all the words of this song to the people. 45 When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel 46 he said to them, “Keep in mind all the words I’m solemnly proclaiming to you today; you must instruct your children to observe carefully all the words of this law. 47 For this is no idle word for you – it is your life! By this word you’ll live a long time in the land you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.” 48 Then Lifegiver said to Moses that same day, 49 “Go up to this Abarim hill country, to Mount Nebo (which is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho) and look at the land of Canaan that I’m giving to the Israelites as a possession. 50 You’ll die on the mountain that you ascend and join your deceased ancestors, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and joined his deceased ancestors, 51 for both of you rebelled against me among the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the desert of Zin when you did not show me proper respect among the Israelites. 52 You’ll see the land before you, but you’ll not enter the land that I’m giving to the Israelites.”

Deuteronomy 33

1 This is the blessing Moses the man of Supermights pronounced upon the Israelites before his death. 2 He said: ​​​​​​Lifegiver came from Sinai and revealed himself to Israel from Seir. He appeared in splendor from Mount Paran, and came forth with ten thousand sacred ones. With his right hand he gave a fiery law to them. 3 ​​​​​​​Surely he loves the people; all your sacred ones are in your power. And they sit at your feet, each receiving your words. 4 ​​​​​​​Moses delivered to us a law, an inheritance for the assembly of Jacob. 5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver was king over Jeshurun, when the leaders of the people assembled, the tribes of Israel together. 6 ​​​​​​​May Reuben live and not die, and may his people multiply. 7 ​​​​​​​And this is the blessing to Judah. He said, Listen, O Lifegiver, to Judah’s voice, and bring him to his people. May his power be great, and may you help him against his foes. 8 ​​​​​​​Of Levi he said: Your Thummim and Urim belong to your deity, whose authority you challenged at Massah, and with whom you argued at the waters of Meribah. 9 ​​​​​​​He said to his father and mother, “I’ve not seen him,” and he did not acknowledge his own brothers or know his own children, for they kept your word, and guarded your covenant. 10 ​​​​​​​They’ll teach Jacob your ordinances and Israel your law; they’ll offer incense as a pleasant odor, and a whole offering on your altar. 11 ​​​​​​​Bless, O Lifegiver, his goods, and be pleased with his efforts; undercut the legs of any who attack him, and of those who hate him, so that they cannot stand. 12 ​​​​​​​Of Benjamin he said: The beloved of Lifegiver will live safely by him; he protects him all the time, and Lifegiver places him on his chest. 13 ​​​​​​​Of Joseph he said: May Lifegiver bless his land with the harvest produced by the sky, by the dew, and by the depths crouching beneath; 14 ​​​​​​​with the harvest produced by the daylight and by the moonlight; 15 ​​​​​​​with the best of the ancient mountains and the harvest produced by the age-old hills; 16 ​​​​​​​with the harvest of the Earth and its fullness and the pleasure of him who resided in the burning bush. May blessing rest on Joseph’s head, and on the top of the head of the one set apart from his brothers. 17 ​​​​​​​May the firstborn of his bull bring him honor, and may his horns be those of a wild ox; with them may he gore all peoples, all the far reaches of the Earth . They are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh. 18 ​​​​​​​Of Zebulun he said: Rejoice, Zebulun, when you go outside, and Issachar, when you are in your tents. 19 ​​​​​​​They’ll summon peoples to the mountain, there they’ll sacrifice proper sacrifices; for they’ll enjoy the abundance of the seas, and the hidden treasures of the shores. 20 ​​​​​​​Of Gad he said: Blessed be the one who enlarges Gad. Like a lioness he’ll dwell; he’ll tear at an arm – indeed, a scalp. 21 ​​​​​​​He has selected the best part for himself, for the portion of the ruler is set aside there; he came with the leaders of the people, he obeyed the righteous laws of Lifegiver and his ordinances with Israel. 22 ​​​​​​​Of Dan he said: Dan is a lion’s cub; he’ll leap forth from Bashan. 23 ​​​​​​​Of Naphtali he said: O Naphtali, overflowing with favor, and full of Lifegiver’s blessing, possess the west and south. 24 ​​​​​​​Of Asher he said: Asher is blessed with children, may he be favored by his brothers and may he dip his foot in olive oil. 25 ​​​​​​​The bars of your gates will be made of iron and bronze, and may you have lifelong strength. 26 ​​​​​​​There is no one like Supermights , O Jeshurun, who rides through the sky to help you, on the clouds in majesty. 27 ​​​​​​​The everlasting Supermights is a refuge, and underneath you are his eternal arms; he has driven out enemies before you, and has said, “Destroy!” 28 ​​​​​​​Israel lives in safety, the fountain of Jacob is quite secure, in a land of grain and new wine; indeed, its skies rain down dew. 29 ​​​​​​​You have joy, Israel! Who is like you? You are a people delivered by Lifegiver, your protective shield and your exalted sword. May your enemies cringe before you; may you trample on their backs.

Deuteronomy 34

1 Then Moses ascended from the deserts of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the summit of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. Lifegiver showed him the whole land – Gilead to Dan, 2 and all of Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the distant sea, 3 the Negev, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of the date palm trees, as far as Zoar. 4 Then Lifegiver said to him, “This is the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, ‘I’ll give it to your descendants.’ I’ve let you see it, but you’ll not cross over there.” 5 So Moses, the servant of Lifegiver, died there in the land of Moab as Lifegiver had said. 6 He buried him in the land of Moab near Beth Peor, but no one knows his exact burial place to this very day. 7 Moses was 120 years old when he died, but his eye was not dull nor had his vitality departed. 8 The Israelites mourned for Moses in the deserts of Moab for thirty days; then the days of mourning for Moses ended. 9 Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had placed his hands on him; and the Israelites listened to him and did just what Lifegiver had instructed Moses. 10 No prophet ever again arose in Israel like Moses, who knew Lifegiver face to face. 11 He did all the signs and wonders Lifegiver had sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, all his servants, and the whole land, 12 and he displayed great power and awesome might in view of all Israel.

The Book of

JOSHUA

Joshua 1

1 After Moses Lifegiver’s servant died, Lifegiver said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant: 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Get ready! Cross the Jordan River! Lead these people into the land which I’m ready to hand over to them. 3 I’m handing over to you every place you set foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert in the south to Lebanon in the north. It will extend all the way to the great River Euphrates in the east (including all of Syria) and all the way to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to resist you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I’ll be with you. I’ll not abandon you or leave you alone. 6 Be strong and brave! You must lead these people in the conquest of this land that I solemnly promised their ancestors I would hand over to them. 7 Make sure you are very strong and brave! Carefully obey all the law my servant Moses charged you to keep! Do not swerve from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be successful in all you do. 8 This law scroll must not leave your lips! You must memorize it day and night so you can carefully obey all that is written in it. Then you’ll prosper and be successful. 9 I repeat, be strong and brave! Don’t be afraid and don’t panic, for I, Lifegiver your deity, am with you in all you do.” 10 Joshua instructed the leaders of the people: 11 “Go through the camp and instruct the people, ‘Prepare your supplies, for witlitrethree days you’ll cross the Jordan River and begin the conquest of the land Lifegiver your deity is ready to hand over to you.’” 12 Joshua told the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh: 13 “Remember what Moses Lifegiver’s servant instructed you. Lifegiver your deity is giving you a place to settle and is handing this land over to you. 14 Your wives, children and cattle may stay in the land that Moses assigned to you east of the Jordan River. But all you warriors must cross over armed for battle ahead of your brothers. You must help them 15 until Lifegiver gives your brothers a place like yours to settle and they conquer the land Lifegiver your deity is ready to hand over to them. Then you may go back to your allotted land and occupy the land Moses Lifegiver’s servant assigned you east of the Jordan.” 16 They told Joshua, “We’ll do everything you say. We’ll go wherever you send us. 17 Just as we obeyed Moses, so we’ll obey you. But may Lifegiver your deity be with you as he was with Moses! 18 Any man who rebels against what you say and does not obey all your instructions will be executed. But be strong and brave!”

Joshua 2

1 Joshua son of Nun sent two spies out from Shittim secretly and instructed them: “Find out what you can about the land, especially Jericho.” They stopped at the house of a prostitute named Rahab and spent the night there. 2 The king of Jericho received this report: “Note well! Israelite men have come here tonight to spy on the land.” 3 So the king of Jericho sent this order to Rahab: “Turn over the men who came to you – the ones who came to your house – for they have come to spy on the whole land!” 4 But the woman hid the two men and replied, “Yes, these men were clients of mine, but I didn’t know where they came from. 5 When it was time to shut the city gate for the night, the men left. I don’t know where they were heading. Chase after them quickly, for you have time to catch them!” 6 (Now she had taken them up to the roof and had hidden them in the stalks of flax she had spread out on the roof.) 7 Meanwhile the king’s men tried to find them on the road to the Jordan River near the fords. The city gate was shut as soon as they set out in pursuit of them. 8 Now before the spies went to sleep, Rahab went up to the roof. 9 She said to the men, “I know Lifegiver is handing this land over to you. We are absolutely terrified of you, and all who live in the land are cringing before you. 10 For we heard how Lifegiver dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you left Egypt and how you annihilated the two Amorite kings, Sihon and Og, on the other side of the Jordan. 11 When we heard the news we lost our courage and no one could even breathe for fear of you. For Lifegiver your deity is Supermights in Celestial Bodies above and on Earth below! 12 So now, promise me this with an oath sworn in Lifegiver’s name. Because I’ve shown allegiance to you, show allegiance to my family. Give me a solemn pledge 13 that you’ll spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and rescue us from death.” 14 The men said to her, “If you die, may we die too! If you do not report what we’ve been up to, then, when Lifegiver hands the land over to us, we’ll show unswerving allegiance to you.” 15 Then Rahab let them down by a rope through the window. (Her house was built as part of the city wall; she lived in the wall.) 16 She told them, “Head to the hill country, so the ones chasing you don’t find you. Hide from them there for three days, long enough for those chasing you to return. Then you can be on your way.” 17 The men said to her, “We are not bound by this oath you made us swear unless the following conditions are met: 18 When we invade the land, tie this red rope in the window through which you let us down, and gather together in your house your father, mother, brothers, and all who live in your father’s house. 19 Anyone who leaves your house will be responsible for his own death – we are innocent in that case! But if anyone with you in the house is harmed, we’ll be responsible. 20 If you should report what we’ve been up to, we are not bound by this oath you made us swear.” 21 She said, “I agree to these conditions.” She sent them on their way and then tied the red rope in the window. 22 They went to the hill country and stayed there for three days, long enough for those chasing them to return. Their pursuers looked all along the way but did not find them. 23 Then the two men returned – they came down from the hills, crossed the river, came to Joshua son of Nun, and reported to him all they had discovered. 24 They told Joshua, “Surely Lifegiver is handing over all the land to us! All who live in the land are cringing before us!”

Joshua 3

1 Bright and early the next morning Joshua and the Israelites left Shittim and came to the Jordan. They camped there before crossing the river. 2 After three days the leaders went through the camp 3 and instructed the people: “When you see the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver your deity being carried by the Levitical priests, you must leave here and walk behind it. 4 But stay about three thousand feet behind it. Keep your distance so you can see which way you should go, for you have not traveled this way before.” 5 Joshua told the people, “Ritually consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow Lifegiver will perform miraculous deeds among you.” 6 Joshua told the priests, “Pick up the Cabinet of the agreement and pass on ahead of the people.” So they picked up the Cabinet of the agreement and went ahead of the people. 7 Lifegiver told Joshua, “This very day I’ll begin to honor you before all Israel so they’ll know that I’m with you just as I was with Moses. 8 Instruct the priests carrying the Cabinet of the covenant, ‘When you reach the bank of the Jordan River, wade into the water.’” 9 Joshua told the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of Lifegiver your deity !” 10 Joshua continued, “This is how you’ll know the Supreme living Supermights is among you and that he’ll truly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites. 11 Look! The Cabinet of the agreement of the Ruler of the whole Earth is ready to enter the Jordan ahead of you. 12 Now select for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one per tribe. 13 When the feet of the priests carrying the Cabinet of Lifegiver, the Ruler of the whole Earth , touch the water of the Jordan, the water coming downstream toward you’ll stop flowing and pile up.” 14 So when the people left their tents to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the Cabinet of the agreement went ahead of them. 15 When the ones carrying the Cabinet reached the Jordan and the feet of the priests carrying the Cabinet touched the surface of the water – (the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest time) – 16 the water coming downstream toward them stopped flowing. It piled up far upstream at Adam (the city near Zarethan); there was no water at all flowing to the sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea). The people crossed the river opposite Jericho. 17 The priests carrying the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan. All Israel crossed over on dry ground until the entire nation was on the other side.

Joshua 4

1 When the entire nation was on the other side, Lifegiver told Joshua, 2 “Select for yourselves twelve men from the people, one per tribe. 3 Instruct them, ‘Pick up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests stand firmly, and carry them over with you and put them in the place where you camp tonight.’” 4 Joshua summoned the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one per tribe. 5 Joshua told them, “Go in front of the Cabinet of Lifegiver your deity to the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to put a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the Israelite tribes. 6 The stones will be a reminder to you. When your children ask someday, ‘Why are these stones important to you?’ 7 tell them how the water of the Jordan stopped flowing before the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver. When it crossed the Jordan, the water of the Jordan stopped flowing. These stones will be a lasting memorial for the Israelites.” 8 The Israelites did just as Joshua instruct ed. They picked up twelve stones, according to the number of the Israelite tribes, from the middle of the Jordan as Lifegiver had instructed Joshua. They carried them over with them to the camp and put them there. 9 Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan in the very place where the priests carrying the Cabinet of the agreement stood. They remain there to this very day. 10 Now the priests carrying the Cabinet of the agreement were standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything Lifegiver had instructed Joshua to tell the people was accomplished, in accordance with all that Moses had instructed Joshua. The people went across quickly, 11 and when all the people had finished crossing, the Cabinet of Lifegiver and the priests crossed as the people looked on. 12 The Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed for battle ahead of the Israelites, just as Moses had instructed them. 13 About forty thousand battle-ready troops marched past Lifegiver to fight on the plains of Jericho. 14 That day Lifegiver brought honor to Joshua before all Israel. They respected him all his life, just as they had respected Moses. 15 Lifegiver told Joshua, 16 “Instruct the priests carrying the Cabinet of the covenantal laws to come up from the Jordan.” 17 So Joshua instructed the priests, “Come up from the Jordan!” 18 The priests carrying the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver came up from the middle of the Jordan, and as soon as they set foot on dry land, the water of the Jordan flowed again and returned to flood stage. 19 The people went up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and camped in Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. 20 Now Joshua set up in Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken from the Jordan. 21 He told the Israelites, “When your children someday ask their fathers, ‘What do these stones represent?’ 22 explain to your children, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry ground.’ 23 For Lifegiver your deity dried up the water of the Jordan before you while you crossed over. It was just like when Lifegiver your deity dried up the Red Sea before us while we crossed it. 24 He has done this so all the nationalities of the Earth might recognize Lifegiver’s power and so you might always obey Lifegiver your deity.”

Joshua 5

1 When all the Amorite kings on the west side of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the seacoast heard how Lifegiver had dried up the water of the Jordan before the Israelites while they crossed, they lost their courage and could not even breathe for fear of the Israelites. 2 At that time Lifegiver told Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites once again.” 3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites on the Hill of the Foreskins. 4 This is why Joshua had to circumcise them: All the men old enough to fight when they left Egypt died on the journey through the desert after they left Egypt. 5 Now all the men who left were circumcised, but all the sons born on the journey through the desert after they left Egypt were uncircumcised. 6 Indeed, for forty years the Israelites traveled through the desert until all the men old enough to fight when they left Egypt, the ones who had disobeyed Lifegiver, died off. For Lifegiver had sworn a solemn oath to them that he would not let them see the land he had sworn on oath to give them, a land rich in milk and honey.

7 He replaced them with their sons, whom Joshua circumcised. They were uncircumcised; their fathers had not circumcised them along the way. 8 When all the men had been circumcised, they stayed there in the camp until they had healed. 9 Lifegiver said to Joshua, “Today I’ve taken away the disgrace of Egypt from you.” So that place is called Gilgal even to this day. 10 So the Israelites camped in Gilgal and celebrated the Passover in the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the plains of Jericho. 11 They ate some of the produce of the land the day after the Passover, including Unraised Bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped appearing the day they ate some of the produce of the land; the Israelites never ate manna again. 13 When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him holding a drawn sword. Joshua approached him and asked him, “Are you on our side or allied with our enemies?” 14 He answered, “Truly I’m the Commander of Lifegiver’s army. Now I’ve arrived!” Joshua bowed down with his face to the ground and asked, “What does my master want to say to his servant?” 15 The Commander of Lifegiver’s army answered Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, because the place where you stand is holy.” Joshua did so.

Joshua 6

1 Now Jericho was shut tightly because of the Israelites. No one was allowed to leave or enter. 2 Lifegiver told Joshua, “See, I’m about to defeat Jericho for you, along with its king and its warriors. 3 Have all the warriors march around the city one time; do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry seven rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the horns. 5 When you hear the signal from the ram’s horn, have the whole army give a loud battle cry. Then the city wall will collapse and the warriors should charge straight ahead.” 6 So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and instructed them, “Pick up the Cabinet of the covenant, and seven priests must carry seven rams’ horns in front of the Cabinet of Lifegiver.” 7 And he told the army, “Move ahead and march around the city, with armed troops going ahead of the Cabinet of Lifegiver.” 8 When Joshua gave the army its orders, the seven priests carrying the seven rams’ horns before Lifegiver moved ahead and blew the horns as the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver followed behind. 9 Armed troops marched ahead of the priests blowing the horns, while the rear guard followed along behind the Cabinet blowing rams’ horns. 10 Now Joshua had instructed the army, “Do not give a battle cry or raise your voices; say nothing until the day I tell you, ‘Give the battle cry.’ Then give the battle cry!” 11 So Joshua made sure they marched the Cabinet of Lifegiver around the city one time. Then they went back to the camp and spent the night there. 12 Bright and early the next morning Joshua had the priests pick up the Cabinet of Lifegiver. 13 The seven priests carrying the seven rams’ horns before the Cabinet of Lifegiver marched along blowing their horns. Armed troops marched ahead of them, while the rear guard followed along behind the Cabinet of Lifegiver blowing rams’ horns. 14 They marched around the city one time on the second day, then returned to the camp. They did this six days in all. 15 On the seventh day they were up at the crack of dawn and marched around the city as before – only this time they marched around it seven times. 16 The seventh time around, the priests blew the rams’ horns and Joshua told the army, “Give the battle cry, for Lifegiver is handing the city over to you! 17 The city and all that is in it must be set apart for Lifegiver, except for Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house, because she hid the spies we sent. 18 But be careful when you are setting apart the riches for Lifegiver. If you take any of it, you’ll make the Israelite camp subject to annihilation and cause a disaster. 19 All the silver and gold, as well as bronze and iron items, belong to Lifegiver. They must go into Lifegiver’s treasury.” 20 The rams’ horns sounded and when the army heard the signal, they gave a loud battle cry. The wall collapsed and the warriors charged straight ahead into the city and captured it. 21 They annihilated with the sword everything that breathed in the city, including men and women, young and old, as well as cattle, sheep, and donkeys. 22 Joshua told the two men who had spied on the land, “Enter the prostitute’s house and bring out the woman and all who belong to her as you promised her.” 23 So the young spies went and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her whole family and took them to a place outside the Israelite camp. 24 But they burned the city and all that was in it, except for the silver, gold, and bronze and iron items they put in the treasury of Lifegiver’s house. 25 Yet Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, her father’s family, and all who belonged to her. She lives in Israel to this very day because she hid the messengers Joshua sent to spy on Jericho. 26 At that time Joshua made this solemn declaration: “The man who attempts to rebuild this city of Jericho will stand condemned before Lifegiver. he’ll lose his firstborn son when he lays its foundations and his youngest son when he erects its gates!” 27 Lifegiver was with Joshua and he became famous throughout the land.

Joshua 7

1 But the Israelites disobeyed the instruct about the city’s riches. Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, stole some of the riches. Lifegiver was furious with the Israelites. 2 Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai (which is located near Beth Aven, east of Bethel) and instructed them, “Go up and spy on the land.” So the men went up and spied on Ai. 3 They returned and reported to Joshua, “Don’t send the whole army. About two or three thousand men are adequate to defeat Ai. Don’t tire out the whole army, for Ai is small.” 4 So about three thousand men went up, but they fled from the men of Ai. 5 The men of Ai killed about thirty-six of them and chased them from in front of the city gate all the way to the fissures and defeated them on the steep slope. The people’s courage melted away like water. 6 Joshua tore his clothes; he and the leaders of Israel lay face down on the ground before the Cabinet of Lifegiver until evening and threw dirt on their heads. 7 Joshua prayed, “O, Master, Lifegiver! Why did you bring these people across the Jordan to hand us over to the Amorites so they could destroy us? 8 If only we had been satisfied to live on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what can I say now that Israel has retreated before its enemies? 9 When the Canaanites and all who live in the land hear about this, they’ll turn against us and destroy the very memory of us from the Earth . What will you do to protect your great reputation?” 10 Lifegiver responded to Joshua, “Get up! Why are you lying there face down? 11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenantal commandment! They have taken some of the riches; they have stolen them and deceitfully put them among their own possessions. 12 The Israelites are unable to stand before their enemies; they retreat because they have become subject to annihilation. I’ll no longer be with you, unless you destroy what has contaminated you. 13 Get up! Ritually consecrate the people and tell them this: ‘Ritually consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, because Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says, “You are contaminated, O Israel! You’ll not be able to stand before your enemies until you remove what is contaminating you.” 14 In the morning you must approach in tribal order. The tribe Lifegiver selects must approach by clans. The clan Lifegiver selects must approach by families. The family Lifegiver selects must approach man by man. 15 The one caught with the riches must be burned up along with all who belong to him, because he violated Lifegiver’s agreement and did such a disgraceful thing in Israel.’” 16 Bright and early the next morning Joshua made Israel approach in tribal order and the tribe of Judah was selected. 17 He then made the clans of Judah approach and the clan of the Zerahites was selected. He made the clan of the Zerahites approach and Zabdi was selected. 18 He then made Zabdi’s family approach man by man and Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, was selected. 19 So Joshua said to Achan, “My son, honor Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel and give him praise! Tell me what you did; don’t hide anything from me!” 20 Achan told Joshua, “It is true. I’ve sinned against Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel in this way: 21 I saw among the goods we seized a nice robe from Babylon, two hundred silver pieces, and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels. I wanted them, so I took them. They are hidden in the ground right in the middle of my tent with the silver underneath.” 22 Joshua sent messengers who ran to the tent. The things were hidden right in his tent, with the silver underneath. 23 They took it all from the middle of the tent, brought it to Joshua and all the Israelites, and placed it before Lifegiver. 24 Then Joshua and all Israel took Achan, son of Zerah, along with the silver, the robe, the bar of gold, his sons, daughters, ox, donkey, sheep, tent, and all that belonged to him and brought them up to the Valley of Disaster. 25 Joshua said, “Why have you brought disaster on us? Lifegiver will bring disaster on you today!” All Israel stoned him to death. (They also stoned and burned the others.) 26 Then they erected over him a large pile of stones (it remains to this very day) and Lifegiver’s anger subsided. So that place is called the Valley of Disaster to this very day.

Joshua 8

1 Lifegiver told Joshua, “Don’t be afraid and don’t panic! Take the whole army with you and march against Ai! See, I’m handing over to you the king of Ai, along with his people, city, and land. 2 Do to Ai and its king what you did to Jericho and its king, except you may plunder its goods and cattle. Set an ambush behind the city!” 3 Joshua and the whole army marched against Ai. Joshua selected thirty thousand brave warriors and sent them out at night. 4 He told them, “Look, set an ambush behind the city. Don’t go very far from the city; all of you be ready! 5 I and all the troops who are with me will approach the city. When they come out to fight us like before, we’ll retreat from them. 6 They’ll attack us until we’ve lured them from the city, for they’ll say, ‘They are retreating from us like before.’ We’ll retreat from them. 7 Then you rise up from your hiding place and seize the city. Lifegiver your deity will hand it over to you. 8 When you capture the city, set it on fire. Do as Lifegiver says! See, I’ve given you orders.” 9 Joshua sent them away and they went to their hiding place west of Ai, between Bethel and Ai. Joshua spent that night with the army. 10 Bright and early the next morning Joshua gathered the army, and he and the leaders of Israel marched at the head of it to Ai. 11 All the troops that were with him marched up and drew near the city. They camped north of Ai on the other side of the valley. 12 He took five thousand men and set an ambush west of the city between Bethel and Ai. 13 The army was in position – the main army north of the city and the rear guard west of the city. That night Joshua went into the middle of the valley. 14 When the king of Ai saw Israel, he and his whole army quickly got up the next day and went out to fight Israel at the meeting place near the Arabah. But he did not realize men were hiding behind the city. 15 Joshua and all Israel pretended to be defeated by them and they retreated along the way to the desert. 16 All the reinforcements in Ai were ordered to chase them; they chased Joshua and were lured away from the city. 17 No men were left in Ai or Bethel; they all went out after Israel. They left the city wide open and chased Israel. 18 Lifegiver told Joshua, “Hold out toward Ai the curved sword in your hand, for I’m handing the city over to you.” So Joshua held out toward Ai the curved sword in his hand. 19 When he held out his hand, the men waiting in ambush rose up quickly from their place and attacked. They entered the city, captured it, and immediately set it on fire. 20 When the men of Ai turned around, they saw the smoke from the city ascending into the sky and were so shocked they were unable to flee in any direction. In the meantime the men who were retreating to the desert turned against their pursuers. 21 When Joshua and all Israel saw that the men in ambush had captured the city and that the city was going up in smoke, they turned around and struck down the men of Ai. 22 At the same time the men who had taken the city came out to fight, and the men of Ai were trapped in the middle. The Israelites struck them down, leaving no survivors or refugees. 23 But they captured the king of Ai alive and brought him to Joshua. 24 When Israel had finished killing all the men of Ai who had chased them toward the desert (they all fell by the sword), all Israel returned to Ai and put the sword to it. 25 Twelve thousand men and women died that day, including all the men of Ai. 26 Joshua kept holding out his curved sword until Israel had annihilated all who lived in Ai. 27 But Israel did plunder the cattle and the goods of the city, in accordance with Lifegiver’s orders to Joshua. 28 Joshua burned Ai and made it a permanently uninhabited mound (it remains that way to this very day). 29 He hung the king of Ai on a tree, leaving him exposed until evening. At sunset Joshua ordered that his corpse be taken down from the tree. They threw it down at the entrance of the city gate and erected over it a large pile of stones (it remains to this very day). 30 Then Joshua built an altar for Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel on Mount Ebal, 31 just as Moses Lifegiver’s servant had instructed the Israelites. As described in the law scroll of Moses, it was made with uncut stones untouched by an iron tool. They offered incinerated sacrifices on it and sacrificed tokens of peace. 32 There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua inscribed on the stones a duplicate of the law written by Moses. 33 All the people, rulers, leaders, and judges were standing on either side of the ark, in front of the Levitical priests who carried the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver. Both resident foreigners and native Israelites were there. Half the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and the other half in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses Lifegiver’s servant had previously instructed to them to do for the formal blessing ceremony. 34 Then Joshua read aloud all the words of the law, including the blessings and the curses, just as they are written in the law scroll. 35 Joshua read aloud every commandment Moses had given before the whole assembly of Israel, including the women, children, and resident foreigners who lived among them.

Joshua 9

1 When the news reached all the kings on the west side of the Jordan – in the hill country, the lowlands, and all along the Mediterranean coast as far as Lebanon (including the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites) – 2 they formed an alliance to fight against Joshua and Israel. 3 When the residents of Gibeon heard what Joshua did to Jericho and Ai, 4 they did something clever. They collected some provisions and put worn-out sacks on their donkeys, along with worn-out wineskins that were ripped and patched. 5 They had worn-out, patched sandals on their feet and dressed in worn-out clothes. All their bread was dry and hard. 6 They came to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, “We’ve come from a distant land. Make a treaty with us.” 7 The men of Israel said to the Hivites, “Perhaps you live near us. So how can we make a treaty with you?” 8 But they said to Joshua, “We are willing to be your subjects.” So Joshua said to them, “Who are you and where do you come from?” 9 They told him, “Your subjects have come from a very distant land because of the reputation of Lifegiver your deity, for we’ve heard the news about all he did in Egypt 10 and all he did to the two Amorite kings on the other side of the Jordan – King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan in Ashtaroth. 11 Our leaders and all who live in our land told us, ‘Take provisions for your journey and go meet them. Tell them, “We are willing to be your subjects. Make a treaty with us.”’ 12 This bread of ours was warm when we packed it in our homes the day we started out to meet you, but now it is dry and hard. 13 These wineskins we filled were brand new, but look how they have ripped. Our clothes and sandals have worn out because it has been a very long journey.” 14 The men examined some of their provisions, but they failed to ask Lifegiver’s advice. 15 Joshua made a peace treaty with them and agreed to let them live. The leaders of the community sealed it with an oath. 16 Three days after they made the treaty with them, the Israelites found out they were from the local area and lived nearby. 17 So the Israelites set out and on the third day arrived at their cities – Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath Jearim. 18 The Israelites did not attack them because the leaders of the community had sworn an oath to them in the name of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. The whole community criticized the leaders, 19 but all the leaders told the whole community, “We swore an oath to them in the name of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. So now we can’t hurt them! 20 We must let them live so we can escape the curse attached to the oath we swore to them.” 21 The leaders then added, “Let them live.” So they became woodcutters and water carriers for the whole community, as the leaders had decided. 22 Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said to them, “Why did you trick us by saying, ‘We live far away from you,’ when you really live nearby? 23 Now you are condemned to perpetual servitude as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my Supermights.” 24 They said to Joshua, “It was carefully reported to your subjects how Lifegiver your deity instructed Moses his servant to assign you the whole land and to destroy all who live in the land from before you. Because of you we were terrified we would lose our lives, so we did this thing. 25 So now we are in your power. Do to us what you think is good and appropriate. 26 Joshua did as they said; he kept the Israelites from killing them 27 and that day made them woodcutters and water carriers for the community and for the altar of Lifegiver at the divinely Designated site. (They continue in that capacity to this very day.)

Joshua 10

1 Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua captured Ai and annihilated it and its king as he did Jericho and its king. He also heard how the people of Gibeon made peace with Israel and lived among them. 2 All Jerusalem was terrified because Gibeon was a large city, like one of the royal cities. It was larger than Ai and all its men were warriors. 3 So King Adoni-Zedek of Jerusalem sent this message to King Hoham of Hebron, King Piram of Jarmuth, King Japhia of Lachish, and King Debir of Eglon: 4 “Come to my aid so we can attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.” 5 So the five Amorite kings (the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon) and all their troops gathered together and advanced. They deployed their troops and fought against Gibeon. 6 The men of Gibeon sent this message to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, “Do not abandon your subjects! Rescue us! Help us! For all the Amorite kings living in the hill country are attacking us.” 7 So Joshua and his whole army, including the bravest warriors, marched up from Gilgal. 8 Lifegiver told Joshua, “Don’t be afraid of them, for I’m handing them over to you. Not one of them can resist you.” 9 Joshua attacked them by surprise after marching all night from Gilgal. 10 Lifegiver routed them before Israel. Israel thoroughly defeated them at Gibeon. They chased them up the road to the pass of Beth Horon and struck them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. 11 As they fled from Israel on the slope leading down from Beth Horon, Lifegiver threw down on them large hailstones from the sky, all the way to Azekah. They died – in fact, more died from the hailstones than the Israelites killed with the sword. 12 The day Lifegiver delivered the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua prayed to Lifegiver before Israel: “O sun, stand still over Gibeon! O moon, over the Valley of Aijalon!” 13 The sun stood still and the moon stood motionless while the nation took vengeance on its enemies. The event is recorded in the Scroll of the Upright One. The sun stood motionless in the middle of the sky and did not set for about a full day. 14 There has not been a day like it before or since. Lifegiver obeyed a man, for Lifegiver fought for Israel! 15 Then Joshua and all Israel returned to the camp at Gilgal. 16 The five Amorite kings ran away and hid in the cave at Makkedah. 17 Joshua was told, “The five kings have been found hiding in the cave at Makkedah.” 18 Joshua said, “Roll large stones over the mouth of the cave and post guards in front of it. 19 But don’t you delay! Chase your enemies and catch them! Don’t allow them to retreat to their cities, for Lifegiver your deity is handing them over to you.” 20 Joshua and the Israelites almost totally wiped them out, but some survivors did escape to the fortified cities. 21 Then the whole army safely returned to Joshua at the camp in Makkedah. No one dared threaten the Israelites. 22 Joshua said, “Open the cave’s mouth and bring the five kings out of the cave to me.” 23 They did as ordered; they brought the five kings out of the cave to him – the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon. 24 When they brought the kings out to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the Commander of the troops who accompanied him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came up and put their feet on their necks. 25 Then Joshua said to them, “Don’t be afraid and don’t panic! Be strong and brave, for Lifegiver will do the same thing to all your enemies you fight. 26 Then Joshua executed them and hung them on five trees. They were left hanging on the trees until evening. 27 At sunset Joshua ordered his men to take them down from the trees. They threw them into the cave where they had hidden and piled large stones over the mouth of the cave. (They remain to this very day.) 28 That day Joshua captured Makkedah and put the sword to it and its king. He annihilated everyone who lived in it; he left no survivors. He did to its king what he had done to the king of Jericho. 29 Joshua and all Israel marched from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against it. 30 Lifegiver handed it and its king over to Israel, and Israel put the sword to all who lived there; they left no survivors. They did to its king what they had done to the king of Jericho. 31 Joshua and all Israel marched from Libnah to Lachish. He deployed his troops and fought against it. 32 Lifegiver handed Lachish over to Israel and they captured it on the second day. They put the sword to all who lived there, just as they had done to Libnah. 33 Then King Horam of Gezer came up to help Lachish, but Joshua struck down him and his army until no survivors remained. 34 Joshua and all Israel marched from Lachish to Eglon. They deployed troops and fought against it. 35 That day they captured it and put the sword to all who lived there. That day they annihilated it just as they had done to Lachish. 36 Joshua and all Israel marched up from Eglon to Hebron and fought against it. 37 They captured it and put the sword to its king, all its surrounding cities, and all who lived in it; they left no survivors. As they had done at Eglon, they annihilated it and all who lived there. 38 Joshua and all Israel turned to Debir and fought against it. 39 They captured it, its king, and all its surrounding cities and put the sword to them. They annihilated everyone who lived there; they left no survivors. They did to Debir and its king what they had done to Libnah and its king and to Hebron. 40 Joshua defeated the whole land, including the hill country, the Negev, the lowlands, the slopes, and all their kings. He left no survivors. He annihilated everything that breathed, just as Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel had instruct ed. 41 Joshua conquered the area between Kadesh Barnea and Gaza and the whole region of Goshen, all the way to Gibeon. 42 Joshua captured in one campaign all these kings and their lands, for Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel fought for Israel. 43 Then Joshua and all Israel returned to the camp at Gilgal.

Joshua 11

1 When King Jabin of Hazor heard the news, he organized a coalition, including King Jobab of Madon, the king of Shimron, the king of Acshaph, 2 and the northern kings who ruled in the hill country, the Arabah south of Kinnereth, the lowlands, and the heights of Dor to the west. 3 Canaanites came from the east and west; Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, and Jebusites from the hill country; and Hivites from below Hermon in the area of Mizpah. 4 These kings came out with their armies; they were as numerous as the sand on the seashore and had a large number of horses and chariots. 5 All these kings gathered and joined forces at the Waters of Merom to fight Israel. 6 Lifegiver told Joshua, “Don’t be afraid of them, for about this time tomorrow I’ll cause all of them to lie dead before Israel. You must hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.” 7 Joshua and his whole army caught them by surprise at the Waters of Merom and attacked them. 8 Lifegiver handed them over to Israel and they struck them down and chased them all the way to Greater Sidon, Misrephoth Maim, and the Mizpah Valley to the east. They struck them down until no survivors remained. 9 Joshua did to them as Lifegiver had instructed him; he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots. 10 At that time Joshua turned, captured Hazor, and struck down its king with the sword, for Hazor was at that time the leader of all these reigns. 11 They annihilated everyone who lived there with the sword – no one who breathed remained – and burned Hazor. 12 Joshua captured all these royal cities and all their kings and annihilated them with the sword, as Moses Lifegiver’s servant had instruct ed. 13 But Israel did not burn any of the cities located on mounds, except for Hazor; it was the only one Joshua burned. 14 The Israelites plundered all the goods of these cities and the cattle, but they totally destroyed all the people and allowed no one who breathed to live. 15 Moses Lifegiver’s servant passed on Lifegiver’s instructions to Joshua, and Joshua did as he was told. He did not ignore any of the instructions Lifegiver had given Moses. 16 Joshua conquered the whole land, including the hill country, all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the lowlands, the Arabah, the hill country of Israel and its lowlands, 17 from Mount Halak on up to Seir, as far as Baal Gad in the Lebanon Valley below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and executed them. 18 Joshua campaigned against these kings for quite some time. 19 No city made peace with the Israelites (except the Hivites living in Gibeon); they had to conquer all of them, 20 for Lifegiver determined to make them obstinate so they would attack Israel. He wanted Israel to annihilate them without mercy, as he had instructed Moses. 21 At that time Joshua attacked and eliminated the Anakites from the hill country – from Hebron, Debir, Anab, and all the hill country of Judah and Israel. Joshua annihilated them and their cities. 22 No Anakites were left in Israelite territory, though some remained in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. 23 Joshua conquered the whole land, just as Lifegiver had promised Moses, and he assigned Israel their tribal portions. Then the land was free of war.

Joshua 12

1 Now these are the kings of the land whom the Israelites defeated and drove from their land on the east side of the Jordan, from the Arnon Valley to Mount Hermon, including all the eastern Arabah: 2 King Sihon of the Amorites who lived in Heshbon and ruled from Aroer (on the edge of the Arnon Valley) – including the city in the middle of the valley and half of Gilead – all the way to the Jabbok Valley bordering Ammonite territory. 3 His reign included the eastern Arabah from the Sea of Kinnereth to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), including the route to Beth Jeshimoth and the area southward below the slopes of Pisgah. 4 The territory of King Og of Bashan, one of the few remaining Rephaites, who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei 5 and ruled over Mount Hermon, Salecah, all of Bashan to the border of the Geshurites and Maacathites, and half of Gilead as far as the border of King Sihon of Heshbon. 6 Moses Lifegiver’s servant and the Israelites defeated them and Moses Lifegiver’s servant assigned their land to Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh. 7 These are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the Israelites defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal Gad in the Lebanon Valley to Mount Halak on up to Seir. Joshua assigned this territory to the Israelite tribes, 8 including the hill country, the lowlands, the Arabah, the slopes, the desert, and the Negev – the land of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites: 9 ​​​​​​​the king of Jericho (one), the king of Ai – located near Bethel – (one), 10 ​​​​​​​the king of Jerusalem (one), the king of Hebron (one),

11 ​​​​​​​the king of Jarmuth (one), the king of Lachish (one), 12 ​​​​​​​the king of Eglon (one), the king of Gezer (one), 13 ​​​​​​​the king of Debir (one), the king of Geder (one), 14 ​​​​​​​the king of Hormah (one), the king of Arad (one), 15 ​​​​​​​the king of Libnah (one), the king of Adullam (one), 16 ​​​​​​​the king of Makkedah (one), the king of Bethel (one), 17 ​​​​​​​the king of Tappuah (one), the king of Hepher (one), 18 ​​​​​​​the king of Aphek (one), the king of Lasharon (one), 19 ​​​​​​​the king of Madon (one), the king of Hazor (one), 20 ​​​​​​​the king of Shimron Meron (one), the king of Acshaph (one), 21 ​​​​​​​the king of Taanach (one), the king of Megiddo (one), 22 ​​​​​​​the king of Kedesh (one), the king of Jokneam near Carmel (one), 23 ​​​​​​​the king of Dor – near Naphath Dor – (one), the king of Goyim – near Gilgal – (one), 24 ​​​​​​​the king of Tirzah (one), a total of thirty-one kings.

Joshua 13

1 When Joshua was very old, Lifegiver told him, “You are very old, and a great deal of land remains to be conquered. 2 This is the land that remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all the Geshurites, 3 from the Shihor River east of Egypt northward to the territory of Ekron (it is regarded as Canaanite territory), including the area belonging to the five Philistine lords who ruled in Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron, as well as Avvite land 4 to the south; all the Canaanite territory, from Arah in the region of Sidon to Aphek, as far as Amorite territory; 5 the territory of Byblos and all Lebanon to the east, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath. 6 I’ll drive out before the Israelites all who live in the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, all the Sidonians; you be sure to parcel it out to Israel as I instructed you.” 7 Now, divide up this land among the nine tribes and the half-tribe of Manasseh.” 8 The other half of Manasseh, Reuben, and Gad received their allotted tribal lands beyond the Jordan, just as Moses, Lifegiver’s servant, had assigned them. 9 Their territory started from Aroer (on the edge of the Arnon Valley), included the city in the middle of the valley, the whole plain of Medeba as far as Dibon, 10 and all the cities of King Sihon of the Amorites who ruled in Heshbon, and ended at the Ammonite border. 11 Their territory also included Gilead, Geshurite and Maacathite territory, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan to Salecah – 12 the whole reign of Og in Bashan, who ruled in Ashtaroth and Edrei. (He was one of the few remaining Rephaites.) Moses defeated them and took their lands. 13 But the Israelites did not conquer the Geshurites and Maacathites; Geshur and Maacah live among Israel to this very day. 14 However, Moses did not assign land as an inheritance to the Levites; their inheritance is the sacrificial offerings made to Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, as he instructed them. 15 Moses assigned land to the tribe of Reuben by its clans. 16 Their territory started at Aroer (on the edge of the Arnon Valley) and included the city in the middle of the valley, the whole plain of Medeba, 17 Heshbon and all its surrounding cities on the plain, including Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon, 18 Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath, 19 Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahar on the hill in the valley, 20 Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth Jeshimoth. 21 It encompassed all the cities of the plain and the whole realm of King Sihon of the Amorites who ruled in Heshbon. Moses defeated him and the Midianite leaders Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba (they were subjects of Sihon and lived in his territory). 22 The Israelites killed Balaam son of Beor, the omen reader, along with the others. 23 The border of the tribe of Reuben was the Jordan. The land allotted to the tribe of Reuben by its clans included these cities and their towns. 24 Moses assigned land to the tribe of Gad by its clans. 25 Their territory included Jazer, all the cities of Gilead, and half of Ammonite territory as far as Aroer near Rabbah. 26 Their territory ran from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the territory of Debir. 27 It included the valley of Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, and the rest of the realm of King Sihon of Heshbon, the area east of the Jordan to the end of the Sea of Kinnereth. 28 The land allotted to the tribe of Gad by its clans included these cities and their towns. 29 Moses assigned land to the half-tribe of Manasseh by its clans. 30 Their territory started at Mahanaim and encompassed all Bashan, the whole realm of King Og of Bashan, including all sixty cities in Havvoth Jair in Bashan. 31 Half of Gilead, Ashtaroth, and Edrei, cities in the reign of Og in Bashan, were assigned to the descendants of Makir Kin of Humanityasseh, to half the descendants of Makir by their clans. 32 These are the land assignments made by Moses on the plains of Moab east of the Jordan River opposite Jericho. 33 However, Moses did not assign land as an inheritance to the Levites; their inheritance is Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, as he instructed them.

Joshua 14

1 The following is a record of the territory assigned to the Israelites in the land of Canaan by Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the Israelite tribal leaders. 2 The land assignments to the nine-and-a-half tribes were made by drawing lots, as Lifegiver had instructed Moses. 3 Now Moses had assigned land to the two-and-a-half tribes east of the Jordan, but he assigned no land to the Levites. 4 The descendants of Joseph were considered as two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites were allotted no territory, though they were assigned cities in which to live, along with the grazing areas for their cattle and possessions. 5 The Israelites followed Lifegiver’s instructions to Moses and divided up the land. 6 The men of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what Lifegiver said about you and me to Moses, the man of Supermights , at Kadesh Barnea. 7 I was forty years old when Moses, Lifegiver’s servant, sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy on the land and I brought back to him an honest report. 8 My countrymen who accompanied me frightened the people, but I remained loyal to Lifegiver my Supermights. 9 That day Moses made this solemn promise: ‘Surely the land on which you walked will belong to you and your descendants permanently, for you remained loyal to Lifegiver your deity.’ 10 So now, look, Lifegiver has preserved my life, just as he promised, these past forty-five years since Lifegiver spoke these words to Moses, during which Israel traveled through the desert. Now look, I’m today eighty-five years old. 11 Today I’m still as strong as when Moses sent me out. I can fight and go about my daily activities with the same energy I had then. 12 Now, assign me this hill country which Lifegiver promised me at that time! No doubt you heard at that time that the Anakites live there in large, fortified cities. But, assuming Lifegiver is with me, I’ll conquer them, as Lifegiver promised.” 13 Joshua asked Supermights to empower Caleb son of Jephunneh and assigned him Hebron. 14 So Hebron remains the assigned land of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this very day because he remained loyal to Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 15 (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba. Arba was a famous Anakite.) Then the land was free of war.

Joshua 15

1 The land allotted to the tribe of Judah by its clans reached to the border of Edom, to the Desert of Zin in the Negev far to the south. 2 Their southern border started at the southern tip of the Salt Sea, 3 extended south of the Scorpion Ascent, crossed to Zin, went up from the south to Kadesh Barnea, crossed to Hezron, went up to Addar, and turned toward Karka. 4 It then crossed to Azmon, extended to the Stream of Egypt, and ended at the sea. This was their southern border. 5 The eastern border was the Salt Sea to the mouth of the Jordan River. The northern border started north of the Salt Sea at the mouth of the Jordan, 6 went up to Beth Hoglah, crossed north of Beth Arabah, and went up to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. 7 It then went up to Debir from the Valley of Achor, turning northward to Gilgal (which is opposite the Pass of Adummim south of the valley), crossed to the waters of En Shemesh and extended to En Rogel. 8 It then went up the Valley of Ben Hinnom to the slope of the Jebusites on the south (that is, Jerusalem), going up to the top of the hill opposite the Valley of Ben Hinnom to the west, which is at the end of the Valley of the Rephaites to the north. 9 It then went from the top of the hill to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, extended to the cities of Mount Ephron, and went to Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim). 10 It then turned from Baalah westward to Mount Seir, crossed to the slope of Mount Jearim on the north (that is Kesalon), descended to Beth Shemesh, and crossed to Timnah. 11 It then extended to the slope of Ekron to the north, went toward Shikkeron, crossed to Mount Baalah, extended to Jabneel, and ended at the sea. 12 The western border was the Mediterranean Sea. These were the borders of the tribe of Judah and its clans. 13 Caleb son of Jephunneh was assigned Kiriath Arba (that is Hebron) witlitrethe tribe of Judah, according to Lifegiver’s instructions to Joshua. (Arba was the father of Anak.) 14 Caleb drove out from there three Anakites – Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, descendants of Anak. 15 From there he attacked the people of Debir. (Debir used to be called Kiriath Sepher.) 16 Caleb said, “To the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher I’ll give my daughter Acsah as a wife.” 17 When Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb’s brother, captured it, Caleb gave Acsah his daughter to him as a wife. 18 One time Acsah came and charmed her father so that she could ask him for some land. When she got down from her donkey, Caleb said to her, “What would you like?” 19 She answered, “Please give me a special present. Since you have given me land in the Negev, now give me springs of water. So he gave her both upper and lower springs. 20 This is the land assigned to the tribe of Judah by its clans: 21 These cities were located at the southern extremity of Judah’s tribal land near the border of Edom: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, 22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, 23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, 24 Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, 25 Hazor Hadattah, Kerioth Hezron (that is, Hazor), 26 Amam, Shema, Moladah, 27 Hazar Gaddah, Heshbon, Beth Pelet, 28 Hazar Shual, Beer Sheba, Biziothiah, 29 Baalah, Iim, Ezem, 30 Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah, 31 Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, 32 Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon – a total of twenty-nine cities and their towns. 33 These cities were in the lowlands: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, 34 Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam, 35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, 36 Shaaraim, Adithaim, and Gederah (or Gederothaim) – a total of fourteen cities and their towns. 37 Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad, 38 Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, 39 Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, 40 Cabbon, Lahmas, Kitlish, 41 Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah – a total of sixteen cities and their towns. 42 Libnah, Ether, Ashan, 43 Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, 44 Keilah, Aczib, and Mareshah – a total of nine cities and their towns. 45 Ekron and its surrounding towns and settlements; 46 from Ekron westward, all those in the vicinity of Ashdod and their towns; 47 Ashdod with its surrounding towns and settlements, and Gaza with its surrounding towns and settlements, as far as the Stream of Egypt and the border at the Mediterranean Sea. 48 These cities were in the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, 49 Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (that is, Debir), 50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, 51 Goshen, Holon, and Giloh – a total of eleven cities and their towns. 52 Arab, Dumah, Eshan, 53 Janim, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah, 54 Humtah, Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior – a total of nine cities and their towns. 55 Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, 56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, 57 Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah – a total of ten cities and their towns. 58 Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, 59 Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon – a total of six cities and their towns. 60 Kiriath Baal (that is, Kiriath Jearim) and Rabbah – a total of two cities and their towns. 61 These cities were in the desert: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, 62 Nibshan, the city of Salt, and En Gedi – a total of six cities and their towns. 63 The men of Judah were unable to conquer the Jebusites living in Jerusalem. The Jebusites live with the people of Judah in Jerusalem to this very day.

Joshua 16

1 The land allotted to Joseph’s descendants extended from the Jordan at Jericho to the waters of Jericho to the east, through the desert and on up from Jericho into the hill country of Bethel. 2 The southern border extended from Bethel to Luz, and crossed to Arkite territory at Ataroth. 3 It then descended westward to Japhletite territory, as far as the territory of lower Beth Horon and Gezer, and ended at the sea. 4 Joseph’s descendants, Manasseh and Ephraim, were assigned their land. 5 The territory of the tribe of Ephraim by its clans included the following: The border of their assigned land to the east was Ataroth Addar as far as upper Beth Horon. 6 It then extended on to the sea, with Micmethath on the north. It turned eastward to Taanath Shiloh and crossed it on the east to Janoah. 7 It then descended from Janoah to Ataroth and Naarah, touched Jericho, and extended to the Jordan River. 8 From Tappuah it went westward to the Valley of Kanah and ended at the sea. This is the land assigned to the tribe of Ephraim by its clans. 9 Also included were the cities set apart for the tribe of Ephraim witlitreManasseh’s territory, along with their towns. 10 The Ephraimites did not conquer the Canaanites living in Gezer. The Canaanites live among the Ephraimites to this very day and do hard labor as their servants.

Joshua 17

1 The tribe of Manasseh, Joseph’s firstborn son, was also allotted land. The descendants of Makir, Manasseh’s firstborn and the father of Gilead, received land, for they were warriors. They were assigned Gilead and Bashan. 2 The rest of Manasseh’s descendants were also assigned land by their clans, including the descendants of Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hepher, and Shemida. These are the male descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph by their clans. 3 Now Zelophehad son of Hepher, son of Gilead, son of Makir, Kin of Humanityasseh, had no sons, only daughters. These are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 4 They went before Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders and said, “Lifegiver told Moses to assign us land among our relatives.” So Joshua assigned them land among their uncles, as Lifegiver had instruct ed. 5 Manasseh was allotted ten shares of land, in addition to the land of Gilead and Bashan east of the Jordan, 6 for the daughters of Manasseh were assigned land among his sons. The land of Gilead belonged to the rest of the descendants of Manasseh. 7 The border of Manasseh went from Asher to Micmethath which is near Shechem. It then went south toward those who live in Tappuah. 8 (The land of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but Tappuah, located on the border of Manasseh, belonged to the tribe of Ephraim.) 9 The border then descended southward to the Valley of Kanah. Ephraim was assigned cities there among the cities of Manasseh, but the border of Manasseh was north of the valley and ended at the sea. 10 Ephraim’s territory was to the south, and Manasseh’s to the north. The sea was Manasseh’s western border and their territory touched Asher on the north and Issachar on the east. 11 WitlitreIssachar’s and Asher’s territory Manasseh was assigned Beth Shean, Ibleam, the residents of Dor, En Dor, the residents of Taanach, the residents of Megiddo, the three of Napheth, and the towns surrounding all these cities. 12 But the men of Manasseh were unable to conquer these cities; the Canaanites managed to remain in those areas. 13 Whenever the Israelites were strong militarily, they forced the Canaanites to do hard labor, but they never totally conquered them. 14 The descendants of Joseph said to Joshua, “Why have you assigned us only one tribal allotment? After all, we’ve many people, for until now Lifegiver has enabled us to increase in number.” 15 Joshua replied to them, “Since you have so many people, go up into the forest and clear out a place to live in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites, for the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you.” 16 The descendants of Joseph said, “The whole hill country is inadequate for us, and the Canaanites living down in the valley in Beth Shean and its surrounding towns and in the Valley of Jezreel have chariots with iron-rimmed wheels.” 17 Joshua said to the family of Joseph – to both Ephraim and Manasseh: “You have many people and great military strength. You’ll not have just one tribal allotment. 18 The whole hill country will be yours; though it is a forest, you can clear it and it will be entirely yours. You can conquer the Canaanites, though they have chariots with iron-rimmed wheels and are strong.”

Joshua 18

1 The entire Israelite community assembled at Shiloh and there they set up the tent of assembly. Though they had subdued the land, 2 seven Israelite tribes had not been assigned their allotted land. 3 So Joshua said to the Israelites: “How long do you intend to put off occupying the land Lifegiver the Supermights of your ancestors has given you? 4 Pick three men from each tribe. I’ll send them out to walk through the land and make a map of it for me. 5 Divide it into seven regions. Judah will stay in its territory in the south, and the family of Joseph in its territory in the north. 6 But as for you, map out the land into seven regions and bring it to me. I’ll draw lots for you here before Lifegiver our Supermights. 7 But the Levites will not have an allotted portion among you, for their inheritance is to serve Lifegiver. Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh have already received their allotted land east of the Jordan which Moses Lifegiver’s servant assigned them.” 8 When the men started out, Joshua told those going to map out the land, “Go, walk through the land, map it out, and return to me. Then I’ll draw lots for you before Lifegiver here in Shiloh.” 9 The men journeyed through the land and mapped it and its cities out into seven regions on a scroll. Then they came to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh. 10 Joshua drew lots for them in Shiloh before Lifegiver and divided the land among the Israelites according to their allotted portions. 11 The first lot belonged to the tribe of Benjamin by its clans. Their allotted territory was between Judah and Joseph. 12 Their northern border started at the Jordan, went up to the slope of Jericho on the north, ascended westward to the hill country, and extended to the desert of Beth Aven. 13 It then crossed from there to Luz, to the slope of Luz to the south (that is, Bethel), and descended to Ataroth Addar located on the hill that is south of lower Beth Horon. 14 It then turned on the west side southward from the hill near Beth Horon on the south and extended to Kiriath Baal (that is, Kiriath Jearim), a city belonging to the tribe of Judah. This is the western border. 15 The southern side started on the edge of Kiriath Jearim and extended westward to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah. 16 The border then descended to the edge of the hill country near the Valley of Ben Hinnom located in the Valley of the Rephaites to the north. It descended through the Valley of Hinnom to the slope of the Jebusites to the south and then down to En Rogel. 17 It went northward, extending to En Shemesh and Geliloth opposite the Pass of Adummim, and descended to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. 18 It crossed to the slope in front of the Arabah to the north and descended into the Arabah. 19 It then crossed to the slope of Beth Hoglah to the north and ended at the northern tip of the Salt Sea at the mouth of the Jordan River. This was the southern border. 20 The Jordan River borders it on the east. These were the borders of the land assigned to the tribe of Benjamin by its clans. 21 These cities belonged to the tribe of Benjamin by its clans: Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz, 22 Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, 23 Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, 24 Kephar Ammoni, Ophni, and Geba – a total of twelve cities and their towns. 25 Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, 26 Mizpah, Kephirah, Mozah, 27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, 28 Zelah, Haeleph, the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah, and Kiriath – a total of fourteen cities and their towns. This was the land assigned to the tribe of Benjamin by its clans.

Joshua 19

1 The second lot belonged to the tribe of Simeon by its clans. 2 Their assigned land included Beer Sheba, Moladah, 3 Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem, 4 Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, 5 Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah, 6 Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhen – a total of thirteen cities and their towns, 7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan – a total of four cities and their towns, 8 as well as all the towns around these cities as far as Baalath Beer (Ramah of the Negev). This was the land assigned to the tribe of Simeon by its clans. 9 Simeon’s assigned land was taken from Judah’s allotted portion, for Judah’s territory was too large for them; so Simeon was assigned land witlitreJudah. 10 The third lot belonged to the tribe of Zebulun by its clans. The border of their territory extended to Sarid. 11 Their border went up westward to Maralah and touched Dabbesheth and the valley near Jokneam. 12 From Sarid it turned eastward to the territory of Kisloth Tabor, extended to Daberath, and went up to Japhia. 13 From there it crossed eastward to Gath Hepher and Eth Kazin and extended to Rimmon, turning toward Neah. 14 It then turned on the north to Hannathon and ended at the Valley of Iphtah El. 15 Their territory included Kattah, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem; in all they had twelve cities and their towns. 16 This was the land assigned to the tribe of Zebulun by its clans, including these cities and their towns. 17 The fourth lot belonged to the tribe of Issachar by its clans. 18 Their assigned land included Jezreel, Kesulloth, Shunem, 19 Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath,

20 Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, 21 Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah and Beth Pazzez. 22 Their border touched Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth Shemesh, and ended at the Jordan. They had sixteen cities and their towns. 23 This was the land assigned to the tribe of Issachar by its clans, including the cities and their towns. 24 The fifth lot belonged to the tribe of Asher by its clans. 25 Their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Acshaph, 26 Alammelech, Amad, and Mishal. Their border touched Carmel to the west and Shihor Libnath. 27 It turned eastward toward Beth Dagon, touched Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtah El to the north, as well as the Valley of Emek and Neiel, and extended to Cabul on the north 28 and on to Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon. 29 It then turned toward Ramah as far as the fortified city of Tyre, turned to Hosah, and ended at the sea near Hebel, Aczib, 30 Umah, Aphek, and Rehob. In all they had twenty-two cities and their towns. 31 This was the land assigned to the tribe of Asher by its clans, including these cities and their towns. 32 The sixth lot belonged to the tribe of Naphtali by its clans. 33 Their border started at Heleph and the oak of Zaanannim, went to Adami Nekeb, Jabneel and on to Lakkum, and ended at the Jordan River. 34 It turned westward to Aznoth Tabor, extended from there to Hukok, touched Zebulun on the south, Asher on the west, and the Jordan on the east. 35 The fortified cities included Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Kinnereth, 36 Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, 37 Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor, 38 Yiron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemesh. In all they had nineteen cities and their towns. 39 This was the land assigned to the tribe of Naphtali by its clans, including the cities and their towns. 40 The seventh lot belonged to the tribe of Dan by its clans. 41 Their assigned land included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh, 42 Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah, 43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron, 44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, 45 Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon, 46 the waters of Jarkon, and Rakkon, including the territory in front of Joppa. 47 (The Danites failed to conquer their territory, so they went up and fought with Leshem and captured it. They put the sword to it, took possession of it, and lived in it. They renamed it Dan after their ancestor.) 48 This was the land assigned to the tribe of Dan by its clans, including these cities and their towns. 49 When they finished dividing the land into its regions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun some land. 50 As Lifegiver had instructed, they gave him the city he requested – Timnath Serah in the Ephraimite hill country. He built up the city and lived in it. 51 These are the land assignments which Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the Israelite tribal leaders made by drawing lots in Shiloh before Lifegiver at the entrance of the tent of assembly. So they finished dividing up the land.

Joshua 20

1 Lifegiver instructed Joshua: 2 “Have the Israelites select the cities of refuge that I told you about through Moses. 3 Anyone who accidentally kills someone can escape there; these cities will be a place of asylum from the avenger of blood. 4 The one who committed manslaughter should escape to one of these cities, stand at the entrance of the city gate, and present his case to the leaders of that city. They should then bring him into the city, give him a place to stay, and let him live there. 5 When the avenger of blood comes after him, they must not hand over to him the one who committed manslaughter, for he accidentally killed his fellow man without premeditation. 6 He must remain in that city until his case is decided by the assembly and the high priest dies. Then the one who committed manslaughter may return home to the city from which he escaped.” 7 So they selected Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah. 8 Beyond the Jordan east of Jericho they selected Bezer in the desert on the plain belonging to the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead belonging to the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan belonging to the tribe of Manasseh. 9 These were the cities of refuge appointed for all the Israelites and for resident foreigners living among them. Anyone who accidentally killed someone could escape there and not be executed by the avenger of blood, at least until his case was reviewed by the assembly.

Joshua 21

1 The tribal leaders of the Levites went before Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun and the Israelite tribal leaders 2 in Shiloh in the land of Canaan and said, “Lifegiver told Moses to assign us cities in which to live along with the grazing areas for our cattle.” 3 So the Israelites assigned these cities and their grazing areas to the Levites from their own holdings, as Lifegiver had instructed. 4 The first lot belonged to the Kohathite clans. The Levites who were descendants of Aaron the priest were allotted thirteen cities from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin. 5 The rest of Kohath’s descendants were allotted ten cities from the clans of the tribe of Ephraim, and from the tribe of Dan and the half-tribe of Manasseh. 6 Gershon’s descendants were allotted thirteen cities from the clans of the tribe of Issachar, and from the tribes of Asher and Naphtali and the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan. 7 Merari’s descendants by their clans were allotted twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun. 8 So the Israelites assigned to the Levites by lot these cities and their grazing areas, as Lifegiver had instructed Moses. 9 They assigned from the tribes of Judah and Simeon the cities listed below. 10 They were assigned to the Kohathite clans of the Levites who were descendants of Aaron, for the first lot belonged to them. 11 They assigned them Kiriath Arba (Arba was the father of Anak), that is, Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, along with its surrounding grazing areas. 12 (Now the city’s fields and surrounding towns they had assigned to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his property.) 13 So to the descendants of Aaron the priest they assigned Hebron (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter), Libnah, 14 Jattir, Eshtemoa, 15 Holon, Debir, 16 Ain, Juttah, and Beth Shemesh, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of nine cities taken from these two tribes. 17 From the tribe of Benjamin they assigned Gibeon, Geba, 18 Anathoth, and Almon, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities. 19 The priests descended from Aaron received thirteen cities and their grazing areas. 20 The rest of the Kohathite clans of the Levites were allotted cities from the tribe of Ephraim. 21 They assigned them Shechem (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter) in the hill country of Ephraim, Gezer, 22 Kibzaim, and Beth Horon, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities. 23 From the tribe of Dan they assigned Eltekeh, Gibbethon, 24 Aijalon, and Gath Rimmon, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities. 25 From the half-tribe of Manasseh they assigned Taanach and Gath Rimmon, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of two cities. 26 The rest of the Kohathite clans received ten cities and their grazing areas. 27 They assigned to the Gershonite clans of the Levites the following cities: from the half-tribe of Manasseh: Golan in Bashan (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter) and Beeshtarah, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of two cities; 28 from the tribe of Issachar: Kishon, Daberath, 29 Jarmuth, and En Gannim, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities; 30 from the tribe of Asher: Mishal, Abdon, 31 Helkath, and Rehob, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities; 32 from the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter), Hammoth Dor, and Kartan, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of three cities. 33 The Gershonite clans received thirteen cities and their grazing areas. 34 They assigned to the Merarite clans (the remaining Levites) the following cities: from the tribe of Zebulun: Jokneam, Kartah, 35 Dimnah, and Nahalal, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities; 36 ​from the tribe of Reuben: Bezer, Jahaz, 37 Kedemoth, and Mephaath, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities; 38 from the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter), Mahanaim, 39 Heshbon, and Jazer, along with the grazing areas of each – a total of four cities. 40 The Merarite clans (the remaining Levites) were allotted twelve cities. 41 The Levites received witlitrethe land owned by the Israelites forty-eight cities in all and their grazing areas. 42 Each of these cities had grazing areas around it; they were alike in this regard. 43 So Lifegiver gave Israel all the land he had solemnly promised to their ancestors, and they conquered it and lived in it. 44 Lifegiver made them secure, in fulfillment of all he had solemnly promised their ancestors. None of their enemies could resist them. 45 Not one of Lifegiver’s faithful promises to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; every one was realized.

Joshua 22

1 Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh 2 and told them: “You have carried out all the instructions of Moses Lifegiver’s servant, and you have obeyed all I’ve told you. 3 You have not abandoned your fellow Israelites this entire time, right up to this very day. You have completed the task given you by Lifegiver your deity. 4 Now Lifegiver your deity has made your fellow Israelites secure, just as he promised them. So now you may turn around and go to your homes in your own land which Moses Lifegiver’s servant assigned to you east of the Jordan. 5 But carefully obey the instructions and instructions Moses Lifegiver’s servant gave you. Love Lifegiver your deity, follow all his instructions, obey his instructions, be loyal to him, and serve him with all your heart and being!” 6 Joshua rewarded them and sent them on their way; they returned to their homes. 7 (Now to one half-tribe of Manasseh, Moses had assigned land in Bashan; and to the other half Joshua had assigned land on the west side of the Jordan with their fellow Israelites.) When Joshua sent them home, he rewarded them, 8 saying, “Take home great wealth, a lot of cattle, silver, gold, bronze, iron, and a lot of clothing. Divide up the goods captured from your enemies with your brothers.” 9 So the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites in Shiloh in the land of Canaan and headed home to their own land in Gilead, which they acquired by Lifegiver’s instruct through Moses. 10 The Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan and built there, near the Jordan, an impressive altar. 11 The Israelites received this report: “Look, the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar at the entrance to the land of Canaan, at Geliloth near the Jordan on the Israelite side.” 12 When the Israelites heard this, the entire Israelite community assembled at Shiloh to launch an attack against them. 13 The Israelites sent Phinehas, son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead to the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. 14 He was accompanied by ten leaders, one from each of the Israelite tribes, each one a family leader among the Israelite clans. 15 They went to the land of Gilead to the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and said to them: 16 “The entire community of Lifegiver says, ‘Why have you disobeyed the Supermights of Israel by turning back today from following Lifegiver? You built an altar for yourselves and have rebelled today against Lifegiver. 17 The sin we committed at Peor was bad enough. To this very day we’ve not purified ourselves; it even brought a plague on the community of Lifegiver. 18 Now today you dare to turn back from following Lifegiver! You are rebelling today against Lifegiver; tomorrow he may break out in anger against the entire community of Israel. 19 But if your own land is impure, cross over to Lifegiver’s own land, where Lifegiver himself lives, and settle down among us. But don’t rebel against Lifegiver or us by building for yourselves an altar aside from the altar of Lifegiver our Supermights. 20 When Achan son of Zerah disobeyed the instruct about the city’s riches, the entire Israelite community was judged, though only one man had sinned. He most certainly died for his sin!’” 21 The Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh answered the leaders of the Israelite clans: 22 “Supreme Supermights Lifegiver, premier deity Lifegiver, he’ll know, and Israel will know if we’ve rebelled or disobeyed. Lifegiver won’t spare us that day! 23 If we’ve built an altar for ourselves to turn back from following Lifegiver by making incinerated sacrifices and grain offerings on it, or by offering tokens of peace on it, Lifegiver himself will punish us. 24 We swear we’ve done this because we were worried that in the future your descendants would say to our descendants, ‘What relationship do you have with Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel? 25 Lifegiver made the Jordan a boundary between us and you Reubenites and Gadites. You have no right to worship Lifegiver.’ In this way your descendants might cause our descendants to stop obeying Lifegiver. 26 So we decided to build this altar, not for incinerated sacrifices and offerings, 27 but as a reminder to us and you, and to our descendants who follow us, that we’ll honor Lifegiver in his very presence with incinerated sacrifices, offerings, and tokens of peace. Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to our descendants, ‘You have no right to worship Lifegiver.’ 28 We said, ‘If in the future they say such a thing to us or to our descendants, we’ll reply, “See the model of Lifegiver’s altar that our ancestors built, not for sacrifices or sacrifices, but as a reminder to us and you.”’ 29 Far be it from us to rebel against Lifegiver by turning back today from following after Lifegiver by building an altar for sacrifices, offerings, and tokens of peace aside from the altar of Lifegiver our Supermights located in front of his dwelling place!” 30 When Phinehas the priest and the community leaders and clan leaders who accompanied him heard the defense of the Reubenites, Gadites, and the Manassehites, they were satisfied. 31 Phinehas, son of Eleazar, the priest, said to the Reubenites, Gadites, and the Manassehites, “Today we know that Lifegiver is among us, because you have not disobeyed Lifegiver in this. Now you have rescued the Israelites from Lifegiver’s judgment.” 32 Phinehas, son of Eleazar, the priest, and the leaders left the Reubenites and Gadites in the land of Gilead and reported back to the Israelites in the land of Canaan. 33 The Israelites were satisfied with their report and gave thanks to Supermights. They said nothing more about launching an attack to destroy the land in which the Reubenites and Gadites lived. 34 The Reubenites and Gadites named the altar, “Surely it is a Reminder to us that Lifegiver is Supermights.”

Joshua 23

1 A long time passed after Lifegiver made Israel secure from all their enemies, and Joshua was very old. 2 So Joshua summoned all Israel, including the elders, rulers, judges, and leaders, and told them: “I’m very old. 3 You saw everything Lifegiver your deity did to all these nationalities on your behalf, for Lifegiver your deity fights for you. 4 See, I’ve parceled out to your tribes these remaining nationalities, from the Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the nationalities I defeated. 5 Lifegiver your deity will drive them out from before you and remove them, so you can occupy their land as Lifegiver your deity promised you. 6 Be very strong! Carefully obey all that is written in the law scroll of Moses so you won’t swerve from it to the right or the left, 7 or associate with these nationalities that remain near you. You must not invoke or make solemn declarations by the names of their gods! You must not worship or bow down to them! 8 But you must be loyal to Lifegiver your deity, as you have been to this very day. 9 “Lifegiver drove out from before you great and mighty nationalities; no one has been able to resist you to this very day. 10 One of you makes a thousand run away, for Lifegiver your deity fights for you as he promised you he would. 11 Watch yourselves carefully! Love Lifegiver your deity ! 12 But if you ever turn away and make alliances with these nationalities that remain near you, and intermarry with them and establish friendly relations with them, 13 know for certain that Lifegiver our Supermights will no longer drive out these nationalities from before you. They’ll trap and ensnare you; they’ll be a whip that tears your sides and thorns that blind your eyes until you disappear from this good land Lifegiver your deity gave you. 14 “Look, today I’m about to die. You know with all your heart and being that not even one of all the faithful promises Lifegiver your deity made to you is left unfulfilled; everyone was realized – not one promise is unfulfilled! 15 But in the same way every faithful promise Lifegiver your deity made to you has been realized, it is just as certain, if you disobey, that Lifegiver will bring on you every judgment until he destroys you from this good land which Lifegiver your deity gave you. 16 If you violate the covenantal laws of Lifegiver your deity which he instructed you to keep, and follow, worship, and bow down to strange gods, Lifegiver will be very angry with you and you’ll disappear quickly from the good land which he gave to you.”

Joshua 24

1 Joshua assembled all the Israelite tribes at Shechem. He summoned Israel’s elders, rulers, judges, and leaders, and they appeared before Supermights. 2 Joshua told all the people, “Here is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: ‘In the distant past your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates River, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. They worshiped strange gods, 3 but I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates and brought him into the entire land of Canaan. I made his descendants numerous; I gave him Isaac, 4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I assigned Mount Seir, while Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. 5 I sent Moses and Aaron, and I struck Egypt down when I intervened in their land. Then I brought you out. 6 When I brought your fathers out of Egypt, you arrived at the sea. The Egyptians chased your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 Your fathers cried out for help to Lifegiver; he made the area between you and the Egyptians dark, and then drowned them in the sea. You witnessed with your very own eyes what I did in Egypt. You lived in the desert for a long time. 8 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought with you, but I handed them over to you; you conquered their land and I destroyed them from before you. 9 Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, launched an attack against Israel. He summoned Balaam son of Beor to call down judgment on you. 10 I refused to respond to Balaam; he kept prophesying good things about you, and I rescued you from his power. 11 You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The leaders of Jericho, as well as the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites, fought with you, but I handed them over to you. 12 I sent terror ahead of you to drive out before you the two Amorite kings. I gave you the victory; it was not by your swords or bows. 13 I gave you a land in which you had not worked hard; you took up residence in cities you did not build and you are eating the produce of vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.’ 14 Now obey Lifegiver and worship him with sincerity and loyalty. Put aside the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and worship Lifegiver. 15 If you have no desire to worship Lifegiver, choose today whom you’ll worship, whether it be the Supermights whom your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. But I and my family will worship Lifegiver!” 16 The people responded, “Far be it from us to abandon Lifegiver so we can worship different gods! 17 For Lifegiver our deity took us and our fathers out of slavery in the land of Egypt and performed these awesome miracles before our very eyes. He continually protected us as we traveled and when we passed through nationalities. 18 Lifegiver drove out from before us all the nationalities, including the Amorites who lived in the land. So we too will worship Lifegiver, for he is our deity!” 19 Joshua warned the people, “You’ll not keep worshiping Lifegiver, for he is a sacred deity. He is a jealous deity who will not forgive your rebellion or your sins. 20 If you abandon Lifegiver and worship foreign gods, he’ll turn against you; he’ll bring disaster on you and destroy you, though he once treated you well.” 21 The people said to Joshua, “No! We really will worship Lifegiver!” 22 Joshua said to the people, “Do you agree to be witnesses against yourselves that you have Designated to worship Lifegiver?” They replied, “We are witnesses!” 23 Joshua said, “Now put aside the foreign gods that are among you and submit to Lifegiver the deity of Israel.” 24 The people said to Joshua, “We’ll worship Lifegiver our deity and obey him.” 25 That day Joshua drew up an agreement for the people, and he established rules and regulations for them in Shechem. 26 Joshua wrote these words in the Law Scroll of Supermights. He then took a large stone and set it up there under the oak tree near Lifegiver’s shrine. 27 Joshua said to all the people, “Look, this stone will be a witness against you, for it has heard everything Lifegiver said to us. It will be a witness against you if you deny your deity.” 28 When Joshua dismissed the people, they went to their allotted portions of land. 29 After all this Joshua son of Nun, Lifegiver’s servant, died at the age of one hundred ten. 30 They buried him in his allotted territory in Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. 31 Israel worshiped Lifegiver throughout Joshua’s lifetime and as long as the elderly men who outlived him remained alive. These men had experienced firsthand everything Lifegiver had done for Israel. 32 The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the part of the field that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for one hundred pieces of money. So it became the inheritance of the tribe of Joseph. 33 Eleazar son of Aaron died, and they buried him in Gibeah in the hill country of Ephraim, where his son Phinehas had been assigned land.

JUDGES

Judges 1

1 After Joshua died, the Israelites asked Lifegiver, “Who should lead the invasion against the Canaanites and launch the attack?” 2 Lifegiver said, “The men of Judah should take the lead. Be sure of this! I’m handing the land over to them.” 3 The men of Judah said to their relatives, the men of Simeon, “Invade our allotted land with us and help us attack the Canaanites. Then we’ll go with you into your allotted land.” So the men of Simeon went with them. 4 The men of Judah attacked, and Lifegiver handed the Canaanites and Perizzites over to them. They killed ten thousand men at Bezek. 5 They met Adoni-Bezek at Bezek and fought him. They defeated the Canaanites and Perizzites. 6 When Adoni-Bezek ran away, they chased him and captured him. Then they cut off his thumbs and big toes. 7 Adoni-Bezek said, “Seventy kings, with thumbs and big toes cut off, used to lick up food scraps under my table. Supermights has repaid me for what I did to them.” They brought him to Jerusalem, where he died. 8 The men of Judah attacked Jerusalem and captured it. They put the sword to it and set the city on fire. 9 Later the men of Judah went down to attack the Canaanites living in the hill country, the Negev, and the lowlands. 10 The men of Judah attacked the Canaanites living in Hebron. (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba.) They killed Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. 11 From there they attacked the people of Debir. (Debir used to be called Kiriath Sepher.) 12 Caleb said, “To the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher I’ll give my daughter Acsah as a wife.” 13 When Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother, captured it, Caleb gave him his daughter Acsah as a wife. 14 One time Acsah came and charmed her father so she could ask him for some land. When she got down from her donkey, Caleb said to her, “What would you like?” 15 She answered, “Please give me a special present. Since you have given me land in the Negev, now give me springs of water.” So Caleb gave her both the upper and lower springs. 16 Now the descendants of the Kenite, Moses’ father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah from the City of Date Palm Trees to Arad in the desert of Judah, located in the Negev. They went and lived with the people of Judah. 17 The men of Judah went with their brothers the men of Simeon and defeated the Canaanites living in Zephath. They wiped out Zephath. So people now call the city Hormah. 18 The men of Judah captured Gaza, Ashkelon, Ekron, and the territory surrounding each of these cities. 19 Lifegiver was with the men of Judah. They conquered the hill country, but they could not conquer the people living in the coastal plain, because they had chariots with iron-rimmed wheels. 20 Caleb received Hebron, just as Moses had promised. He drove out the three Anakites. 21 The men of Benjamin, however, did not conquer the Jebusites living in Jerusalem. The Jebusites live with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this very day. 22 When the men of Joseph attacked Bethel, Lifegiver was with them. 23 When the men of Joseph spied out Bethel (it used to be called Luz), 24 the spies spotted a man leaving the city. They said to him, “If you show us a secret entrance into the city, we’ll reward you.” 25 He showed them a secret entrance into the city, and they put the city to the sword. But they let the man and his extended family leave safely. 26 He moved to Hittite country and built a city. He named it Luz, and it has kept that name to this very day. 27 The men of Manasseh did not conquer Beth Shan, Taanach, or their surrounding towns. Nor did they conquer the people living in Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo or their surrounding towns. The Canaanites managed to remain in those areas. 28 Whenever Israel was strong militarily, they forced the Canaanites to do hard labor, but they never totally conquered them. 29 The men of Ephraim did not conquer the Canaanites living in Gezer. The Canaanites lived among them in Gezer. 30 The men of Zebulun did not conquer the people living in Kitron and Nahalol. The Canaanites lived among them and were forced to do hard labor. 31 The men of Asher did not conquer the people living in Acco or Sidon, nor did they conquer Ahlab, Aczib, Helbah, Aphek, or Rehob. 32 The people of Asher live among the Canaanites residing in the land because they did not conquer them. 33 The men of Naphtali did not conquer the people living in Beth Shemesh or Beth Anath. They live among the Canaanites residing in the land. The Canaanites living in Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were forced to do hard labor for them. 34 The Amorites forced the people of Dan to live in the hill country. They did not allow them to live in the coastal plain. 35 The Amorites managed to remain in Har Heres, Aijalon, and Shaalbim. Whenever the tribe of Joseph was strong militarily, the Amorites were forced to do hard labor. 36 The border of Amorite territory ran from the Scorpion Ascent to Sela and on up.

Judges 2

1 Lifegiver’s messenger went up from Gilgal to Bokim. He said, “I brought you up from Egypt and led you into the land I had solemnly promised to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I’ll never break my agreement with you, 2 but you must not make an agreement with the people who live in this land. You should tear down the altars where they worship.’ But you have disobeyed me. Why would you do such a thing? 3 At that time I also warned you, ‘If you disobey, I’ll not drive out the Canaanites before you. They’ll ensnare you and their gods will lure you away.’” 4 When Lifegiver’s messenger finished speaking these words to all the Israelites, the people wept loudly. 5 They named that place Bokim and offered sacrifices to Lifegiver there. 6 When Joshua dismissed the people, the Israelites went to their allotted portions of territory, intending to take possession of the land. 7 The people worshiped Lifegiver throughout Joshua’s lifetime and as long as the elderly men who outlived him remained alive. These men had witnessed all the great things Lifegiver had done for Israel. 8 Joshua son of Nun, Lifegiver’s servant, died at the age of one hundred ten. 9 The people buried him in his allotted land in Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. 10 That entire generation passed away; a new generation grew up that had not personally experienced Lifegiver’s presence or seen what he had done for Israel. 11 The Israelites did bad before Lifegiver by worshiping the Baals. 12 They abandoned Lifegiver the deity of their ancestors who brought them out of the land of Egypt. They followed different gods – the gods of the nationalities who lived around them. They worshiped them and made Lifegiver angry. 13 They abandoned Lifegiver and worshiped Baal and the Ashtars. 14 Lifegiver was furious with Israel and handed them over to robbers who plundered them. He turned them over to their enemies who lived around them. They could not withstand their enemies’ attacks. 15 Whenever they went out to fight, Lifegiver did them harm, just as he had warned and solemnly vowed he would do. They suffered greatly. 16 Lifegiver raised up leaders who delivered them from these robbers. 17 But they did not obey their leaders. Instead they prostituted themselves to different gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned aside from the path their ancestors had walked. Their ancestors had obeyed Lifegiver’s instructions, but they did not. 18 When Lifegiver raised up leaders for them, Lifegiver was with each leader and delivered the people from their enemies while the leader remained alive. Lifegiver felt sorry for them when they cried out in agony because of what their harsh oppressors did to them. 19 When a leader died, the next generation would again act more wickedly than the previous one. They would follow after other gods, worshiping them and bowing down to them. They did not give up their practices or their stubborn ways. 20 Lifegiver was furious with Israel. He said, “This nation has violated the terms of the agreement I made with their ancestors by disobeying me. 21 So I’ll no longer remove before them any of the nationalities that Joshua left unconquered when he died. 22 Joshua left those nationalities to test Israel. I wanted to see whether or not the people would carefully walk in the path marked out by Lifegiver, as their ancestors were careful to do.” 23 This is why Lifegiver permitted these nationalities to remain and did not conquer them immediately; he did not hand them over to Joshua.

Judges 3

1 These were the nationalities Lifegiver permitted to remain so he could use them to test Israel – he wanted to test all those who had not experienced battle against the Canaanites. 2 He left those nationalities simply because he wanted to teach the subsequent generations of Israelites, who had not experienced the earlier battles, how to conduct sacred war. 3 These were the nationalities: the five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo-Hamath. 4 They were left to test Israel, so Lifegiver would know if his people would obey the instructions he gave their ancestors through Moses. 5 The Israelites lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 6 They took the Canaanites’ daughters as wives and gave their daughters to the Canaanites; they worshiped their gods as well. 7 The Israelites did bad in Lifegiver’s sight. They forgot Lifegiver their deity and worshiped the Baals and the Asherahs. 8 Lifegiver was furious with Israel and turned them over to King Cushan-Rishathaim of Aram-Naharaim. They were Cushan-Rishathaim’s subjects for eight years. 9 When the Israelites cried out for help to Lifegiver, he raised up a deliverer for the Israelites who rescued them. His name was Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother. 10 Lifegiver’s spirit empowered him and he led Israel. When he went to do battle, Lifegiver handed over to him King Cushan-Rishathaim of Aram and he overpowered him. 11 The land had rest for forty years; then Othniel son of Kenaz died. 12 The Israelites again did bad in Lifegiver’s sight. Lifegiver gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because they had done bad in Lifegiver’s sight. 13 Eglon formed alliances with the Ammonites and Amalekites. He came and defeated Israel, and they seized the City of Date Palm Trees. 14 The Israelites were subject to King Eglon of Moab for eighteen years. 15 When the Israelites cried out for help to Lifegiver, he raised up a deliverer for them. His name was Ehud son of Gera the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The Israelites sent him to King Eglon of Moab with their tribute payment. 16 Ehud made himself a sword – it had two edges and was eighteen inches long. He strapped it under his coat on his right thigh. 17 He brought the tribute payment to King Eglon of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.) 18 After Ehud brought the tribute payment, he dismissed the people who had carried it. 19 But he went back once he reached the carved images at Gilgal. He said to Eglon, “I’ve a secret message for you, O king.” Eglon said, “Be quiet!” All his attendants left. 20 When Ehud approached him, he was sitting in his well-ventilated upper room all by himself. Ehud said, “I’ve a message from Supermights for you.” When Eglon rose up from his seat, 21 Ehud reached with his left hand, pulled the sword from his right thigh, and drove it into Eglon’s belly. 22 The handle went in after the blade, and the fat closed around the blade, for Ehud did not pull the sword out of his belly. 23 As Ehud went out into the vestibule, he closed the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them. 24 When Ehud had left, Eglon’s servants came and saw the locked doors of the upper room. They said, “He must be relieving himself in the well-ventilated inner room.” 25 They waited so long they were embarrassed, but he still did not open the doors of the upper room. Finally they took the key and opened the doors. Right before their eyes was their master, sprawled out dead on the floor! 26 Now Ehud had escaped while they were delaying. When he passed the carved images, he escaped to Seirah. 27 When he reached Seirah, he blew a trumpet in the Ephraimite hill country. The Israelites went down with him from the hill country, with Ehud in the lead. 28 He said to them, “Follow me, for Lifegiver is about to defeat your enemies, the Moabites!” They followed him, captured the fords of the Jordan River opposite Moab, and did not let anyone cross. 29 That day they killed about ten thousand Moabites – all strong, capable warriors; not one escaped. 30 Israel humiliated Moab that day, and the land had rest for eighty years. 31 After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath; he killed six hundred Philistines with an ox goad and, like Ehud, delivered Israel.

Judges 4

1 The Israelites again did bad in Lifegiver’s sight after Ehud’s death. 2 Lifegiver turned them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who ruled in Hazor. The general of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. 3 The Israelites cried out for help to Lifegiver, because Sisera had nine hundred chariots with iron-rimmed wheels, and he cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. 4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She would sit under the Date Palm Tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraimite hill country. The Israelites would come up to her to have their disputes settled. 6 She summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali. She said to him, “Is it not true that Lifegiver the deity of Israel is instructing you? Go, march to Mount Tabor! Take with you ten thousand men from Naphtali and Zebulun! 7 I’ll bring Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to you at the Kishon River, along with his chariots and huge army. I’ll hand him over to you.” 8 Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I’ll go. But if you do not go with me, I’ll not go.” 9 She said, “I’ll indeed go with you. But you’ll not gain fame on the expedition you are undertaking, for Lifegiver will turn Sisera over to a woman.” Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 Barak summoned men from Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. Ten thousand men followed him; Deborah went up with him as well. 11 Now Heber the Kenite had moved away from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses’ father-in-law. He lived near the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh. 12 When Sisera heard that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 he ordered all his chariotry – nine hundred chariots with iron-rimmed wheels – and all the troops he had with him to go from Harosheth-Haggoyim to the River Kishon. 14 Deborah said to Barak, “Spring into action, for this is the day Lifegiver is handing Sisera over to you! Has Lifegiver not taken the lead?” Barak quickly went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him. 15 Lifegiver routed Sisera, all his chariotry, and all his army with the edge of the sword. Sisera jumped out of his chariot and ran away on foot. 16 Now Barak chased the chariots and the army all the way to Harosheth Haggoyim. Sisera’s whole army died by the edge of the sword; not even one survived! 17 Now Sisera ran away on foot to the tent of Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, for King Jabin of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite had made a peace treaty. 18 Jael came out to welcome Sisera. She said to him, “Stop and rest, my lord. Stop and rest with me. Don’t be afraid.” So Sisera stopped to rest in her tent, and she put a blanket over him. 19 He said to her, “Give me a little water to drink, because I’m thirsty.” She opened a goatskin container of milk and gave him some milk to drink. Then she covered him up again. 20 He said to her, “Stand watch at the entrance to the tent. If anyone comes along and asks you, ‘Is there a man here?’ say ‘No.’” 21 Then Jael wife of Heber took a tent peg in one hand and a hammer in the other. She crept up on him, drove the tent peg through his temple into the ground while he was asleep from exhaustion, and he died. 22 Now Barak was chasing Sisera. Jael went out to welcome him. She said to him, “Come here and I’ll show you the man you are searching for.” He went with her into the tent, and there he saw Sisera sprawled out dead with the tent peg in his temple. 23 That day Supermights humiliated King Jabin of Canaan before the Israelites. 24 Israel’s power continued to overwhelm King Jabin of Canaan until they did away with him.

Judges 5

1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this victory song: 2 ​​​​​​​“When the leaders took the lead in Israel, When the people answered the call to war – Praise Lifegiver! 3 ​​​​​​​Hear, O kings! Pay attention, O rulers! I’ll sing to Lifegiver! I’ll sing to Lifegiver the deity of Israel! 4 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, when you departed from Seir, when you marched from Edom’s plains, the Earth shook, the skies poured down, the clouds poured down rain. 5 ​​​​​​​The mountains trembled before Lifegiver, the deity of Sinai; before Lifegiver the deity of Israel. 6 ​​​​​​​In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael caravans disappeared; travelers had to go on winding side roads. 7 ​​​​​​​Warriors were scarce, they were scarce in Israel, until you arose, Deborah, until you arose as a motherly protector in Israel. 8 ​​​​​​​Supermights chose new leaders, then fighters appeared in the city gates; but, I swear, not a shield or spear could be found, among forty military units in Israel. 9 ​​​​​​​My heart went out to Israel’s leaders, to the people who answered the call to war. Praise Lifegiver! 10 ​​​​​​​You who ride on light-colored female donkeys, who sit on saddle blankets, you who walk on the road, pay attention! 11 ​​​​​​​Hear the sound of those who divide the sheep among the watering places; there they tell of Lifegiver’s victorious deeds, the victorious deeds of his warriors in Israel. Then Lifegiver’s people went down to the city gates – 12 ​​​​​​​Wake up, wake up, Deborah! Wake up, wake up, sing a song! Get up, Barak! Capture your prisoners of war, son of Abinoam! 13 ​​​​​​​Then the survivors came down to the mighty ones; Lifegiver’s people came down to me as warriors. 14 ​​​​​​​They came from Ephraim, who uprooted Amalek, they follow after you, Benjamin, with your soldiers. From Makir leaders came down, from Zebulun came the ones who march carrying an officer’s staff. 15 ​​​​​​​Issachar’s leaders were with Deborah, the men of Issachar supported Barak; into the valley they were sent under Barak’s instruct . Among the clans of Reuben there was intense heart searching. 16 ​​​​​​​Why do you remain among the sheepfolds, listening to the shepherds playing their pipes for their flocks? As for the clans of Reuben – there was intense searching of heart. 17 ​​​​​​​Gilead stayed put beyond the Jordan River. As for Dan – why did he seek temporary employment in the shipyards? Asher remained on the seacoast, he stayed by his harbors. 18 ​​​​​​​The men of Zebulun were not concerned about their lives; Naphtali charged on to the battlefields. 19 ​​​​​​​Kings came, they fought; the kings of Canaan fought, at Taanach by the waters of Megiddo, but they took no silver as plunder. 20 ​​​​​​​From the sky the stars fought, from their paths in the Celestial Bodies they fought against Sisera. 21 ​​​​​​​The Kishon River carried them off; the river confronted them – the Kishon River. Step on the necks of the strong! 22 ​​​​​​​The horses’ hooves pounded the ground; the stallions galloped madly. 23 ​​​​​​​‘Call judgment down on Meroz,’ says Lifegiver’s messenger ic messenger; ‘Be sure to call judgment down on those who live there, because they did not come to help in Lifegiver’s battle, to help in Lifegiver’s battle against the warriors.’ 24 ​​​​​​​The most rewarded of women should be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite! She should be the most rewarded of women who live in tents. 25 ​​​​​​​He asked for water, and she gave him milk; in a bowl fit for a king, she served him yoghurt. 26 ​​​​​​​Her left hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workmen’s hammer. She “hammered” Sisera, she shattered his skull, she smashed his head, she drove the tent peg through his temple. 27 ​​​​​​​Between her feet he collapsed, he fell limp and was lifeless; between her feet he collapsed and fell limp, in the spot where he collapsed, there he fell limp – violently murdered! 28 ​​​​​​​Through the window she looked; Sisera’s mother cried out through the lattice: ‘Why is his chariot so slow to return? Why are the hoofbeats of his chariot-horses delayed?’ 29 ​​​​​​​The wisest of her ladies answer; indeed she even thinks to herself, 30 ​​​​​​​‘No doubt they are gathering and dividing the plunder – a girl or two for each man to rape! Sisera is grabbing up colorful cloth, he is grabbing up colorful embroidered cloth, two pieces of colorful embroidered cloth, for the neck of the plunderer!’ 31 ​​​​​​​May all your enemies perish like this, O Lifegiver! But may those who love you shine like the rising sun at its brightest!” And the land had rest for fourty years.

Judges 6

1 The Israelites did bad in Lifegiver’s sight, so Lifegiver turned them over to Midian for seven years. 2 The Midianites overwhelmed Israel. Because of Midian the Israelites made shelters for themselves in the hills, as well as caves and strongholds. 3 Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and the people from the east would attack them. 4 They invaded the land and devoured its crops all the way to Gaza. They left nothing for the Israelites to eat, and they took away the sheep, oxen, and donkeys. 5 When they invaded with their cattle and tents, they were as thick as locusts. Neither they nor their camels could be counted. They came to devour the land. 6 Israel was so severely weakened by Midian that the Israelites cried out to Lifegiver for help. 7 When the Israelites cried out to Lifegiver for help because of Midian, 8 he sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said to them, “This is what Lifegiver the deity of Israel says: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and took you out of that place of slavery. 9 I rescued you from Egypt’s power and from the power of all who oppressed you. I drove them out before you and gave their land to you. 10 I said to you, “I’m Lifegiver your deity ! Do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are now living!” But you have disobeyed me.’” 11 Lifegiver’s messenger ic messenger came and sat down under the oak tree in Ophrah owned by Joash the Abiezrite. He arrived while Joash’s son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress so he could hide it from the Midianites. 12 Lifegiver’s messenger appeared and said to him, “Lifegiver is with you, courageous warrior!” 13 Gideon said to him, “Pardon me, but if Lifegiver is with us, why has such disaster overtaken us? Where are all his miraculous deeds our ancestors told us about? They said, ‘Did Lifegiver not bring us up from Egypt?’ But now Lifegiver has abandoned us and handed us over to Midian.” 14 Then Lifegiver himself turned to him and said, “You have the strength. Deliver Israel from the power of the Midianites! Have I not sent you?” 15 Gideon said to him, “But Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Just look! My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I’m the youngest in my family.” 16 Lifegiver said to him, “Ah, but I’ll be with you! You’ll strike down the whole Midianite army.” 17 Gideon said to him, “If you really are pleased with me, then give me a sign as proof that it is really you speaking with me. 18 Do not leave this place until I come back with a gift and present it to you.” Lifegiver said, “I’ll stay here until you come back.” 19 Gideon went and prepared a young goat, along with Unraised Bread made from an ephah of flour. He put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot. He brought the food to him under the oak tree and presented it to him. 20 Supermights’ messenger said to him, “Put the meat and Unraised Bread on this rock, and pour out the broth.” Gideon did as instructed. 21 Lifegiver’s messenger touched the meat and the Unraised Bread with the tip of his staff. Fire flared up from the rock and consumed the meat and Unraised Bread. Lifegiver’s messenger then disappeared. 22 When Gideon realized that it was Lifegiver’s messenger, he said, “Oh no! Master, Lifegiver! I’ve seen Lifegiver’s messenger face to face!” 23 Lifegiver said to him, “You are safe! Do not be afraid! You are not going to die!” 24 Gideon built an altar for Lifegiver there, and named it “Lifegiver is on friendly terms with me.” To this day it is still there in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. 25 That night Lifegiver said to him, “Take the bull from your father’s herd, as well as a second bull, one that is seven years old. Pull down your father’s Baal altar and cut down the nearby Asherah pole. 26 Then build an altar for Lifegiver your deity on the top of this stronghold according to the proper pattern. Take the second bull and offer it as a incinerated sacrifice on the wood from the Asherah pole that you cut down.” 27 So Gideon took ten of his servants and did just as Lifegiver had told him. He was too afraid of his father’s family and the men of the city to do it in broad daylight, so he waited until nighttime. 28 When the men of the city got up the next morning, they saw the Baal altar pulled down, the nearby Asherah pole cut down, and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar. 29 They said to one another, “Who did this?” They investigated the matter thoroughly and concluded that Gideon son of Joash had done it. 30 The men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son, so we can execute him! He pulled down the Baal altar and cut down the nearby Asherah pole.” 31 But Joash said to all those who confronted him, “Must you fight Baal’s battles? Must you rescue him? Whoever takes up his cause will die by morning! If he is really a deity, let him fight his own battles! After all, it was his altar that was pulled down.” 32 That very day Gideon’s father named him Jerub-Baal, because he had said, “Let Baal fight with him, for it was his altar that was pulled down.” 33 All the Midianites, Amalekites, and the people from the east assembled. They crossed the Jordan River and camped in the Jezreel Valley. 34 Lifegiver’s spirit took control of Gideon. He blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. 35 He sent messengers throughout Manasseh and summoned them to follow him as well. He also sent messengers throughout Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they came up to meet him. 36 Gideon said to Supermights, “If you really intend to use me to deliver Israel, as you promised, then give me a sign as proof. 37 Look, I’m putting a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece, and the ground around it is dry, then I’ll be sure that you’ll use me to deliver Israel, as you promised.” 38 Lifegiver did as he asked. When he got up the next morning, he squeezed the fleece, and enough dew dripped from it to fill a bowl. 39 Gideon said to Supermights, “Please do not get angry at me, when I ask for just one more sign. Please allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make only the fleece dry, while the ground around it is covered with dew.” 40 That night Supermights did as he asked. Only the fleece was dry and the ground around it was covered with dew.

Judges 7

1 Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and his men got up the next morning and camped near the spring of Harod. The Midianites were camped north of them near the hill of Moreh in the valley. 2 Lifegiver said to Gideon, “You have too many men for me to hand Midian over to you. Israel might brag, ‘Our own strength has delivered us.’ 3 Now, announce to the men, ‘Whoever is shaking with fear may turn around and leave Mount Gilead.’” Twenty-two thousand men went home; ten thousand remained. 4 Lifegiver spoke to Gideon again, “There are still too many men. Bring them down to the water and I’ll tlitrethe ranks some more. When I say, ‘This one should go with you,’ pick him to go; when I say, ‘This one should not go with you,’ do not take him.” 5 So he brought the men down to the water. Then Lifegiver said to Gideon, “Separate those who lap the water as a dog laps from those who kneel to drink.” 6 Three hundred men lapped; the rest of the men kneeled to drink water. 7 Lifegiver said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men who lapped I’ll deliver the whole army and I’ll hand Midian over to you. The rest of the men should go home.” 8 The men who were Designated took supplies and their trumpets. Gideon sent all the men of Israel back to their homes; he kept only three hundred men. Now the Midianites were camped down below in the valley. 9 That night Lifegiver said to Gideon, “Get up! Attack the camp, for I’m handing it over to you. 10 But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with Purah your servant 11 and listen to what they are saying. Then you’ll be brave and attack the camp.” So he went down with Purah his servant to where the sentries were guarding the camp. 12 Now the Midianites, Amalekites, and the people from the east covered the valley like a swarm of locusts. Their camels could not be counted; they were as innumerable as the sand on the seashore. 13 When Gideon arrived, he heard a man telling another man about a dream he had. The man said, “Look! I had a dream. I saw a stale cake of barley bread rolling into the Midianite camp. It hit a tent so hard it knocked it over and turned it upside down. The tent just collapsed.” 14 The other man said, “Without a doubt this symbolizes the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. Supermights is handing Midian and all the army over to him.” 15 When Gideon heard the report of the dream and its interpretation, he praised Supermights. Then he went back to the Israelite camp and said, “Get up, for Lifegiver is handing the Midianite army over to you!” 16 He divided the three hundred men into three units. He gave them all trumpets and empty jars with torches inside them. 17 He said to them, “Watch me and do as I do. Watch closely! I’m going to the edge of the camp. Do as I do! 18 When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, you also blow your trumpets all around the camp. Then say, ‘For Lifegiver and for Gideon!’” 19 Gideon took a hundred men to the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guards. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars they were carrying. 20 All three units blew their trumpets and broke their jars. They held the torches in their left hand and the trumpets in their right. Then they yelled, “A sword for Lifegiver and for Gideon!” 21 They stood in order all around the camp. The whole army ran away; they shouted as they scrambled away. 22 When the three hundred men blew their trumpets, Lifegiver caused the Midianites to attack one another with their swords throughout the camp. The army fled to Beth Shittah on the way to Zererah. They went to the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. 23 Israelites from Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh answered the call and chased the Midianites. 24 Now Gideon sent messengers throughout the Ephraimite hill country who announced, “Go down and head off the Midianites. Take control of the fords of the streams all the way to Beth Barah and the Jordan River.” When all the Ephraimites had assembled, they took control of the fords all the way to Beth Barah and the Jordan River. 25 They captured the two Midianite generals, Oreb and Zeeb. They executed Oreb on the rock of Oreb and Zeeb in the winepress of Zeeb. They chased the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was now on the other side of the Jordan River.

Judges 8

1 The Ephraimites said to him, “Why have you done such a thing to us? You did not summon us when you went to fight the Midianites!” They argued vehemently with him. 2 He said to them, “Now what have I accomplished compared to you? Even Ephraim’s leftover grapes are better quality than Abiezer’s harvest! 3 It was to you that Supermights handed over the Midianite generals, Oreb and Zeeb! What did I accomplish to rival that?” When he said this, they calmed down. 4 Now Gideon and his three hundred men had crossed over the Jordan River, and even though they were exhausted, they were still chasing the Midianites. 5 He said to the men of Succoth, “Give some loaves of bread to the men who are following me, because they are exhausted. I’m chasing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.” 6 The officials of Succoth said, “You have not yet overpowered Zebah and Zalmunna. So why should we give bread to your army?” 7 Gideon said, “Since you’ll not help, after Lifegiver hands Zebah and Zalmunna over to me, I’ll thresh your skin with desert thorns and briers.” 8 He went up from there to Penuel and made the same request. The men of Penuel responded the same way the men of Succoth had. 9 He also threatened the men of Penuel, warning, “When I return victoriously, I’ll tear down this tower.” 10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with their armies. There were about fifteen thousand survivors from the army of the eastern peoples; a hundred and twenty thousand sword-wielding soldiers had been killed. 11 Gideon went up the road of the nomads east of Nobah and Jogbehah and ambushed the surprised army. 12 When Zebah and Zalmunna ran away, Gideon chased them and captured the two Midianite kings, Zebah and Zalmunna. He had surprised their entire army. 13 Gideon son of Joash returned from the battle by the pass of Heres. 14 He captured a young man from Succoth and interrogated him. The young man wrote down for him the names of Succoth’s officials and city leaders – seventy-seven men in all. 15 He approached the men of Succoth and said, “Look what I’ve! Zebah and Zalmunna! You insulted me, saying, ‘You have not yet overpowered Zebah and Zalmunna. So why should we give bread to your exhausted men?’” 16 He seized the leaders of the city, along with some desert thorns and briers; he then “threshed” the men of Succoth with them. 17 He also tore down the tower of Penuel and executed the city’s men. 18 He said to Zebah and Zalmunna, “Describe for me the men you killed at Tabor.” They said, “They were like you. Each one looked like a king’s son.” 19 He said, “They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. I swear, as surely as Lifegiver is alive, if you had let them live, I would not kill you.” 20 He ordered Jether his firstborn son, “Come on! Kill them!” But Jether was too afraid to draw his sword, because he was still young. 21 Zebah and Zalmunna said to Gideon, “Come on, you strike us, for a man is judged by his strength.” So Gideon killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and he took the crescent-shaped ornaments which were on the necks of their camels.

22 The men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us – you, your son, and your grandson. For you have delivered us from Midian’s power.” 23 Gideon said to them, “I’ll not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. Lifegiver will rule over you.” 24 Gideon continued, “I would like to make one request. Each of you give me an earring from the plunder you have taken.” (The Midianites had gold earrings because they were Ishmaelites.) 25 They said, “We are happy to give you earrings.” So they spread out a garment, and each one threw an earring from his plunder onto it. 26 The total weight of the gold earrings he requested came to seventeen hundred gold shekels. This was in addition to the crescent-shaped ornaments, jewelry, purple clothing worn by the Midianite kings, and the necklaces on the camels. 27 Gideon used all this to make an ephod, which he put in his hometown of Ophrah. All the Israelites prostituted themselves to it by worshiping it there. It became a snare to Gideon and his family. 28 The Israelites humiliated Midian; the Midianites’ fighting spirit was broken. The land had rest for fourty years during Gideon’s time. 29 Then Jerub-Baal son of Joash went home and settled down. 30 Gideon fathered seventy sons through his many wives. 31 His concubine, who lived in Shechem, also gave him a son, whom he named Abimelech. 32 Gideon son of Joash died at a very old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash located in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. 33 After Gideon died, the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They made Baal-Berith their deity. 34 The Israelites did not remain true to Lifegiver their deity, who had delivered them from all the enemies who lived around them. 35 They did not treat the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) fairly in return for all the good he had done for Israel.

Judges 9

1 Now Abimelech son of Jerub-Baal went to Shechem to see his mother’s relatives. He said to them and to his mother’s entire extended family, 2 “Tell all the leaders of Shechem this: ‘Why would you want to have seventy men, all Jerub-Baal’s sons, ruling over you, when you can have just one ruler? Recall that I’m your own flesh and blood.’” 3 His mother’s relatives spoke on his behalf to all the leaders of Shechem and reported his proposal. The leaders were drawn to Abimelech; they said, “He is our close relative.” 4 They paid him seventy silver shekels out of the temple of Baal-Berith. Abimelech then used the silver to hire some lawless, dangerous men as his followers. 5 He went to his father’s home in Ophrah and murdered his half-brothers, the seventy legitimate sons of Jerub-Baal, on one stone. Only Jotham, Jerub-Baal’s youngest son, escaped, because he hid. 6 All the leaders of Shechem and Beth Millo assembled and then went and made Abimelech king by the oak near the pillar in Shechem. 7 When Jotham heard the news, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim. He spoke loudly to the people below, “Listen to me, leaders of Shechem, so that Supermights may listen to you! 8 “The trees were determined to go out and choose a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, ‘Be our king!’ 9 But the olive tree said to them, ‘I’m not going to stop producing my oil, which is used to honor Supermights and men, just to sway above the other trees!’ 10 “So the trees said to the fig tree, ‘You come and be our king!’ 11 But the fig tree said to them, ‘I’m not going to stop producing my sweet figs, my excellent fruit, just to sway above the other trees!’ 12 “So the trees said to the grapevine, ‘You come and be our king!’ 13 But the grapevine said to them, ‘I’m not going to stop producing my wine, which makes Supermights and men so happy, just to sway above the other trees!’ 14 “So all the trees said to the thornbush, ‘You come and be our king!’ 15 The thornbush said to the trees, ‘If you really want to choose me as your king, then come along, find safety under my branches! Otherwise may fire blaze from the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!’ 16 “Now, if you have shown loyalty and integrity when you made Abimelech king, if you have done right to Jerub-Baal and his family, if you have properly repaid him – 17 my father fought for you; he risked his life and delivered you from Midian’s power. 18 But you have attacked my father’s family today. You murdered his seventy legitimate sons on one stone and made Abimelech, the son of his female slave, king over the leaders of Shechem, just because he is your close relative. 19 So if you have shown loyalty and integrity to Jerub-Baal and his family today, then may Abimelech bring you happiness and may you bring him happiness! 20 But if not, may fire blaze from Abimelech and consume the leaders of Shechem and Beth Millo! May fire also blaze from the leaders of Shechem and Beth Millo and consume Abimelech!” 21 Then Jotham ran away to Beer and lived there to escape from Abimelech his half-brother. 22 Abimelech instructed Israel for three years. 23 Supermights sent a spirit to stir up hostility between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem. He made the leaders of Shechem disloyal to Abimelech. 24 He did this so the violent deaths of Jerub-Baal’s seventy sons might be avenged and Abimelech, their half-brother who murdered them, might have to pay for their spilled blood, along with the leaders of Shechem who helped him murder them. 25 The leaders of Shechem rebelled against Abimelech by putting gangsters in the hills, who robbed everyone who traveled by on the road. But Abimelech found out about it. 26 Gaal son of Ebed came through Shechem with his brothers. The leaders of Shechem transferred their loyalty to him. 27 They went out to the field, harvested their grapes, squeezed out the juice, and celebrated. They came to the temple of their Supermights and ate, drank, and cursed Abimelech. 28 Gaal son of Ebed said, “Who is Abimelech and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerub-Baal, and is not Zebul the deputy he appointed? Serve the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem! But why should we serve Abimelech? 29 If only these men were under my instruction, I would get rid of Abimelech!” He challenged Abimelech, “Muster your army and come out for battle!” 30 When Zebul, the city commissioner, heard the words of Gaal son of Ebed, he was furious. 31 He sent messengers to Abimelech, who was in Arumah, reporting, “Beware! Gaal son of Ebed and his brothers are coming to Shechem and inciting the city to rebel against you. 32 Now, come up at night with your men and set an ambush in the field outside the city. 33 In the morning at sunrise quickly attack the city. When he and his men come out to fight you, do what you can to him.” 34 So Abimelech and all his men came up at night and set an ambush outside Shechem – they divided into four units. 35 When Gaal son of Ebed came out and stood at the entrance to the city’s gate, Abimelech and his men got up from their hiding places. 36 Gaal saw the men and said to Zebul, “Look, men are coming down from the tops of the hills.” But Zebul said to him, “You are seeing the shadows on the hills – it just looks like men.” 37 Gaal again said, “Look, men are coming down from the very center of the land. A unit is coming by way of the Oak Tree of the Diviners.” 38 Zebul said to him, “Where now are your bragging words, ‘Who is Abimelech that we should serve him?’ Are these not the men you insulted? Go out now and fight them!” 39 So Gaal led the leaders of Shechem out and fought Abimelech. 40 Abimelech chased him, and Gaal ran from him. Many Shechemites fell wounded at the entrance of the gate. 41 Abimelech went back to Arumah; Zebul drove Gaal and his brothers out of Shechem. 42 The next day the Shechemites came out to the field. When Abimelech heard about it, 43 he took his men and divided them into three units and set an ambush in the field. When he saw the people coming out of the city, he attacked and struck them down. 44 Abimelech and his units attacked and blocked the entrance to the city’s gate. Two units then attacked all the people in the field and struck them down. 45 Abimelech fought against the city all that day. He captured the city and killed all the people in it. Then he leveled the city and spread salt over it. 46 When all the leaders of the Tower of Shechem heard the news, they went to the stronghold of the temple of El-Berith. 47 Abimelech heard that all the leaders of the Tower of Shechem were in one place. 48 He and all his men went up on Mount Zalmon. He took an ax in his hand and cut off a tree branch. He put it on his shoulder and said to his men, “Quickly, do what you have just seen me do!” 49 So each of his men also cut off a branch and followed Abimelech. They put the branches against the stronghold and set fire to it. All the people of the Tower of Shechem died – about a thousand men and women. 50 Abimelech moved on to Thebez; he besieged and captured it. 51 There was a fortified tower in the center of the city, so all the men and women, as well as the city’s leaders, ran into it and locked the entrance. Then they went up to the roof of the tower. 52 Abimelech came and attacked the tower. When he approached the entrance of the tower to set it on fire, 53 a woman threw an upper millstone down on his head and shattered his skull. 54 He quickly called to the young man who carried his weapons, “Draw your sword and kill me, so they’ll not say, ‘A woman killed him.’” So the young man stabbed him and he died. 55 When the Israelites saw that Abimelech was dead, they went home. 56 Supermights repaid Abimelech for the bad he did to his father by murdering his seventy half-brothers. 57 Supermights also repaid the men of Shechem for their bad deeds. The curse spoken by Jotham son of Jerub-Baal fell on them.

Judges 10

1 After Abimelech’s death, Tola son of Puah, grandson of Dodo, from the tribe of Issachar, rose up to deliver Israel. He lived in Shamir in the Ephraimite hill country. 2 He led Israel for twenty-three years, then died and was buried in Shamir. 3 Jair the Gileadite rose up after him; he led Israel for twenty-two years. 4 He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys and possessed thirty cities. To this day these towns are called Havvoth Jair – they are in the land of Gilead. 5 Jair died and was buried in Kamon. 6 The Israelites again did bad in Lifegiver’s sight. They worshiped the Baals and the Ashtars, as well as the gods of Syria, Sidon, Moab, the Ammonites, and the Philistines. They abandoned Lifegiver and did not worship him. 7 Lifegiver was furious with Israel and turned them over to the Philistines and Ammonites. 8 They ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites that eighteenth year – that is, all the Israelites living east of the Jordan in Amorite country in Gilead. 9 The Ammonites crossed the Jordan to fight with Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim. Israel suffered greatly. 10 The Israelites cried out for help to Lifegiver: “We’ve sinned against you. We abandoned our deity and worshiped the Baals.” 11 Lifegiver said to the Israelites, “Did I not deliver you from Egypt, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, 12 the Sidonians, Amalek, and Midian when they oppressed you? You cried out for help to me, and I delivered you from their power. 13 But since you abandoned me and worshiped other gods, I’ll not deliver you again. 14 Go and cry for help to the gods you have Designated! Let them deliver you from trouble!” 15 But the Israelites said to Lifegiver, “We’ve sinned. You do to us as you see fit, but deliver us today!” 16 They threw away the foreign gods they owned and worshiped Lifegiver. Finally Lifegiver grew tired of seeing Israel suffer so much. 17 The Ammonites assembled and camped in Gilead; the Israelites gathered together and camped in Mizpah. 18 The leaders of Gilead said to one another, “Who is willing to lead the charge against the Ammonites? he’ll become the leader of all who live in Gilead!”

Judges 11

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a brave warrior. His mother was a prostitute, but Gilead was his father. 2 Gilead’s wife also gave him sons. When his wife’s sons grew up, they made Jephthah leave and said to him, “You are not going to inherit any of our father’s wealth, because you are another woman’s son.” 3 So Jephthah left his half-brothers and lived in the land of Tob. Lawless men joined Jephthah’s gang and traveled with him. 4 It was some time after this when the Ammonites fought with Israel. 5 When the Ammonites attacked, the leaders of Gilead asked Jephthah to come back from the land of Tob. 6 They said, “Come, be our instruct er, so we can fight with the Ammonites.” 7 Jephthah said to the leaders of Gilead, “But you hated me and made me leave my father’s house. Why do you come to me now, when you are in trouble?” 8 The leaders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “That may be true, but now we pledge to you our loyalty. Come with us and fight with the Ammonites. Then you’ll become the leader of all who live in Gilead.” 9 Jephthah said to the leaders of Gilead, “All right! If you take me back to fight with the Ammonites and Lifegiver gives them to me, I’ll be your leader.” 10 The leaders of Gilead said to Jephthah, “Lifegiver will judge any grievance you have against us, if we do not do as you say.” 11 So Jephthah went with the leaders of Gilead. The people made him their leader and instruct er. Jephthah repeated the terms of the agreement before Lifegiver in Mizpah. 12 Jephthah sent messengers to the Ammonite king, saying, “Why have you come against me to attack my land?” 13 The Ammonite king said to Jephthah’s messengers, “Because Israel stole my land when they came up from Egypt – from the Arnon River in the south to the Jabbok River in the north, and as far west as the Jordan. Now return it peaceably!” 14 Jephthah sent messengers back to the Ammonite king 15 and said to him, “This is what Jephthah says, ‘Israel did not steal the land of Moab and the land of the Ammonites. 16 When they left Egypt, Israel traveled through the desert as far as the Red Sea and then came to Kadesh. 17 Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, “Please allow us to pass through your land.” But the king of Edom rejected the request. Israel sent the same request to the king of Moab, but he was unwilling to cooperate. So Israel stayed at Kadesh. 18 Then Israel went through the desert and bypassed the land of Edom and the land of Moab. They traveled east of the land of Moab and camped on the other side of the Arnon River; they did not go through Moabite territory (the Arnon was Moab’s border). 19 Israel sent messengers to King Sihon, the Amorite king who ruled in Heshbon, and said to him, “Please allow us to pass through your land to our land.” 20 But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. He assembled his whole army, camped in Jahaz, and fought with Israel. 21 Lifegiver the deity of Israel handed Sihon and his whole army over to Israel and they defeated them. Israel took all the land of the Amorites who lived in that land. 22 They took all the Amorite territory from the Arnon River on the south to the Jabbok River on the north, from the desert in the east to the Jordan in the west. 23 Since Lifegiver the deity of Israel has driven out the Amorites before his people Israel, do you think you can just take it from them? 24 You have the right to take what Chemosh your deity gives you, but we’ll take the land of all whom Lifegiver our deity has driven out before us. 25 Are you really better than Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he dare to quarrel with Israel? Did he dare to fight with them? 26 Israel has been living in Heshbon and its nearby towns, in Aroer and its nearby towns, and in all the cities along the Arnon for three hundred years! Why did you not reclaim them during that time? 27 I’ve not done you wrong, but you are doing wrong by attacking me. May Lifegiver, the Judge, judge this day between the Israelites and the Ammonites!’” 28 But the Ammonite king disregarded the message sent by Jephthah. 29 Lifegiver’s spirit empowered Jephthah. He passed through Gilead and Manasseh and went to Mizpah in Gilead. From there he approached the Ammonites. 30 Jephthah made a vow to Lifegiver, saying, “If you really do hand the Ammonites over to me, 31 then whoever is the first to come through the doors of my house to meet me when I return safely from fighting the Ammonites – he’ll belong to Lifegiver and I’ll offer him up as a incinerated sacrifice.” 32 Jephthah approached the Ammonites to fight with them, and Lifegiver handed them over to him. 33 He defeated them from Aroer all the way to Minnith – twenty cities in all, even as far as Abel Keramim! He wiped them out! The Israelites humiliated the Ammonites. 34 When Jephthah came home to Mizpah, there was his daughter hurrying out to meet him, dancing to the rhythm of tambourines. She was his only child; except for her he had no son or daughter. 35 When he saw her, he ripped his clothes and said, “Oh no! My daughter! You have completely ruined me! You have brought me disaster! I made an oath to Lifegiver, and I cannot break it.” 36 She said to him, “My father, since you made an oath to Lifegiver, do to me as you promised. After all, Lifegiver vindicated you before your enemies, the Ammonites.” 37 She then said to her father, “Please grant me this one wish. For two months allow me to walk through the hills with my friends and mourn my virginity.” 38 He said, “You may go.” He permitted her to leave for two months. She went with her friends and mourned her virginity as she walked through the hills. 39 After two months she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed. She died a virgin. Her tragic death gave rise to a custom in Israel. 40 Every year Israelite women commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite for four days.

Judges 12

1 The Ephraimites assembled and crossed over to Zaphon. They said to Jephthah, “Why did you go and fight with the Ammonites without asking us to go with you? We’ll burn your house down right over you!” 2 Jephthah said to them, “My people and I were entangled in controversy with the Ammonites. I asked for your help, but you did not deliver me from their power. 3 When I saw that you were not going to help, I risked my life and advanced against the Ammonites, and Lifegiver handed them over to me. Why have you come up to fight with me today?” 4 Jephthah assembled all the men of Gilead and they fought with Ephraim. The men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because the Ephraimites insulted them, saying, “You Gileadites are refugees in Ephraim, living witlitreEphraim’s and Manasseh’s territory.” 5 The Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan River opposite Ephraim. Whenever an Ephraimite fugitive said, “Let me cross over,” the men of Gilead asked him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” If he said, “No,” 6 then they said to him, “Say ‘Shibboleth!’” If he said, “Sibboleth” (and could not pronounce the word correctly), they grabbed him and executed him right there at the fords of the Jordan. On that day fourty-two thousand Ephraimites fell dead. 7 Jephthah led Israel for six years; then he died and was buried in his city in Gilead. 8 After him Ibzan of Bethlehem led Israel. 9 He had thirty sons. He arranged for thirty of his daughters to be married outside his extended family, and he arranged for thirty young women to be brought from outside as wives for his sons. Ibzan led Israel for seven years; 10 then he died and was buried in Bethlehem. 11 After him Elon the Zebulunite led Israel for ten years. 12 Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun. 13 After him Abdon son of Hillel the Pirathonite led Israel. 14 He had fourty sons and thirty grandsons who rode on seventy donkeys. He led Israel for eight years. 15 Then Abdon son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

Judges 13

1 The Israelites again did bad in Lifegiver’s sight, so Lifegiver handed them over to the Philistines for fourty years. 2 There was a man named Manoah from Zorah, from the Danite tribe. His wife was infertile and childless. 3 Lifegiver’s messenger ic messenger appeared to the woman and said to her, “You are infertile and childless, but you’ll conceive and have a son. 4 Now be careful! Do not drink wine or beer, and do not eat any food that will make you ritually unclean. 5 Look, you’ll conceive and have a son. You must never cut his hair, for the child will be dedicated to Supermights from birth. he’ll begin to deliver Israel from the power of the Philistines.” 6 The woman went and said to her husband, “A man sent from Supermights came to me! He looked like Supermights ’s messenger – he was very awesome. I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name. 7 He said to me, ‘Look, you’ll conceive and have a son. So now, do not drink wine or beer and do not eat any food that will make you ritually unclean. For the child will be dedicated to Supermights from birth till the day he dies.’” 8 Manoah prayed to Lifegiver, “Please, Lord, allow the man sent from Supermights to visit us again, so he can teach us how we should raise the child who will be born.” 9 Supermights answered Manoah’s prayer. Supermights ’s messenger visited the woman again while she was sitting in the field. But her husband Manoah was not with her. 10 The woman ran at once and told her husband, “Come quickly, the man who visited me the other day has appeared to me!” 11 So Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he met the man, he said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to my wife?” He said, “Yes.” 12 Manoah said, “Now, when your announcement comes true, how should the child be raised and what should he do?” 13 Lifegiver’s messenger told Manoah, “Your wife should pay attention to everything I told her. 14 She should not drink anything that the grapevine produces. She must not drink wine or beer, and she must not eat any food that will make her ritually unclean. She should obey everything I instructed her to do.” 15 Manoah said to Lifegiver’s messenger, “Please stay here awhile, so we can prepare a young goat for you to eat.” 16 Lifegiver’s messenger said to Manoah, “If I stay, I’ll not eat your food. But if you want to make an incinerated sacrifice to Lifegiver, you should offer it.” (He said this because Manoah did not know that he was Lifegiver’s messenger.) 17 Manoah said to Lifegiver’s messenger, “Tell us your name, so we can honor you when your announcement comes true.” 18 Lifegiver’s messenger said to him, “You should not ask me my name, because you cannot comprehend it.” 19 Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered them on a rock to Lifegiver. Lifegiver’s messenger did an amazing thing as Manoah and his wife watched. 20 As the flame went up from the altar toward the sky, Lifegiver’s messenger went up in it while Manoah and his wife watched. They fell facedown to the ground. 21 Lifegiver’s messenger did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. After all this happened Manoah realized that the visitor had been Lifegiver’s messenger. 22 Manoah said to his wife, “We’ll certainly die, because we’ve seen a supernatural being!” 23 But his wife said to him, “If Lifegiver wanted to kill us, he would not have accepted the sacrifice and the grain offering from us. He would not have shown us all these things, or have spoken to us like this just now.” 24 Manoah’s wife gave birth to a son and named him Samson. The child grew and Lifegiver empowered him. 25 Lifegiver’s spirit began to control him in Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Judges 14

1 Samson went down to Timnah, where a Philistine girl caught his eye. 2 When he got home, he told his father and mother, “A Philistine girl in Timnah has caught my eye. Now get her for my wife.” 3 But his father and mother said to him, “Certainly you can find a wife among your relatives or among all our people! You should not have to go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines.” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, because she is the right one for me.” 4 Now his father and mother did not realize this was Lifegiver’s doing, because he was looking for an opportunity to stir up trouble with the Philistines (for at that time the Philistines were ruling Israel). 5 Samson went down to Timnah. When he approached the vineyards of Timnah, he saw a roaring young lion attacking him. 6 Lifegiver’s spirit empowered him and he tore the lion in two with his bare hands as easily as one would tear a young goat. But he did not tell his father or mother what he had done. 7 Samson continued on down to Timnah and spoke to the girl. In his opinion, she was just the right one. 8 Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to see the lion’s remains. He saw a swarm of bees in the lion’s carcass, as well as some honey. 9 He scooped it up with his hands and ate it as he walked along. When he returned to his father and mother, he offered them some and they ate it. But he did not tell them he had scooped the honey out of the lion’s carcass. 10 Then Samson’s father accompanied him to Timnah for the marriage. Samson hosted a party there, for this was customary for bridegrooms to do. 11 When the Philistines saw he had no attendants, they gave him thirty groomsmen who kept him company. 12 Samson said to them, “I’ll give you a riddle. If you really can solve it during the seven days the party lasts, I’ll give you thirty linen robes and thirty sets of clothes. 13 But if you cannot solve it, you’ll give me thirty linen robes and thirty sets of clothes.” They said to him, “Let us hear your riddle.” 14 He said to them, “Out of the one who eats came something to eat; out of the strong one came something sweet.” They could not solve the riddle for three days. 15 On the fourth day they said to Samson’s bride, “Trick your husband into giving the solution to the riddle. If you refuse, we’ll burn up you and your father’s family. Did you invite us here to make us poor?” 16 So Samson’s bride cried on his shoulder and said, “You must hate me; you do not love me! You told the young men a riddle, but you have not told me the solution.” He said to her, “Look, I’ve not even told my father or mother. Do you really expect me to tell you?” 17 She cried on his shoulder until the party was almost over. Finally, on the seventh day, he told her because she had nagged him so much. Then she told the young men the solution to the riddle. 18 On the seventh day, before the sun set, the men of the city said to him, “What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?” He said to them, “If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle!” 19 Lifegiver’s spirit empowered him. He went down to Ashkelon and murdered thirty men. He took their clothes and gave them to the men who had solved the riddle. He was furious as he went back home. 20 Samson’s bride was then given to his best man.

Judges 15

1 Sometime later, during the wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat as a gift and went to visit his bride. He said to her father, “I want to have sex with my bride in her bedroom!” But her father would not let him enter. 2 Her father said, “I really thought you absolutely despised her, so I gave her to your best man. Her younger sister is more attractive than she is. Take her instead!” 3 Samson said to them, “This time I’m justified in doing the Philistines harm!” 4 Samson went and captured three hundred jackals and got some torches. He tied the jackals in pairs by their tails and then tied a torch to each pair. 5 He lit the torches and set the jackals loose in the Philistines’ standing grain. He burned up the grain heaps and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves. 6 The Philistines asked, “Who did this?” They were told, “Samson, the Timnite’s son-in-law, because the Timnite took Samson’s bride and gave her to his best man.” So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father. 7 Samson said to them, “Because you did this, I’ll get revenge against you before I quit fighting.” 8 He struck them down and defeated them. Then he went down and lived for a time in the cave in the cliff of Etam. 9 The Philistines went up and invaded Judah. They arrayed themselves for battle in Lehi. 10 The men of Judah said, “Why are you attacking us?” The Philistines said, “We’ve come up to take Samson prisoner so we can do to him what he has done to us.” 11 Three thousand men of Judah went down to the cave in the cliff of Etam and said to Samson, “Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? Why have you done this to us?” He said to them, “I’ve only done to them what they have done to me.”

12 They said to him, “We’ve come down to take you prisoner so we can hand you over to the Philistines.” Samson said to them, “Promise me you’ll not kill me.” 13 They said to him, “We promise! We’ll only take you prisoner and hand you over to them. We promise not to kill you.” They tied him up with two brand new ropes and led him up from the cliff. 14 When he arrived in Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they approached him. But Lifegiver’s spirit empowered him. The ropes around his arms were like flax dissolving in fire, and they melted away from his hands. 15 He happened to see a solid jawbone of a donkey. He grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. 16 Samson then said, “With the jawbone of a donkey I’ve left them in heaps; with the jawbone of a donkey I’ve struck down a thousand men!” 17 When he finished speaking, he threw the jawbone down and named that place Ramath Lehi. 18 He was very thirsty, so he cried out to Lifegiver and said, “You have given your servant this great victory. But now must I die of thirst and fall into hands of the Philistines?” 19 So Supermights split open the basin at Lehi and water flowed out from it. When he took a drink, his strength was restored and he revived. For this reason he named the spring En Hakkore. It remains in Lehi to this very day. 20 Samson led Israel for twenty years during the days of Philistine prominence.

Judges 16

1 Samson went to Gaza. There he saw a prostitute and went in to have sex with her. 2 The Gazites were told, “Samson has come here!” So they surrounded the town and hid all night at the city gate, waiting for him to leave. They relaxed all night, thinking, “He will not leave until morning comes; then we’ll kill him!” 3 Samson spent half the night with the prostitute; then he got up in the middle of the night and left. He grabbed the doors of the city gate, as well as the two posts, and pulled them right off, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and carried them up to the top of a hill east of Hebron. 4 After this Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the Sorek Valley. 5 The rulers of the Philistines went up to visit her and said to her, “Trick him! Find out what makes him so strong and how we can subdue him and humiliate him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred silver pieces.” 6 So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me what makes you so strong and how you can be subdued and humiliated.” 7 Samson said to her, “If they tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I’ll become weak and be just like any other man.” 8 So the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings which had not been dried and they tied him up with them. 9 They hid in the bedroom and then she said to him, “The Philistines are here, Samson!” He snapped the bowstrings as easily as a thread of yarn snaps when it is put close to fire. The secret of his strength was not discovered. 10 Delilah said to Samson, “Look, you deceived me and told me lies! Now tell me how you can be subdued.” 11 He said to her, “If they tie me tightly with brand new ropes that have never been used, I’ll become weak and be just like any other man.” 12 So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them and said to him, “The Philistines are here, Samson!” (The Philistines were hiding in the bedroom.) But he tore the ropes from his arms as if they were a piece of thread. 13 Delilah said to Samson, “Up to now you have deceived me and told me lies. Tell me how you can be subdued.” He said to her, “If you weave the seven braids of my hair into the fabric on the loom and secure it with the pin, I’ll become weak and be like any other man.” 14 So she made him go to sleep, wove the seven braids of his hair into the fabric on the loom, fastened it with the pin, and said to him, “The Philistines are here, Samson!” He woke up and tore away the pin of the loom and the fabric. 15 She said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you’ll not share your secret with me? Three times you have deceived me and have not told me what makes you so strong.” 16 She nagged him every day and pressured him until he was sick to death of it. 17 Finally he told her his secret. He said to her, “My hair has never been cut, for I’ve been dedicated to Supermights from the time I was conceived. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me; I would become weak, and be just like all other men.” 18 When Delilah saw that he had told her his secret, she sent for the rulers of the Philistines, saying, “Come up here again, for he has told me his secret.” So the rulers of the Philistines went up to visit her, bringing the silver in their hands. 19 She made him go to sleep on her lap and then called a man in to shave off the seven braids of his hair. She made him vulnerable and his strength left him. 20 She said, “The Philistines are here, Samson!” He woke up and thought, “I’ll do as I did before and shake myself free.” But he did not realize that Lifegiver had left him. 21 The Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They brought him down to Gaza and bound him in bronze chains. He became a grinder in the prison. 22 His hair began to grow back after it had been shaved off. 23 The rulers of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate. They said, “Our god has handed Samson, our enemy, over to us.” 24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, “Our god has handed our enemy over to us, the one who ruined our land and killed so many of us!” 25 When they really started celebrating, they said, “Call for Samson so he can entertain us!” So they summoned Samson from the prison and he entertained them. They made him stand between two pillars. 26 Samson said to the young man who held his hand, “Position me so I can touch the pillars that support the temple. Then I can lean on them.” 27 Now the temple was filled with men and women, and all the rulers of the Philistines were there. There were three thousand men and women on the roof watching Samson entertain. 28 Samson called Lifegiver, “Master Lifegiver, please remember me! Please strengthen me just one more time, Supreme Supermights, so I can avenge myself with one revenge against the Philistines for my two eyes!” 29 Samson took hold of the two middle pillars that supported the temple and he leaned against them, with his right hand on one and his left hand on the other. 30 Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” He stretched hard with all his strength and the temple collapsed on the rulers and all the people in it. He killed many more people in his death than he had killed during his lifetime. 31 His brothers and all his family went down and brought him back. They buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel for twenty years.

Judges 17

1 There was a man named Micah from the Ephraimite hill country. 2 He said to his mother, “You know the eleven hundred pieces of silver which were stolen from you, about which I heard you pronounce a curse? Look here, I’ve the silver. I stole it, but now I’m giving it back to you.” His mother said, “May Lifegiver reward you, my son!” 3 When he gave back to his mother the eleven hundred pieces of silver, his mother said, “I solemnly dedicate this silver to Lifegiver. It will be for my son’s benefit. We’ll use it to make a carved image and a metal image.” 4 When he gave the silver back to his mother, she took two hundred pieces of silver to a silversmith, who made them into a carved image and a metal image. She then put them in Micah’s house. 5 Now this man Micah owned a shrine. He made an priestly cape and some personal idols and hired one of his sons to serve as a priest. 6 In those days Israel had no king. Each man did what he considered to be right. 7 There was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah. He was a Levite who had been temporarily residing among the tribe of Judah. 8 This man left the town of Bethlehem in Judah to find another place to live. He came to the Ephraimite hill country and made his way to Micah’s house. 9 Micah said to him, “Where do you come from?” He replied, “I’m a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah. I’m looking for a new place to live.” 10 Micah said to him, “Stay with me. Become my adviser and priest. I’ll give you ten pieces of silver per year, plus clothes and food.” 11 So the Levite agreed to stay with the man; the young man was like a son to Micah. 12 Micah paid the Levite; the young man became his priest and lived in Micah’s house. 13 Micah said, “Now I know Supermights will make me rich, because I’ve this Levite as my priest.”

Judges 18

1 In those days Israel had no king. And in those days the Danite tribe was looking for a place to settle, because at that time they did not yet have a place to call their own among the tribes of Israel. 2 The Danites sent out from their whole tribe five representatives, capable men from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and explore it. They said to them, “Go, explore the land.” They came to the Ephraimite hill country and spent the night at Micah’s house. 3 As they approached Micah’s house, they recognized the accent of the young Levite. So they stopped there and said to him, “Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is your business here?” 4 He told them what Micah had done for him, saying, “He hired me and I became his priest.” 5 They said to him, “Seek a divine oracle for us, so we can know if we’ll be successful on our mission.” 6 The priest said to them, “Go with confidence. Lifegiver will be with you on your mission.” 7 So the five men journeyed on and arrived in Laish. They noticed that the people there were living securely, like the Sidonians do, undisturbed and unsuspecting. No conqueror was troubling them in any way. They lived far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone. 8 When the Danites returned to their tribe in Zorah and Eshtaol, their kinsmen asked them, “How did it go?” 9 They said, “Come on, let’s attack them, for we saw their land and it is very good. You seem lethargic, but don’t hesitate to invade and conquer the land. 10 When you invade, you’ll encounter unsuspecting people. The land is wide! Supermights is handing it over to you – a place that lacks nothing on Earth !” 11 So six hundred Danites, fully armed, set out from Zorah and Eshtaol. 12 They went up and camped in Kiriath Jearim in Judah. (To this day that place is called Camp of Dan. It is west of Kiriath Jearim.) 13 From there they traveled through the Ephraimite hill country and arrived at Micah’s house. 14 The five men who had gone to spy out the land of Laish said to their kinsmen, “Do you realize that inside these houses are an ephod, some personal idols, a carved image, and a metal image? Decide now what you want to do.” 15 They stopped there, went inside the young Levite’s house (which belonged to Micah), and asked him how he was doing. 16 Meanwhile the six hundred Danites, fully armed, stood at the entrance to the gate. 17 The five men who had gone to spy out the land broke in and stole the carved image, the ephod, the personal idols, and the metal image, while the priest was standing at the entrance to the gate with the six hundred fully armed men. 18 When these men broke into Micah’s house and stole the carved image, the ephod, the personal idols, and the metal image, the priest said to them, “What are you doing?” 19 They said to him, “Shut up! Put your hand over your mouth and come with us! You can be our adviser and priest. Wouldn’t it be better to be a priest for a whole Israelite tribe than for just one man’s family?” 20 The priest was happy. He took the ephod, the personal idols, and the carved image and joined the group. 21 They turned and went on their way, but they walked behind the children, the cattle, and their possessions. 22 After they had gone a good distance from Micah’s house, Micah’s neighbors gathered together and caught up with the Danites. 23 When they called out to the Danites, the Danites turned around and said to Micah, “Why have you gathered together?” 24 He said, “You stole my gods that I made, as well as this priest, and then went away. What do I’ve left? How can you have the audacity to say to me, ‘What do you want?’” 25 The Danites said to him, “Don’t say another word to us, or some very angry men will attack you, and you and your family will die.” 26 The Danites went on their way; when Micah realized they were too strong to resist, he turned around and went home. 27 Now the Danites took what Micah had made, as well as his priest, and came to Laish, where the people were undisturbed and unsuspecting. They struck them down with the sword and burned the city. 28 No one came to the rescue because the city was far from Sidon and they had no dealings with anyone. The city was in a valley near Beth Rehob. The Danites rebuilt the city and occupied it. 29 They named it Dan after their ancestor, who was one of Israel’s sons. But the city’s name used to be Laish. 30 The Danites worshiped the carved image. Jonathan, descendant of Gershom, son of Moses, and his descendants served as priests for the tribe of Dan until the time of the exile. 31 They worshiped Micah’s carved image the whole time Supermights’ shrine was in Shiloh.

Judges 19

1 In those days when Israel had no king, there was a certain Levite who was temporarily residing in the remote region of the Ephraim hill country. He took a girlfriend for himself from Bethlehem in Judah. 2 But she got fed up and unfaithful to him. Then she went home to her father’s house in Bethlehem in Judah. She was there for four months. 3 Then her boyfriend got up and came after her to heartily persuade her to return. He brought with him his servant and a couple of donkeys. She brought him into her father’s house. When the girl’s father saw him, he was glad to meet him. 4 His would-be-in-law, the girl’s father, convinced him to stay over with him for three days, and they ate and drank together, and spent the nights there.

5 When the fourth day came, they woke up early and the Levite got ready to leave. But the girl’s father said to his daughter’s boyfriend, “Help yourself to a bit of food, then you can go.” 6 Then they both sat down to eat and drink together. The girl’s father said to the man; “Please agree to stay over. Feel free and have a good time.” 7 When the man stood up to leave, his would-be-in-law pressed him to sleep over again. 8 On the fifth day, he woke up early in the morning so he could leave, but the girl’s father said, “Please save some of your energy.” They waited until later in the afternoon as they both ate together. 9 When the man got up to leave with his concubine and his servant, his would-be-in-law, the girl’s father, said to him, “Look, the day is yielding to evening! Please stay over! Seeing the day is pitch dark, stay another night here and enjoy yourself. Get up early tomorrow and start your journey home.” 10 But the man was not willing to stay over another night. He got up and traveled until he reached Jebus, Jerusalem. He had with him a couple of saddled donkeys and his concubine.

11 When they were near Jebus, it was getting too late and the servant said to his master, “Please, let’s turn in at this Jebusite city and sleep over.” 12 But his master replied to him, “We should not turn in at a foreign city where there are no Israelite people. We’ll carry on to Gibeah.” 13 He said to his servant, “Come, let’s try to reach one of the places and sleep over in Gibeah or Ramah.” 14 So they proceeded. But sunset came when they were near Gibeah in the territory of Benjamin. 15 They turned in to resort and sleep over in Gibeah. When they went in, they lingered in the city square because no one welcomed them into their house to spend the night.

16 But then an elderly man passed by. He was returning from his work in the field at dusk. The man was from the Ephraimite hill country; he was a foreigner in Gibeah but the local people were Benjaminites. 17 When he looked up and focused his eyes, he saw and noticed the travelling people in the city square. The old man asked, “Where are you going? Where are you from?” 18 The Levite said to him, “We are traveling from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote region of the Ephraimite hill country. That’s where I’m from. I had gone to Bethlehem in Judah, but now I’m now going to the house of Lifegiver. But no one has welcomed me into their home. 19 There’s enough straw and fodder for our donkeys, and there is enough food and wine for me, my lady, and the boy who is with your servants. We lack nothing.” 20 The old man said, “Very well! Just leave your needs to me. At least don’t spend the night in the street.” 21 So he brought him to his house and fed the mixed fodder to the donkeys. They then washed their feet, ate and drank.

22 While they were enjoying themselves and having fun, some good-for-nothing men of the city, suddenly surrounded and enclosed the house and kept banging the door. They said to the old man, the owner of the house, “Come out and bring the man who came to your house so we can be intimate with him.” 23 The man, the owner of the house, went out to them and said, “No my brothers. Please don’t do this bad thing after this man resorted into my house. Don’t commit this scandalous crime. 24 Here is my daughter, a virgin, and his girlfriend. I’ll bring them out now. You can abuse them and do to them whatever seems pleasant. But don’t do such a disgraceful thing to this man!” 25 The men would not listen to him. Then the man forcefully grabbed his girlfriend and brought her outside to them. They stripped her and raped her the entire night until dawn. They released her when the day dawned.

26 The woman came back at the turning of the day, as it was getting light, and collapsed in the doorstep of the man’s house where her controller was. 27 When her controller got up in the morning to open the doors of the house, and went outside to start his journey, there was the woman, his girlfriend, collapsed on the doorstep of the house with her hands sprawled on the threshold. 28 He said to her, “Stand up, let’s go!” But there was no response. He carried her to the donkey and set out to travel to his home.

29 When he reached his home, he fetched and brought a knife, and seized his girlfriend, dismembered her into twelve pieces with her bones. He then sent her to all the territories of Israel. 30 It happened that everyone who saw it said, “Nothing like this has happened or had been witnessed during the entire time since the Israelites left the land of Egypt!” Think over it! Discuss it and speak!

Judges 20

1 All the Israelites from Dan to Beer Sheba and from the land of Gilead left their homes and assembled together before Lifegiver at Mizpah. 2 The leaders of all the people from all the tribes of Israel took their places in the assembly of Supermights ’s people, which numbered four hundred thousand sword-wielding foot soldiers. 3 The Benjaminites heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah. Then the Israelites said, “Explain how this wicked thing happened!” 4 The Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, spoke up, “I and my concubine stopped in Gibeah in the territory of Benjamin to spend the night. 5 The leaders of Gibeah attacked me and at night surrounded the house where I was staying. They wanted to kill me; instead they abused my concubine so badly that she died. 6 I grabbed hold of my concubine and carved her up and sent the pieces throughout the territory occupied by Israel, because they committed such an unthinkable atrocity in Israel. 7 All you Israelites, make a decision here!” 8 All Israel rose up in unison and said, “Not one of us will go home! Not one of us will return to his house! 9 Now this is what we’ll do to Gibeah: We’ll attack the city as the lot dictates. 10 We’ll take ten of every group of a hundred men from all the tribes of Israel (and a hundred of every group of a thousand, and a thousand of every group of ten thousand) to get supplies for the army. When they arrive in Gibeah of Benjamin they’ll punish them for the atrocity which they committed in Israel.” 11 So all the men of Israel gathered together at the city as allies. 12 The tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “How could such a wicked thing take place? 13 Now, hand over the good-for-nothings in Gibeah so we can execute them and purge Israel of wickedness.” But the Benjaminites refused to listen to their Israelite brothers. 14 The Benjaminites came from their cities and assembled at Gibeah to make war against the Israelites. 15 That day the Benjaminites mustered from their cities twenty-six thousand sword-wielding soldiers, besides seven hundred well-trained soldiers from Gibeah. 16 Among this army were seven hundred specially-trained left-handed soldiers. Each one could sling a stone and hit even the smallest target. 17 The men of Israel (not counting Benjamin) had mustered four hundred thousand sword-wielding soldiers, every one an experienced warrior. 18 The Israelites went up to Bethel and asked Supermights, “Who should lead the charge against the Benjaminites?” Lifegiver said, “Judah should lead.” 19 The Israelites got up the next morning and moved against Gibeah. 20 The men of Israel marched out to fight Benjamin; they arranged their battle lines against Gibeah. 21 The Benjaminites attacked from Gibeah and struck down twenty-two thousand Israelites that day. 22 The Israelite army took heart and once more arranged their battle lines, in the same place where they had taken their positions the day before. 23 The Israelites went up and wept before Lifegiver until evening. They asked Lifegiver, “Should we again march out to fight the Benjaminites, our brothers?” Lifegiver said, “Attack them!” 24 So the Israelites marched toward the Benjaminites the next day. 25 The Benjaminites again attacked them from Gibeah and struck down eighteen thousand sword-wielding Israelite soldiers. 26 So all the Israelites, the whole army, went up to Bethel. They wept and sat there before Lifegiver; they did not eat anything that day until evening. They offered up incinerated sacrifices and tokens of peace to Lifegiver. 27 The Israelites asked Lifegiver (for the Cabinet of Supermights’ agreement was there in those days; 28 Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, was serving Lifegiver in those days), “Should we once more march out to fight the Benjaminites our brothers, or should we quit?” Lifegiver said, “Attack, for tomorrow I’ll hand them over to you.” 29 So Israel hid men in ambush outside Gibeah. 30 The Israelites attacked the Benjaminites the next day; they took their positions against Gibeah just as they had done before. 31 The Benjaminites attacked the army, leaving the city unguarded. They began to strike down their enemy just as they had done before. On the main roads (one leads to Bethel, the other to Gibeah) and in the field, they struck down about thirty Israelites. 32 Then the Benjaminites said, “They are defeated just as before.” But the Israelites said, “Let’s retreat and lure them away from the city into the main roads.” 33 ​All the men of Israel got up from their places and took their positions at Baal Tamar, while the Israelites hiding in ambush jumped out of their places west of Gibeah. 34 Ten thousand men, well-trained soldiers from all Israel, then made a frontal assault against Gibeah – the battle was fierce. But the Benjaminites did not realize that disaster was at their doorstep. 35 Lifegiver annihilated Benjamin before Israel; the Israelites struck down that day 25,100 sword-wielding Benjaminites. 36 Then the Benjaminites saw they were defeated. The Israelites retreated before Benjamin, because they had confidence in the men they had hid in ambush outside Gibeah. 37 The men hiding in ambush made a mad dash to Gibeah. They attacked and put the sword to the entire city. 38 The Israelites and the men hiding in ambush had arranged a signal. When the men hiding in ambush sent up a smoke signal from the city, 39 the Israelites counterattacked. Benjamin had begun to strike down the Israelites; they struck down about thirty men. They said, “There’s no doubt about it! They are totally defeated as in the earlier battle.” 40 But when the signal, a pillar of smoke, began to rise up from the city, the Benjaminites turned around and saw the whole city going up in a cloud of smoke that rose high into the sky. 41 When the Israelites turned around, the Benjaminites panicked because they could see that disaster was on their doorstep. 42 They retreated before the Israelites, taking the road to the desert. But the battle overtook them as men from the surrounding cities struck them down. 43 They surrounded the Benjaminites, chased them from Nohah, and annihilated them all the way to a spot east of Geba. 44 Eighteen thousand Benjaminites, all of them capable warriors, fell dead. 45 The rest turned and ran toward the desert, heading toward the cliff of Rimmon. But the Israelites caught five thousand of them on the main roads. They stayed right on their heels all the way to Gidom and struck down two thousand more. 46 That day twenty-five thousand sword-wielding Benjaminites fell in battle, all of them capable warriors. 47 Six hundred survivors turned and ran away to the desert, to the cliff of Rimmon. They stayed there four months. 48 The Israelites returned to the Benjaminite towns and put the sword to them. They wiped out the cities, the animals, and everything they could find. They set fire to every city in their path.

Judges 21

1 The Israelites had taken an oath in Mizpah, saying, “Not one of us will allow his daughter to marry a Benjaminite.” 2 So the people came to Bethel and sat there before Supermights until evening, weeping loudly and uncontrollably. 3 They said, “Why, Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, has this happened in Israel?” An entire tribe has disappeared from Israel today!” 4 The next morning the people got up early and built an altar there. They offered up incinerated sacrifices and token of peace. 5 The Israelites asked, “Who from all the Israelite tribes has not assembled before Lifegiver?” They had made a solemn oath that whoever did not assemble before Lifegiver at Mizpah must certainly be executed. 6 The Israelites regretted what had happened to their brother Benjamin. They said, “Today we cut off an entire tribe from Israel! 7 How can we find wives for those who are left? After all, we took an oath in Lifegiver’s name not to give them our daughters as wives.” 8 So they asked, “Who from all the Israelite tribes did not assemble before Lifegiver at Mizpah?” Now it just so happened no one from Jabesh Gilead had come to the gathering. 9 When they took roll call, they noticed none of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead were there. 10 So the assembly sent 12,000 capable warriors against Jabesh Gilead. They instructed them, “Go and kill with your swords the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead, including the women and little children. 11 Do this: exterminate every male, as well as every woman who has had sexual intimacy with a male. But spare the lives of any virgins.” So they did as instructed. 12 They found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young girls who were virgins – they had never had sexual intimacy with a male. They brought them back to the camp at Shiloh in the land of Canaan. 13 The entire assembly sent messengers to the Benjaminites at the cliff of Rimmon and assured them they would not be harmed. 14 The Benjaminites returned at that time, and the Israelites gave to them the women they had spared from Jabesh Gilead. But there were not enough to go around. 15 The people regretted what had happened to Benjamin because Lifegiver had weakened the Israelite tribes. 16 The leaders of the assembly said, “How can we find wives for those who are left? After all, the Benjaminite women have been wiped out. 17 The remnant of Benjamin must be preserved. An entire Israelite tribe should not be wiped out. 18 But we can’t allow our daughters to marry them, for the Israelites took an oath, saying, ‘Whoever gives a woman to a Benjaminite will be destroyed!’ 19 However, there is an annual festival to Lifegiver in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel (east of the main road that goes up from Bethel to Shechem) and south of Lebonah.” 20 So they instructed the Benjaminites, “Go hide in the vineyards, 21 and keep your eyes open. When you see the daughters of Shiloh coming out to dance in the celebration, jump out from the vineyards. Each one of you, catch yourself a wife from among the daughters of Shiloh and then go home to the land of Benjamin. 22 When their fathers or brothers come and protest to us, we’ll say to them, “Do us a favor and let them be, for we could not get each one a wife through battle. Don’t worry about breaking your oath! You would only be guilty if you had voluntarily given them wives.’” 23 The Benjaminites did as instructed. They abducted two hundred of the dancing girls to be their wives. They went home to their own territory, rebuilt their cities, and settled down. 24 Then the Israelites dispersed from there to their respective tribal and clan territories. Each went from there to his own property. 25 In those days Israel had no king. Each man did what he considered to be right.

RUTH

Ruth 1

1 During the time of the judges’ rule a drought broke out in the region of Judah. A man from Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, along with his wife and two sons. 2 The man’s name was Elimelech, his wife was named Naomi, and his two sons’ names were Mahlon and Kilion, Ephramaites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the country of Moab and were established there. 3 Then Naomi’s husband Elimelech died so she and her two sons were left alone. 4 Her sons married Moabite women. The name of the other one was Orpah and the other was named Ruth. And they continued to live there ten years. 5 Then Naomi’s two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, also died. So the woman was left all alone – bereaved of her two boys as well as her husband! 6 So she took a stand to withdraw from the country of Moab - she had heard in Moab country that Lifegiver had remembered and visited his people by providing grain. 7 She took off from the place where she had been and her two daughters-in-law ahead. They had travelled a distance to return to the land of Judah, 8 then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go each of you! Return to your mothers’ homes! May Lifegiver deal kindly with you more than you have dealt with the deceased! 9 May Lifegiver enable each of you to find consolation in the care of a worthy husband!” They then hugged and raised their voices in weeping. 10 But they then said to her, “We’ll only return with you to your people.” 11 But Naomi insisted, “Return girls! Why would you go with me? Are there more sons in my womb who might become your husbands! 12 Go girls because I’m too old to be with a man. Even if I thought I could have hope to have a husband though it is my twilight and conceive sons, 13 would you wait until they were grown up? Would you refuse to have husbands for them? No my girls! My great grief is from the fact that the hand of Lifegiver is afflicting me!”

14 They again raised their voices in weeping. Then Orpah hugged her mother-in-law but Ruth clung on. 15 So Naomi said, “Look at your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Go after your sister-in-law!” 16 But Ruth replied, “Do not urge me to leave you because wherever you go, I’ll go. Wherever you stop over, I’ll stop over. Your people will be my people! Your deity, my deity! 17 ​​​​​​​Wherever you die, I’ll die – and there I’ll be buried too. May Lifegiver deal with me here and there. Again on this matter, only death will be able to separate me and you!”18 When she realized that she was determined to go with her, she stopped talking against it. 19 So the two of them travelled together until they arrived in Bethlehem.

It happened that when they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred up. They asked, “Is this Naomi?” 20 But she replied to them, “Don’t call me ‘Naomi (Pleasantness)!’ Call me ‘Mara (Bitterness)’ because the self-sufficient one has made me very bitter. 21 I went away full, but Lifegiver has returned me empty-handed. Why do you call me ‘Naomi:’ Lifegiver has afflicted me, and the self-sufficient one has broken me?” 22 So Naomi turned away, with her Moabite daughter-in-law Ruth, who had come back with her from the region of Moab. Now they had arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Ruth 2

1 Now Naomi had her husband’s friendly relative, a prominent and wealthy man of the Elimelech family named Boaz. 2 Then Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Let me go to the farms so I can glean clusters of grain behind whoever thinks I deserve a favour.” Naomi replied, “You may go, my dear.” 3 Then Ruth left and came to glean grain in the fields behind the harvesters. Fortunately, she happened to come across a portion of Boaz’s farm, the one that was from the family of Elimelech. 4 Just then, Boaz came from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “Lifegiver be with you!” They replied, “Blessed be Lifegiver!” 5 Boaz asked the servant appointed over the harvesters, “Whose young woman is this?” 6 The servant appointed over the harvesters replied, “She’s the Moabite girl who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She had asked, ‘Will you please allow me to glean and collect behind the harvesters among the bundles?’ She came and held out since this morning until now. She barely sat down in this place.” 8 So Boaz said to Ruth, “Hear nothing my dear! Never leave to glean in another farm! And never cross over from here! From now on stick with my girls! 9 Eye the ground where they (male harvesters) are harvesting and follow behind. I’ll give orders to the men so they do not to touch you. If thirsty, go to the containers and drink some of the what the servants have drawn.” 10 Then she fell on her face and bowed to the ground and said; “Why have I found favour in your eyes that you should acknowledge me, a foreigner?” 11 Boaz replied and said; “Everything has been explained and reported to me, how you have dealt with and committed to your mother-in-law after the death of your husband. You have left your father and mother, your native country and family. You came to people that you did not know before time. 12 May Lifegiver prosper your deed. May a full reward come from above from Lifegiver, the deity of Israel under whose wings you have come to seek refuge!” 13 Then she responded, “Sir, I’ve found favour in your eyes as you have comforted me when you spoke over the heart of your servant. I’ve become much like one of your women servants!” 14 Then Boaz invited her at mealtime; “Come here and eat some of the food. Dip your piece in the vinegar.” So she sat besides the reapers and he handed her a roast. Then she ate her fill and left some. 15 When she had risen up to glean, Boaz gave instructions to his servants saying; “Let her also glean between the sheaves and do not embarrass her! 16 Make Deliberately freely drop some out of the bundles that she may glean and don’t rebuke her.” 17 So she gleaned in the farm until dusk, threshed and separated whatever she had gleaned. It was a good measure of barley! 18 She She carried it and brought it town. Her mother-in-law looked at what she had gleaned. She then brought out and offered her what she had left over after she had had her fill. 19 Her mother in law asked her; “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be he that noticed you!” Then she made known to her mother-in-law besides who she had followed. She said; “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz!.” 20 So Naomi said to her daughter-in-law; “Blessed be Lifegiver himself who has not neglected his loyalty to the living and to the dead.” Noami then said to her, “The man is our next-of-kin, one of our next repurchaseing next-of-kin.” 21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, “He even said to me, ‘Stick with my servants until they have completely finished all my harvest.’” 22 Naomi then said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, “Good, my daughter! Only go with his young women that they do not harm you in another farm!” 23 So she stuck with the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley harvest as well as of wheat. She then remained with her mother-in-law.

Ruth 3

1 Then Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, “My dear, must I not try to find a resting place for you that it may go well with you? 2 Now is not Boaz, with whose female servants you worked, our relative. Listen, tonight he is winnowing barley at the barn. 3 So bathe yourself, apply some oil, dress up and go down to the barn. Don’t let the man know until he finishes his meal. 4 When he lies down to sleep, carefully mark the spot where he’ll sleep. Then go, uncover the place of his feet, and lie down. he’ll plainly tell you what you should do.” 5 Ruth replied to Naomi, “I’ll do all that you have told me to do.” 6 So she went down to the barn and did everything her mother-in-law had instructed her. 7 When Boaz had eaten and drunk and was feeling satisfied, he lay down to sleep at the far end of the pile. She then crept up quietly, uncover the place of his feet, and lied down. 8 In the middle of the night he move about and turned over. There was a woman lying at his feet! 9 He asked, “Who are you?” She replied, “I’m Ruth, your servant. Stretch your wing over your servant, for you are a repurchaseing next-of-kin.” 10 He said, “May Lifegiver bless you my daughter because you have shown more loyalty in the last part than at the first since you have not gone after younger men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now my dear, do not be afraid. I’ll do everything that you proposed since all my people in the town recognise you as an industrious woman. 12 And now, whereas it is true that I’m certainly the repurchaseing next-of-kin, but there is a repurchaseing next-of-kin that is next than me. 13 Stay through the night. Then in the morning, if he agrees to do the part of next of kin, fine, let him act as the repurchaseing next-of-kin. But if he does not want to perform the part of the next of kin, I promise, as surely as Lifegiver lives, to perform the part of the next of kin to you. Stay here until morning.” 14 So she slept at his feet until morning but arose before anyone could perceive and recognise a companion. Boaz said, “No one must discover that a woman had visited the barn.” 15 Then he said, “Hold out the shawl that is upon you and tighten it.” As she held, he apportioned six portions of barley into the shawl and placed it on her shoulders. Then she went to town, 16 and returned to her mother-in-law. When she returned to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “Whose are you, my dear?” Ruth told her about all the man had done for her. 17 She said, “He gave me these six portions of barley, for he said to me, ‘You’ll not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” 18 Then Naomi said, “Sit still, my dear, until you know how the matter turns out because the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter today.”

Ruth 4

1 Meanwhile Boaz had ascended to the marketplace entrance and sat down. Then there came along the repurchaseing next-of-kin whom Boaz had mentioned to Ruth! Boaz said, “So and so, take a turn here and sit down.” So he turn and sat down. 2 He had fetched ten of the town seniors and had said, “Sit down here!” So they had sat down. 3 Then he said to the repurchaseing next-of-kin, “Naomi, who has returned from the country of Moab, is selling the portion of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. 4 So I thought I would advertise it in your audience and suggest: Acquire it before the residents and before the seniors of my people! If you’ll exercise your right to repurchase it, repurchase it. But if not, tell me so I’ll know. But if there is no one to repurchase it except you, I’m next in after you.” He replied, “I’ll repurchase it.” 5 Then Boaz said, “The day you acquire the farm from hand of Naomi, you must acquire it together with Ruth the Moabite, the wife of our deceased one, to preserve the name of the dead man upon his estate.” 6 The repurchaseing next-of-kin said, “Then I’m not able to repurchase it because in case I lose my own inheritance. You repurchase my redemption right, for I’m not able to repurchase it.” 7 In Israel before, this was the practice upon redemption transaction in order to ratify the whole thing: A person would remove his shoe and give it to the other. This would be evidence in Israel. 8 So the repurchaseing next-of-kin said to Boaz, “You may acquire it,” and he removed his shoe. 9 Then Boaz said to the seniors and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I’ve purchased and acquired from hand of Naomi everything that Elimelech’s, Kilion’s, and Mahlon’s. 10 Much more I’ve also repurchaseed Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, as my wife to raise up the name of the deceased one upon his estate so the name of the deceased one might not perish from among his relatives and from the entrance of his home town. You are all witnesses today.” 11 All the people who were at the marketplace and the seniors replied, “Recorded! May Lifegiver make the woman who is entering your home productive like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built and established the house of Israel! May he make you prosper in Ephrathah, renowned and famous in Bethlehem. 12 May your family become like the family of Perez, whom Tamar birthed to Judah - through the posterity Lifegiver gives you through this young woman.” 13 So Boaz took Ruth as a wife and got intimate with her. When he entered her, Lifegiver made her conceive and she birthed a son. 14 The women said to Naomi, “Blessed be Lifegiver because he has not left you without a repurchaseing next-of-kin today! May his name be famed in Israel! 15 he’ll become a restorer of vitality and your preserver and provider in your old age because your daughter-in-law whose love is better than seven sons’, birthed him.” 16 Naomi fetched and held the child and placed him on her lap; she became his foster-mother. 17 The neighbouring women named him and said, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They called his name Obed (serving). He then became the father of Jesse, David’s father! 18 These are the descendants of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, 19 Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, 20 Amminadab fathered Nachshon, Nachshon fathered Salmah, 21 Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, 22 Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

1 SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1

1 Then there was once a man from Ramathaim Zophim from the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elikanah, the son of Jeroham, the grandson of Elihu, the great grandson of Zuph, an Ephramaite. 2 He had two wives; the name of the first was Hannah and the name of the second was Peninnah. Now Peninnah had children, but Hannah was without children. 3 Time after time, this man went up from his city to worship and to sacrifice to Lifegiver of masses at Shiloh. It was there that the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas, were Lifegiver’s officiating priests. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But he would give an annoying portion to Hannah, because he adored and loved her. But Lifegiver had closed up her womb. 6 Her rival wife would provoke and frustrate her to make her crossed and irritated because Lifegiver had closed up her womb against hers. 7 As frequently as he used to do this year after year, going to the house of Lifegiver, just so she teased her. She would weep and not eat. 8 Then her husband Elkanah asked to her, “Hannah, why do you weep and not eat? Why is your heart shattered? Am I not better to you than ten sons?” 9 One time in Shiloh, after they had finished eating and drinking, Hannah stood up. At that time Eli the priest was sitting in his chair by the doorpost of Lifegiver’s temple. 10 She was emotionally upset and as she was praying to Lifegiver, she was tearfully crying. 11 She made a promise to Supermights saying, “O Lifegiver of masses, if you would take a look at the misery of your female servant, remember me and you do not forget your servant at all, but grant a male child to your female servant, then I’ll dedicate him to Lifegiver all the years of his life. Never will a razor touch his head!” 12 It happened as she was intensely praying to Lifegiver, Eli was watching and observing her mouth. 13 Now Hannah was speaking from her heart, only her lips were moving, her voice was not audible. Eli therefore thought she was intoxicated. 14 So he said to her, “Till when will you be drunk? Remove and turn aside your intoxication!” 15 But Hannah replied, “No, sir! I’m a woman of troubled spirit. I’ve drunk neither banquet wine nor liquor. Rather, I’ve poured out my emotions in the presence of Lifegiver. 16 Don’t consider your female servant a daughter of worthlessness, for until now I’ve spoken from the greatness my trouble and anguish.” 17 Eli replied, “Go in peace, and may the deity of Israel grant and fulfill the request that you have asked of him.” 18 She said, “May I, your female servant, find favor in your sight.” Then the woman went her way and got something to eat. Her appearance was otherwise again. 19 They made an early start in the morning and after worshiping Lifegiver, they returned to their home at Ramah. Elkanah had got intimate with his wife Hannah, and Lifegiver remembered her. 20 It happened when the time came around after Hannah had conceived, she birthed a son and called and famed his name “Samuel (Heard by Supermights), because I’ve been granted him from Lifegiver!” 21 The husband Elkanah went up with all his family to make the yearly sacrifice to Lifegiver, the Eternal One and to fulfill his vow, 22 but Hannah did not go up with them because she said to her husband, “When the boy is matured, I’ll bring him that he may make his appearance before Lifegiver, and he’ll stay there forever from then on.” 23 So her husband Elkanah said to her, “Do what appears best. Stay until you have weaned him. Indeed Lifegiver will fulfill and validate his word.” So the woman stayed and nursed and suckled her son until matured. 24 Once she had matured him, she took him up with her, along with three bullocks, a measure of flour, and a skin-bottle of wine. She brought him to Lifegiver’s house at Shiloh, and the boy was a lad. 25 Once the bull had been slaughtered and sacrificed, they brought and introduced the boy to Eli. 26 She said, “Excuse me, sir! Just as well you are still alive, sir! I’m the woman who stood here praying to Lifegiver. 27 I prayed for this boy, and Lifegiver has indeed given me the request that I asked of him. 28 Since I begged him from Lifegiver, as long as he is alive, he’ll be granted to Lifegiver.” Then they worshiped Lifegiver there.

1 Samuel 2

1 Hannah then offered a prayer; “Lifegiver, my heart rejoices. Lifegiver my strength is lifted high. My mouth has been enlarged over my enemies because I’m glad in your deliverance. 2 Lifegiver no one is sacred except you. None solid as our deity! 3 Say nothing in pride and haughtiness, letting grievous things come out of your mouth because Lifegiver is mighty in knowledge, performance and levelling. 4 ​​​​​​​The bows of warriors are crushed, weakened and forcefully bound. 5 ​​​​​​​The surfeited earn wages for bread and the hungry rest as the sterile birth seven but the fertile breed weakly. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver kills and restores, bringing down to the grave and resurrecting. 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver impoverishes and enriches, humbles and exalts. 8 ​​​​​​​He strengthens the weak from rubbish. He raises the lowly from ashes to place them among princes, and to cause them to inherit the glorious throne because the pillars of the Earth are Lifegiver’s. He has set the world for their sake. 9 ​​​​​​​He will guard the feet of his faithful ones and the wicked will be silenced in obscurity because by human strength no one will be great. 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will prostrate his adversaries. From Heaven he’ll thunder against them. Lifegiver will judge the ends of the Earth . he’ll give boldness to his king and lift the strength of his anointed.” 11 When Elikanah went home to Ramah, the lad remained to serve Lifegiver, the Eternal One and he ministered in the presence of Eli, the priest. 12 The sons of Eli were good-for-nothing children. They did not respect Lifegiver at all. 13 The priests’ crime against the people, when any person offered a sacrifice, the priest’s attendant would come with a three-pronged fork in their hands while the meat was roasting. 14 They would poke it into the basin, kettle, pan or pot, everything that the fork brought up the officiating priest would take for himself. This is what they would do to every Israelites that came to Shiloh. 15 Even before they burned the fat, the priest’s attendant would come and say to the person that is slaughtering the sacrifice, “Give me meat to roast for the priest! he’ll not have meat that is roasted by you. Instead it must be raw.” 16 If When a person would say to him, “Let the fat be burnt off first, then take whatever your desire wishes.” They would say; “Unless you give me now, I’ll take it forcefully!” 17 The sin of these young men became very exceedingly great in the face of Lifegiver because the men scorned and contemned Lifegiver’s offering. 18 Now Samuel served and ministered before Lifegiver, a youth dressed with a linen priestly cape. 19 His mother would make and bring him a little robe from time to time when she came up with her husband to slaughter and offer yearly sacrifice. 20 Eli would thank and bless Elikanah and his wife and say; “May Lifegiver give you descendants out of this woman for the loan that you have given to Lifegiver. And they would go back home. 21 Then Lifegiver revisited Hannah and she conceived and birthed three sons and two daughters and Samuel became great before Lifegiver. 22 Eli then became very old and would hear and listen to everything that his sons did to everyone in Israel even how they slept with the women that gathered at the entrance of the tent of assembly. 23 He asked them; “Why do such things, the bad report which I hear about from among all these people? 24 No, my sons. Certainly the report I hear circulating among Supermights’ people is not good. 25 If a person sins against another the judge will intercede, but if anyone sins against Lifegiver, who will intercede?” They never listened to their father’s scolding therefore Lifegiver wanted them dead. 26 Now Samuel the boy continued growing great, favourable before Lifegiver as well as among the people. 27 A man of Supermights came to Eli and said to him; “Did I not openly reveal myself to the house of your ancestors when they were in Pharoah’s house in Egypt? 28 I elected him priest out of all the tribes of Israel to cause to ascend upon my altar of burnt incense, to wear an priestly cape in my presence? I gave to your ancestor’s family all the fire sacrifices of Israelites. 29 Why are you trampling the sacrificial gift I ordered in my dwelling and honoured and enriched your sons more than me by cutting out from the choicest part of all offerings of Israel, my people?’ 30 This is what Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel says; ‘Although I had said and promised that your family and your ancestral family will walk in my presence me until unending futurity.’ Now Lifegiver declares; ‘Forbidden! Indeed, I honour the honourable and curse the trifling ones.’ 31 Look, a time is coming to cut down your strength and the strength of your ancestral family - there will be no old man in your family. 32 You’ll see distress in your dwelling in everything. Whilst I’ll prosper and bless Israel, there will be no old man in your family all the time. 33 Any one of you I’ll not cut off from my altar, I’ll faint and finish his eyes. I’ll cause emotional grief to the offsprings of your house, they’ll die in their prime. 34 This will be your evidence that will come against your two sons, Hophni (pugilist) and Phineas (snake mouth). Both of them will die in one day. 35 Then I’ll raise myself a faithful principal priest who will go about what is in my heart and mind. I’ll secure him a permanent place and he’ll walk before my anointed one until unending futurity. 36 Then it will happen that everyone that remains in your family will come and bow down for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread and say; “Please attach me to some office of priesthood so I can eat a piece of bread.”

1 Samuel 3

1 Now Samuel the youth continued serving and ministering to Lifegiver in Eli’s presence. Lifegiver’s counsels had become rare those days - no open oracles. 2 It happened that day as Eli himself was lying down in his room, his eyes began to be dim and he could not see. 3 Just before the lamp of Supermights was put out in the temple of Lifegiver where there was the Cabinet of Supermights and Samuel was sleeping, 4 Lifegiver called to Samuel. He replied, “Here I’m!” 5 Then he rushed to Eli and said; “I’m here because you called.” Then he said; “I did not call. Sleep again.” He went to sleep. 6 Lifegiver called Samuel once again. Then Samuel rose up and went to Eli and said; “Here I’m because you called!” He answered; “I did not call you my son. Sleep again.” 7 Then Samuel did not yet discern and recognise Lifegiver; the speaking of Lifegiver had not been previously revealed to him. 8 Then Lifegiver called Samuel again the third time. Then he rose up and went to Eli and said; “Here I’m because you called!” Then Eli realised that Lifegiver was addressing the lad. 9 So Eli said to Samuel; “Go lie down and if it happens that he calls again, you are to say; ‘You may speak Lifegiver because your servant is listening.’ Samuel went to lie down in his room. 10 Lifegiver came closer, remained standing and called at his repetition; “Samuel, Samuel.” Then Samuel answered, “You may speak because your servant is listening.” 11 Lifegiver said to Samuel; “Look, I’m going to do something in Israel which will cause both ears of everyone that hears it to vibrate. 12 On that day I’ll act against Eli - everything which I had said about his family will pierce to the end! 13 I’ve told him that I’ll condemn and punish his family until unending futurity for the perversity which he knew, because his sons trifled and did not restrain them. 14 So I’ve sworn to Eli’s family that the perversity of Eli’s family will never be atoned for with a sacrificial offering until unending futurity.”15 So Samuel slept until the morning. He then loosened and opened the doors of the temple of Lifegiver. Samuel was terrified from presenting the vision to Eli. 16 But Eli called out to Samuel and said; “Samuel, my son.” Then he said: “Here I’m.” 17 He then said; “What message did he say to you. Please do not hide the message from me. May Supermights deal with you like this and that manner if you hide any parts of whatever message that he said to you.” 18 So Samuel presented and explained to him everything. He did not hide anything from him. Eli said, “He is Lifegiver, let him do whatever seems best.” 19 Samuel grew, and Lifegiver was with him. None of all his words fell to the ground. 20 All Israel from Dan to Beer Sheba acknowledged that Samuel was established as a prophet of Lifegiver. 21 Then Lifegiver again appeared in Shiloh, because it was in Shiloh that Lifegiver had revealed himself to Samuel through the oracle of Lifegiver.

1 Samuel 4

1 Then the pronouncement of Samuel came to pass throughout Israel. Then the Israelites went out to war against the Philistines. They camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines camped at Aphek. 2 The Philistines mobilised for an encounter. Israel lost the battle as they stumbled in the face of the Phillistines who killed four thousand people in battle line in the field. 3 When the troops came back to the tents, the seniors of Israel said, “Why did Lifegiver let us be defeated before the Philistines today? Let us fetch and bring the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s Covenant from Shiloh to us. When it is brought among us, it will save us from the power of our enemies. 4 So the people were sent to Shiloh to bring from there the Cabinet of Covenant of Lifegiver of masses who sits between the flanking cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas were there with the Cabinet of the Covenant of Supermights. 5 When the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s Covenant entered the camp, all Israel shouted in tumultuous applause, a shout of joy that reverberated the desert. 6 When the Phillistines heard and witnessed the noise they asked; “What is this loud shout in the camp of the Hebrews?” They then discovered that Lifegiver’s Cabinet had arrived in the camp. 7 Then the Philistines were terrified because they said; “Supermights has come into army camp.” They also said; “Good grief! Surely we’ve never ever had such a thing before! 8 Good grief! Who will rescue us out of the power of this Supermights that attacked and destroyed Egyptians with all the plagues in the desert? 9 “Toughen up people of Philistia. Conquer the Hebrew labourers so that they serve you. Arise and devour the people!” 10 So the Philistines prevailed and defeated the Israelites. They each fled to their home. There was a great degree of slaughter, thirty thousand Israeli soldiers fell. 11 The Cabinet of Supermights was captured. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas, were killed. 12 There then escaped a Benjamite servant of the army. He then fled to Shiloh that same day. His clothes were torn with soil on his head. 13 When he arrived in Shiloh, Eli sat at a distance on a side chair intently looking about because his heart was shuddering with terror because of the Cabinet of Supermights. When the man had arrived and had reported to the city, the whole city cried. 14 Then when Eli heard and listen to the loud outcry, he asked; “What is this tumultuous noise?” The man quickly came and told Eli. 15 At that stage Eli was ninety eight years old and his eyes were raised but he could not see. 16 The Then the man said to Eli; “I came from the battle-lines. I escaped today from the battle-lines.” He then asked; “What is said to have happened, my son.”17 The messenger replied, “Israel fled in the face of Philistines! There has been a great slaughter! Your two sons, Hophni and Phineas, are dead! The Cabinet of Supermights has been captured!”18 When he made mention of the Cabinet of Supermights , Eli fell over his chair backwards over the hinges of the gate. He was fractured, broken in pieces, and died because he was a massive old man. He had governed and judged Israel for fourty years. 19 His daughter-in-law, Phineas’ wife, was pregnant and close to giving birth. When she heard the news that the Cabinet of Supermights was captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she sank down to her knees and birthed because her distress upturned upside down. 20 When she was dying, the attendant said to her, “Do not be afraid because you birthed a son!” But she did not respond, let alone in her mind. 21 She cried out saying, “Ichabod (inglorious) boy! Israel has been stripped of glory after the Cabinet of Supermights was captured and after the deaths of my father-in-law and my husband. 22 She thought, “Israel has been stripped of glory after the Cabinet of Supermights was captured.”

1 Samuel 5

1 Then the Philistines took the Cabinet of Supermights and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2 When the Philistines took the Cabinet of Supermights, they brought it into the temple of Dagon, and they placed it next to Dagon. 3 When the Ashdodites woke up the next day, there was Dagon thrown down with his face on the ground in front of the Cabinet of Lifegiver. So they took and carried Dagon and restored him in his place. 4 But when they got up the following morning, there was Dagon thrown down with his face on the ground in front of the Cabinet of Lifegiver. The head of the Dagon and his two hands were destroyed towards the stem. Only Dagon’s trunk was left over. 5 As a result afterwards, to this day, the priests of Dagon or anyone that came into Dagon’s temple never stepped on the threshold of Dagon. 6 Then the power of Lifegiver was severe upon Ashdodites. He devasted and tormented them with tumorous haemorrhoids - Ashdod and the region. 7 Then when the people of Ashdod realised that it was because of this, they said; “The Cabinet of Supermights must not remain with us because his power is fierce upon us and Dagon our god!” 8 So they spread out, gathered and assembled all the rulers of the Philistines witlitreand said; “What are we going to do with the Cabinet of Supermights of Israel?” They answered; “Let the Cabinet of Supermights of Israel be accompanied to Gath. So they carried and accompanied the Cabinet of Supermights of Israel. 9 It happened that after it had been turned over, the power of Lifegiver fell against the city (Gath) with very intense destruction. He attacked and killed the people of that city, from young to old. They had bursting haemorrhoids! 10 So they sent the Cabinet of Supermights away to Ekron. It happened that as the Cabinet of Supermights arrived in Ekron, the Ekronites cried out and said; “They have driven and brought the Cabinet of Supermights of Israel to us to kill our people!” 11 They spread out, gathered and assembled all the rulers of the Philistines and said; “Leave the Cabinet of Supermights of Israel and send it away. Return it to its own place because there has been deadly destruction in the entire city - the power of Supermights had been very fierce there.” 12 The people that were not killed were punished with haemorrhoids. The city’s cry for help ascended to the sky.

1 Samuel 6

1 Then Cabinet of Lifegiver had come to be in the country of Philistines seven months. 2 Then the Philistines called the pagan priests and the diviners and asked, ““What must we do to the Cabinet of Lifegiver. Advise us how we should send it away to its place?” 3 They replied; “If you are letting go and sending the Cabinet of Supermights of Israel, do not send it empty but rather return and take it back with a compensation. Then you’ll be healed and you’ll understand why his power is not recalled from you.” 4 Then they asked; “With what compensation must we return it?” They replied; “Five golden images of hemorrhoids and five golden images of mice numbering the rulers of Philistines because each plague was on all your rulers. 5 Produce images of your hemorrhoids and images of the mice that devastated and ruined your country. You must give glory to Supermights of Israel, perhaps he’ll lighten his grip upon you, upon your deity s and upon your country. 6 Why do you then harden and make your hearts unresponsive as Egyptians and Pharoah made their hearts obdurate. When he effected abuse, they did release them and he went away? 7 Now make one new wagon and take two suckling cows upon which you have never mounted a yoke. Harness and tie the cows to the wagon. Then let their young be brought home afterwards. 8 Then take and bring the Cabinet of Lifegiver and load it upon the wagon. Then put the golden articles which you are giving as a compensation in a side box. Direct and send it away that it may be gone. 9 And if it goes by the coastal route of Beth Shemesh, he has done and caused this great calamity. But if not, then we’ll know that it was never his power that struck us. It happened accidentally. ”

10 So Then the people did it that way. They took two suckling cows and harnessed them to the wagon and restrained their calves at home. 11 Then they loaded and fixed the Cabinet of Lifegiver on the wagon together with the box of golden mice and images of hemorrhoids. 12 Then tThen the cows went straight to the route of Beth Shemesh, went along the highway, bellowing as they went, and they did not aside to the right or to the left. The rulers of Philistines walked behind them up to the border of Beth Shemesh. 13 At that time the Beth Shemeshites were harvesting wheat during their harvest time in the valley. When they lifted and jutted their eyes an caught sight of the Cabinet, they immediately rejoice at the sight. 14 The wagon went into the farm of Joshua, the Beth Shemite. It stopped there where there was a big stone. They cut and broke the wood of the wagon and offered the cows as a sacrifice to Lifegiver. 15 TThe Levites dismounted and lowered the Cabinet of Lifegiver and the box that was with it which had the golden articles. They placed them on the big stone. Then the people of Beth Shemesh brought up offerings and slaughtered sacrifices to Lifegiver that same day. 16 Then the five rulers of the Philistines watched and returned to Ekron that day. 17 These are the golden hemerrhoids which the Philistines paid in for compensation to Lifegiver - one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Askelon, one for Gath and one for Ekron. 18 The The the golden mice numbered all the cities of the five rulers of the Philistines, from the fortified cities and its rural villages up to the great meadow upon which they alighted and placed the Cabinet of Lifegiver - to this day a farm of Joshua, the Beth Meshite. 19 He then struck the people of Beth Shemesh because they had peeped into the Cabinet of Lifegiver. He killed 50,070 people. Then the people grieved because Lifegiver struck the people with so great a slaughter. 20 Then the people of Beth Shemesh said; “Who is able to stand before this holy Lifegiver deity? And to whom will it go from us?” 21 So they sent messengers to the residents of Kirjath Jearim to say; “The Philistines brought and returned the Cabinet of Lifegiver. Come down and fetch it up.”

1 Samuel 7

1 Then the people of Kiriath Jearim came and picked up the Cabinet of Lifegiver; they brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hillock. They consecrated Eleazar his son to protect and guard the Cabinet of Lifegiver. 2 Altogether, the time the Cabinet continued stayed in Kiriath Jearim from that time exceeded twenty years. The entire house of Israel went mourning after Lifegiver. 3 Then Samuel spoke to the entire house of Israel saying; “If you would return to Lifegiver with all your hearts, remove and turn away from the foreign gods and Ashtoreth among you. Direct your hearts towards Lifegiver and serve him alone. Then he’ll deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.” 4 So Israelites turned away and removed the Baals and the Ashtoreths. They worshipped and served only Lifegiver. 5 Then Samuel said, “Bring and gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I’ll pray to Lifegiver on your behalf.” 6 When they gathered at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before Lifegiver. They fasted and confessed there that day, “We’ve sinned against Lifegiver.” So Samuel condemned and judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. 7 When the Philistines heard that Israelites were gathering at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines went up against Israel. When children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. 8 Then children of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not stop calling out to Lifegiver our deity so that he may save us from the power of the Philistines!” 9 So Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole sacrifice to Lifegiver. Samuel called out to Lifegiver on Israel’s behalf, and Lifegiver answered him. 10 As Samuel was offering sacrifice, the Philistines drew near to fight against Israel. But on that day Lifegiver thundered with a loud voice against the Philistines and confused them. They were then defeated in the face of Israel. 11 Then the people of Israel went out of Mizpah. They pursued and chased the Philistines, attacking them all the way up to the plateau of Beth Car. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen. He called its name Ebenezer (stone of help) saying; “See, Lifegiver helps always!” 13 So the Philistines were humiliated and they did not come to borders of Israel. The power of Lifegiver broke the Philistines the entire lifetime of Samuel. 14 The cities that the Philistines had captured from Israel were returned to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, Israel also delivered their territories from the control of the Philistines. There was peace between Israel and the Amorites. 15 So Samuel ruled and governed Israel all the years of his life. 16 He would oar his travel as often as year by year rounding up Bethel, then Gilgal, then Mizpah. He would judge and vindicate Israel in all those regions. 17 He would then return to Ramah because his house was there. There too he would judge and vindicate Israel. He also built an Lifegiver’s altar there.

1 Samuel 8

1 It happened when Samuel became old he appointed his sons as Israel’s judges. 2 The name of the first born was Joel and the name of the second one was Abijah. They were judges in Beer Sheba. 3 But his sons did not follow his course of life. Instead, they were inclined to dishonest money. Then they accepted bribes, and perverted justice. 4 So all the seniors of Israel gathered together and approached Samuel at Ramah. 5 They suggested to him, “Look you are old and your sons do not follow in your ways. Now appoint us a king to govern the whole nation.” 6 But this matter was disturbing in Samuel’s opinion after they had asked; “Give us a king to govern us.” Then Samuel prayed to Lifegiver. 7 Lifegiver Then Lifegiver said to Samuel; “Listen to the voice of the people in everything they have said to you. They have not rejected you but they have rejected me from reigning over them. 8 In every action that they have done from the day I brought and led them from Egypt up to now, they have backslidden and served different gods. So do they are doing the same to you. 9 This time, listen to their voice. But warn and admonish them, showing them implications of being ruled over by a king.” 10 Then Samuel reported all the words of Lifegiver to the people that were asking for a king from him. 11 He said, “Here are the practices of the king who will rule over you: he’ll take and conscript your sons and put them as chariot drivers as well as runners before his chariots. 12 he’ll appoint for himself leaders of thousands and leaders of fifties to plow his ground, reap his harvest, and manufacture his weapons of warfare and calvary. 13 he’ll take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. 14 he’ll take your farms and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own servants. 15 he’ll accumulate the produce of your vineyards and give it to his officials and his servants. 16 he’ll take your male and female servants, as well as your best youth and your donkeys, and employ them to public business. 17 he’ll accumulate your flocks. Then you’ll become his servants. 18 At that time, you’ll cry out because of your king who you have decided for, but Lifegiver will not answer you in that day.” 19 But The people rerfused to listen to the voice of Samuel but they said; “Nothing, until and unless we’ve a king over us! 20 We also want to become like all nationalities. Our king will govern and lead before us, fighting and winning our battles!” 21 Then Samuel heard and paid attention to all the words of the people and reported them in the audience of Lifegiver. 22 Lifegiver said to Samuel; “Heed their call and induct a king.” Then Samuel said to the people of Israel; “Each of you go away to your city.”

1 Samuel 9

1 There was a man from Benjamin named Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin. He was a powerful and wealthy person. 2 He had a son named Saul, a handsome young man and there was no one among the Israelites as handsome as he was. From his shoulder upwards, he was taller than any of the people. 3 The donkeys of Saul’s father Kish went missing, then Kish said to his son Saul, “Please take one of the young servants with you now. Arise, go and find the donkeys.” 4 So they crossed through the hill country of Ephraim, and they passed through the land of Shalisha, but there was nothing. So they crossed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they crossed through the land of Benjamin, and still they did not find them. 5 When they reached the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, “Come, let’s go back in case my father be unoccupied about the donkeys and be anxious about us!” 6 But he said to him; “Please, there is in this town Supermights’ servant, an honourable man. All he says is comes to pass. Please let’s go there perhaps he can predict and tell us which way other way to travel.” 7 So Then Saul said to the servant; “But look, if we go what will we carry to the because our food in our bag is used up and there is no gift to come with to the man of Supermights. What do we’ve?” 8 The Then the servant paid attention and responded to Saul again; “Look I’ve here in my hand a quarter weight of money. I’ll give it to man of Supermights to predict and tell us our course.” 9 In times past in Israel when someone went to consult Supermights this is how he would speak; “Come, let’s go to before a seer,” because today’s prophet in past times was a seer. 10 Then Saul said to the servant; “Good idea! Come, let’s go.” So they went to the town where the man of Supermights was. 11 As they were ascending the hill town, they came across girls going out to draw water and they asked them; “Is the seer here.” 12 They replied and said; “He is. Straight ahead of you. Hurry now because he came to town today because the people are sacrificing today in the ridge. 13 Enter the town this way to find him before he goes up to the ridge to eat because the people will not eat until he arrives because he blesses the sacrifice. Just after that, the invited eat. Go up for him right now. This time you’ll find him.” 14 They then went up to the town and as they arrived in town, there was Samuel coming out opposite direction to go up the ridge. 15 Now one day before Saul had come Lifegiver had told Samuel in his ear and said; 16 “About this time tomorrow, I’ll send you a man from the land of Benjamin. You are to anoint him a leader over my people Israel that he may save and liberate my people from the power of the Philistines because their cry of distress has reached me!” 17 So when Samuel saw and looked at Saul, Lifegiver said to him; “There is the man who I told you about! This one will rule over my people!” 18 As Saul was coming near Samuel in the middle of the gate he said; “Please tell me where is this seer’s house.” 19 Samuel then paid attention and responded; “I’m the seer. Go up in front of me to the ridge. Today you’ll eat with me, and at dawn I’ll let you go. Then I’ll have told you all that is in your mind. 20 Do not at all let your mind be fixed on the donkeys that were lost three days ago because they have been found. On whom is all Israel’s delight? Not on you and all your father’s family?” 21 Saul Saul replied and said; “Am not a Benjaminite, out of the least tribe of Israel, and is my family not the insignificant of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak such words to me?” 22 Then Samuel then took and led Saul and the servant to enter into chamber and gave them a top place among the invited - they were thirty people. 23 Samuel said to the butcher, “Bring and give me the portion that I designated which I told you to set apart.” 24 The butcher picked up and presented the thigh above and placed it before Saul. Then Samuel said; “There is what was left for your presence. You may eat because it has been kept for the appointed time to be said to the people I invited.” So Saul ate with Samuel that day. 25 When they had come down from the ridge to the town, he conversed with Saul on the housetop. 26 Then they had early bedtime to rise up at dawn. Samuel called towards Saul and said; “Rise up so I can send you off.” Then Saul arose. Then both went out, they and Samuel went out in the street. 27 WAs they were going down towards the end of the town, Samuel said to Saul, “Ask your servant to carry on ahead of us. He must pass but you stand. Today I’ll tell and show you Supermights’message.”

1 Samuel 10

1 Then Samuel took out a flask of oil and poured in on his head. Then he hugged him and said; “Is it not that Lifegiver has anointed you the leader over his heritage? 2 When you leave from me today you’ll find two men near Rachel’s tomb at Zelzah on Benjamin’s border. They’ll say to you; ‘The donkeys which you went to search for have been found. Look, you father has quit and stopped being concerned about the donkeys. He is now anxious about you. He is asking; “What must I do about my son?”’ 3 “The go on further from there and you’ll come to the plain of Tabor. There will appear three men going up to Supermights to Bethel, one will be carrying three young goats, one carrying three loaves of bread and another carrying skin bottle of wine. 4 They’ll greet and be friendly to you and give you two loaves of bread which you must receive with your hands. 5 After that you’ll come across the Hill of Supermights which has the barrack of the Philistines. When you reach the town, you’ll meet before you a band of prophets descending from the ridge with a skin bottle, a tambourine, a flute and a harp, and they’ll be prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of Lifegiver will impress you to prophesy with them. You’ll be transformed into another person. 7 “It will be that when these signs are fulfilled, you’ll perform what you’ll have been empowered to do because Supermights will be with you. 8 You’ll go down to Gilgal before me. I’ll come down to offer thanksgiving sacrifices. You’ll wait for seven days until I arrive and reveal and explain what you must do.” 9 As Saul had turned to leave Samuel, Supermights transformed his heart and each of those things did happen that very day. 10 When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, there was a company of prophets coming out to meet him. Then the spirit of Supermights had an impression on Saul and he prophesied among them. 11 When everyone who had known him from time past prophesying with the prophets, the they all asked one another, “What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul together with the prophets?” 12 One who was from there asked; “But who is their originator?” On the basis of that, there came this proverbial saying: “Is Saul together with the prophets?” 13 When he had finished prophesying, he went to the ridge. 14 Saul’s uncle asked him and his servant, “Where did you go?” He replied, “To look for the donkeys. But when we realized they were nowhere, we went to Samuel.” 15 Saul’s uncle said, “Please tell me what did Samuel say to you.” 16 Then Saul said to his uncle, “He told and assured us that the donkeys had been found.” But concerning the kingly office that Samuel had soken about, he said nothing. 17 Then Samuel invited the people together before Lifegiver at Mizpah. 18 He said to Israelites, “This is what Lifegiver the deity of Israel says, ‘I took and brought Israel up from Egypt and I delivered you from the power of the Egyptians and from the power of all the oppressive rulers. 19 But today you have rejected and despised Supermights who has continued to preserve you from all your enemies and distress. You said, “No! Appoint a king over us.” Now position yourselves before Lifegiver by your tribal families.” 20 When Samuel had brought all the clans of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken. 21 Then he brought the tribe of Benjamin nearer by its families, and the family of Matri was taken. Saul the son of Kish was be taken. But when they looked for him, he could not be found. 22 So they inquired from of Lifegiver, “Did the man come here?” Lifegiver said, “There, he has hidden himself in between utensils.” 23 So they rushed and brought him from there. When he stood among the people, taller than all the people; his shoulders above them all. 24 Then Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the one whom Lifegiver has Designated? Indeed, there is no one like him among all the people!” All the people shouted out, “Long live the king!” 25 Then Samuel talked to the people about plan of the kingship and wrote it all down on a scroll and placed it before Lifegiver. Then Samuel sent all the people away to their homes. 26 Even Saul also went to his home in Gibeah. With him went some brave men whose hearts Supermights had touched. 27 But some good-for-nothing people said, “How can this man save us?” They despised him and did not bring him gifts. But he said nothing.

1 Samuel 11

1 Nahash the Ammonite came and camped on the ground of Jabesh Gilead. The people of Jabesh Gilead all said to Nahash, “Cut a deal with us and we’ll serve you.” 2 But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, “I’ll only cut a deal with you if you let me gouge out everyone’s right eye.” He planned to disgrace on all Israel. 3 The seniors of Jabesh said to him, “In a week’s time we withdraw to send messengers to the entire territory of Israel. Then if none is able to save us, we’ll return to you.” 4 When the messengers reached the hill of Saul and they shared the news in the audience of the people, all the people raised their voices in loud cry. 5 Then there was Saul coming behind the herd from the field. He then asked; “What are the people weeping about?” They then related and explained to him the news him of the people of Jabesh. 6 Then the Spirit of Supermights impressed him and his anger was greatly kindled. 7 He took a span of oxen, cut them up in pieces and sent them throughout the territory of Israel by the messengers’ hands. He said; “Whoever does not come out behind Saul annd behind Samuel, this is what will be done to his oxen.” The terror of Lifegiver fell on the people. They then went our as united people. 8 When he had numbered them in Bezek, the people of Israel came about three hundred thousand and the people of Judah thirty thousand. 9 They then said to the messengers; “Come here. You are to say to the people of Jabesh Gilead, ‘Tomorrow when sunrise has become hot, victory will have been brought about.’” When the messengers returned and explained, the people of Jebesh rejoiced. 10 The people of Jabesh therefore said; “Tomorrow we’ll be coming out to you. Do everything that is appropriate to your eyes.” 11 Then the next day came. Saul organised and arranged the people in three groups. They attacked half of the camp at the crack of dawn and they killed and conquered the Ammonites before the heat of the day. It happened that survivors became so scattered that no two of them were left together. 12 The people then said to Samuel; “Whoever asked if Saul could reign over must each be brought to death.” 13 Then Samuel said; “No one must be killed this time because Supermights has worked out victory in Israel.” 14 Samuel said to the people, Then Samuel said to the people; “Let us go and travel to Gilgal and reinstall the king there.” 15 So all the people went to Gilgal. In Gilgal they re-inaugurated Saul in the presence of Lifegiver. They slaughter thanksgiving sacrifices in the presence of Lifegiver. Saul and all the people of Israel greatly rejoiced there.

1 Samuel 12

1 samuel said to all Israel; “Listen, I’ve obeyed your voice in all you that you requested. I’ve inducted a king over you. 2 Today there is your king alive before you. I’m have now become old and gray. Look at my sons among you. I’ve lived before your faces from early life to this day. 3 Here before Lifegiver and before the anointed one, whose and which ox have I taken or whose donkey have I taken? Who have I defrauded and extorted? Who have I oppressed? From whatever hand and whoever I’ve received a bribe to distort my judgement I’ll return it back. 4 They replied; “You have not defrauded us, not oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from the hand of anyone.”” 5 He said to them, “Lifegiver is my witness, and his Designated king is witness this day that you have not found anything in my hand to challenge my testimony.” 6 Samuel said to the people, “Lifegiver who chose and appointed Moses and Aaron and who raised and brought your ancestors up from the land of Egypt 7 Now stand that I may contend with you before Lifegiver the Eternal One for every righteous act which Lifegiver did among you and your ancestors 8 since Jacob came to Egypt. Your ancestors cried out for help to Lifegiver. Lifegiver sent and directed Moses and Aaron, and they led and brought your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place. 9 But they forgot and ignored Lifegiver, their deity. He then surrendered them to the hand of Sisera, the general of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of Moabite king - and they devoured them. 10 Then they cried to Lifegiver for help. They admitted, ‘We’ve sinned, because we’ve forsaken and departed from Lifegiver and have served and worshipped the Baals and the images of Ashtoreth. Now rescue us from the hand of our enemies that we may serve you.’ 11 So Lifegiver sent Jerub-Baal (Baal contender), Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and he rescued you from the hand of the enemies surrounding you, and you could live in security. 12 When you saw that King Nahash of the Ammonites was coming against you, you said, ‘No! Surely we need a king to advise us.’ Yet Lifegiver Supermights is your king! 13 Now look at the king you have decided for, who you have demanded – the one that you asked for! There, Lifegiver has given you a king accordingly! 14 Oh that you’ll revere and fear Lifegiver, serving and obeying him, and not rebelling against his principles. Oh that both you and the king who rules over you would continue to follow Lifegiver your deity ! 15 But if you don’t obey Lifegiver and provoke and rebel against Lifegiver’s ideals, the power of Lifegiver will be against both you and your king. 16 So now, stand and watch this great thing that Lifegiver is about to do in your sight. 17 Is this not the time of the wheat harvest? I’ll call on Lifegiver so that he makes it thunder and rain. Realize and see that your sin that you have committed before Lifegiver’s eyes is great - requiring a king.” 18 So Samuel called to Lifegiver, and Lifegiver made it thunder and rain that day. All the people revered and feared Lifegiver and Samuel. 19 All the people said to Samuel, “Intercede to Lifegiver your deity on behalf of your servants – so we won’t die because we’ve added bad to our offences by requiring a king.” 20 Then Samuel said to the people, “Don’t be afraid though you have done and committed this evil, do not ever turn away from following Lifegiver. Serve Lifegiver with all your heart. 21 Never depart because you are pursuing vanity which does not profit or saves because it is unreal. 22 Indeed Lifegiver will not reject and abandon his people on account of his great name. Indeed, it has pleased Lifegiver to make you this people. 23 As Moreover, it will be far from me to sin against Lifegiver that I should stop praying for you. But I must teach you the good and right the way. 24 Fear and revere Lifegiver only, serving him in faithfulness with all your heart. Surely consider and look at what great things he has done for you! 25 But if you continue to be bad and mischievous, both you and your king will be scraped off.”

1 Samuel 13

1 Saul was appointed king that year. By the time he had become a king for two years over Israel,2 Saul had appointed three thousand out of Israel. A thousand were with Saul in Micmash, a hill country of Bethel. A thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent to his residence. 3 Jonathan attacked and destroyed the military base of Philistines that was in Geba. Then the Philistines heard. Saul blasted the trumpet throughout the land saying; “Let the Hebrews hear.” 4 All Israel heard the report: “Saul has attacked and destroyed the military base of the Philistines. Now Israel has become deplorable to the Philistines. As a result, the troops are summoned by Saul in Gilgal.” 5 Then the Philistines mobilised themselves to fight against Israel - three thousand chariots and six thousand riders and as many troops as the sand on the sea shore. They came and camped in Michmash, east of Beth Aven. 6 The people of Israel realised they were in trouble because the troops were hard pressed. Then people hid themselves in caves, rocks and cliffs, and in fortresses and in holes. 7 Some of the Hebrews went and crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. But Saul stayed in Gilgal and all the troops around him were trembling. 8 He waited for a week, an appointed time that Samuel required. But when Samuel did not come to Gilgal, the troops around him were dispersing. 9 Saul then said; “Bring the thanksgiving sacrifice to me.” He then offered the sacrifice. 10 Just As he finished offering the sacrifice, there came Samuel and Saul went to meet and greet him. 11 But Samuel asked; “What have you done.” Saul replied; “When I saw the troops dispersing from me, and you were not coming witlitrethe appointed time of the feast, and the Philistines were gathering in Michmash, 12 I then though; ‘The Philistines will march down and I’ve not implored the face of Lifegiver.’ I therefore compelled myself to offer the sacrifice.” 13 Then Samuel said to Saul; “You acted foolishly. You did not observe and protect the ordinance of Lifegiver your deity which he had ordered. Supermights would have surely established and ordained your kingship over Israel for long. 14 But now your reign will not last. Lifegiver desired a conscientious person and Lifegiver would have ordained him as a ruler over his people. But you have not observed and regarded what Lifegiver had instruct ed.” 15 After that, Samuel stood up and withdrew from Gilgal to the hills of Benjamin. Saul marshalled the people present with him - six thousand people. 16 Saul and Jonathan, his son and the troops present with them remained in the hills of Benjamin while the Philistines camped in Michmash. 17 Then the mercenaries came out of the camp of the Philistines in three squadrons. One squadron turned toward Ophrah way towards the land of Shual; 18 another squadron turned toward Beth Horon way; and yet another squadron turned toward the way to the region that overlooks the valley of Zeboim in the direction of the desert. 19 No manufacturer could be found in the entire land of Israel because the Philistines had determined it just in case the Hebrews would produce swords and spears. 20 All Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen their ploughs, hoes, axes, as their mattocks. 21 There was a continuous bluntness of mattocks, ploughs, three-pronged forks, axes and goads’ sharp point. 22 It happened that on the day of the war, no sword or spear would be in the hand of any troops that were with Saul and Jonathan. Saul and Jonathan, his son had them. 23 The military base of the Philistines was moved forward to the ford of Micmash.

1 Samuel 14

1 It happened one day that Jonathan, Saul’s son said to the retainer that carried his weaponry; “Come, let’s cross over to the Philistine’s military base that is over the opposite side yonder.” But he did not tell his father. 2 Saul was sitting under a pomegranate tree in Migron, on the outskirts of Gibeah. The troops that were with him were six thousand people. 3 Ahijahm, the son of Ahitub, who was the brother of Ichabod and a son of Phineas, a son of Eli, the priest of Lifegiver in Shiloh was bearing the ephod. The troops did not aware that Jonathan was gone. 4 The were sharp rocks between the crossing places by which Jonathan sought to cross over to the military base of the Philistines, one on the one side, and another sharp rock of the other side. The name of the one was Bozez (shining) and the name of the other was Seneh (thorny). 5 The cliff of the one narrowed through to the northern precipice of Michmash while the other to the southern precipice of Gibeah. 6 Jonathan said to retainer that carried his weaponry; “Come, let us cross over to military base of these uncircumcised people. Perhaps Lifegiver will fight for us because nothing prevents Lifegiver from giving victory by many or by a few.” 7 His weaponry carrier said to him; “Do all that your heart inclines you to. Look, I’m here by reason of your heart.” 8 Jonathan the said; “Look, we’ll cross over to these people and announce ourselves to them. 9 If they say this to us; ‘Wait until we come to you.’ Then we’ll instead stay and not go up to them. 10 But if they say this to us; ‘Come up to us,’ then we’ll go because Lifegiver has delivered them into our hands. This will be evidence to us.” 11 When both of them announced themselves at the military base of the Philistines, the Philistines thought; “There are the Hebrews coming out of the caves where they had hid themselves! 12 The sentinels at the military base mocked and shouted to Jonathan; “Come up to us and we’ll show you a thing.” Then Jonathan said to his weaponry carrier; “Come behind me because Lifegiver has give them over to the power of Israel.” 13 Jonathan crept up on his hands and feet, with his weaponry carrier behind him. They fell before and behind Jonathan, his weaponry carrier killed them behind. 14 In the first strike Jonathan and his weaponry carrier came to strike down twenty people half the ground of a field ploughed by a span. 15 There was trembling in the camp of armed mass and among all the people who were in the military base. The mercenaries were terrified too. The country was perturbed. There was such a great fear. 16 Saul’s sentinels in Gibeah of Benjamin looked and saw a crowd dissipating following the strike. 17 So Saul said to the people that were with him, “Please marshal the troops and check who is gone from among us.” When they marshalled the troops, they discovered Jonathan and his weaponry carrier were gone. 18 Then Saul said to Ahijah, “Bring the Cabinet of Supermights near,” because the Cabinet of Supermights was at that time with the children of Supermights. 19 While Saul spoke to the priest, the tumult in the Philistines’ camp went on and on. So Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your hand!” 20 Immediately Saul and all the troops that were with him convened and marched into battle. There they saw every person’s sword used against his fellow citizen. There was great confusion. 21 The Hebrews, who had previously climbed up against them in the camp, those who had recently turned on Philistines, they too came around to be with the Israelites that were with Saul and Jonathan. 22 When all the people of Israel who had hidden themselves in the mountains of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they too pursued behind them in war. 23 So Lifegiver gave victory and delivered Israel that day. Then the battle transitioned and crossed over to Beth Aven. 24 But the troops of Israel were hard pressed that day because Saul had sworn and cursed the people: “Cursed be anyone who eats food before sunset that I may be avenged on my enemies!” So none of the people tasted anything. 25 All the ways came to a forest and there was honey dripping from above on top of the surface of the ground. 26 When the people entered the forest, they saw the honey flowing, but no one laid his hand on his mouth because the people were afraid and respectful of the curse. 27 But Jonathan had not heard the oath his father had made the people take. He stretched and directed the end of his staff that was in his hand and dipped and plunged it in the honeycomb. He put his hand to his mouth, and his eyes were glowing. 28 Then someone from the army told him, “Your father put the troops under a sworn curse saying, ‘Cursed be anyone who eats food today!’ That is why the troops are weak.” 29 Then Jonathan said, “My father has stirred trouble for the land. Look how my eyes were glowing when I tasted just a little of this honey. 30 Certainly if the troops had eaten some of the enemies’ spoils that they came across today, would not the slaughter of the Philistines have even been greater?” 31 On that day the troops conquered the Philistines from Micmash to Aijalon, although they were very weak. 32 So the people plunged in on the plunder, mixing sheep and goats, cattle, and their young ones. They slaughtered them on the spot, and the troops devoured them with blood.

33 They then told Saul; “Look, the troops are sinning against Lifegiver by eating it with the blood.” He said, “You have all acted deceitfully! Roll a huge stone over here to me.” 34 Then Saul said, “Spread out among the troops and say to them, ‘Every one must bring here his ox, and everyone his sheep and slaughter it here. Do not eat and sin against Lifegiver by eating it with blood. All the people each brought along their ox that night and slaughtered there. 35 Then Saul built an altar to Lifegiver, desecrating the altar that had been built to Lifegiver. 36 Saul then said, “Let us go down after the Philistines at night; we’ll prey upon them until the light of the morning. Leave no one alive!” They replied, “Do whatever pleases your eye.” But the priest said, “Let’s draw near to Supermights here.” 37 So Saul consulted Supermights , “Should I go down after the Philistines? Will you deliver them into the hand of Israel?” But he did not answer him that day. 38 Then Saul said; “Come here all chieftain of the people, discern and check wherein sin occurred today. 39 As long as there’s a living Lifegiver the saviour and deliverer of Israel, even if be Jonathan my son, he’ll die death.” Not one person from among the troops answered him!” 40 Then he said to all Israel, “You’ll stand on one side, and I and my son Jonathan will stand on the other side.” The people replied to Saul, “Do whatever pleases your eye.” 41 Then Saul said, “O Lifegiver deity of Israel! Give the whole truth.” Then Jonathan and Saul were selected and the troops were released. 42 Then Saul said, ““Settle between me and Jonathan my son.” Jonathan was selected. 43 So Saul said to Jonathan, “Tell me what you did.” Jonathan told him, “I used the end of the staff that was in my hand to taste and eat a little honey. Look, I must be executed!” 44 Saul said, “Supermights do so and so and more as you must die death Jonathan!” 45 But the troops said to Saul, “Must Jonathan who has accomplished this great victory for Israel die? Let it not be! As long as there’s a living Lifegiver, not a single hair from his head will fall to the ground because he has fought beside Supermights today!” So the people rescue and redeemed Jonathan. He was not killed. 46 Then Saul withdrew from following after the Philistines. The Philistines went to their kingdom. 47 Then Saul consolidated his kingship over Israel. He fought against the whole hostile neighbourhood - against Moabites, the children of Ammon, Edom and the kings of Zobah, the Philistines and all who appeared troublesome. 48 He brought about an army, attacked and conquered the Amelekites. He delivered Israel from the hand of their plunderers. 49 The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malki-Shua. He had two daughters; the older one was named Merab and the younger Michal. 50 The name of Saul’s wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the general of his army was Abner son of Ner, Saul’s uncle. 51 Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel. 52 There were violent wars with the Philistines all the years of Saul. Whenever Saul saw any valiant man or any able person, he took for himself.

1 Samuel 15

1 Then Samuel came to say to Saul; “Lifegiver sent me to anoint you king over his people on behalf of Israel. This time, listen to the declaration of Lifegiver’s words. 2 Here This is said by Lifegiver, the host of armies; ‘Do you remember and recall what the Amelikites did to Israel, what they placed in their way when they came out Egypt? 3 Go this time, attack and destroy the Amelekites. Destroy and exterminate everything, whatever they have. Do not commiserate on anything but put to death from man to woman, from infant to nursing woman, from bull and flocks, from camel to donkey.’” 4 So Saul listened and obeyed. Then he marshaled troops at Telaim, in Judah - hundred thousand soldiers (100 000), ten thousand each battalion. 5 Saul proceeded to the city of Amalek. He lurked for ambush in a torrent valley. 6 Then Saul said to the Kenites; “Go and withdraw from among the Amalekites in case I destroy you with them because you showed favour to all Israelites when they came out of Egypt.” So the Kenites turned away from among the Amalekites. 7 Then Saul attacked and conquered the Amelikites from Havilah, pursuing them to Shur which is next to Egypt. 8 He caught and captured Aga, the king of the Amalekites, alive while executing all the people with the tip of the sword. 9 However, SSaul and the troops spared Agag and the best of the flock, cattle, fatlings, lambs and everything that was valuable, he was not willing to destroy. But they destroyed everything contemptible and worthless. 10 Then the word of Lifegiver came to Samuel: 11 “I regret that I inducted and throned Saul the king because he has turned from following after me. He has not carried out my instructions.” It annoyed Samuel. He cried to Lifegiver the whole night. 12 Then Samuel made an eary start to meet Saul in morning. But he was presented with a report; “Saul went to Carmel and has there established a monument for himself.” He changed his direction and crossed over and went down to Gilgal. 13 When Samuel came to Saul, Saul then said to him; “Blessed be you of Lifegiver! I’ve performed and carried out the instruction of Lifegiver.” 14 Then Samuel asked; “What then is this bleating of flock and crackling of cattle which I hear in my ears.” 15 Saul replied; “They were brought from the Amalekites because the troops spared over the best sheep and cattle for the purpose of slaughter for sacrifice for Lifegiver, your deity. The rest we’ve destroyed.” 16 Then Samuel said to Saul; “Be quiet and I’ll tell you what Lifegiver has declared to me last night.” He said to him, “Speak!” 17 Samuel said, “Were you not small in your own eyes when you became head of the tribes of Israel, when Lifegiver anointed you king over Israel? 18 Lifegiver sent you on an errand saying, ‘Go, obliterate and exterminate those sinful and criminal Amalekites! Fight against them until you have wipe them off.’ 19 Why did you not obeyed the voice of Lifegiver but instead you swooped upon the spoils? You have did bad in Lifegiver’s sight.” 20 But as it is, I’ve obeyed the voice of Lifegiver and have carried the errand which Lifegiver had assigned me, I’ve defeated and brought Agag of king Amalekites. I’ve exterminated the Amalekites. 21 But the people took from the spoils flocks and cattle, the best of things that should have been destroyed, to sacrifice to Lifegiver your deity in Gilgal. 22 Then Samuel said; “Does Lifegiver delight in slaughtered sacrifices than in obedience of the voice of Lifegiver? Look, obedience is best than sacrifice, listening than choice parts or rams.” 23 ​​​​​​​For rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft and presumption as wickedness and idolatry. Because you have spurned and rejected the word of Lifegiver, he has rejected you from kingship.” 24 Then I’ve incurred guilt because I’ve transgressed and trampled instruction of Lifegiver and your words because I feared the people and I obeyed their voice. 25 Now This time please forgive and take away my sin and turn toward me so I may worship Lifegiver.” 26 Then Samuel said to him; “I’ll not turn back toward you because you have despised and rejected the word of Lifegiver, and Lifegiver has rejected you from being king over Israel.” 27 As Samuel turned around to leave, he held fast upon the hem of his robe and it was torn. 28 Then Samuel said to him; “Lifegiver has ripped and torn the kingdom of Israel from upon you today and has entrusted it to your fellow citizen better than you!” 29 The Everlasting One of Israel will not fail or repent because he is not human that he should repent.” 30 Then he pleaded; “I’ve missed the mark (sinned). But please dignify me in front of the seniors of my people and before Israel.” 31 So Samuel returned behind Saul and Saul worshipped Lifegiver. 32 TSamuel then said; “Bring Agag the king of Amalekites nearer to me. Agag was brought to him. He was cheerful and saying; “Indeed the bitterness of death is removed.” 33 But Samuel said; “Since your sword robbed women of children, so will your mother be childless among women.” Then Samuel hacked and cut Agag into pieces in the presence of Lifegiver in Gilgal. 34 Then Samuel travelled to Ramah. Then Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. 35 Samuel never again saw and gave attention to Saul until the day he died, although Samuel lamented for Saul, and Lifegiver regretted that he had inducted and throned Saul over Israel.

1 Samuel 16

1 Lifegiver said to Samuel; “Until when will you lament over Saul. I’ve rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your oil flask and go. I’m sending you to Jesse, the Bethlehemite because I’ve found myself a king among his sons.” 2 “Samuel asked; “How can I go? Saul will hear it. he’ll kill me.” Lifegiver then said; “Take a cow heifer with you and say; ‘I’ve come to sacrifice to Lifegiver.’ 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice and I’ll instruct and direct you what to do. You’ll anoint and consecrate who I’ll appoint for myself.” 4 Samuel prepared and did what Lifegiver had said when he came to Bethlehem. The seniors of the town trembled at his coming. They asked; “Do you come in peace.” 5 Samuel replied; “I’ve come in peace to sacrifice to Lifegiver. Prepare yourselves and come with me to sacrifice.” Then he singled out and prepared Jesse and his sons. He invited them to the sacrifice. 6 In happened as they were coming in, he noticed and considered Eliab and thought to himself; “Indeed Lifegiver’s anointed is in front of me.” 7 But Lifegiver said to Samuel; “I’ve not paid attention on his comely looks and nobility of stature, therefore I’ve rejected him. He is nothing of what human beings see with the eye. But I, Lifegiver, have looked at his heart.” 8 Then Jesse called for Abinadab and brought him before Samuel. Then he said; “Lifegiver has also not Designated this one either.” 9 Then Jesse brought Shammah. Then he said; “Lifegiver has also not Designated this one either.”10 Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel. Then Samuel said; “Lifegiver has not Designated these ones.”11 Then Samuel asked from Jesse; “Are all your young men here?” The he replied; “There is still the youngest one keeping sheep out there!” Then Samuel said to Jesse; “You may send to fetch him because we’ll not go away till he comes here.” 12 He was directed and brought in. He was ruddy and exceptionally handsome, pleasant personality, and good looking. Lifegiver then said; “Stand up. Anoint him because this is him!” 13 So Samuel took and used the oil flask and anointed him among his bother. The Spirit of Lifegiver was impressed upon David from that time forward. So Samuel stood up and travelled to Ramah. 14 But the Spirit of Lifegiver had retracted out from Saul and a belligerent emotion against Lifegiver would overwhelm him. 15 Saul’s advisors said to him; “Please be careful of the intense emotion of belligerence that overwhelms you. 16 Sir, please instruct the servants in your presence to search for whoever is a skilful string player. It will happen when the intense belligerent emotion is upon you, he’ll play his stringed hand instrument and you’ll be fine.” 17 Then Saul said to his servants; “Please find me a person who can play well and bring him to me.” 18 Then one of his servants announced; “Look, I’ve found a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite. He is a skilful player and a mighty man of valour and a champion of war, intelligent in speech, a favoured person, and Lifegiver is with him.” 19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Release and send me your son David who is with the flock. 20 So Jesse took a donkey with food, a skin-bottle of wine, and one young female goat and sent them to Saul by the hand of his son David. 21 Then David came to Saul and he remained in his presence. He loved him very much and became his weaponry carrier. 22 Then Saul sent a message to Jesse; “Please let David remain in my presence because he has found acceptance in my thoughts.” 23 It happened that whenever the intense emotion was upon Saul, David would fetch and bring his harp and would play it with his hand. Saul would be relieved and become pleasant - the belligerent emotion would therefore be gone from him.

1 Samuel 17

1 Then the Philistines gathered and mobilised their army companies for war. They assembled at Shochoh that is Judah. They then camped from between Shochoh and Azekah in Ephes Dammim. 2 Then Saul and the troops of Israel assembled and camped Elah Dale and were ready for war aganist the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood over a mountain on that side, and Israel stood over a mountain the other side, and the valley was in between. 4 There then came out from the army camp of the Philistines a protagonist named Goliath. He was from Gath and his height was beyond 2.5 metres. 5 An alloy helmet was upon his head and he was wearing a scaly body armour. The body armour’s weight was 57 kilogrammes of alloy. 6 And alloy slitreguards were down to his feet. An alloy spear protruded between his shoulder blades. 7 The point of his spearhead was a weaved beam. His spearhead was seven kilogrammes iron, and a large shield was lifted up in front of him. 8 He would stand and issue a challenge to the rank of Israel. He would say to them; “Why have you come to fight in rows? Am I not a Philistine. You servants of Saul, choose yourselves a champion to come down to me. 9 If he has the strength to fight with me, and he kills me, we’ll become servants. But if I overcome and kill him, you’ll be our servants and labourers.” 10 Then Philistine would taunt; “I challenge and defy the rank of Israel this day, give me a man so we can fight together!” 11 When Saul and all Israel would hear and listen to those words of the Philistine, they would be scared and greatly terrified. 12 David was the son of Ephrathite man of Bethelehem in Judah named Jesse. He had eight sons and each came to be great men as they grew older in the time of Saul. 13 Jesse’s three eldest sons would go to war, follow behind Saul. The names of his three sons that would go to war were Eliab the firstborn, the second was Abinadab and the third was Shammah. 14 David was younger when the three eldest followed behind Saul. 15 David would go away and return from Saul’s aid to pasture his father’s sheep at Bethlehem. 16 Then the Philistine would approach and present himself morning and evening for forty days. 17 One day Jesse said to his son; “Please carry a good measure of this roasted grain and these ten loaves for your brothers. Run to the camp to your brothers. 18 Also carry these ten pieces of cheese to the instructing officer of their battalion. Enquire after your brothers’ welfare. Bring their assurance. 19 Saul, them and all the troops of Israel are in Elah Dale waging war against the Philistines.” 20 David rose up early the next day. He left and entrusted the sheep to a retainer. He took off and left, as Jesse had commissioned him. He arrived at the intrenchment as the army was going out to battle lines. They were sounding their battle cry. 21 Israel and Philistines had mobilised their battle lines opposite other’s battle lines. 22 David left and entrusted his items in the custody of the supplies guard and ran to the battle lines. He went to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking to them there came out of the Philistine army the protagonist of the Philistines named Goliath of Gath. He threatened with the same utterances and David heard it. 24 When all the troops of Israel saw the man appearing, they fled from his face as they were very afraid. 25 Then someone of Israel said; “Do you see this great man coming up? He just taunts and challenges Israel to come up. If there is a man who can kill him, the king will enrich him with great wealth. In addition to that, he’ll give him his daughter, and he’ll grant his father’s family exemption in Israel.” 26 Then David asked the men who standing next to him questions; “What will be done to the man that attacks and kills this Philistine and remove humiliation from above Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that taunts the ranks of the living Supermights?” 27 Then the persons answered him this way and the other, saying; “Like this will it be done to whoever that kills him.” 28 David’s oldest brother Eliab heard him speaking to the men, and his anger was kindled. “David,” he asked, “why have you come down here? With whom have you left those few sheep in the desert. I know and recognise your pride and the naughtiness of your mind because you have come down here to watch the war!” 29 David replied, “What have I done now? Is there not a reason?” 30 Then he turned away from his company to the opposite direction. Another said the same words. And the people answered him repeating the same words. 31 When the report of what David asked was presented before Saul, he called for him. 32 Then David said to Saul; “Do not let any man’s heart discouraged because of him. Your servant will go and fight against this Philistine!” 33 But Saul replied to David; “You are not able to fight with this Philistines because you are young, and he has been a champion of war from his early life.” 34 David replied to Saul, “Your servant has been shepherding his father’s flock. Whenever a lion or a bear would come and snatch a lamb from the flock, 35 I

I would go after it and strike it and recover it from its mouths. When he would come on the scene towards me, I would take hold of it by the jaws and rip it dead. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them. For he has challenged the armies of the living Supermights!” 37 David went on to say, “Lifegiver who delivered me from power of the lion and the power of the bear will also deliver me from the hand of this Philistine!” Then Saul said to David, “Go! May Lifegiver be with you.” 38 Then Saul dressed and armed David with his own measure and put an alloy helmet on his head. He also armed him with a body armour. 39 David girded his sword over his body size and tried to walk around, because he had not tested them. David then admitted to Saul; “I’m not able to walk with these since I’ve never tried them on. David removed them from upon him. 40 He took his staff in his hand, selected five smooth stones from the torrent valley, he placed them in his shepherd’s bag. With his bag and his sling in his hand, he drew nearer to the Philistine. 41 The Philistine came walking nearer toward David, with his buckler in front of him. 42 When the Philistines scanned, inspected and looked at David, he contemned him because he was a young and ruddy boy of handsome appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, “Am I a cult male prostitute, that you are coming to me with a wand?” Then the Philistine slighted and insulted David mightily. 44 The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, so I can give and distribute your organs to the birds of the sky and the wild animals!” 45 But David replied to the Philistine, “You are coming against me with a sword, a spear and a gorget. But I’m coming against you in the name of Lifegiver, the host of the great armies of Israel, whom you have challenged! 46 This very day Lifegiver will enclose you into my hand! I’ll twist and remove your head from upon you. I’ll distribute the corpses of the army camp of Philistines this very day to the birds of the air and the wild animals of the lands that the whole world may recognise that there is Supermights in Israel. 47 This entire multitude will realise that Lifegiver does not save with sword and spear because the war is Lifegiver’s and he’ll deliver you into our hands.” 48 It happened that when the Philistine stir up and came to approached to encounter David, David hurried toward the battle line to encounter the Philistine. 49 David stretched and thrust his hand into his bag and took from there a stone and catapulted it. It a struck and wounded the Philistine in his brow that the stone sunk into his forehead. He tumbled on the surface of the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. He struck and conquered the Philistine and killed him - no sword was in David’s hand. 51 David ran and stood over the Philistine. He took and grabbed his sword, drew it out of the sheath and executed him, cutting and taking off his head. When the Philistines realised their champion was killed, they fled. 52 Then the troops of Israel and Judah rose up, shouted, chased and pursued the Philistines until they entered the narrow gorge as far as the entrance of Ekron. The fatally wounded were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. 53 When Israelites returned from hotly pursuing after the Philistines, they plundered and spoiled their tents. 54 David took and carried the head of the Philistine and would bring it to Jerusalem but he placed his weaponry in his tent. 55 Now as Saul watched David going out to fight the Philistine, he asked Abner, the general in instruct of the army, “Whose son is this young man, Abner?” Abner replied, “As Saul saw and watched David go out against the Philistine, he asked from Abner, the instruct er of the army; “Whose son is this young man?” Abner said; “By your personal life, O king, I do not know.” 56 The Then the king said; “You must enquire whose son the young man is!” 57 Then, as David was returning from conquering the Philistine, Abner took and brought him in front of Saul. He had the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” David replied, “I’m the son of your servant Jesse, the Bethlehemite.

1 Samuel 18

1 It happened when he had finished speaking to Saul, the mind of Jonathan was bonded with the mind of David. Jonathan loved him as his life. 2 Saul retained him that time and did not allow him to return to his father’s household. 3 Then Jonathan and David cut an alliance of friendship for life. 4 Jonathan took off and stripped off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, together with his outer garment, as well as his sword and his bow as well as his belt. 5 David came out of wherever Saul sent him with success. Saul appointed him over the men of war. It was pleasing in the eyes of all the troops and also in the eyes of the Saul’s officials. 6 When It happened as they were returning from the destruction and defeat of the Philistines, everyone came out from all the cities of Israel. They were singing and dancing joyously with drums and three-stringed musical instruments to meet King Saul. 7 Women sang antiphonally as they played:

Saul killed his thousands

but David his tens of thousand.

8 This Saul blazed up very much and the message offended his spirit as he thought; “They attribute to David ten thousands, and to me they ascribe thousands. What is next except the kingship?” 9 So Saul watched David with jealousy from that time onwards. 10 The It happened the day after that the intense belligerent mood overwhelmed Saul and he raved through the house. David had been playing a stringed instrument with his hand the previous day and that day, and a spear head was in his hand. 11 and Saul pointed and hurled the spear head, thinking, “I’ll pierce David through the side!” But David escaped from its sharp anvil. 12 Then Saul stood in awe of the presence of David because Lifegiver was with him. He avoided being with Saul. 13 Saul removed him from besides him and appointed him a instruct er over a military company. He would go out and lead before the troops. 14 David was successful in all his expeditions as Lifegiver was with him. 15 When Saul realised that he was successful he increasingly became troubled because of his presence. 16 But All Israel and Judah liked and admired David because he led and came before them. 17 So Saul proposed to David; “Look at my eldest daughter Merab. I’ll give her to you in marriage. Only remain valiant and fight Lifegiver’s wars.” Saul thought to himself; “Let it not be my hand that finishes him but let the hand of the Philistines finish him!” 18 David the remarked to Saul; “Who am I and what is my life or my father’s clan in Israel that I should become a royal son-in-law?” 19 When But it happened at the time and occasion Merab, Saul’s daughter, would be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel, the Meholathite. 20 Michal, Saul’s girl, befriended and loved David and they told Saul. This report tickled his fancy. 21 Saul said, “I’ll give her to him so that she may become a bait to him and the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” So Saul said to David, “This time is the second time you can be my son-in-law.” 22 Then Saul instructed and assigned his servants; “Converse with David privately and say; ‘Look, the king delights in you and all his officials like you. This time be the king’s son-in-law.’” 23 So Saul’s servants rehearsed and spoke those words in the audience of David. David said; “Apparently, it is insignificant to be the king’s son-in-law. I’m a poor man and lightly esteemed!”24 When Saul’s servants reported those words to him, they said; “These are the words David said.” 25 Saul replied; “Here is what you must say to David; “The king does not want any bridal price except a hundred Philistine foreskins so to punish the king’s enemies.” Saul was thinking and planning David’s destruction by the Philistine’s hands. 26 So the servants told David the dearly loved these words. It was immediately acceptable in David’s eyes that the opportunity to be the king’s son-in-law was not ended! 27 David rose up and went. He and his servants killed 200 Philistine men. Then David gathered and brought their foreskins and gave them in full to the king that he could become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave up and gave him Michal his daughter in marriage. 28 Then Saul realised and acknowledged that Lifegiver was with David, and that Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him. 29 Saul went around increasingly insecured from the presence of David and continually became his enemy the whole time. 30 Whenever the rulers of Philistines would come it would happen after they had pitched their tents, David would come and be successful than Saul’s servants that his name was greatly esteemed.

1 Samuel 19

1 Then Jonathan spoke to his son Jonathan and to all his staff to ensure that David is killed. 2 But Jonathan, Saul’s son, liked David very much. Then Jonathan told David the intention; “My father Saul is planning to kill you. Please protect yourself straightaway until the morning. Stay under cover in seclusion. 3 I’ll go and present my side to my father in the plain from where you’ll be and I’ll reason with my father and whatever I perceive I’ll inform you.” 4 Then Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul. He said to him; “The king should not incur guilt through his servant David because he has not done any wrong against you. Further because his performance has been very beneficial. 5 He placed and risked his life in the hands of murderous and ravaging Philistines and Lifegiver has worked out important victories for all Israel which you saw and rejoiced. Why would you harm innocent blood by killing and executing David without a reason?” 6 Saul listened to the advice of Jonathan and swore by the living Lifegiver that he would not have him killed.” 7 Jonathan then called David and Jonathan explained and reported all those discussions. Jonathan then brought David to Saul and continued in his presence as in past time. 8 Now There arose war again. David went out and fought the Philistines and defeated them with a great conquest. Then they fled from his encounter. 9 Then the belligerent mood against Lifegiver recurred on Saul as he was sitting in his palace with a spear in his hand, while David was playing a stringed instrument with his hand.. 10 Saul tried to fatally wound David on the side with the spear but he escaped from Saul’s anger, and the spear hit and destroyed the wall. David fled and slipped away that night. 11 Saul sSaul sent representatives to David’s house to watch and kill him next morning. Michal, David’s wife told him the intention; “If you do nothing, and not slip away tonight, tomorrow you’ll be dead.” 12 So Michal then lowered and brought David down through the window and he went away running and was preserved. 13 Michal then took and enfolded a statue and placed it witlitrethe bed. She also put pillow of goat’s hair as a headrest and covered it with a cloth. 14 When Saul sent representatives to get and bring David, she said; “He was feeling weak.” 15 Then When Saul resent the representatives to check and inspect David, he had told them; “Bring him up to me on his bed so that I kill him.” 16 When the representatives came in, there was a statue in the bed with a pillow of goat’s hair a his headrest. 17 Then Saul said to Michal; “How could you insult and betray me like this and let my enemy escape?” Michal said to Saul; “He said to me; ‘Let me go. For what reason should I be killed.’” 18 Meanwhile David had fled and escaped and had come to Samuel in Ramah and had told him everything that Saul had done to him. He and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. 19 It was reported to Saul saying, “David was seen at Naioth in Ramah.” 20 So Saul sent representatives to arrest and bring David. When they saw and watched a group of prophets prophesying with Samuel standing there as their leader, the spirit of Supermights fell upon Saul’s representatives, and they prophesied too. 21 When it was reported to Saul, he sent other representatives, they prophesied too. So Saul sent representatives a third time, but they also prophesied. 22 Then he went himself to Ramah as far as a great fountain that is in Sechu. Then he inquired and asked; “Where is Samuel and David?” One said; “They were seen in Naioth in Ramah.” 23 He then went from there to Naioth in Ramah, and the Spirit of Supermights fell upon him too. Then he went on and on prophesying until he reached Naioth in Ramah. 24 He also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel. He also lied down naked that whole day and the whole night. On the basis of that, afterwards they would say: “Saul among the prophets!”

1 Samuel 20

1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked; “What have I done? What is my fault? What is my offence in the face of your father that he requires and strives after my life?” 2 Then he said; “Forbidden! You’llnot die! Look, my father will not do anything, important or insignificant, without disclosing or making me aware of it. Why would he conceal and keep this thing a secret? It is impossible!” 3 TDavid then swore again and said; “Your father is knows and recognises that I’ve found acceptance in your opinion and he is thinking; ‘Do not let Jonathan be aware of this in case he be displease.’ But by the living Lifegiver and by your personal life, there’s but a step between me and dying!” 4 Then Jonathan asked; “What do you require me to do?” 5 David then proposed; “Look, tomorrow is the new month, I should stay to sit and dine with the king. Send me away to hide in the plain until the third night. 6 If your father pays attention and lays it upon me as a charge, then say; “David asked for leave of absence from me that he may run to Bethlehem, his city, because of a yearly sacrifice for the entire family there.” 7 If he should say, ‘Fine,’ then your servant is safe. But if he becomes very angry and furious, understand that a harmful plot has been decided against me. 8 You must be loyal to your servant because you have brought and entered your servant into Lifegiver’s covenantal alliance with yourself. If I stand guilty, kill me yourself rather. Why should you bring your father?” 9 Then Jonathan said; “Forbidden! Indeed if I know and realise that harm is being plotted by my father to be brought upon you, would I not tell you then?” 10 David then said to Jonathan; “Who will tell me? What if your father responds to you cruelly?” 11 Jonathan said to David, “Come. Let’s walk out to the field.” When the two of them had gone out into the field, 12 Jonathan then said to David; “Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel will certainly search and examine my father by mealtime tomorrow, or third day. Look then, if he’s agreeable towards David, then will I not send it to you to uncover and reveal it to your audience? 13 May Lifegiver do so and much more to Jonathan if my father, the head of my family, intends to harm you, then I’ll discover it and uncover it to your ear. Then I’ll send you away so that you may go to safety, and may Lifegiver be with you as he was with my father. 14 Will you not if I’m still alive grant me the kindness of Lifegiver that I may not be killed? 15 Never cut off your kindness towards my family until futurity, not even when Lifegiver has cut off and eliminated each of the enemies of David from the surface of Earth ! 16 So Jonathan cut a agreement with the family of David; “May Lifegiver demand it even from the hand of David’s enemies.” 17 Then Jonathan, Lifegiver-given, made David swear his love again as he loved him with the love of his life. 18 Then Jonathan said to David; “Tomorrow is the new month and you’ll be sought in vain as your company will be missed. 19 When you have gone down three days, quickly come to the place where you hid when this pursuit was hot. Wait by the stone of Ezel (departure). 20 I’ll then shoot three darts on its side, aiming them at a target. 21 You’ll see, I’ll send and direct a boy; ‘Go, find and get the darts.’ If I say and tell the youngster; ‘There are the darts on your side,’ pick them up and come because you’ll be safe, and there will be no danger by the living Lifegiver. 22 But if I say like this to the young man, ‘There are the darts on the other side yonder,’ go your way in that case Lifegiver has released you. 23 As for the pledge which you and I promised one another, may Lifegiver be there between us until unending futurity!” 24 So David hid in the field. Then when the new month came, the king sat down to eat a meal. 25 The king sat upon his usual seat as usual. He would seat on the wall seat. Jonathan stood up with Abner and sat on the other side of Saul and David’s place was laid up. 26 Saul did not say anything that day because he thought; “Something ceremonially unclean must have happened to him. He is surely not clean. 27 But It happened the fay after, the second day of the new month as David’s place was empty, Saul then said to Jonathan, his son; “Why has the son of Jesse not come to the meal again, yesterday and today?” 28 Jonathan then responded and answered Saul; “David begged and requested to be allowed to go Bethlehem; 29 He said; ‘Please free me because our clan has a sacrifice in the city and my brother gave me orders. If I’ve found favour in your eyes, please let me slip away to see my relatives.’ On those grounds he has not come to the king’s table.” 30 Then Saul’s anger blazed up against Jonathan and he said; “You are a son of perverse rebellion! Do I not know that you have Designated the son of Jesse for your own confusion and shame and your mother’s shame. 31 For as long as the son of Jesse is alive upon the Earth , your royal power will not be established. Right now, send for him to be captured and brought in to me because he is destined to be killed. 32 Jonathan then paid attention and responded; “Why must he be killed? What has he done?” 33 Then Saul picked up and hurled his spear at him to kill him. Jonathan admitted he was convinced of his father’s plot to kill David. 34 Jonathan stood up from the table in furious anger without eating the meal of the second day of the month because he was pained for David and because his father had humiliated him. 35 It happened the next day Jonathan went out to the field at the appointed time with David, and a young servant was with him. 36 Then he said to the boy; “Run, please find the darts which I’ll shoot now.” As the boy was running he shot a dart beyond him. 37 When the youngster came to the spot of the dart which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called out after the youngster; “No. The dart is beyond you.” 38 Then Jonathan called out after the boy; “Hurry! Quickly! Do not delay!” Jonathan’s servant picked up and gathered the arrows and came back to his master. 39 But the boy did not understand anything. Only Jonathan and David knew and understood the meaning. 40 Then Jonathan put and gave his equipment over to the servant and said to him; “Go, carry these to the city.” 41 When the servant had left, David stood out from southward side and prostrated his face to the ground, bowing down three times. The friends hugged each other and wept upon and with each other, until David was swollen. 42 Then Jonathan said to David; “Go well as both of us have sworn in Lifegiver’s name, saying Lifegiver be between us and between my seed and your seed until futurity.” Then he strengthen and left and Jonathan went back to the city.

1 Samuel 21

1 Then David went to Nob to Ahimelech, the priest. But Ahimelech trembled to meet David and he asked; “Why are you alone and there are no people with you?” 2 David then said to Ahimelech; “The king has commissioned me on a errand he has instructed me not to let anyone know anything about that particular errand or where I’m sent. I’ve instructed my staff concerning a certain one and a certain place. 3 What is under your hand right now? Give me five loaves in my hand or whatever you can find. 4 The priest paid attention and answered David and said; “There is no common bread under my charge, instead there is sacred bread, provided the young men have indeed kept themselves from women.”” 5 David Then David paid attention and answered the priest; “Indeed women have been kept away from us since we left the past three day. Since we came out, the young men’s artillery is sacred. But the bread is in a way common except it was consecrated today in the utensil! 6 So the priest gave him the sacred because there was no bread there except the display bread that was taken from Lifegiver’s presence the day it was removed. 7 At that time, one from Saul’s staff was there that day, restrained in the presence of Lifegiver. His name was Doeg, an Edomite, Saul’s a valiant shepherd 8 David then said to Ahimelech; “Is there no sword or spear here under your care because I’ve not brought my sword or any weapons with me at all because the king’s errand required urgency.” 9 The priest replied, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, is wrapped up in a cloth behind the priestly shoulder cape. If you wish, take it for yourself. Other than that, there’s nothing here.” David said, “There’s nothing like it! Give it to me!” 10 So that very day David rose up and fled from the presence of Saul. He went to Achish the king of Gath. 11 Then Achish’s staff said to him; “Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him in dances saying; ‘Saul killed his thousands but David his tens of thousands?’ 12 When David thought and recalled those words in his heart, he was very afraid in the presence of Achish the king of Gath. 13 He disguised and altered his behaviour and acted madly in their hands. He scrabbled on the doors of the entrance and let his saliva run down on his beard. 14 Achish said to his servants, “Look and see this madman! Why did you bring him to me? 15 Do I’ve a shortage of mad men that you have brought and introduced this man to display his madness in front of me? Should this man come into my palace?”

1 Samuel 22

1 So David left from there and escaped to the cave. When his brothers and all his father’s household heard about it, they came down to him there. 2 Everyone in distress and everyone that was indebted, and everyone that was discontent gathered themselves around him to become their leader over them. There were four hundred people with him. 3 Then David went from there to Mizpah in Moab, where he said to the king of Moab, “Please let my father and mother stay over here with you until I find out what Supermights is going to do for me.” 4 So he had them stay and put up with the king of Moab; they stayed with him the whole time that David was in the fort. 5 Then Gad the prophet said to David, “Do not stay in the fort. Go to the land of Judah.” So David left and went to the forest of Hereth. 6 But Saul heard about David and got to know about the people that were with him. At that time Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree with his spear in hand and all his servants stationed around him. 7 Then Saul said to his staff that stood around him; “Please listen you Benjamites! Is Jesse’s son going to give each one of you farms and vineyards? Is he making all of you battalion instruct ers and unit officers? 8 Why have all of you conspired against me? No one has revealed and uncovered the plot of my son and Jesse’s son. No one is sorry enough for me to reveal and expose to me when my son is rising up with my subject against me to ambush me this time.” 9 But Doeg who was appointed over the servants of Saul answered and said; “I saw and watched this son of Jesse coming into Nob to Ahimelech, the son of Ahitub. 10 He prayed Lifegiver for him and gave him food supply. He also gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. 11 Then the king sent and extended an invitation to Priest Ahimelech the son of Ahitub and all his father’s priestly family that were in Nob. Then they all came to the king. 12 Then Saul said; “Please listen you son of Ahitub.” He answered; “Yes, sir!” 13 Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and this son of Jesse? You gave him food and a sword and prayed to Supermights for him so that he rises against me to ambush me this time!” 14 Then Ahimelech paid attention and answered the king and said; “Who is loyal among all your staff as David, the royal son-in-law, deposed at royal bidding but honourable in the palace? 15 Did I today desecrate by praying to Supermights for him? Forbidden! The king must not ascribe cases on his servant’s whole family because your servant does not understand all of this, in part or in full. 16 But the king said, “You’ll perish and die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s family! 17 Then the king said to the guards who stood around him, “Turn around and kill the priests of Lifegiver because their share is with David! They knew he was running away but they did not reaveal and disclose it to me.” But the king’s staff refused to stretch and release their hand to strike the priests of Lifegiver. 18 Then the king said to Doeg, “You turnaround and strike the priests!” So Doeg the Edomite turned around and struck the priests. On that day he killed eighty-five men who wore the priestly cloth. 19 As for Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the tip of the sword men and women, children and suckling mothers, cattle, donkeys, and flocks; all with the tip of sword. 20 But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub named Abiathar survived and came chasing behind David. 21 Abiathar told David that Saul had murdered and destroyed the priests of Lifegiver. 22 Then David said to Abiathar, “I knew that very day when Doeg the Edomite was there that he would report and tell Saul! I’ve let down all the persons in your father’s family! 23 Stay with me. Don’t be afraid because whoever requires and seeks to find my life requires and seeks your life as well. With me is your preservation.”

1 Samuel 23

1 They told David, “The Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are plundering and looting the barns.” 2 So David asked Lifegiver, “Should I go and strike these Philistines?” Lifegiver said to David, “Go, strike the Philistines, defend and deliver Keilah.” 3 But David’s people said to him, “We are afraid here in Judah, how much more if we go to Keilah against the army of the Philistines?” 4 David asked Lifegiver again. But again Lifegiver replied, “Rise up and go down to Keilah because I’ll give and deliver the Philistines into your hand.” 5 So David and his people went to Keilah and fought the Philistines, took and drove away their cattle and defeated them with a great conquest. So David delivered and saved the inhabitants Keilah. 6 Now when Abiathar son of Ahimelech had fled to David at Keilah, he had brought an priestly cape in his hands. 7 When SWhen Saul was told that David had come to Keilah, Saul then thought; “Supermights has rejected him into my hand because he is trapped by entering a town that has gates and bolts.” 8 So Saul called and marshalled his entire army for war to go down to Keilah to attack David and his people. 9 When David got to know that Saul was planning to harm him, he told Abiathar the priest, “Bring the priestly cape here!” 10 Then David said, “Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, your servant hears and understands that Saul is planning to come to Keilah to destroy the city because of me. 11 Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down as your servant has heard? Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, please advise your servant!” Then Lifegiver said, “He is coming down.” 12 David asked, “Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my people into Saul’s hand?” Lifegiver said, “They’ll surrender you.” 13 So David and his six hundred people set out and left Keilah; moving around wherever they could go. It was reported to Saul that David had slipped away from Keilah, he ceased his expedition. 14 David stayed in the desert forts and remained in the mountainous desert of Ziph. Though Saul looked for him every time, Supermights did not give him over to his power. 15 David saw Saul coming to seek and take his life but David was in the forest in the desert of Ziph. 16 Then Jonathan came on the scene and went to David in the forest to strengthen and encourage his hand in Supermights. 17 He said to him, “Don’t be afraid! For the hand of my father Saul cannot reach you. You’ll rule over Israel, and I’ll be your second in command, and my father Saul knows this.” 18 Then the two of them made a agreement before Lifegiver. David stayed in the forest, but Jonathan returned to his house. 19 Then the Ziphites paid a visit to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Isn’t David hiding among us in the fortresses in the forest on the hill of Hakilah, south end of the desert? 20 Straightaway, totally at your will and pleasure, the king may come down and we’ll deliver him into the king’s hand.” 21 Saul replied, “May Lifegiver bless you because you had compassion on me. 22 Please go and prepare more. Skillfully inspect and mark his quarters wherever his foot comes, whoever has seen him there because I’m told he has become prudent and subtle. 23 Observe and recognise all of the hiding places. Return to me with a confirmation and I’ll go with you. If he be in the land, I’ll search and trace him among the thousands of Judah.” 24 So they left and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. But David and his people were in the desert steppe of Maon, in the southern desert. 25 Saul and his people went down to search. David had been told and had gone down to the cliff and had stayed in the desert of Moan. When Saul heard, he went after David in the desert of Moan. 26 Saul went on one side of the mountain, while David and his men went on the other side of the mountain. David started to panic from fear of Saul because Saul and his people were surrounding David and his people to capture them. 27 At that time, a messenger came to Saul saying; “Come quickly because the Philistines are spreading over the land.” 28 So Saul turned back from chasing after David and went against the Philistines. On account of that they just called that spot “Sela Hammahlekoth. 29 Then David went up from there and stayed in the fortresses of En Gedi.

1 Samuel 24

1 It happened as Saul was returning from following the Philistines, he was informed by a report; “David is there in the desert of En Gedi!” 2 Then Saul took three thousand select troops out of all Israel and went to search and find David and his people on the rocky surfaces and mountain goats. 3 He came across sheep pens along the way where there was a cave. Saul then went in to privately relieve his stool. David and his people were sitting in the cove of the cave. 4 David’s people said to him, “This is the day about which Lifegiver spoke to you, ‘I’ll deliver and give over your enemy into your hand, and you can do to him whatever pleases your fancy.’” So David got up and creepily cut off and took away a hem of Saul’s robe. 5 Afterward David’s conscience troubled him because he had cut off and taken away a hem of Saul’s robe. 6 He said to his men, “Lifegiver forbids me from doing and effecting such a thing as stretching my hand against my king, Lifegiver’s consecrated - he is Lifegiver’s anointed.” 7 David dissuaded and discouraged his people with these words and did not permit them to rise up against Saul. Then Saul left the cave and went on his way. 8 Afterward David got up and went out of the cave. He then called out after Saul, “My lord, my king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down his nose to the ground. 9 David said to Saul, “Why do you listen and give heed to people’s words saying, ‘David is trying to harm you’? 10 Look, this day your eyes have seen and witnessed how Lifegiver delivered you into my hand today in the cave. Some urged me to kill you but I had compassion on you. I said; “I’ll not stretch my hand against my king because he is Lifegiver’s anointed.’ 11 Look, my father, indeed you can see and look at the hem of your robe in my hand because I’ve cut it off and taken it away, I did not kill you. You have to admit and realise that there is no worse treason in my plan. I’ve not done wrong against you. You have hunted and waited in ambush to take my life. 12 May Lifegiver judge between the two of us, and may Lifegiver avenge me over you, but my hand will not be upon you. 13 As the proverbial saying of the ancients says: ‘Wickedness brings out the wicked’ but my hand will not fall on you. 14 After whom has the king of Israel come out? Who is it that you are pursuing? A dead dog? One insect? 15 May Lifegiver be our judge and arbitrate between us and deliver me from your hands!” 16 When David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is that your voice, my son David?” Then Saul wept loudly. 17 He said to David, “You are more righteous than me because you have treated me kindly, whereas I’ve treated you worse! 18 You have made it plain today this time how well you regard me. Although Lifegiver delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. 19 Now if a man finds his enemy, does he send him on his way with ease? May Lifegiver reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. 20 Look, I know very well that you’ll reign as a king and that the kingdom of Israel will become powerful under your hand. 21 Now swear by Lifegiver that you’ll not cut and eliminate my posterity after me and that you’ll not destroy and exterminate my name out of my father’s family. 22 David swore to Saul. Saul went to his palace. David and his people ascended to the fortress.

1 Samuel 25

1 Then Samuel died. Then all Israelites gathered and mourned, and buried him in his home in Ramah. Then David left and went to the desert of Paran. 2 Then there was a very rich fellow in Moan who had property in Carmel. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He would shear and fleece his sheep in Carmel. 3 The man’s name was Nabal (fool), and his wife’s name was Abigail (source of joy). She was a pleasant, intelligent, and good looking woman but the man was obstinate and unkind in his dealings. He was a Calebite. 4 When David heard in the desert that Nabal was shearing and fleecing his sheep, 5 he sent out ten boys, saying to them, “Go up to Carmel to see Nabal and inquire of his welfare in my name. 6 Then you’ll say to the community, ‘Peace to you and your house! Peace to all that is yours! 7 I hear that you are shearing at this time. At some stage your shepherds were with us. We did not humiliate them, neither was there something missing the whole time they were in Carmel. 8 Ask and consult your retainers and they’ll tell you. May the boys find favour in sight because we’ve come in a good time. We pleade, please give whatever be sufficient portion to your servers and to your son David.’” 9 So David’s young men went and spoke all those words to Nabal in David’s name. Then they were quiet. 10 But Nabal responded to David’s young men, “Who is David, and who is this son of Jesse? These days there are many people that are breaking away from the presence of their proprietors! 11 Should I take and share food, water and meat that I’ve slaughtered for my shearers and give it people that I do not even know where they are from?” 12 So David’s young men turned back their way and returned. They came and told David all those words. 13 Then David instructed his people; “Each and everyone of you strap on your sword!” Then each and everyone strapped his sword and David also strapped and fastened his sword. There ascended four hundred people while two hundred remained around their supplies. 14 One of the retainers from their staff told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, saying; “There is David swoopingly directing an expedition out of the desert to greet and curse our proprietor. 15 The people were very kind to us and they did not humiliate us, neither was there something missing. The whole time we were in the fields we lived with them. 16 They were a buffer zone to us by night and by day, the whole time we were with them, while we were pasturing our flock. 17 Right now find out and see what you can do because calamity is planned against our proprietor and against the entire household because he is a good-for-nothing aged that one cannot reason to him. 18 Then Abigail quickly fetched two hundred loaves, two skin bottles of wine, five prepared sheep, five measures of roasted corn and a hundred clusterings of raisins, two hundred lumps of pressed figs and loaded them on donkeys. 19 Then she said to her staff, “Go ahead of me. I’ll am coming right behind you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal. 20 It happened as she rode on the donkey, as she descended on the gully, there came David and his people opposite her. She came into contact with them. 21 At that time David had been saying, “I’ve only protected and preserved everything that this fellow had in the desert such that nothing was missed out of all that is his. He has repaid my kindness with evil. 22 May Supermights do to me like this and more to David’s enemies too if I leave anything that urinates against the wall that is his by dawn!” 23 When Abigail saw and looked at David, she quickly alighted off from the donkey and fell prostrate, her face bowed on the ground, in front of David. 24 She fell on his feet and pleaded; “Sir, let this be blamed upon me. Please let your server me speak in your audience. Hear the plea of your server. 25 Sir please do not regard and consider this good-for-nothing man Nabal because he is as his name suggests. Nabal is his name and foolishness is with him. I your server did not see the young men sir sent. 26 Right now, sir, as surely as Lifegiver lives and as surely as you live, it is Lifegiver who has kept you from shedding blood and taking matters into your own hands. Now may your enemies and those who seek to harm sir be like Nabal. 27 May this present which your server has brought to you sir be distributed to the young men who come along you sir. 28 Sir, please forgive the offence of your server because Lifegiver will make and prepare a firm place for you sir because sir fights Lifegiver’s battles. May no malice be found in you throughout your days. 29 When another rises to pursue you to search and strive after your life, sir’s life will be bound up in the bundle of life with Lifegiver, your deity. May the lives of your enemies be catapulted out of the sling. 30 It will happen because Lifegiver will make sir each and every good thing that he promised about you. he’ll have you appointed a leader over Israel. 31 To that effect, sir, there should not be qualm and pricking of conscience for spilling blood for nothing because sir would have avenged himself. When Lifegiver will have dealt well with you sir remember and call to mind your server.” 32 Then David said to Abigail; “Blessed be Lifegiver, the deity of Israel who sent you to meet me this time! 33 Blessed be your perception. May you be blessed since you prevented me from shedding blood this time to avenge myself with my own hand. 34 But indeed, it is the living Lifegiver, the deity of Israel who prevented me from hurting you because if you had not come quickly to meet me, surely there would have been nothing left of Nabal by morning light - anything that urinates against the wall!” 35 Then David took from her hand the portion which she had brought him and he said to her; “Ascend to your house in peace. Note, I’ve listened to your voice, and I’ve accepted your favour.” 36 When Abigail came back to Nabal, there he was holding a banquet in his house, a kingly feast. Nabal’s heart was jubilant on the basis that he was highly intoxicated. As a result, she said not a little or long word until the morning light. 37 It happened in the morning when the wine was gone out of Nabal, when his wife had told and explained these matters to him, his conscience and internal organs suddenly became motionless (probably apoplexy or stroke). 38 It happened ten days Lifegiver struck and put Nabal to the worse - he died! 39 David then heard that Nabal had died. He then said; “Bless Lifegiver that he wrangled and tossed away the cause of my disgrace from Nabal, and he prevented his servant from the worse. Lifegiver has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his head.” Then David reached out and persuaded Abigail to take her as his wife. 40 When the subjects of David came to Abigail in Carmel, they spoke to her saying; “David sent us to you to fetch his wife.” 41 She rose up and bowed her nose to the ground and said; “Here is your maiden, a woman server, ready to wash the feet of the servers of my owner.” 42 Then Abigail quickly set up to mount and ride her donkey with five maids that came after her. She then followed behind the messengers to become his wife. 43 David married Ahinoam from Jezreel and they both became his wives too. 44 (But Saul had given and made Michal, his daughter, David’s wife, the wife to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

1 Samuel 26

1 Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah saying; “Isn’t David hiding himself in the hill of Hachillah facing the desert?” 2 SSo Saul arose and went down to the desert of Ziph. Three thousand select people of Israel were with him to find and strive after David in the desert of Ziph. 3 Saul camped along the way of the hill of Hachilah which is facing the desert. But David stayed in the desert and he realised that Saul had come after him in the desert. 4 David sent out spies to verify if Saul had come for him prepared. 5 Then David arose and came to the place where Saul had camped. David saw and inspected the spot where Saul slept. Abner, the son of Ner, the instruct er of his army and Saul lay in the trench and the army had camped around them. 6 David said to Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother, “Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?” Abishai replied, “I’ll go down with you.” 7 So David sneaked into the army by night and there Saul was lying down sleeping witlitrethe trench and his spear pressed in the ground near his head rest. But Abner and the army were lying around him. 8 Then Abishai said to David; “Supermights had delivered and surrendered your enemy into your hand today. Please let me pin him now to the ground with his spear one stroke and I wont need to repeat it. 9 Then David said to Abishai; “Do not injure him because who can stretch out his hand against Lifegiver’s anointed and be innocent?” 10 David went on to say, “The living Lifegiver, the Eternal One himself will gore him; either his day will come and he’ll die, or he’ll go down into battle and be swept away. 11 Lifegiver has forbidden me from stretching out my hand against Lifegiver’s anointed. But please this time snatch the spear that is at the headrest and the jar of water now. Then let’s go! 12 So David snatched and took away the spear and the jug of water by Saul’s head, and they got out of there. No one saw them or was aware of their presence or woke up. All of them were asleep, for Lifegiver had caused a deep sleep to fall on them. 13 Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on the top of a hill far away, enough distance in between. 14 David called to the army and to Abner son of Ner, “Don’t you hear, Abner?” Abner replied, “Who are you make noise for the king?” 15 David said to Abner, “Are you not a soldier? Who is as you in Israel? Why then have you not kept guard towards the your owner, the king? Yet one of the troops came to injure and kill the king, your owner. 16 This thing you have done is not good! ABy the living Lifegiver, you are worthy to die because you have not kept guard on your owner, Lifegiver’s anointed. Look now, where is the king’s spear and jug of water that were at his head?” 17 When Saul discerned and recognised David’s voice he asked; “Is it your voice my son, David?” Then David replied; “It is my voice sir, my king.”18 He went on to say, “Why is sir chasing his server? What have I done? What wrong is in my hand? 19 Sir, now please listen and hear the words of your server: If Lifegiver has instigated you against me, let him delight in a sacrifice. But if it is children of human beings, may they be cursed before Lifegiver because they have driven me away this time from being joined together with Lifegiver’s heritage. They have told me; ‘Go away, serve other gods.’ 20 This time do not let my blood fall on the ground away from the presence and face of Lifegiver because the king has come out to search and chase after an insect as though one is hunting for a partridge in the mountains.” 21 Then Saul replied; “I bear the blame. Come back, my son David because I’ll not harm you again because my life was highly valuable in your eyes this time. Look, I’ve played the fool and have erred very much numerously!” 22 David replied and said; “Here is the king’s spear. Let one of your young men cross over and fetch it. 23 Lifegiver renders to each and every person justice and truth. Even though Lifegiver had delivered you into my hand today, I was not willing to stretch my hand against Lifegiver’s anointed. 24 Here, just as your life was honoured in my eyes this day, my life is so honoured in the sight of Lifegiver. He has preserved me out of all rivalry.” 25 Saul replied to David, “You are blessed, my son David! You’ll indeed do and achieve many things. You’ll also prevail and endure.” David went his way and Saul returned to his palace.

1 Samuel 27

1 David thought in his mind; “At some stage one of the days I’ll be scraped by Saul’s hand. There’s nothing best for me except to slip away and be preserved in the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair from searching for me again in the entire territory of Israel. So I’ll be slip away from his had. 2 So David left and travelled with six hundred people that were with him Achish, the son of Moach, the king of Gath. 3 DDavid settled with Achish in Gath; he and his people, every man with his family. David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail the Carmelite, Nabal’s wife. 4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he did not seek to find him ever again.

5 David suggested to Achish; “Since I’ve now found favour in your eyes, let me be given a place in a certain town so that I can stay there. Why should a server live in the royal city with you?” 6 Then Achish gave and ceded Ziklag that very day. That is how Ziklag fell to the kings of Judah to this day. 7 The time that David lived in the country of the Philistines became a full year and four months. 8 Then David and his people went up and spread themselves against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites because they had been inhabitants of that land from ancient time, going as far as Shur toward the land of Egypt. 9 When David would attack and destroy a region, leaving neither man or women alive and snatching the flock, cattle, donkeys and camels. In disguise he would return and then come Achish. 10 When Achish would ask; “No raid today?” David woul answer; “Against the southern region of Judah,” “Against the southern region of Jerahmeelites,” and “Against the southern region of Kenites.” 11 David would spare no man or woman to bring to Gath, saying; “In case they report on us saying; ‘Like this acted David.’” Such was his custom the entire time he lived in the country of the Philistines. 12 So Achish believed David, thinking; “He has made himself repugnant and odious to his people Israel. Now he can be my subject for ever.”

1 Samuel 28

1 It happened around that time that the Philistines gathered and mobilised their troops for a military campaign against Israel. Then Achish said to David; “Understand and confirm that you and your people will come up with me to the military camp.”” 2 David then replied to Achish; “In such a case you’ll know and experience what your server can do.” So Achish said to David; “In that case I’ll make you my full time chief bodyguard.”3 NSamuel had died and all Israel had lamented and had buried him in Ramah, his city. Saul had removed necromancers (spiritualists) and wizards out of the country. 4 When the Philistines mobilised themselves and came and camped in Shunem, Saul gathered and assembled all Israel to camp at Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw and looked at the military base of the Philistines, he was fearful that his heart greatly trembled. 6 So Saul consulted Lifegiver, Lifegiver did not answer him; not by dreams, not by Urim lights, not by prophets. 7 So Saul instructed his staff; “Find me a woman sorceress, a necromancer, so that I may go to her for consultation, His staff said to him; “There is a woman a woman sorceress, a necromancer, at En Dor.”” 8 So Saul masked himself and put on unfamiliar disguise and went with two men. They came to he woman by night and he said; “Can you please divine by necromancy and cause to ascend and bring me whoever I’ll name to you?” 9 But the woman replied to him; “Look, you realise and are aware of what Saul has done, how he has cut off and eliminated necromancers and wizards out of the country? For what reason are you trapping my life to death?” 10 But Saul swore by the Lifegiver; “By the living Lifegiver, no punishment will come to you for this case.” 11 So the real woman replied, “Who should I bring up for you?” He said, “Bring and rouse up Samuel.” 12 When the woman saw a vision of Samuel she screamed with a loud voice and spoke to Saul, asking; “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!” 13 So the king said to her; “Do not be afraid. What did you see?” The woman said to Saul; “I’ve seen Supermights like one coming out of the ground.” 14 He So he asked her; “What is his appearance?” Then she said; “He is an elderly man is coming up and he is wrapped up in a robe.” Saul declared that it was Samuel. He bowed down with his nose toward the ground and he prostrated himself. 15 Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by stirring and bringing me up?” Saul replied, “I’m terribly distressed! The Philistines are waging war and Supermights has turned away from me. He does not answer me anymore — not by prophets, even by dreams. So I’ve called on you to advise me what I must do.” 16 Samuel said, “Why are you asking me, seeing that the Lifegiver has turned away from you and has become your adversary? 17 Lifegiver has done as he promised through me! Lifegiver has torn and ripped the kingdom out of your hand and has given it to your fellow citizen David! 18 Since you did not listen to the voice of Lifegiver and did not carry out his wrathful ire against the Amalekites, Lifegiver has done this thing to you today. 19 YAs a result Lifegiver will surrender and give Israel over with you to the hands of the Philistines. Tomorrow you along with your sons will be surrendered and given over by Lifegiver together with the multitudes of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. 20 Saul then quickly fell full length on the ground - he was so petrified because of the words of Samuel. Besides, there was no strength in him because he had not eaten food the whole day and the whole night. 21 The woman came to Saul and realised that he was so nervous. So she said to him; “Look, your server obeyed your voice. I’ve put my life in your hands and listen and obeyed what was spoken to me. 22 This time, please also listen to the voice of your server; ‘Let me set a bit of food infront of you. You must eat so that you may regain strength when you go your way.’ 23 But he refused and said; “I’ll not eat.” But his staff together with the woman broke through to him and he listened to their voice. He rose up from the ground and sat upon the bed. 24 The woman had a stall-fed calf at her house. She quickly slaughtered it and fetched flour. She kneaded dough and baked unraised bread. 25 She brought it before Saul and before his staff and they ate. Then they rose up and went away that night.

1 Samuel 29

1 Meanwhile the Philistines mobilised and marshaled all their armies at Aphek and the Israelites camped by a fountain of Jezreel. 2 When the rulers of the Philistines were marching over by hundreds and by thousands, David and his people were marching behind with Achish. 3 The rulers of the Philistines asked, “To what purpose are these Hebrews?” Achish said to the rulers of the Philistines, “Isn’t this David, the servant of King Saul of Israel, who has been with me this period, rather these years? I’ve found no fault with him from the day of his defecting until this day!” 4 But the rulers of the Philistines were displeased with him and said to him, “Return and withdraw this fellow. Let him return to the place that you assigned him! Do not march him down with us to war in case in the war he becomes an opponent. What if he makes himself favourable to his king out of the heads of these people. 5 IIs not this David that they antiphonated about in dances saying; “Saul killed his thousands but David his tens of thousands.””6 So Achish called David aside and said to him; “By the living Lifegiver, you have been upright. Your leading out and leading in with me in the army is beneficial in my opinion because I’ve not picked up any mischief in you since the day of your arrival until this day. However, the rulers’ opinion does not favour you. 7 So this time, turn back and leave in peace. You must not trigger unpleasantness in the opinion of the rulers of the Philistines.” 8 David then protested to Achish; “But what have I done? What have you found in your subject from the time that I’ve been with you until this time that I may not go to fight against the adversaries of my lord, my king?” 9 Achish replied and said to David; “I’m convinced that you are fine in my opinion, as an ambassador of Supermights, in spite of that, the rulers of the Philistines have said; ‘He must not go up with us to the battle.’ 10 Straightaway, load up in the morning with your king’s subject that came with you. Have a day-break departure.” 11 David and his people had an early start to leave in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. But the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

1 Samuel 30

1 It happened when David and his people came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amelikites had spread themselves in the south and had attacked and destroyed Ziklag. Ziklag was burning with flames. 2 They had taken and led away women that were there as captives. They did not kill anyone - youngest to the oldest. But they drove them away and went their way. 3 When David and his people came to the city, they found it burnt down with fire. Their wives, their children and their daughters were taken as captives. 4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted their voices high in weeping until they had no strength to weep. 5 David’s two wives were taken as captives - Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 David was so distressed because the people spoke of pelting him with stones because the emotions of all the people were bitter on account of their sons and their daughters. But David grew strength from Lifegiver, his deity. 7 Then David said to the priest Abiathar son of Ahimelech, “Please bring me the oracular priestly cape here!” So Abiathar brought the oracular priestly cape closer to David. 8 David inquired of Lifegiver, saying, “Should I chase after this raiding band? Will I reach them?” He said to him, “Chase after them because you’ll reach and overcome them and you’ll recover (your people) and strip them off (your enemies)!” 9 So David went. He and the six hundred people that were with him came to Besor Torrential Valley where some remained behind. 10 But David pursued ardently - he and four hundred people and two hundred remained behind, those that were too exhausted and could not cross Besor Stream. 11 Then they found an Egyptian in the plain and brought him to David. They gave him food and he ate and they gave him water to drink. 12 They then gave him a piece of pressed figs and two raisin bunch. When he had finished eating, his essential energy came back because he had not eaten any food or drunk water for three days and three nights. 13 David said to him, David asked him; “Who are you and where are from?” “I’m a young Egyptian, an Amalekite server. My proprietor abandoned me when I became sick three days. 14 We invaded the southern mercenaries from Judah along the south of Caleb. Then we burnt Ziklag with fire.” 15 Then David said to him; “Can you take me down to this raiding band?” So he asked; “Swear to me by Supermights that you’ll not kill me or deliver me up to the hands of my proprietor and I’ll take you down to the raiding band.” 16 So he brought him. There they were disperse across the area of the land, eating, drinking and celebrating because of all the great plunder that they had snatched out of the land of the Philistines and out of the land of Judah. 17 But David struck them from twilight till next day sunset. No one survived except four hundred young men who mounted and rode camels and fled. 18 David recovered and retrieved all the Amalekites had taken away. David also recovered his two wives. 19 There was nothing missing, whether small or great; sons and daughters, the plunder, and everything they had taken - David brought back everything. 20 David got and took away all the flocks and herds. They drove away in front of those livestock and boasted; “This is David’s plunder!” 21 When David was approaching the two hundred people who were too exhausted to come behind David but had remained at Besor Valley, they came to meet the people that were with him. When David came near to the people, he inquired of their welfare. 22 But, on the contrary, all the cruel good-for-nothing people from those that went with David vouched; “They did not come with us. We’ll not share the spoils we’ve recovered. This is with the exception of every man and person’s wife and child - they may lead them away and be gone!” 23 Then David reprimanded them; “You should not do that my brothers with what Lifegiver has given us to preserve us by delivering and giving into our hands the raiding band that came against us. 24 Whoever is listening on this matter: For as much as the share of the one that went down to battle and the share of the one who remained with the equipment will be the same portion. 25 So it became enacted as a rule and plan for Israel from that time onward till this day. 26 David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the seniors of Judah, his friends. The message was; “There is a gift for you from the spoils of the enemies of Lifegiver.” 27 To those who were in Bethel, and to those who were in the southern Ramoth, and to those who were in Jattir; 28 then to those who were in Aroer, and to those who were in Siphmoth, and to those who were in Eshtemoa; 29 then to those who were in Rachal, and to those who were in the cities of Jerahmeelites, and to those who were in the cities of Kenites; 30 then those who were in Hormah, then to those who were in Chorashan, and those who were in Athach; 31 and to those who were in Hebron and to all the places David had himself and his men wandered.

1 Samuel 31

1 Meanwhile the Philistines were defeating Israel. The great people of Israel were disappearing more than the Philistines as they fell fatally wounded in Mount Giboa. 2 Then the Philistines followed and closely pursued Saul and his sons. The Philistines wounded and killed Saul’s sons, Jonathan (Lifegiver given), Abinadab (my father is liberal) and Malki-Shua (king of wealth). 3 The war became intense towards Saul and the bowmen hit him. He was fatally wounded by the bowmen. 4 Saul said to his weaponry carrier, “Draw your sword and pierce me with it! Otherwise these uncircumcised people will arrive, stab me, and abuse me.” But his weaponry carrier refused because he was very afraid. So Saul took and turned his sword and threw himself on it. 5 When his weaponry carrier realised Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died with him. 6 So Saul, his three sons, his weaponry carrier and all his people died together that same day. 7 When the people of Israel that were on opposite sides of the Jordan Valley realise that the man of Israel were disappearing, and that Saul and his sons were killed, they abandoned the cities. Then the Philistines came over to occupy them. 8 It happened the next day when the Philistines came to strip and plunder the fatally wounded, they found and discovered Saul and his three sons had fallen in Mount Gilboa. 9 They then hewed and cut off his head and stripped and plundered his equipment and sent it off to the land of the Philistines to publish the news around in the temples of their idols and among their people. 10 They set and placed his equipment in the temple of Ashtoreths and they hung his corpse on the wall of Beth Shan. 11 When it was reported and announced to the residents of Jabesh Gilead what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 every valiant person travelled the whole night to take and bring the corpse of Saul and the bodies of the his sons from the wall of Beth Shan. They came to Jabesh and burnt them there. 13 They took and sent their bones away to bury them beneath a tree at Jabeth. Then they fasted for seven days.

2 SAMUEL

2 Samuel 1

1 Then it happened after the death of Saul, David had returned from attacking and defeating the Amalekites, when David had stayed two days in Ziklag, 2 then the third day came. There came a man from the camp of Saul. His clothes were torn and there was soil on his head. When he reached David he prostrated himself on the ground in obeisance. 3 David then asked; “Where are you from?” He said; “I escaped out of the army camp of Israel.” 4 David then asked from him; “Please tell me how did things go?” He said; “I escaped out of the army camp of Israel.” He replied that many people disappeared in battle and many people have fallen dead and Saul and Jonathan, his son, were also dead. 5 David inquired from the young man that was telling him this; “How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?” 6 The young man told him; “I happened to be present by chance in mount Gilboa. There was Saul, leaning on his spear and there were teams of skilled chariot riders following closely. 7 When he turned and looked behind him, he saw me and called out to me and there I responded. 8 He asked me; ‘Whose are you?’ I answered him; ‘I’m an Amalekite!’’ 9 He asked me; ‘Please stand over me. Kill me immediately because giddiness has taken hold of me although my life is still whole.’ 10 So I stood over him and killed since I knew that he could not be restored to life after he had fallen and I took the crown that was upon his head and the bracelet which was on his arm and brought them here to the captain. 11 David then tightened his own robe and tore it, the people that were with him also. 12 They mourned and cried and abstained from food until sunset on account of Saul and his son Jonathan and over the people of Lifegiver and over the house of Israel because they had fallen by the sword. 13 David then said to the young man that told him how; “To what purpose are you?” He answered; “I’m a son of a temporal resident Amalekite.” 14 David demanded from him, “How is it that you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy and kill the Lifegiver’s anointed?” 15 Then David called one from the young men and said; “Approach and assault him. He beat him to death. 16 David was saying to him; “Your blood be upon your head because your mouth has testified, saying; ‘I’ve prematurely put to death Lifegiver’s anointed.’” 17 Then David lamented with this dirge over Saul and over Jonathan, his son 18 and he also instructed them to teach the children of Judah the bow inscribed there on to a straight scroll: 19 ​​​​​​​The glorious of Israel are pierced on her ridges. How the champions are men fallen! 20 ​​​​​​​Do not report it in Gath, do not publish in the streets of Askelon, lest the daughters of Philistines rejoice, lest the women of the uncircumcised exult. 21 Mountains of Gilboa; may there be no dew, no rain on you, no fields of grain offerings because there the shield of the champion was cast off, the shield of Saul is no longer anointed with oil. 22 From the blood of the fatally wounded, from the best of the mighty the bow of Jonathan never turned back nor the sword of Saul without effect. 23 Saul and Jonathan, were dearly loved in their lives, in their death inseparable. They were swifter than griffon-vultures, they were stronger than lions. 24 Daughters of Israel shed tears over Saul who dressed you in scarlet, with superior luxurious golden ornaments on your apparel. 25 ​​​​​​​How the champions are fallen in the middle of war! Jonathan was slain upon your ridges. 26 ​​​​​​​I suffer distress over my brother Jonathan; very dear to me, his love surpassed the love of women! 27 How the champions are fallen and the instruments of warfare are destroyed!

2 Samuel 2

1 It came to pass just after this David consulted Lifegiver, asking; “Should I go up to one of the cities of Judah?” Lifegiver then said; “Go up!” Then David asked; “Where should I go.” He then said; “Hebron!”

2 So David went up from there with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail, the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 3 David also brought the men that were with him, each with his family. They stayed in the cities of Hebron. 4 The men of Judah came and there to anoint and inaugurate David as king over the house of Judah. David was told, “The people of Jabesh Gilead are the ones who recovered and buried Saul.” 5 So David sent messengers to the people of Jabesh Gilead and told them, “May Lifegiver bless you because you have shown this kindness to your king Saul and have buried him. 6 May Lifegiver show you true kindness! I also will compensate you because you have done this thing. 7 May your hands be firm and may you continue be courageous nation even though king Saul is dead. The house of Judah has anointed me as king over them.” 8 Meantime Abner son of Ner, the instruct er of Saul’s army, had found and taken Saul’s son Ish-bosheth and had brought him to Mahanaim. 9 He had inducted him king over Gilead, the Geshurites, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, and over all Israel. 10 Ish-bosheth son of Saul was fourty years old when he was inaugurated to rule over Israel. He ruled two years. But the people of Judah continued to follow David. 11 David was king in Hebron over the people of Judah for seven years six months. 12 Then Abner son of Ner and the staff of Ish-bosheth son of Saul went away from Mahanaim to Gibeon. 13 Joab son of Zeruiah and the staff of David also went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. One group stationed themselves on one side of the pool, and the other group on the other side of the pool. 14 Abner said to Joab, “Please let the young men get up and play in front of us.” Joab said, “Stand up!” 15 They got up and crossed over by number: twelve belonging to Benjamin and to Ish-bosheth son of Saul, and twelve from the staff of David. 16 As they each grabbed each other’s opponent by the head and cut each opponent’s side by a sword. They fell down simultaneously. So that place was named Helkathhazzurim (field of swords), which is in Gibeon. 17 Then the battle became very severe during that day; Abner and the men of Israel were defeated in the face of David’s staff. 18 The three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Asahel had a swift foot as one of the wild gazelle. 19 Asahel pursued Abner. He did not turn to the right or to the left as he pursued Abner. 20 Then Abner turned behind and asked; “Are you Asahel?” He replied; “I’m!” 21 A”Turn to the right or left, grab one of the young men, take and snatch his shield.” Asahel would not willing to retract from pursuing him. 22 So Abner spoke to Asahel again, “Withdraw from following me! Why should I strike you to the ground? How would I be able to bring myself to face Joab your brother?” 23 He refused to stop. Abner stabbed him in the abdomen with the back of his spear. The spear came out through his back and he fell down there and died instantly. Whenever everyone comes to the spot where Asahel fell dead, they would pause. 24 Joab and Abishai ran after Abner. The sun had gone down when they reached the hill of Ammah that is towards Giah in the direction of the desert of Gibeon. 25 The people of Benjamin marshaled themselves behind Abner and became one troop and stood on top of a hill. 26 Abner then called out towards Joab and asked; “Must the sword devour continually? Do you not understand that it will eventually turn bitter? Will you not at this point tell the soldiers to turn back from pursuing their kin?” 27 Joab replied; “By the living Lifegiver, if you had not spoken this time, it would have been the next day and the soldiers would have gone off each pursuing their kin.” 28 Then Joab blew the horn and all the soldiers stood still and chased after Israel no more. They did not fight anymore. 29 Abner and his soldiers traveled through the desert that whole night and crossed and travelled through the Jordan. They travelled through the Valley the whole morning and reached Mahanaim. 30 When Joab returned from chasing after Abner, he assembled and marshaled all the troops. From David’s soldiers they were missing nineteen people and Asahel. 31 David’s soldiers had defeated Benjamin and Abner’s soldiers - three hundred and sixty people had been killed. 32 They took and lifted Asahel and buried him in his father’s tomb which was in Bethlehem. Joab and his soldiers traveled the whole night and reached Hebron at sunshine.

2 Samuel 3

1 There continued a prolonged war between Saul’s palace of and David’s palace. David’s palace went on to be powerful and Saul’s palace went on to be weak. 2 David’s sons born in Hebron were his eldest son Amnon (faithful) of Ahinoam the Jezreelite, 3 his second Kileab (like his father) of Abigail, the wife of Nabal, the Carmelite, and the third was Absalom (my father is peaceful) the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai, the king of Geshur. 4 His fourth son was Adonijah (Lifegiver’s worshipper), the son of Haggith. His fifth son was Shephatiah (Lifegiver is judge), the son of Abitail. 5 The sixth Ithream (excellence of people) by Eglah, David’s adulteress. These sons were all born to David in Hebron. 6 It happened while the war between Saul’s palace and David’s palace continued, Abner played the man in the family of Saul. 7 Saul had had a mistress whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. When he spoke to Abner; “Why did go into my father’s mistress?” 8 These Abner became very angry because of the Ishbosheth’s questioning. He said; “Am I a top male prostitute that has made Judah shameful today in the family of Saul your father and his relatives and his friends? I’ve not delivered you into the hand of David and today you accuse me concerning a perverse woman! 9 May Supermights do like this and like that to Abner if I do not certainly do just as Lifegiver had promised David 10 - transfer the reigns from the family of Saul and set up and confirm David’s royal dignity over Israel and over Judah from Dan to Beersheba.” 11 He did not have the power to repeat it and answer Abner’s words again because he was terrified. 12 Abner then sent messengers to David on his behalf saying; “Whose is the land?” He also said; “Cut a deal with me. There is my hand with you to turn all Israel around to you.” 13 Then he said; “Good! I’ll cut a deal with you but one thing I ask for from you to promise. You’ll not see and seek my face unless you first bring and present Michal, Saul’s daughter when you come to see and seek my face.” 14 David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth son of Saul demanding: “Bring and give me my estranged wife Michal who was affianced for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.” 15 Then Ishbosheth sent for her to be fetched from her husband, from Phaltiel, the son of Laish. 16 Her husband traveled behind her, weeping until Bahurim. Abner said to him, “Go back!” So he returned. 17 Abner aAbner issued directive to the seniors of Israel saying; “In time past as well as recently, you continually asked and required David as king over you. 18 Effect it now because Lifegiver had said about David; ‘By the hand of my server David, I’ll save and liberate my people Israel out of the hand of Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.’ 19 Abner also spoke in the audience of Benjamin. Abner also spoke in the audience of David in association with Hebron. All of that seemed good in the eyes Israelites and all the eyes of the house of Benjamin. 20 When Abner came to David in Hebron with twenty people, David made Abner and those that were with him a banquet. 21 Let me rise and leave so that I may gather and rally all Israel to the governing king so that they make a pledge with you. Then you’ll rule over all that your life waited for longingly.” So David sent and let Abner go free, and he went away in peace. 22 Then there came some troops from the soldiers of David and Joab. They brought in abundant plunder with them. Abner was no longer with David in Hebron because had been sent away and had left in peace. 23 When Joab and all the army that was with him arrived, Joab was told: “Abner the son of Ner had come to the king; he had sent him away, and he had left in peace!” 24 So Joab went to the king and said, “What have you done? There had come Abner to you. Why did you let set him free to go? 25 Do you really know Abner, the son of Ner? Surely he came to deceive you to discover and acquaint himself of your going out and going in; to know and observe all that you are doing. 26 Then Joab went out from before David and sent representatives to pursue Abner. They brought him back from the well of Sirah. But David did not know it. 27 When Abner was returned to Hebron, Joan took him aside as if to speak with him privately. He stabbed him there in the abdomen, killing him for blood of Asahel his brother. 28 WhenJust afterward, when David heard about it, he said; “My realm and I are innocent before Lifegiver for ever concerning the blood of Abner the son of Ner! 29 May it writhe on Joab’s head and on all his father’s family. Let nothing that has a cut, flowage, leprosy, and grows on a spindle from Joab’s house fail to fall by the sword and lack of food!” 30 So Joab and Abishai his brother murdered Abner because he had killed their other brother Asahel in battle in Gibeon. 31 David said to Joab and to all the people that were with him; “Rip your clothes and belt yourselves with sackcloth to mourn because of Abner.” King David followed behind the coffin. 32 They wraped and buried Abner in Hebron. The king lifted and eased his voice in weeping at the burial chamber of Abner. All the people wept. 33 When the king lamented over Abner he said; “Abner died as a fool dies. 34 ​​​​​​​His hands were not bound, nor his feet confined to shackles. He fell as worthy people fall before the unrighteous people.” Then all the people wept again over him. 35 When all the people came to urge David to eat some food while it was still daytime, David vowed saying; “May Supermights deal with me this and that way if I taste food at whatever point before the sun comes down.” 36 All the people noticed and were pleased in their opinions of everything that the king did - it was right to all the people. 37 All the troops and all Israel discerned that day that it was not on account of the king that Abner the son of Ner was killed. 38 Then the king said to his staff; “Do you not know that a leader and a mighty man has fallen today in Israel? 39 Today I’m weak though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah are too cruel to me. May Lifegiver reward the perpetrator of this crime according to his wickedness.

2 Samuel 4

1 When Saul’s son heard that Adner had died in Hebron, his strength failed and all the Israelites were terrified. 2 Saul’s son had two soldiers, his instruct ers of his army units. The name of the first one was Baanah and the second one’s name was Rechab. They were sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, who was a Benjaminite. Beeroth was regarded as belonging together with Benjamin 3 because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have lived there as foreign residents up to the present time. 4 Jonathan, Saul’s son had a paraplegic son. When he was five years old, when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, his nurse picked him up as she was escaping. It happened as she was starting to run away quickly, he was dropped tumbling over and he was trampled. Mephibosheth was his name. 5 Then the sons of Rimmon, the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went and come about hottest part of the day to the house of Ishbosheth. He laid down and relaxed in his bedroom at noon. 6 They then entered there as far as the centre of the house as to fetch wheat. They stabbed him in the belly. Rechab and Baanah his brother slipped away. 7 When they had come into the middle of the house, he was lying down on his bed in his bedroom and they stabbed and killed him. They then twisted and removed his head. They took and carried his head and travelled through the desert all night. 8 They brought and presented the head of Ishbosheth to David in Hebron. They said to the king; “There is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy who sought and required your life. Sir, Lifegiver has granted vengeance to the king today from Saul and from his posterity!” 9 David eyed and responded to Rechab and Banaah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothithe and said to them; “By the living Lifegiver who rescued and preserved my life from all adversity. 10 when someone, in his opinion bringing good news, announced Saul was dead — someone I would have rewarded for his report — I had him seized and killed in Ziklag. 11 So how much more when criminal ones have slaughtered and murdered a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? Should I not straightaway require and exact his blood from your hands and graze and remove you from the Earth ?” 12 So David instructed his soldiers to put them to death. They chopped and cut off their hands and their feet and hung them over a resevoir in Hebron. They took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the burial chamber of Abner in Hebron.

2 Samuel 5

1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and pleaded saying; “We are your blood related members! 2 Though in the past times Saul was king over us, you were the one leading out and the one leading and gathering Israel in. Lifegiver did say; ‘You’ll pasture and shepherd the people and troops of Israel.’” 3 So when all the seniors of Israel came to the king in Hebron, King David made a pledge in Hebron before Lifegiver as they anointed and appointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he was inaugurated and he reigned for fourty years. 5 He reigned over Judah for seven years and six months in Hebron. He reigned over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem for thirty three years. 6 The king and his soldiers set out for Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the country. They dissuaded David saying; “Unless you remove the blind and the lame, you’ll not be able to penetrate here.” They were thinking David would not be break through there. 7 But David captured and took over the stronghold of Zion that became the city of David. 8 David had said that very day; “Anyone who touches the water culvert strikes the Jebusites’ lame and blind enemies of David for life.” As a result they use to say; “The blind and lame can never enter the palace.” 9 David lived in the stronghold and called it the David’s City - he built from every side an inbound bulwark. 10 David’s went on and grew great as Lifegiver Supermights of the masses was with him. 11 King Hiram of Tyre sent a representation of skilled carpenters and professional masons with cedar timber and they built David a palace. 12 David acknowledged that Lifegiver had established him as king over Israel and that he lifted his reign because of his people Israel. 13 But David took more mistresses and wives out of Jerusalem after he had come from Hebron. More sons and daughters were born to David. 14 These are the names of children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. 17 Philistines heard that they had anointed and consecrated David as king over Israel. All the Philistines came down to seek and find David. David heard and went down to stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines had arrived and spread out in the valley of Rephaim. 19 So David consulted Lifegiver, ““Should I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them over to my hand?” Lifegiver said to David, “Go up because I’ll break, strike and give Philistines over to your hand you.” 20 So David came to Baal-Perazim. David defeated them there and said; “Lifegiver has broken and burst through the enemies before me as outbursts of water.” As a result he called the place’s name Baal Perazim (master outbursting). 21 There they left behind their idols and David and his soldiers picked them up. 22 The Philistines recovered and still spread themselves in Rephaim Valley. 23 So David consulted Lifegiver. He said; “You must not go up. Turn around. Come behind them opposite the mulberry trees. 24 When you can distinctly hear the sound of footsteps in front of the mulberry trees, then get moving because Lifegiver will be going out ahead of you to strike the army of the Philistines.” 25 David did just as Lifegiver had instructed him and struck and killed the Philistines from Geba running to Gezer.

2 Samuel 6

1 David again assembled and marshaled a whole selection of thirty thousand Israelites. 2 David arose and traveled with all the people that were together with him from Baal-Judah to bring up from there and then the Cabinet of Supermights which memorialises the glory of Lifegiver of masses that is enthroned between the flanking messengers. 3 They loaded the Cabinet of Supermights on a new wheeled vehicle and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was in Gibeah. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove and guided the new wheeled vehicle. 4 With the Cabinet of Supermights , they pulled it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah. Ahio went ahead of the Cabinet. 5 David and the whole house of Israel played before Lifegiver all kinds of wooden instruments, harps, guitars, tambourines, rattlers, and percussion instruments. 6 When they arrived at Nachon’s barn floor, Uzzah reached out to the Cabinet of Supermights and secured it because the oxen had stumbled. 7 The anger of Lifegiver blazed up against Uzzah and Supermights struck him there because of his negligence. He died there besides the Cabinet of Supermights. 8 David was grieved because Lifegiver had burst out violently against Uzzah. The place was called Perez Uzzah (Uzzah’s violation) until this day. 9 David was frightened and terrified of Lifegiver that day and said, “How will the Cabinet of Lifegiver be carried to me?” 10 So David was no longer keen to get and remove the Cabinet of Lifegiver to be together with him in David’s City. But David had it retained in the house of Obed-Edom the Hittite. 11 The Cabinet of Lifegiver remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months. Lifegiver blessed and prospered Obed-Edom and all his family. 12 David was told, “Lifegiver has blessed and prospered the family of Obed-Edom - everything was because of Cabinet of Supermights.” So David went and brought the Cabinet of Supermights from the house of Obed-Edom to David’s City gladly. 13 So it was that when they had carried the Cabinet of Lifegiver six kilometres, he would sacrifice fattened oxen. 14 David, wearing a linen priestly oracular cape, was dancing with every ounce of energy before Lifegiver. 15 So David and the entire house of Israel got and brought up the Cabinet of Lifegiver with blasts of joy and ram’s horn. 16 As the Cabinet of Lifegiver arrived in David’s City, Saul’s daughter Michal peeped through the window. When she looked and saw King David leaping and dancing before Lifegiver, she contemned him in her heart. 17 As soon as the Cabinet of Lifegiver was pulled in and brought and placed on its stand in the centre of the tent that David had pitched, David offered thanksgiving sacrifice before Lifegiver. 18 When David had finished offering the thanksgiving sacrifice, he congratulated and blessed the people in the name of Lifegiver of masses. 19 Then he distributed among the troops, the entire crowd of Israel - both men and women - each one a loaf of bread, one meat portion, and one raisin cake. Everyone of the nation traveled to each person’s home. 20 When David returned to praise and bless his family, Michal, Saul’s daughter came out to confront David. She said; “How honourable was the king of Israel today until he advertised himself in full view of maids and servants as one worthless fellows strip themselves.” 21 Then David said to Michal; “It is in the presence of Lifegiver who chose me above your father and before all his household and appointed me ruler over Lifegiver’s people over Israel. I danced before Lifegiver! 22 I would rather be despised for this thing and become lowly in my estimation like those maids you spoke about so grievously.” 23 Michal, Saul’s daughter, never had children until the time she died.

2 Samuel 7

1 It happened when the king got to settle in his palace as Lifegiver gave him rest from all neighbouring enemies,2 the king said to Nathan the prophet; “Please note that I live in a palace of cedar but the Cabinet of Supermights is sitting between drapes.” 3 Nathan then said to the king; “Go do all that is in your mind because Lifegiver is with you.” 4 It happened that night a message of Lifegiver came to Nathan saying; 5 ”Go tell my servant David; ‘This is what Lifegiver says; ‘Are you going to build a dwelling place for me 6 though I’ve not lived in any temple from the time I fetched and brought up Israelites from Egypt? Even this time I’ve continued to live in a booth tent. 7 WEverywhere I’ve moved with all Israelites did I speak a word with any of the tribes of Israel and whoever I charged to pasture and shepherd my people and nation Israel? Did I ever say; ‘Why have you not built me a temple of cedar?’ 8 “Now say this to my worshipper David; ‘This is what Lifegiver of multitudes says; ‘I took you from sheep pen from following the sheep to be the ruler over my people, over Israel. 9 I was with you everywhere you went and have cut down and eliminated all your enemies from your presence. I’m making you famous and as the great ones of the Earth . 10 I’ll fix a place for my people Israel and establish them there; they’ll live in that place and tremble no more. The children of in injustice will not depress them again, as they did in former times, 11 from the time I appointed judges over my people Israel. I’ll relieve you from all your enemies, Lifegiver declares that will build a dynasty for you. 12 When your days are over you’ll be laid together with your forebears and I’ll establish your descendant after you - that which will come out of your innards - I’ll confirm and establish his kingdom. 13 he’ll build a memorial temple and I’ll setup and establish the throne of his kingdom until futurity. 14 I’ll become his father and he’ll become my son. If he commits iniquity, I’ll convince him with the people’s rod and with strokes of children of humanity. 15 But my loyalty will never be retracted away from him as I removed from Saul who I removed from your presence. 16 Your family and your kingdom will be permanent until futurity before me. Your dynasty will be established until futurity.” 17 Nathan spoke to David all these promises, exactly according to his vision. 18 Then the King David went and sat before Lifegiver and said; “Who am I, Supreme Supermights, and what is my family that you have brought me up to here? 19 This was still insignificant in your view, Supreme Supermights, in addition you also promised your server a dynasty through distant time. Is this your habitual practice with humanity, Supreme Supermights? 20 What more can David say and do again to you? Supreme Supermights you have distinguished and recognised your server! 21 According to your purpose and thoughts you have prepared and done all these great things and mighty acts to recognise your server. 22 As a result you are just great, Lifegiver Supermights because there is no one like you! There’s no Supermights except you - that is all we heard advertised! 23 Which other nation in the world is like your nation Israel whose Supermights went to repurchase as his nation to make him famous? You have done great and astonishing things for your land from before your people who you repurchaseed for yourself from Egyptian people and their gods. 24 You have established and confirmed your people Israel as your nation until futurity. You Lifegiver have become their Supermights. 25 So now Lifegiver Supermights the message that you have spoke about your message about your server about establishing his family until futurity, do may do as you have promised. 26 May your name be magnified until futurity. Let it be said that Lifegiver of multitudes is the Supermights over Israel. Let the dynasty of your server be established before you. 27 It is only because you Lifegiver of multitudes, the Supermights of Israel has revealed to your server’s ear a promise; ‘I’ll build you a dynasty.’ As a result of all this, your server found sufficient courage to make supplication and pray this prayer to you. 28 Now, Supreme Supermights , you are the true Supermights and your promises are true. You have spoken and promised this prosperity to your server! 29 Now, you have undertaken to greatly bless the dynasty of your server that it may continue for ever before you. May the dynasty of your server be blessed for ever!”

2 Samuel 8

1 Just after this, it happened that David attacked and ravaged the Philistines and subdued them. David seized and took Metheg Ammah from the hand of Philistines. 2 HHe then invaded and subjugated the Moabites. He then dragged them with a rope and made them to lie prostate on the ground. With two ropes he dragged them to death and with the full length rope he kept them alive - Moabites became David’s subjects and continuously brought tribute. 3 David also invaded and defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah as he had gone to assert his power over Euphrates River. 4 David seized from him 1,700 horseman and 20,000 foot soldiers. David plucked up and hamstrung all cavalries and left over a hundred chariots. 5 When the Arameans of Damascus came to support King Hadadezer of Zobah, David killed 22,000 of the Arameans. 6 David established military bases among Syrians of Damascus. The Arameans became David’s became David’s subjects and continuously brought tribute. Lifegiver preserved and gave victory to David all over he went. 7 David seized and took the golden shields that were on the soldiers of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 FrOut of Betah and out of Berathoi, Hadadezer’s cities, King David took a such huge amount of bronze. 9 When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated and killed the entire crew of Hadadezer, 10 he sent and directed his son to King David to enquire of his welfare and congratulate him because he had overcome Hadadezer - because Hadadezer had had wars with Toi. In his hand were items of silver and items of gold and items of bronze. 11 King David dedicated these things to Lifegiver, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nationalities that he had subdued, 12 from Aram and from Moab and from the children of Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalekites and from the plunder of Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah. 13 David had made himself a name when he returned from attacking and defeating 18, 000 Arameans in Salt Valley. 14 He had established military in Edom - throughout Edom he ahd established military bases. All the Edomites became David’s subjects. Lifegiver had protected and given victory David wherever he had gone. 15 David reigned over all Israel and David exercised justice and rightness for all his people. 16 Joab son of Zeruiah was responsible for the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the historian; 17 Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were principal priests; Seraiah was the accountant. 18 Benaiah son of Jehoida was over public executioners and body guards; and David’s sons were the officers.

2 Samuel 9

1 David then said; “Is there any remnant that still exists in the family of Saul that I may show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” 2 NThere was in Saul palace a server named Ziba. When they had summoned him to David, the king asked him; “Are you Ziba?” He answered; “At your service!” 3 The king asked; “Is there no one in the family of Saul that I may offer the kindness of Supermights to?” Ziba said to the king; “Jonathan still has a son injured on his feet.” 4 The king said; “Where is he?” Ziba said to the king; “He is there in Lo-debar in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel.” 5 So King David sent for him to be fetched from the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar. 6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the grandson of Saul, came to David, he bowed down his face in obeisance. David said; “Mephibosheth!” He answered; “Here is your subject!” 7 DDavid said; “Do not be afraid because I’ll intend to offer you kindness for the sake of Jonathan, your father. I’ll restore and give you back all the farms of your grandfather Saul. You’ll eat food at my table.” 8 He bowed down and asked; “What is your subject that you should turn upon such a dead dog like me?” 9 Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s server. He said to him; “I’ve given to your proprietor’s grandson all that was Saul’s and his entire family.” 10 You, your children and your servers will till and cultivate the farm for him. You’ll harvest that your proprietor’s grandson will have regular food to eat. Mephibosheth your proprietor’s grandson will always eat food from my table.” Ziba at the time had fifteen children and twenty servers. 11 Ziba said to the king; “All that my governing king has instructed and ordered his server to do, his server will truly do.” Mephibosheth ate at the king’s table as one among the royal sons. 12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Micha and all who lived in the house of Ziba were Mephibosheth’s servers. 13 Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem because he regularly ate at the king’s table though he was crippled on both feet.

2 Samuel 10

1 It happened just after that Ammonite nation died and Hanun his son became the king in his place. 2 Then David said I’ll show pity to Hanun the son of Nahash and his father showed kindness to me. David condolences about his father by the hand of his staff. David’s staf came to the country of Ammonite nation. 3 The leaders of the Ammonite nation said to Hanun their king; “Do you think that David is honouring and grieving your father that he sent condolences to you? Has David not sent his staf to you to explore and infiltrate the city to spy it out and overthrow it?” 4 Hanun seized David the beloved’s staff. He shaved and balded one half of their chin. He cut and shortened their robes half way as far as the buttocks and sent them away. 5 When they told David, he summoned them because the men were great humiliated. The king advised; “Stay in Jericho until your beards have grown back.” 6 When the Ammonite people realised that they had disgusted David, they sent for Aramean mercenaries of Beth Rehob and Aramean mercenaries of Zobah 20,000 foot soldiers from King as well as 1,000 soldiers from King Macaah and 12,000 Ish Tob soldiers. 7 The people of Ammon came out for direct battle at the city’s entrance. 8 The Ammonites marched out and were deployed for battle at the entrance of the city gate, while the men from Aram Zobah, Rehob, Ish-tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field. 9 When Joab realised that the tide of the battle was against him from infront and behind, he chose Israel’s best and positioned them against Arameans. 10 The rest of the troops he assigned under Abishai his brother and he deployed them against the Ammonite soldiers. 11 Then he said; “If the Arameans prevail upon me, you must come and rescue me. But if the troops of Ammon prevail over you, I’ll come and save you. 12 Be brave and strong on behalf our people and on behalf of the cities of Supermights. Lifegiver will do what he thinks is best! 13 Then Joab and the soldiers that were with him approached the Arameans for battle and they fled before them. 14 When the Ammonite people realise that the Arameans were escaping, they fled before his brother Abishai and reentered the city. Joab returned from fighting the Ammonite people and went to Jerusalem. 15 When the Arameans realized that they had been defeated by Israel, they regrouped their units. 16 Then Hadadezer sent for Arameans. He led and brought them beyond the River, and they came to Helam; Shobach, the instruct er of Hadadezer’s army, before them. 17 When David was told he regrouped all Israel, crossed and passed the Jordan and came to Helam. The Arameans marshaled themselves against David and fought with him. 18 The Arameans fled from the face of Israel, and David destroyed 700 hundred chariots of the Arameans and 40, 000 horseman. He killed Shobach the instruct er of their army, who died there. 19 When all the vassal kings to Haderezer realise that they were defeated in the face if Israel, they covenanted with Israel and served them. The Arameans were afraid to help and support the Ammonite people.

2 Samuel 11

1 In the spring of the year, at the time when kings normally conduct wars, David sent out Joab with his officers and the entire Israelite army. They defeated the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed behind in Jerusalem. 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of his palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. Now this woman was very attractive. 3 So David sent someone to inquire about the woman. The messenger said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” 4 David sent some messengers to get her. She came to him and he had sexual intimacy with her. (Now at that time she was in the process of purifying herself from her menstrual uncleanness.) Then she returned to her home. 5 The woman conceived and then sent word to David saying, “I’m pregnant.” 6 So David sent a message to Joab that said, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” So Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked about how Joab and the army were doing and how the campaign was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your home and relax.” When Uriah left the palace, the king sent a gift to him. 9 But Uriah stayed at the door of the palace with all the servants of his lord. He did not go down to his house. 10 So they informed David, “Uriah has not gone down to his house.” So David said to Uriah, “Haven’t you just arrived from a journey? Why haven’t you gone down to your house?” 11 Uriah replied to David, “The Cabinet and Israel and Judah reside in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and my lord’s soldiers are camping in the open field. Should I go to my house to eat and drink and have sexually intimacy with my wife? As surely as you are alive, I’ll not do this thing!” 12 So David said to Uriah, “Stay here another day. Tomorrow I’ll send you back.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem both that day and the following one. 13 Then David summoned him. He ate and drank with him, and got him drunk. But in the evening he went out to sleep on his bed with the servants of his lord; he did not go down to his own house. 14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote: “Station Uriah in the thick of the battle and then withdraw from him so he’ll be cut down and killed.” 16 So as Joab kept watch on the city, he stationed Uriah at the place where he knew the best enemy soldiers were. 17 When the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, some of David’s soldiers fell in battle. Uriah the Hittite also died. 18 Then Joab sent a full battle report to David. 19 He instructed the messenger as follows: “When you finish giving the battle report to the king, 20 if the king becomes angry and asks you, ‘Why did you go so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you realize they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn’t a woman throw an upper millstone down on him from the wall so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go so close to the wall?’ just say to him, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.’” 22 So the messenger departed. When he arrived, he informed David of all the news that Joab had sent with him. 23 The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and attacked us in the field. But we forced them to retreat all the way to the door of the city gate. 24 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall and some of the king’s soldiers died. Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.” 25 David said to the messenger, “Tell Joab, ‘Don’t let this thing upset you. There is no way to anticipate whom the sword will cut down. Press the battle against the city and conquer it.’ Encourage him with these words.” 26 When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for him. 27 When the time of mourning passed, David had her brought to his palace. She became his wife and she bore him a son. But what David had done upset Lifegiver.

2 Samuel 12

1 So Lifegiver sent Nathan to David. When he came to David, Nathan said, “There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. 3 But the poor man had nothing except for a little lamb he had acquired. He raised it, and it grew up alongside him and his children. It used to eat his food, drink from his cup, and sleep in his arms. It was just like a daughter to him. 4 “When a traveler arrived at the rich man’s home, he did not want to use one of his own sheep or cattle to feed the traveler who had come to visit him. Instead, he took the poor man’s lamb and cooked it for the man who had come to visit him.” 5 Then David became very angry at this man. He said to Nathan, “As surely as Lifegiver lives, the man who did this deserves to die! 6 Because he committed this cold-hearted crime, he must pay for the lamb four times over!” 7 Nathan said to David, “You are that man! This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: ‘I chose you to be king over Israel and I rescued you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave you your master’s house, and put your master’s wives into your arms. I also gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all that somehow seems insignificant, I would have given you so much more as well! 9 Why have you shown contempt for the word of Lifegiver by doing bad in my sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and you have taken his wife as your own! You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 So now the sword will never depart from your house. For you have despised me by taking the wife of Uriah the Hittite as your own!’ 11 This is what Lifegiver says: ‘I’m about to bring disaster on you from inside your own household! Right before your eyes I’ll take your wives and hand them over to your companion. he’ll have sexual intimacy with your wives in broad daylight! 12 Although you have acted in secret, I’ll do this thing before all Israel, and in broad daylight.’” 13 Then David exclaimed to Nathan, “I’ve sinned against Lifegiver!” Nathan replied to David, “Yes, and Lifegiver has forgiven your sin. You are not going to die. 14 Nonetheless, because you have treated Lifegiver with such contempt in this matter, the son who has been born to you’ll certainly die.” 15 Then Nathan went to his home. Lifegiver struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and the child became very ill. 16 Then David prayed to Supermights for the child and fasted. He would even go and spend the night lying on the ground. 17 The seniors of his house stood over him and tried to lift him from the ground, but he was unwilling, and refused to eat food with them. 18 On the seventh day the child died. But the servants of David were afraid to inform him that the child had died, for they said, “While the child was still alive he would not listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we tell him that the child is dead? he’ll do himself harm!” 19 When David saw that his servants were whispering to one another, he realized that the child was dead. So David asked his servants, “Is the child dead?” They replied, “Yes, he’s dead.” 20 So David got up from the ground, bathed, put on oil, and changed his clothes. He went to the house of Lifegiver and worshiped. Then, when he entered his palace, he requested that food be brought to him, and he ate. 21 His servants said to him, “What is this that you have done? While the child was still alive, you fasted and wept. Once the child was dead you got up and ate food!” 22 He replied, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept because I thought, ‘Perhaps Lifegiver will show pity and the child will live. 23 But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Am I able to bring him back? I’ll go to him, but he cannot return to me!’” 24 So David comforted his wife Bathsheba. He went to her and had sexually intimacy with her. She gave birth to a son, and David named him Solomon. Now Lifegiver loved the child 25 and sent word through Nathan the prophet that he should be named Jedidiah for Lifegiver’s sake. 26 So Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and captured the royal city. 27 Joab then sent messengers to David, saying, “I’ve fought against Rabbah and have captured the water supply of the city. 28 So now assemble the rest of the army and besiege the city and capture it. Otherwise I’ll capture the city and it will be named for me.” 29 So David assembled all the army and went to Rabbah and fought against it and captured it. 30 He took the crown of their king from his head – it was gold, weighed about seventy-five pounds, and held a precious stone – and it was placed on David’s head. He also took from the city a great deal of plunder. 31 He removed the people who were in it and made them do hard labor with saws, iron picks, and iron axes, putting them to work at the brick kiln. This was his policy with all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all the army returned to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 13

1 Now David’s son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. In the course of time David’s son Amnon fell madly in love with her. 2 But Amnon became frustrated because he was so lovesick over his sister Tamar. For she was a virgin, and to Amnon it seemed out of the question to do anything to her. 3 Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab, the son of David’s brother Shimeah. Jonadab was a very crafty man. 4 He asked Amnon, “Why are you, the king’s son, so depressed every morning? Can’t you tell me?” So Amnon said to him, “I’m in love with Tamar the sister of my brother Absalom.” 5 Jonadab replied to him, “Lie down on your bed and pretend to be sick. When your father comes in to see you, say to him, ‘Please let my sister Tamar come in so she can fix some food for me. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I can watch. Then I’ll eat from her hand.’” 6 So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. When the king came in to see him, Amnon said to the king, “Please let my sister Tamar come in so she can make a couple of cakes in my sight. Then I’ll eat from her hand.” 7 So David sent Tamar to the house saying, “Please go to the house of Amnon your brother and prepare some food for him.” 8 So Tamar went to the house of Amnon her brother, who was lying down. She took the dough, kneaded it, made some cakes while he watched, and baked them. 9 But when she took the pan and set it before him, he refused to eat. Instead Amnon said, “Get everyone out of here!” So everyone left. 10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the cakes into the bedroom; then I’ll eat from your hand.” So Tamar took the cakes that she had prepared and brought them to her brother Amnon in the bedroom. 11 As she brought them to him to eat, he grabbed her and said to her, “Come on! Get in bed with me, my sister!” 12 But she said to him, “No, my brother! Don’t humiliate me! This just isn’t done in Israel! Don’t do this foolish thing! 13 How could I ever be rid of my humiliation? And you would be considered one of the fools in Israel! Just speak to the king, for he’ll not withhold me from you.” 14 But he refused to listen to her. He overpowered her and humiliated her by raping her. 15 Then Amnon greatly despised her. His disdain toward her surpassed the love he had previously felt toward her. Amnon said to her, “Get up and leave!” 16 But she said to him, “No I won’t, for sending me away now would be worse than what you did to me earlier!” But he refused to listen to her. 17 He called his personal attendant and said to him, “Take this woman out of my sight and lock the door behind her!” 18 (Now she was wearing a long robe, for this is what the king’s virgin daughters used to wear.) So Amnon’s attendant removed her and bolted the door behind her. 19 Then Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe she was wearing. She put her hands on her head and went on her way, wailing as she went. 20 Her brother Absalom said to her, “Was Amnon your brother with you? Now be quiet, my sister. He is your brother. Don’t take it so seriously!” Tamar, devastated, lived in the house of her brother Absalom. 21 Now King David heard about all these things and was very angry. 22 But Absalom said nothing to Amnon, either bad or good, yet Absalom hated Amnon because he had humiliated his sister Tamar. 23 Two years later Absalom’s sheepshearers were in Baal Hazor, near Ephraim. Absalom invited all the king’s sons.

24 Then Absalom went to the king and said, “My shearers have begun their work. Let the king and his servants go with me.” 25 But the king said to Absalom, “No, my son. We shouldn’t all go. We shouldn’t burden you in that way.” Though Absalom pressed him, the king was not willing to go. Instead, David blessed him. 26 Then Absalom said, “If you’ll not go, then let my brother Amnon go with us.” The king replied to him, “Why should he go with you?” 27 But when Absalom pressed him, he sent Amnon and all the king’s sons along with him. 28 Absalom instructed his servants, “Look! When Amnon is drunk and I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon down,’ kill him then and there. Don’t fear! Is it not I who have given you these instructions? Be strong and courageous!” 29 So Absalom’s servants did to Amnon exactly what Absalom had instructed. Then all the king’s sons got up; each one rode away on his mule and fled. 30 While they were still on their way, the following report reached David: “Absalom has killed all the king’s sons; not one of them is left!” 31 Then the king stood up and tore his garments and lay down on the ground. All his servants were standing there with torn garments as well. 32 Jonadab, the son of David’s brother Shimeah, said, “My lord should not say, ‘They have killed all the young men who are the king’s sons.’ For only Amnon is dead. This is what Absalom has talked about from the day that Amnon humiliated his sister Tamar. 33 Now don’t let my lord the king be concerned about the report that has come saying, ‘All the king’s sons are dead.’ It is only Amnon who is dead.” 34 In the meantime Absalom fled. When the servant who was the watchman looked up, he saw many people coming from the west on a road beside the hill. 35 Jonadab said to the king, “Look! The king’s sons have come! It’s just as I said!” 36 Just as he finished speaking, the king’s sons arrived, wailing and weeping. The king and all his servants wept loudly as well. 37 But Absalom fled and went to King Talmai son of Ammihud of Geshur. And David grieved over his son every day. 38 After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he remained there for three years. 39 The king longed to go to Absalom, for he had since been consoled over the death of Amnon.

2 Samuel 14

1 Now Joab son of Zeruiah realized that the king longed to see Absalom. 2 So Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman. He told her, “Pretend to be in mourning and put on garments for mourning. Don’t anoint yourself with oil. Instead, act like a woman who has been mourning for the dead for some time. 3 Go to the king and speak to him in the following fashion.” Then Joab told her what to say. 4 So the Tekoan woman went to the king. She bowed down with her face to the ground in deference to him and said, “Please help me, O king!” 5 The king replied to her, “What do you want?” She answered, “I’m a widow; my husband is dead. 6 Your servant has two sons. When the two of them got into a fight in the field, there was no one present who could intervene. One of them struck the other and killed him. 7 Now the entire family has risen up against your servant, saying, ‘Turn over the one who struck down his brother, so that we can execute him and avenge the death of his brother whom he killed. In so doing we’ll also destroy the heir.’ They want to extinguish my remaining coal, leaving no one on the face of the Earth to carry on the name of my husband.” 8 Then the king told the woman, “Go to your home. I’ll give instructions concerning your situation.” 9 The Tekoan woman said to the king, “My lord the king, let any blame fall on me and on the house of my father. But let the king and his throne be innocent!” 10 The king said, “Bring to me whoever speaks to you, and he won’t bother you again!” 11 She replied, “In that case, let the king invoke the name of Lifegiver your deity so that the avenger of blood may not kill! Then they’ll not destroy my son!” He replied, “As surely as Lifegiver lives, not a single hair of your son’s head will fall to the ground.” 12 Then the woman said, “Please permit your servant to speak to my lord the king about another matter.” He replied, “Tell me.” 13 The woman said, “Why have you devised something like this against Supermights ’s people? When the king speaks in this fashion, he makes himself guilty, for the king has not brought back the one he has banished. 14 Certainly we must die, and are like water spilled on the ground that cannot be gathered up again. But Supermights does not take away life; instead he devises ways for the outcast not to be eliminated. 15 I’ve now come to speak with my lord the king about this matter, because the people have made me fearful. But your servant said, ‘I’ll speak to the king! Perhaps the king will do what his female servant asks. 16 Yes! The king may listen and deliver his female servant from the hand of the man who seeks to remove both me and my son from the inheritance Supermights has given us!’ 17 So your servant said, ‘May the word of my lord the king be my security, for my lord the king is like the messenger of Supermights when it comes to deciding between right and wrong! May Lifegiver your deity be with you!’” 18 Then the king replied to the woman, “Don’t hide any information from me when I question you.” The woman said, “Let my lord the king speak!” 19 The king said, “Did Joab put you up to all of this?” The woman answered, “As surely as you live, my lord the king, there is no deviation to the right or to the left from all that my lord the king has said. For your servant Joab gave me instructions. He has put all these words in your servant’s mouth. 20 Your servant Joab did this so as to change this situation. But my lord has wisdom like that of the messenger of Supermights , and knows everything that is happening in the land.” 21 Then the king said to Joab, “All right! I’ll do this thing! Go and bring back the young man Absalom! 22 Then Joab bowed down with his face toward the ground and thanked the king. Joab said, “Today your servant knows that I’ve found favor in your sight, my lord the king, because the king has granted the request of your servant!” 23 So Joab got up and went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. 24 But the king said, “Let him go over to his own house. He may not see my face.” So Absalom went over to his own house; he did not see the king’s face. 25 Now in all Israel everyone acknowledged that there was no man as handsome as Absalom. From the sole of his feet to the top of his head he was perfect in appearance. 26 When he would shave his head – at the end of every year he used to shave his head, for it grew too long and he would shave it – he used to weigh the hair of his head at three pounds according to the king’s weight. 27 Absalom had three sons and one daughter, whose name was Tamar. She was a very attractive woman. 28 Absalom lived in Jerusalem for two years without seeing the king’s face. 29 Then Absalom sent a message to Joab asking him to send him to the king, but Joab was not willing to come to him. So he sent a second message to him, but he still was not willing to come. 30 So he said to his servants, “Look, Joab has a portion of field adjacent to mine and he has some barley there. Go and set it on fire.” So Absalom’s servants set Joab’s portion of the field on fire. 31 Then Joab got up and came to Absalom’s house. He said to him, “Why did your servants set my portion of field on fire?” 32 Absalom said to Joab, “Look, I sent a message to you saying, ‘Come here so that I can send you to the king with this message: “Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there.”’ Let me now see the face of the king. If I’m at fault, let him put me to death!” 33 So Joab went to the king and informed him. The king summoned Absalom, and he came to the king. Absalom bowed down before the king with his face toward the ground and the king kissed him.

2 Samuel 15

1 Some time later Absalom managed to acquire a chariot and horses, as well as fifty men to serve as his royal guard. 2 Now Absalom used to get up early and stand beside the road that led to the city gate. Whenever anyone came by who had a complaint to bring to the king for arbitration, Absalom would call out to him, “What city are you from?” The person would answer, “I, your servant, am from one of the tribes of Israel.” 3 Absalom would then say to him, “Look, your claims are legitimate and appropriate. But there is no representative of the king who will listen to you.” 4 Absalom would then say, “If only they would make me a judge in the land! Then everyone who had a judicial complaint could come to me and I would make sure he receives a just settlement.” 5 When someone approached to bow before him, Absalom would extend his hand and embrace him and kiss him. 6 Absalom acted this way toward everyone in Israel who came to the king for justice. In this way Absalom won the loyalty of the citizens of Israel. 7 After four years Absalom said to the king, “Let me go and repay my vow that I made to Lifegiver while I was in Hebron. 8 For I made this vow when I was living in Geshur in Aram: ‘If Lifegiver really does allow me to return to Jerusalem, I’ll serve Lifegiver.’” 9 The king replied to him, “Go in peace.” So Absalom got up and went to Hebron. 10 Then Absalom sent spies through all the tribes of Israel who said, “When you hear the sound of the horn, you may assume that Absalom rules in Hebron.” 11 Now two hundred men had gone with Absalom from Jerusalem. Since they were invited, they went naively and were unaware of what Absalom was planning. 12 While he was offering sacrifices, Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s adviser, to come from his city, Giloh. The conspiracy was gaining momentum, and the people were starting to side with Absalom. 13 Then a messenger came to David and reported, “The men of Israel are loyal to Absalom!” 14 So David said to all his servants who were with him in Jerusalem, “Come on! Let’s escape! Otherwise no one will be delivered from Absalom! Go immediately, or else he’ll quickly overtake us and bring disaster on us and kill the city’s residents with the sword.” 15 The king’s servants replied to the king, “We’ll do whatever our lord the king decides.” 16 So the king and all the members of his royal court set out on foot, though the king left behind ten concubines to attend to the palace. 17 The king and all the people set out on foot, pausing at a spot some distance away. 18 All his servants were leaving with him, along with all the Kerethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites – some six hundred men who had come on foot from Gath. They were leaving with the king. 19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why should you come with us? Go back and stay with the new king, for you are a foreigner and an exile from your own country. 20 It seems like you arrived just yesterday. Today should I make you wander around by going with us? I go where I must go. But as for you, go back and take your men with you. May genuine loyal love protect you!” 21 But Ittai replied to the king, “As surely as Lifegiver lives and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king is, whether dead or alive, there I’ll be as well!” 22 So David said to Ittai, “Come along then.” So Ittai the Gittite went along, accompanied by all his men and all the dependents who were with him. 23 All the land was weeping loudly as all these people were leaving. As the king was crossing over the Kidron Valley, all the people were leaving on the road that leads to the desert. 24 Zadok and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the Cabinet of the agreement of Supermights. When they positioned the Cabinet of Supermights , Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city. 25 Then the king said to Zadok, “Take the Cabinet of Supermights back to the city. If I find favor in Lifegiver’s sight he’ll bring me back and enable me to see both it and his dwelling place again. 26 However, if he should say, ‘I do not take pleasure in you,’ then he’ll deal with me in a way that he considers appropriate.” 27 The king said to Zadok the priest, “Are you a seer? Go back to the city in peace! Your son Ahimaaz and Abiathar’s son Jonathan may go with you and Abiathar. 28 Look, I’ll be waiting at the fords of the desert until word from you reaches me.” 29 So Zadok and Abiathar took the Cabinet of Supermights back to Jerusalem and remained there. 30 As David was going up the Mount of Olives, he was weeping as he went; his head was covered and his feet were bare. All the people who were with him also had their heads covered and were weeping as they went up. 31 Now David had been told, “Ahithophel has sided with the conspirators who are with Absalom. So David prayed, “Make the advice of Ahithophel foolish, O Lifegiver!” 32 When David reached the summit, where he used to worship Supermights , Hushai the Arkite met him with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. 33 David said to him, “If you leave with me you’ll be a burden to me. 34 But you’ll be able to counter the advice of Ahithophel if you go back to the city and say to Absalom, ‘I’ll be your servant, O king! Previously I was your father’s servant, and now I’ll be your servant.’ 35 Zadok and Abiathar the priests will be there with you. Everything you hear in the king’s palace you must tell Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36 Furthermore, their two sons are there with them, Zadok’s son Ahimaaz and Abiathar’s son Jonathan. You must send them to me with any information you hear.” 37 So David’s friend Hushai arrived in the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 16

1 When David had gone a short way beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth was there to meet him. He had a couple of donkeys that were saddled, and on them were two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred raisin cakes, a hundred baskets of summer fruit, and a container of wine. 2 The king asked Ziba, “Why did you bring these things?” Ziba replied, “The donkeys are for the king’s family to ride on, the loaves of bread and the summer fruit are for the attendants to eat, and the wine is for those who get exhausted in the desert.” 3 The king asked, “Where is your master’s grandson?” Ziba replied to the king, “He remains in Jerusalem, for he said, ‘Today the house of Israel will give back to me my grandfather’s reign.’” 4 The king said to Ziba, “Everything that was Mephibosheth’s now belongs to you.” Ziba replied, “I bow before you. May I find favor in your sight, my lord the king.” 5 Then King David reached Bahurim. There a man from Saul’s extended family named Shimei son of Gera came out, yelling curses as he approached. 6 He threw stones at David and all of King David’s servants, as well as all the people and the soldiers who were on his right and on his left. 7 As he yelled curses, Shimei said, “Leave! Leave! You man of bloodshed, you wicked man! 8 Lifegiver has punished you for all the spilled blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you rule. Now Lifegiver has given the reign into the hand of your son Absalom. Disaster has overtaken you, for you are a man of bloodshed!” 9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head!” 10 But the king said, “What do we’ve in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he curses because Lifegiver has said to him, ‘Curse David!’, who can say to him, ‘Why have you done this?’” 11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, “My own son, my very own flesh and blood, is trying to take my life. So also now this Benjaminite! Leave him alone so that he can curse, for Lifegiver has spoken to him. 12 Perhaps Lifegiver will notice my affliction and this day grant me good in place of his curse.” 13 So David and his men went on their way. But Shimei kept going along the side of the hill opposite him, yelling curses as he threw stones and dirt at them. 14 The king and all the people who were with him arrived exhausted at their destination, where David refreshed himself. 15 Now when Absalom and all the men of Israel arrived in Jerusalem, Ahithophel was with him. 16 When David’s friend Hushai the Arkite came to Absalom, Hushai said to him, “Long live the king! Long live the king!” 17 Absalom said to Hushai, “Do you call this loyalty to your friend? Why didn’t you go with your friend?” 18 Hushai replied to Absalom, “No, I’ll be loyal to the one whom Lifegiver, these people, and all the men of Israel have Designated. 19 Moreover, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? Just as I served your father, so I’ll serve you.” 20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give us your advice. What should we do?” 21 Ahithophel replied to Absalom, “Have sex with your father’s concubines whom he left to care for the palace. All Israel will hear that you have made yourself repulsive to your father. Then your followers will be motivated to support you.” 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom had sex with his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel. 23 In those days Ahithophel’s advice was considered as valuable as a prophetic revelation. Both David and Absalom highly regarded the advice of Ahithophel.

2 Samuel 17

1 Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Let me pick out twelve thousand men. Then I’ll go and pursue David this very night. 2 When I catch up with him he’ll be exhausted and worn out. I’ll rout him, and the entire army that is with him will flee. I’ll kill only the king 3 and will bring the entire army back to you. In exchange for the life of the man you are seeking, you’ll get back everyone. The entire army will return unharmed.” 4 This seemed like a good idea to Absalom and to all the leaders of Israel. 5 But Absalom said, “Call for Hushai the Arkite, and let’s hear what he has to say.” 6 So Hushai came to Absalom. Absalom said to him, “Here is what Ahithophel has advised. Should we follow his advice? If not, what would you recommend?” 7 Hushai replied to Absalom, “Ahithophel’s advice is not sound this time.” 8 Hushai went on to say, “You know your father and his men – they are soldiers and are as dangerous as a bear out in the wild that has been robbed of her cubs. Your father is an experienced soldier; he’ll not stay overnight with the army. 9 At this very moment he is hiding out in one of the caves or in some other similar place. If it should turn out that he attacks our troops first, whoever hears about it will say, ‘Absalom’s army has been slaughtered!’ 10 If that happens even the bravest soldier – one who is lion-hearted – will virtually melt away. For all Israel knows that your father is a warrior and that those who are with him are brave. 11 My advice therefore is this: Let all Israel from Dan to Beer Sheba – in number like the sand by the sea! – be mustered to you, and you lead them personally into battle. 12 We’ll come against him wherever he happens to be found. We’ll descend on him like the dew falls on the ground. Neither he nor any of the men who are with him will be spared alive – not one of them! 13 If he regroups in a city, all Israel will take up ropes to that city and drag it down to the valley, so that not a single pebble will be left there!” 14 Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai the Arkite sounds better than the advice of Ahithophel.” Now Lifegiver had decided to frustrate the sound advice of Ahithophel, so that Lifegiver could bring disaster on Absalom. 15 Then Hushai reported to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, “Here is what Ahithophel has advised Absalom and the leaders of Israel to do, and here is what I’ve advised. 16 Now send word quickly to David and warn him, “Don’t spend the night at the fords of the desert tonight. Instead, be sure you cross over, or else the king and everyone who is with him may be overwhelmed.” 17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying in En Rogel. A female servant would go and inform them, and they would then go and inform King David. It was not advisable for them to be seen going into the city. 18 But a young man saw them on one occasion and informed Absalom. So the two of them quickly departed and went to the house of a man in Bahurim. There was a well in his courtyard, and they got down in it. 19 His wife then took the covering and spread it over the top of the well and scattered some grain over it. No one was aware of what she had done. 20 When the servants of Absalom approached the woman at her home, they asked, “Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?” The woman replied to them, “They crossed over the stream.” Absalom’s men searched but did not find them, so they returned to Jerusalem. 21 After the men had left, Ahimaaz and Jonathan climbed out of the well. Then they left and informed King David. They advised David, “Get up and cross the stream quickly, for Ahithophel has devised a plan to catch you.” 22 So David and all the people who were with him got up and crossed the Jordan River. By dawn there was not one person left who had not crossed the Jordan. 23 When Ahithophel realized that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and returned to his house in his hometown. After setting his household in order, he hanged himself. So he died and was buried in the grave of his father. 24 Meanwhile David had gone to Mahanaim, while Absalom and all the men of Israel had crossed the Jordan River. 25 Absalom had made Amasa general in instruct of the army in place of Joab. (Now Amasa was the son of an Israelite man named Jether, who had married Abigail the daughter of Nahash and sister of Zeruiah, Joab’s mother.) 26 The army of Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead. 27 When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, Makir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim 28 brought bedding, basins, and pottery utensils. They also brought food for David and all who were with him, including wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils, 29 honey, yoghurt, flocks, and cheese. For they said, “The people are no doubt hungry, tired, and thirsty there in the desert.”

2 Samuel 18

1 David assembled the army that was with him. He appointed leaders of thousands and leaders of hundreds. 2 David then sent out the army – a third under the leadership of Joab, a third under the leadership of Joab’s brother Abishai son of Zeruiah, and a third under the leadership of Ittai the Gittite. The king said to the troops, “I too will indeed march out with you.” 3 But the soldiers replied, “You should not do this! For if we should have to make a rapid retreat, they won’t be too concerned about us. Even if half of us should die, they won’t be too concerned about us. But you are like ten thousand of us! So it is better if you remain in the city for support.” 4 Then the king said to them, “I’ll do whatever seems best to you.” So the king stayed beside the city gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands. 5 The king gave this order to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai: “For my sake deal gently with the young man Absalom.” Now the entire army was listening when the king gave all the leaders this order concerning Absalom. 6 Then the army marched out to the field to fight against Israel. The battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. 7 The army of Israel was defeated there by David’s men. The slaughter there was great that day – 20,000 soldiers were killed. 8 The battle there was spread out over the whole area, and the forest consumed more soldiers than the sword devoured that day. 9 Then Absalom happened to come across David’s men. Now as Absalom was riding on his mule, it went under the branches of a large oak tree. His head got caught in the oak and he was suspended in midair, while the mule he had been riding kept going. 10 When one of the men saw this, he reported it to Joab saying, “I saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree. 11 Joab replied to the man who was telling him this, “What! You saw this? Why didn’t you strike him down right on the spot? I would have given you ten pieces of silver and a commemorative belt!” 12 The man replied to Joab, “Even if I were receiving a thousand pieces of silver, I would not strike the king’s son! In our very presence the king gave this order to you and Abishai and Ittai, ‘Protect the young man Absalom for my sake.’ 13 If I had acted at risk of my own life – and nothing is hidden from the king! – you would have abandoned me.” 14 Joab replied, “I’ll not wait around like this for you!” He took three spears in his hand and thrust them into the middle of Absalom while he was still alive in the middle of the oak tree. 15 Then ten soldiers who were Joab’s weaponry carrier s struck Absalom and finished him off. 16 Then Joab blew the trumpet and the army turned back from chasing Israel, for Joab had called for the army to halt. 17 They took Absalom, threw him into a large pit in the forest, and stacked a huge pile of stones over him. In the meantime all the Israelite soldiers fled to their homes. 18 Prior to this Absalom had set up a monument and dedicated it to himself in the King’s Valley, reasoning “I’ve no son who will carry on my name.” He named the monument after himself, and to this day it is known as Absalom’s Memorial. 19 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, “Let me run and give the king the good news that Lifegiver has vindicated him before his enemies.” 20 But Joab said to him, “You’ll not be a bearer of good news today. You’ll bear good news some other day, but not today, for the king’s son is dead.” 21 Then Joab said to the Cushite, “Go and tell the king what you have seen.” After bowing to Joab, the Cushite ran off. 22 Ahimaaz the son of Zadok again spoke to Joab, “Whatever happens, let me go after the Cushite.” But Joab said, “Why is it that you want to go, my son? You have no good news that will bring you a reward.” 23 But he said, “Whatever happens, I want to go!” So Joab said to him, “Then go!” So Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Jordan plain, and he passed the Cushite. 24 Now David was sitting between the inner and outer gates, and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate at the wall. When he looked, he saw a man running by himself. 25 So the watchman called out and informed the king. The king said, “If he is by himself, he brings good news.” The runner came ever closer. 26 Then the watchman saw another man running. The watchman called out to the gatekeeper, “There is another man running by himself.” The king said, “This one also is bringing good news.” 27 The watchman said, “It appears to me that the first runner is Ahimaaz son of Zadok.” The king said, “He is a good man, and he comes with good news.” 28 Then Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, “Greetings!” He bowed down before the king with his face toward the ground and said, “May Lifegiver your deity be praised because he has defeated the men who opposed my lord the king!” 29 The king replied, “How is the young man Absalom?” Ahimaaz replied, “I saw a great deal of confusion when Joab was sending the king’s servant and me, your servant, but I don’t know what it was all about.” 30 The king said, “Turn aside and take your place here.” So he turned aside and waited. 31 Then the Cushite arrived and said, “May my lord the king now receive the good news! Lifegiver has vindicated you today and delivered you from the hand of all who have rebelled against you!” 32 The king asked the Cushite, “How is the young man Absalom?” The Cushite replied, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who have plotted against you be like that young man!” 33 (19:1) The king then became very upset. He went up to the upper room over the gate and wept. As he went he said, “My son, Absalom! My son, my son, Absalom! If only I could have died in your place! Absalom, my son, my son!”

2 Samuel 19

1 (19:2) Joab was told, “The king is weeping and mourning over Absalom.” 2 So the victory of that day was turned to mourning as far as all the people were concerned. For the people heard on that day, “The king is grieved over his son.” 3 That day the people stole away to go to the city the way people who are embarrassed steal away in fleeing from battle. 4 The king covered his face and cried out loudly, “My son, Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son!” 5 So Joab visited the king at his home. He said, “Today you have embarrassed all your servants who have saved your life this day, as well as the lives of your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your concubines. 6 You seem to love your enemies and hate your friends! For you have as much as declared today that leaders and servants don’t matter to you. I realize now that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, it would be all right with you. 7 So get up now and go out and give some encouragement to your servants. For I swear by Lifegiver that if you don’t go out there, not a single man will stay here with you tonight! This disaster will be worse for you than any disaster that has overtaken you from your youth right to the present time!” 8 So the king got up and sat at the city gate. When all the people were informed that the king was sitting at the city gate, they all came before him. But the Israelite soldiers had all fled to their own homes. 9 All the people throughout all the tribes of Israel were arguing among themselves saying, “The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies. He rescued us from the hand of the Philistines, but now he has fled from the land because of Absalom. 10 But Absalom, whom we anointed as our king, has died in battle. So now why do you hesitate to bring the king back?” 11 Then King David sent a message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests saying, “Tell the seniors of Judah, ‘Why should you delay any further in bringing the king back to his palace, when everything Israel is saying has come to the king’s attention. 12 You are my brothers – my very own flesh and blood! Why should you delay any further in bringing the king back?’ 13 Say to Amasa, ‘Are you not my flesh and blood? Supermights will punish me severely, if from this time on you are not the instruct er of my army in place of Joab!’” 14 He won over the hearts of all the men of Judah as though they were one man. Then they sent word to the king saying, “Return, you and all your servants as well.” 15 So the king returned and came to the Jordan River. Now the people of Judah had come to Gilgal to meet the king and to help him cross the Jordan. 16 Shimei son of Gera the Benjaminite from Bahurim came down quickly with the men of Judah to meet King David. 17 There were a thousand men from Benjamin with him, along with Ziba the servant of Saul’s household, and with him his fifteen sons and twenty servants. They hurriedly crossed the Jordan witlitresight of the king. 18 They crossed at the ford in order to help the king’s household cross and to do whatever he thought appropriate. Now after he had crossed the Jordan, Shimei son of Gera threw himself down before the king. 19 He said to the king, “Don’t think badly of me, my lord, and don’t recall the sin of your servant on the day when you, my lord the king, left Jerusalem! Please don’t call it to mind! 20 For I, your servant, know that I sinned, and I’ve come today as the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king.” 21 Abishai son of Zeruiah replied, “For this should not Shimei be put to death? After all, he cursed Lifegiver’s anointed!” 22 But David said, “What do we’ve in common, you sons of Zeruiah? You are like my enemy today! Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Don’t you realize that today I’m king over Israel?” 23 The king said to Shimei, “You won’t die.” The king vowed an oath concerning this. 24 Now Mephibosheth, Saul’s grandson, came down to meet the king. From the day the king had left until the day he safely returned, Mephibosheth had not cared for his feet nor trimmed his mustache nor washed his clothes. 25 When he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, “Why didn’t you go with me, Mephibosheth?” 26 He replied, “My lord the king, my servant deceived me! I said, ‘Let me get my donkey saddled so that I can ride on it and go with the king,’ for I’m lame. 27 But my servant has slandered me to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like a messenger of Supermights. Do whatever seems appropriate to you. 28 After all, there was no one in the entire house of my grandfather who did not deserve death from my lord the king. But instead you allowed me to eat at your own table! What further claim do I’ve to ask the king for anything?” 29 Then the king replied to him, “Why should you continue speaking like this? You and Ziba will inherit the field together.”

30 Mephibosheth said to the king, “Let him have the whole thing! My lord the king has returned safely to his house!” 31 Now when Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim, he crossed the Jordan with the king so he could send him on his way from there. 32 But Barzillai was very old – eighty years old, in fact – and he had taken care of the king when he stayed in Mahanaim, for he was a very rich man. 33 So the king said to Barzillai, “Cross over with me, and I’ll take care of you while you are with me in Jerusalem.” 34 Barzillai replied to the king, “How many days do I’ve left to my life, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? 35 I’m presently eighty years old. Am I able to discern good and bad? Can I taste what I eat and drink? Am I still able to hear the voices of male and female singers? Why should I continue to be a burden to my lord the king? 36 I’ll cross the Jordan with the king and go a short distance. Why should the king reward me in this way? 37 Let me return so that I may die in my own city near the grave of my father and my mother. But look, here is your servant Kimham. Let him cross over with my lord the king. Do for him whatever seems appropriate to you.” 38 The king replied, “Kimham will cross over with me, and I’ll do for him whatever I deem appropriate. And whatever you choose, I’ll do for you.” 39 So all the people crossed the Jordan, as did the king. After the king had kissed him and blessed him, Barzillai returned to his home. 40 When the king crossed over to Gilgal, Kimham crossed over with him. Now all the soldiers of Judah along with half of the soldiers of Israel had helped the king cross over. 41 Then all the men of Israel began coming to the king. They asked the king, “Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, sneak the king away and help the king and his household cross the Jordan – and not only him but all of David’s men as well?” 42 All the men of Judah replied to the men of Israel, “Because the king is our close relative! Why are you so upset about this? Have we eaten at the king’s expense? Or have we misappropriated anything for our own use?” 43 The men of Israel replied to the men of Judah, “We’ve ten shares in the king, and we’ve a greater claim on David than you do! Why do you want to curse us? Weren’t we the first to suggest bringing back our king?” But the comments of the men of Judah were more severe than those of the men of Israel.

2 Samuel 20

1 Now a wicked man named Sheba son of Bicri, a Benjaminite, happened to be there. He blew the trumpet and said, “We’ve no share in David; we’ve no inheritance in this son of Jesse! Every man go home, O Israel!” 2 So all the men of Israel deserted David and followed Sheba son of Bicri. But the men of Judah stuck by their king all the way from the Jordan River to Jerusalem. 3 Then David went to his palace in Jerusalem. The king took the ten concubines he had left to care for the palace and placed them under confinement. Though he provided for their needs, he did not have sexual intimacy with them. They remained in confinement until the day they died, living out the rest of their lives as widows. 4 Then the king said to Amasa, “Call the men of Judah together for me in three days, and you be present here with them too.” 5 So Amasa went out to call Judah together. But in doing so he took longer than the time that the king had allotted him. 6 Then David said to Abishai, “Now Sheba son of BicrI’ll cause greater disaster for us than Absalom did! Take your lord’s servants and pursue him. Otherwise he’ll secure fortified cities for himself and get away from us.” 7 So Joab’s men, accompanied by the Kerethites, the Pelethites, and all the warriors, left Jerusalem to pursue Sheba son of Bicri. 8 When they were near the big rock that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to them. Now Joab was dressed in military attire and had a dagger in its sheath belted to his waist. When he advanced, it fell out. 9 Joab said to Amasa, “How are you, my brother?” With his right hand Joab took hold of Amasa’s beard as if to greet him with a kiss. 10 Amasa did not protect himself from the knife in Joab’s other hand, and Joab stabbed him in the abdomen, causing Amasa’s intestines to spill out on the ground. There was no need to stab him again; the first blow was fatal. Then Joab and his brother Abishai pursued Sheba son of Bicri. 11 One of Joab’s soldiers who stood over Amasa said, “Whoever is for Joab and whoever is for David, follow Joab!” 12 Amasa was squirming in his own blood in the middle of the path, and this man had noticed that all the soldiers stopped. Having noticed that everyone who came across Amasa stopped, the man pulled him away from the path and into the field and threw a garment over him. 13 Once he had removed Amasa from the path, everyone followed Joab to pursue Sheba son of Bicri. 14 Sheba traveled through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth Maacah and all the Berite region. When they had assembled, they too joined him. 15 So Joab’s men came and laid siege against him in Abel of Beth Maacah. They prepared a siege ramp outside the city which stood against its outer rampart. As all of Joab’s soldiers were trying to break through the wall so that it would collapse, 16 a wise woman called out from the city, “Listen up! Listen up! Tell Joab, ‘Come near so that I may speak to you.’” 17 When he approached her, the woman asked, “Are you Joab?” He replied, “I’m.” She said to him, “Listen to the words of your servant.” He said, “Go ahead. I’m listening.” 18 She said, “In the past they would always say, ‘Let them inquire in Abel,’ and that is how they settled things. 19 I represent the peaceful and the faithful in Israel. You are attempting to destroy an important city in Israel. Why should you swallow up Lifegiver’s inheritance?” 20 Joab answered, “Get serious! I don’t want to swallow up or destroy anything! 21 That’s not the way things are. There is a man from the hill country of Ephraim named Sheba son of Bicri. He has rebelled against King David. Give me just this one man, and I’ll leave the city.” The woman said to Joab, “This very minute his head will be thrown over the wall to you!” 22 Then the woman went to all the people with her wise advice and they cut off Sheba’s head and threw it out to Joab. Joab blew the trumpet, and his men dispersed from the city, each going to his own home. Joab returned to the king in Jerusalem. 23 Now Joab was the general in instruct of all the army of Israel. Benaiah the son of Jehoida was over the Kerethites and the Perethites. 24 Adoniram was supervisor of the work crews. Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the secretary. 25 Sheva was the scribe, and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests. 26 Ira the Jairite was David’s personal priest.

2 Samuel 21

1 During David’s reign there was a drought for three consecutive years. So David inquired of Lifegiver. Lifegiver said, “It is because of Saul and his bloodstained family, because he murdered the Gibeonites.” 2 So the king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke with them. (Now the Gibeonites were not descendants of Israel; they were a remnant of the Amorites. The Israelites had made a promise to them, but Saul tried to kill them because of his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.) 3 David said to the Gibeonites, “What can I do for you, and how can I make amends so that you’ll bless Lifegiver’s inheritance?” 4 The Gibeonites said to him, “We’ve no claim to silver or gold from Saul or from his family, nor would we be justified in putting to death anyone in Israel.” David asked, “What then are you asking me to do for you?” 5 They replied to the king, “As for this man who exterminated us and who schemed against us so that we were destroyed and left without status throughout all the borders of Israel – 6 let seven of his male descendants be turned over to us, and we’ll execute them before Lifegiver in Gibeah of Saul, who was Lifegiver’s Designated one.” The king replied, “I’ll turn them over.” 7 The king had mercy on Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, in light of Lifegiver’s oath that had been taken between David and Jonathan son of Saul. 8 So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Aiah’s daughter Rizpah whom she had born to Saul, and the five sons of Saul’s daughter Merab whom she had born to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. 9 He turned them over to the Gibeonites, and they executed them on a hill before Lifegiver. The seven of them died together; they were put to death during harvest time – during the first days of the beginning of the barley harvest. 10 Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest until the rain fell on them, she did not allow the birds of the air to feed on them by day, nor the wild animals by night. 11 When David was told what Rizpah daughter of Aiah, Saul’s concubine, had done, 12 he went and took the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan from the leaders of Jabesh Gilead. (They had secretly taken them from the plaza at Beth Shan. It was there that Philistines publicly exposed their corpses after they had killed Saul at Gilboa.) 13 David brought the bones of Saul and of Jonathan his son from there; they also gathered up the bones of those who had been executed. 14 They buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin at Zela in the grave of his father Kish. After they had done everything that the king had instruct ed, Supermights responded to their prayers for the land. 15 Another battle was fought between the Philistines and Israel. So David went down with his soldiers and fought the Philistines. David became exhausted. 16 Now Ishbi-Benob, one of the descendants of Rapha, had a spear that weighed three hundred bronze shekels, and he was armed with a new weapon. He had said that he would kill David. 17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to David’s aid, striking the Philistine down and killing him. Then David’s men took an oath saying, “You’ll not go out to battle with us again! You must not extinguish the lamp of Israel!” 18 Later there was another battle with the Philistines, this time in Gob. On that occasion Sibbekai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was one of the descendants of Rapha. 19 Yet another battle occurred with the Philistines in Gob. On that occasion Elhanan the son of Jair the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam. 20 Yet another battle occurred in Gath. On that occasion there was a large man who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in all! He too was a descendant of Rapha. 21 When he taunted Israel, Jonathan, the son of David’s brother Shimeah, killed him. 22 These four were the descendants of Rapha who lived in Gath; they were killed by David and his soldiers.

2 Samuel 22

1 David sang to Lifegiver the words of this song when Lifegiver rescued him from the power of all his enemies, including Saul. 2 He said: “Lifegiver is my high ridge, my stronghold, my deliverer. 3 ​​​​​​​My Supermights is my rocky summit where I take shelter, my shield, the horn that saves me, my stronghold, my refuge, my savior. You save me from violence! 4 ​​​​​​​I called to Lifegiver, who is worthy of praise, and I was delivered from my enemies. 5 ​​​​​​​The waves of death engulfed me; the currents of chaos overwhelmed me. 6 ​​​​​​​The ropes of Sheol tightened around me; the snares of death trapped me. 7 ​​​​​​​In my distress I called to Lifegiver; I called to my Supermights. From his Heavenly temple he heard my voice; he listened to my cry for help. 8 ​​​​​​​The Earth heaved and shook; the foundations of the sky trembled. They heaved because he was angry. 9 ​​​​​​​Smoke ascended from his nose; fire devoured as it came from his mouth; he hurled down fiery coals. 10 ​​​​​​​He made the sky sink as he descended; a thick cloud was under his feet. 11 ​​​​​​​He mounted a winged messenger and flew; he glided on the wings of the wind. 12 ​​​​​​​He shrouded himself in darkness, in thick rain clouds. 13 ​​​​​​​From the brightness in front of him came coals of fire. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver thundered from the sky; the supreme One shouted loudly. 15 ​​​​​​​He shot arrows and scattered them, lightning and routed them. 16 ​​​​​​​The depths of the sea were exposed; the inner regions of the world were uncovered by Lifegiver’s battle cry, by the powerful breath from his nose. 17 ​​​​​​​He reached down from above and grabbed me; he pulled me from the surging water. 18 ​​​​​​​He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hate me, for they were too strong for me. 19 ​​​​​​​They confronted me in my day of calamity, but Lifegiver helped me. 20 ​​​​​​​He brought me out into a wide open place; he delivered me because he was pleased with me. 21 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver repaid me for my justice; he rewarded the purity of my actions. 22 ​​​​​​​For I’ve obeyed Lifegiver’s instructions; I’ve not rebelled against my Supermights. 23 ​​​​​​​For I’m aware of all his regulations, and I do not reject his rules. 24 ​​​​​​​I was blameless before him; I kept myself from sinning. 25 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver rewarded me for my justice; he took notice of the purity of my actions. 26 ​​​​​​​You prove to be loyal to one who is faithful; you prove to be trustworthy to one who is innocent. 27 ​​​​​​​You prove to be reliable to one who is blameless, but you prove to be deceptive to one who is perverse. 28 ​​​​​​​You deliver oppressed people, but you watch the proud and bring them down. 29 ​​​​​​​Indeed, you are my lamp, Lifegiver. Lifegiver illumines the darkness around me. 30 ​​​​​​​Indeed,with your help I can charge against an army; by my Supermights ’s power I can jump over a wall. 31 ​​​​​​​Supermights acts in a faithful manner; Lifegiver’s promise is reliable; he is a shield to all who take shelter in him. 32 ​​​​​​​Indeed, who is Supermights besides Lifegiver? Who is a safe place besides our Supermights ? 33 ​​​​​​​Supermights is my powerful defence; and has made my way blameless. 34 ​​​​​​​He gives me the agility of a deer; he enables me to negotiate the rugged terrain. 35 ​​​​​​​He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend even the strongest bow. 36 ​​​​​​​You give me your protective shield; your willingness to help enables me to prevail. 37 ​​​​​​​You widen my path; my feet do not slip. 38 ​​​​​​​I chase my enemies and destroy them; I do not turn back until I wipe them out. 39 ​​​​​​​I wipe them out and beat them to death; they cannot get up; they fall at my feet. 40 ​​​​​​​You give me strength for battle; you make my foes kneel before me. 41 ​​​​​​​You make my enemies retreat; I destroy those who hate me. 42 ​​​​​​​They cry out, but there is no one to help them; they cry out to Lifegiver, but he does not answer them. 43 ​​​​​​​I grind them as fine as the dust of the ground; I crush them and stomp on them like clay in the streets. 44 ​​​​​​​You rescue me from a hostile army; you preserve me as a leader of nationalities; people over whom I had no authority are now my subjects. 45 ​​​​​​​Foreigners are powerless before me; when they hear of my exploits, they submit to me. 46 ​​​​​​​Foreigners lose their courage; they shake with fear as they leave their strongholds. 47 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is alive! My protector is praiseworthy! The Supermights who delivers me is exalted as king! 48 ​​​​​​​Supermights completely vindicates me; he makes nationalities submit to me. 49 ​​​​​​​He delivers me from my enemies; you snatch me away from those who attack me; you rescue me from violent men. 50 ​​​​​​​So I’ll give you thanks, O Lifegiver, before the nationalities! I’ll sing praises to you. 51 ​​​​​​​He gives his Designated king magnificent victories; he is faithful to his Designated ruler, to David and to his descendants forever!”

2 Samuel 23

1 These are the final words of David: “The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man raised up as the ruler Designated by the Supermights of Jacob, Israel’s beloved singer of songs: 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s spirit spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. 3 ​​​​​​​The Supermights of Israel spoke, the protector of Israel spoke to me. The one who rules fairly among men, the one who rules in the fear of Supermights , 4 ​​​​​​​is like the light of morning when the sun comes up, a morning in which there are no clouds. He is like the brightness after rain that produces grass from the Earth . 5 ​​​​​​​My dynasty is approved by Supermights , for he has made a perpetual agreement with me, arranged in all its particulars and secured. He always delivers me, and brings all I desire to fruition. 6 ​​​​​​​But bad people are like thorns – all of them are tossed away, for they cannot be held in the hand. 7 ​​​​​​​The one who touches them must use an iron instrument or the wooden shaft of a spear. They are completely burned up right where they lie!” 8 These are the names of David’s warriors: Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, was head of the officers. He killed eight hundred men with his spear in one battle. 9 Next in instruct was Eleazar son of Dodo, the son of Ahohi. He was one of the three warriors who were with David when they defied the Philistines who were assembled there for battle. When the men of Israel retreated, 10 he stood his ground and fought the Philistines until his hand grew so tired that it seemed stuck to his sword. Lifegiver gave a great victory on that day. When the army returned to him, the only thing left to do was to plunder the corpses. 11 Next in instruct was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines assembled at Lehi, where there happened to be an area of a field that was full of lentils, the army retreated before the Philistines. 12 But he made a stand in the middle of that area. He defended it and defeated the Philistines; Lifegiver gave them a great victory. 13 At the time of the harvest three of the thirty leaders went down to David at the cave of Adullam. A band of Philistines was camped in the valley of Rephaim. 14 David was in the stronghold at the time, while a Philistine garrison was in Bethlehem. 15 David was thirsty and said, “How I wish someone would give me some water to drink from the cistern in Bethlehem near the gate!” 16 So the three elite warriors broke through the Philistine forces and drew some water from the cistern in Bethlehem near the gate. They carried it back to David, but he refused to drink it. He poured it out as a drink offering to Lifegiver 17 and said, “O Lifegiver, I’ll not do this! It is equivalent to the blood of the men who risked their lives by going.” So he refused to drink it. Such were the exploits of the three elite warriors. 18 Abishai son of Zeruiah, the brother of Joab, was head of the three. He killed three hundred men with his spear and gained fame among the three. 19 From the three he was given honor and he became their officer, even though he was not one of the three. 20 Benaiah son of Jehoida was a brave warrior from Kabzeel who performed great exploits. He struck down the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in a cistern on a snowy day. 21 He also killed an impressive-looking Egyptian. The Egyptian wielded a spear, while Benaiah attacked him with a club. He grabbed the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand and killed him with his own spear. 22 Such were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoida, who gained fame among the three elite warriors. 23 He received honor from the thirty warriors, though he was not one of the three elite warriors. David put him in charge of his bodyguard. 24 Included with the thirty were the following: Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan son of Dodo from Bethlehem, 25 Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite, 26 Helez the Paltite, Ira son of Ikkesh from Tekoa, 27 Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, 28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, 29 Heled son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai son of Ribai from Gibeah in Benjamin, 30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai from the wadis of Gaash, 31 Abi-Albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, 32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan 33 son of Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam son of Sharar the Hararite, 34 Eliphelet son of Ahasbai the Maacathite, Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, 35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, 36 Igal son of Nathan from Zobah, Bani the Gadite, 37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite (the armor-bearer of Joab son of Zeruiah), 38 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite 39 and Uriah the Hittite. Altogether there were thirty-seven.

2 Samuel 24

1 Lifegiver’s anger again raged against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go count Israel and Judah.” 2 The king told Joab, the general in instruct of his army, “Go through all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beer Sheba and muster the army, so I may know the size of the army.” 3 Joab replied to the king, “May Lifegiver your deity make the army a hundred times larger right before the eyes of my lord the king! But why does my master the king want to do this?” 4 But the king’s edict stood, despite the objections of Joab and the leaders of the army. So Joab and the leaders of the army left the king’s presence in order to muster the Israelite army. 5 They crossed the Jordan and camped at Aroer, on the south side of the city, at the wadi of Gad, near Jazer. 6 Then they went on to Gilead and to the region of Tahtim Hodshi, coming to Dan Jaan and on around to Sidon. 7 Then they went to the fortress of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites. Then they went on to the Negev of Judah, to Beer Sheba. 8 They went through all the land and after nine months and twenty days came back to Jerusalem. 9 Joab reported the number of warriors to the king. In Israel there were 800,000 sword-wielding warriors, and in Judah there were 500,000 soldiers. 10 David felt guilty after he had numbered the army. David said to Lifegiver, “I’ve sinned greatly by doing this! Now, O Lifegiver, please remove the guilt of your servant, for I’ve acted very foolishly.” 11 When David got up the next morning, Lifegiver had already spoken to Gad the prophet, David’s seer: 12 “Go, tell David, ‘This is what Lifegiver says: I’m offering you three forms of judgment. Pick one of them and I’ll carry it out against you.’” 13 Gad went to David and told him, “Shall seven years of drought come upon your land? Or shall you flee for three months from your enemy with him in hot pursuit? Or shall there be three days of plague in your land? Now decide what I should tell the one who sent me.” 14 David said to Gad, “I’m very upset! I prefer that we be attacked by Lifegiver, for his mercy is great; I do not want to be attacked by men!” 15 So Lifegiver sent a plague through Israel from the morning until the completion of the appointed time. Seventy thousand men died from Dan to Beer Sheba. 16 When the messenger extended his hand to destroy Jerusalem, Lifegiver relented from his judgment. He told the messenger who was killing the people, “That’s enough! Stop now!” (Now Lifegiver’s messenger was near the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.) 17 When he saw the messenger who was destroying the people, David said to Lifegiver, “Look, it is I who have sinned and done this bad thing! As for these sheep – what have they done? Attack me and my family.” 18 So Gad went to David that day and told him, “Go up and build an altar for Lifegiver on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” 19 So David went up as Gad instructed him to do, according to Lifegiver’s instructions. 20 When Araunah looked out and saw the king and his servants approaching him, he went out and bowed to the king with his face to the ground. 21 Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” David replied, “To buy from you the threshing floor so I can build an altar for Lifegiver, so that the plague may be removed from the people.” 22 Araunah told David, “My lord the king may take whatever he wishes and offer it. Look! Here are oxen for sacrifices, and threshing sledges and harnesses for wood. 23 I, the servant of my lord the king, give it all to the king!” Araunah also told the king, “May Lifegiver your deity show you favor!” 24 But the king said to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it from you! I’ll not offer to Lifegiver my Supermights incinerated sacrifices that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty pieces of silver. 25 Then David built an altar for Lifegiver there and offered incinerated sacrifices and peace offerings. And Lifegiver accepted prayers for the land, and the plague was removed from Israel.

1 KINGS

1 Kings 1

1 And King David became old and advanced in years. Even though they piled him with clothes, he could not be warm. 2 His officials advised; “Let them search for a young virgin for the ruling king to stand before the king. Let her fondle him and lie in your embrace so that the ruling king may be flamed up.” 3 So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout the borders of Israel. They found and got Abishag, a Shunammite and brought her to the king. 4 The girl was so stunningly beautiful. She fondled the king and attended to him. But the king was not intimate with her. 5 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith puffed himself saying; “I’ll become king.” He prepared his horse cavalry and fifty men to run before him. 6 His father had never reprimanded him throughout his life by saying; “Why do you do such things.” Besides, he also had a very handsome appearance, and had been birthed after Absalom. 7 He talked with Joab son of Zeruiah and Abiathar the priest, and they supported Adonijah afterwards. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and David’s powerful people were not with Adonijah. 9 Adonijah slaughtered sheep, bulls, and well-fed steers near the Stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel. He called and invited all his brothers, the king’s sons, and enough men of Judah, the king’s officials. 10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the powerful men, and his brother Solomon. 11 Nathan said to Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother, “Did you not hear that Adonijah Haggith’s son is being inaugurated and King David does not know it? 12 Now please come, devise a plan so that you save and deliver your life and the life of you son Solomon 13 Go in to King David and say to him; “Did you the ruling king swear to your female server by saying; ‘Surely your son Solomon will be king after me; he’ll sit on my throne”? So on what account has Adonijah become king?’ 14 While you are still there speaking with the king, I’ll also come in after you to complete and second your message. 15 So Bathsheba went in to the king’s apartment. The king had grown very old and Abishag the Shunammite served and attended the king. 16 As Bathsheba bowed down in obeisance to the king, the kings said; “What is it?” 17 She replied to him, “My king you swore by Lifegiver your deity to your female server: ‘Surely Solomon your son will rule after me and he’ll sit upon my throne.’” 18 But look now Adonijah is being inaugurated and the ruling king does not know it. 19 He has slaughtered bulls, well-fed steers and sheep in abundance and has invited all the king’s sons, Abiathar the priest, and Joab, the head of the army. He has not invited Solomon your server. 20 But the focus of all Israel my king is upon you the king that you must announce who will sit on the throne of the ruling king after him. 21 It will come to pass when the ruling king lies down with his forefathers, my son Solomon and I’ll be condemned as trespassers.” 22 Just then, while she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. 23 The king was told; “Nathan the prophet is here.” When he was brought in before the king, he bowed down in obeisance before the king with his face to the floor.

24 Nathan said, “O ruling king, Did you say; ‘Adonijah will rule after me and he’ll sit on my throne?’ 25 For today he has gone down and sacrificed many cattle, steers, and sheep and has invited all the king’s sons, the army instruct ers, and Abiathar the priest. At this moment they are having a feast in his presence, and they have declared, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ 26 But he did not invite me – your servant – or Zadok the priest, or Benaiah son of Jehoiada, or your servant Solomon. 27 Has my master the king authorized this without informing your servants who should succeed my master the king on his throne?” 28 King David responded, “Summon Bathsheba!” She came and stood before the king. 29 The king swore an oath: “As certainly as Lifegiver lives (he who has rescued me from every danger), 30 I’ll keep today the oath I swore to you by Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel: ‘Surely Solomon your son will be king after me; he’ll sit in my place on my throne.’” 31 Bathsheba bowed down to the king with her face to the floor and said, “May my master, King David, live forever!” 32 King David said, “Summon Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.” They came before the king, 33 and he told them, “Take your master’s servants with you, put my son Solomon on my mule, and lead him down to Gihon. 34 There Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet will anoint him king over Israel; then blow the trumpet and declare, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ 35 Then follow him up as he comes and sits on my throne. he’ll be king in my place; I’ve decreed that he’ll be ruler over Israel and Judah.” 36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada responded to the king: “So be it! May Lifegiver the Supermights of my master the king confirm it! 37 As Lifegiver is with my master the king, so may he be with Solomon, and may he make him an even greater king than my master King David!” 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites, and the Pelethites went down, put Solomon on King David’s mule, and led him to Gihon. 39 Zadok the priest took a horn filled with olive oil from the tent and poured it on Solomon; the trumpet was blown and all the people declared, “Long live King Solomon!” 40 All the people followed him up, playing flutes and celebrating so loudly they made the ground shake. 41 Now Adonijah and all his guests heard the commotion just as they had finished eating. When Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he asked, “Why is there such a noisy commotion in the city?” 42 As he was still speaking, Jonathan son of Abiathar the priest arrived. Adonijah said, “Come in, for an important man like you must be bringing good news.” 43 Jonathan replied to Adonijah: “No! Our master King David has made Solomon king. 44 The king sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites, and the Pelethites and they put him on the king’s mule. 45 Then Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed him king in Gihon. They went up from there rejoicing, and the city is in an uproar. That is the sound you hear. 46 Furthermore, Solomon has assumed the royal throne. 47 The king’s servants have even come to congratulate our master King David, saying, ‘May your deity make Solomon more famous than you and make him an even greater king than you!’ Then the king leaned on the bed 48 and said this: ‘Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel is worthy of praise because today he has placed a successor on my throne and allowed me to see it.’” 49 All of Adonijah’s guests panicked; they jumped up and rushed off their separate ways. 50 Adonijah feared Solomon, so he got up and went and grabbed hold of the horns of the altar. 51 Solomon was told, “Look, Adonijah fears you; see, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘May King Solomon solemnly promise me today that he’ll not kill his servant with the sword.’” 52 Solomon said, “If he is a loyal subject, not a hair of his head will be harmed, but if he is found to be a traitor, he’ll die.” 53 King Solomon sent men to bring him down from the altar. He came and bowed down to King Solomon, and Solomon told him, “Go home.”

1 Kings 2

1 When David was close to death, he told Solomon his son: 2 “I’m about to die. Be strong and become a man! 3 Do the job Lifegiver your deity has assigned you by following his instructions and obeying his rules, commandments, regulations, and laws as written in the law of Moses. Then you’ll succeed in all you do and seek to accomplish, 4 and Lifegiver will fulfill his promise to me, ‘If your descendants watch their step and live faithfully in my presence with all their heart and being, then,’ he promised, ‘you’ll not fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’ 5 “You know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me – how he murdered two instruct ers of the Israelite armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. During peacetime he struck them down like he would in battle; when he shed their blood as if in battle, he stained his own belt and the sandals on his feet. 6 Do to him what you think is appropriate, but don’t let him live long and die a peaceful death. 7 “Treat fairly the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and provide for their needs, because they helped me when I had to flee from your brother Absalom. 8 “Note well, you still have to contend with Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who tried to call down upon me a horrible judgment when I went to Mahanaim. He came down and met me at the Jordan, and I solemnly promised him by Lifegiver, ‘I’ll not strike you down with the sword.’ 9 But now don’t treat him as if he were innocent. You are a wise man and you know how to handle him; make sure he has a bloody death.” 10 Then David passed away and was buried in the city of David. 11 David reigned over Israel fourty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years, and in Jerusalem thirty-three years. 12 Solomon sat on his father David’s throne, and his royal authority was firmly solidified. 13 Haggith’s son Adonijah visited Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother. She asked, “Do you come in peace?” He answered, “Yes.” 14 He added, “I’ve something to say to you.” She replied, “Speak.” 15 He said, “You know that the reign was mine and all Israel considered me king. But then the reign was given to my brother, for Lifegiver decided it should be his. 16 Now I’d like to ask you for just one thing. Please don’t refuse me.” She said, “Go ahead and ask.” 17 He said, “Please ask King Solomon if he would give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife, for he won’t refuse you.” 18 Bathsheba replied, “That’s fine, I’ll speak to the king on your behalf.” 19 So Bathsheba visited King Solomon to speak to him on Adonijah’s behalf. The king got up to greet her, bowed to her, and then sat on his throne. He ordered a throne to be brought for the king’s mother, and she sat at his right hand. 20 She said, “I would like to ask you for just one small favor. Please don’t refuse me.” He said, “Go ahead and ask, my mother, for I would not refuse you.” 21 She said, “Allow Abishag the Shunammite to be given to your brother Adonijah as a wife.” 22 King Solomon answered his mother, “Why just request Abishag the Shunammite for him? Since he is my older brother, you should also request the reign for him, for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab son of Zeruiah!” 23 King Solomon then swore an oath by Lifegiver, “May Supermights judge me severely, if Adonijah does not pay for this request with his life! 24 Now, as certainly as Lifegiver lives (he who made me secure, allowed me to sit on my father David’s throne, and established a dynasty for me as he promised), Adonijah will be executed today!” 25 King Solomon then sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he killed Adonijah. 26 The king then told Abiathar the priest, “Go back to your property in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but today I’ll not kill you because you did carry the Cabinet of the supreme Lifegiver before my father David and you suffered with my father through all his difficult times.” 27 Solomon dismissed Abiathar from his position as priest of Lifegiver, fulfilling the decree of judgment Lifegiver made in Shiloh against the family of Eli. 28 When the news reached Joab (for Joab had supported Adonijah, although he had not supported Absalom), he ran to the tent of Lifegiver and grabbed hold of the horns of the altar. 29 When King Solomon heard that Joab had run to the tent of Lifegiver and was right there beside the altar, he ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, “Go, strike him down.” 30 When Benaiah arrived at the tent of Lifegiver, he said to him, “The king says, ‘Come out!’” But he replied, “No, I’ll die here!” So Benaiah sent word to the king and reported Joab’s reply. 31 The king told him, “Do as he said! Strike him down and bury him. Take away from me and from my father’s family the guilt of Joab’s murderous, bloody deeds. 32 May Lifegiver punish him for the blood he shed; behind my father David’s back he struck down and murdered with the sword two men who were more innocent and morally upright than he – Abner son of Ner, instruct er of Israel’s army, and Amasa son of Jether, instruct er of Judah’s army. 33 May Joab and his descendants be perpetually guilty of their shed blood, but may Lifegiver give perpetual peace to David, his descendants, his family, and his dynasty.” 34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and executed Joab; he was buried at his home in the desert. 35 The king appointed Benaiah son of Jehoiada to take his place at the head of the army, and the king appointed Zadok the priest to take Abiathar’s place. 36 Next the king summoned Shimei and told him, “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there – but you may not leave there to go anywhere! 37 If you ever do leave and cross the Kidron Valley, know for sure that you’ll certainly die! You’ll be responsible for your own death.” 38 Shimei said to the king, “My master the king’s proposal is acceptable. Your servant will do as you say.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time. 39 Three years later two of Shimei’s servants ran away to King Achish son of Maacah of Gath. Shimei was told, “Look, your servants are in Gath.” 40 So Shimei got up, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to find his servants; Shimei went and brought back his servants from Gath. 41 When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had then returned, 42 the king summoned Shimei and said to him, “You’ll recall that I made you take an oath by Lifegiver, and I solemnly warned you, ‘If you ever leave and go anywhere, know for sure that you’ll certainly die.’ You said to me, ‘The proposal is acceptable; I agree to it.’ 43 Why then have you broken the oath you made before Lifegiver and disobeyed the order I gave you?” 44 Then the king said to Shimei, “You are well aware of the way you mistreated my father David. Lifegiver will punish you for what you did. 45 But King Solomon will be empowered and David’s dynasty will endure permanently before Lifegiver.” 46 The king then gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada who went and executed Shimei. So Solomon took firm control of the reign.

1 Kings 3

1 Solomon made an alliance by marriage with Pharaoh, king of Egypt; he married Pharaoh’s daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he could finish building his residence and the temple of Lifegiver and the wall around Jerusalem. 2 Now the people were offering sacrifices at the high places, because in those days a temple had not yet been built to honor Lifegiver. 3 Solomon demonstrated his loyalty to Lifegiver by following the practices of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places. 4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for it had the most prominent of the high places. Solomon would offer up a thousand incinerated sacrifices on the altar there. 5 One night in Gibeon Lifegiver appeared to Solomon in a dream. Supermights said, “Tell me what I should give you.” 6 Solomon replied, “You demonstrated great loyalty to your servant, my father David, as he served you faithfully, properly, and sincerely. You have maintained this great loyalty to this day by allowing his son to sit on his throne. 7 Now, O Lifegiver my Supermights , you have made your servant king in my father David’s place, even though I’m only a young man and am inexperienced. 8 Your servant stands among your Designated people; they are a great nation that is too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning mind so he can make judicial decisions for your people and distinguish right from wrong. Otherwise no one is able to make judicial decisions for this great nation of yours.” 10 Lifegiver was pleased that Solomon made this request. 11 Supermights said to him, “Because you asked for the ability to make wise judicial decisions, and not for long life, or riches, or vengeance on your enemies, 12 I grant your request, and give you a wise and discerning mind superior to that of anyone who has preceded or will succeed you. 13 Furthermore, I’m giving you what you did not request – riches and honor so that you’ll be the greatest king of your generation. 14 If you follow my instructions by obeying my rules and regulations, just as your father David did, then I’ll grant you long life.” 15 Solomon then woke up and realized it was a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s covenant, offered up incinerated sacrifices, presented peace offerings, and held a feast for all his servants. 16 Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17 One of the women said, “Please sir, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was with me in the house. 18 Then three days after I had my baby, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one else in the house except the two of us. 19 This woman’s child suffocated during the night when she rolled over him. 20 She woke up at midnight, snatched and swapped my son from my side, while your servant was sleeping. She made him sleep in her bosom, and placed her dead son in my embrace. 21 When I woke up in the morning to breastfeed my son, I then discovered he was dead! But when I examined him carefully in the morning, I realized it was not the baby I had birthed.” 22 The other woman said, “No! The one alive is my son and the dead one is your son!” But the other one responded, “No, the dead one is your son. The one alive is my son.” They argued in front of the king. 23 Then the king spoke, “This one claims, ‘It is my son that’s alive; your son is dead.’ The other claims, ‘No, it’s your son that’s dead. My son is alive.’” 24 The king ordered, “Bring me a sword!” So they brought a sword in front of the king. 25 The king then said, “Cut and halve the surviving boy into two, and give and hand over half to one and half to the other!” 26 The woman whose son was really the one still alive addressed the king because her uterus stirred over her son. She said, “Sir, give and hand the living child over to her! Whatever you do, please don’t smash him to death!” But the other woman shouted, “Let him be neither yours or mine! Let them cut him in two!” 27 The king concluded and announced, “Give the living child over to her; don’t smash him to death. She is his mother.” 28 When all Israel heard about the judicial decision which the king had rendered, they revered the king, for they realized that he possessed supernatural wisdom to make judicial decisions.

1 Kings 4

1 King Solomon ruled over all Israel. 2 These were his officials: Azariah son of Zadok was the priest. 3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, wrote down what happened. Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was in charge of the records. 4 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was instruct er of the army. Zadok and Abiathar were priests. 5 Azariah son of Nathan was supervisor of the district governors. Zabud son of Nathan was a priest and adviser to the king. 6 Ahishar was supervisor of the palace. Adoniram son of Abda was supervisor of the work crews. 7 Solomon had twelve district governors appointed throughout Israel who acquired supplies for the king and his palace. Each was responsible for one month in the year. 8 These were their names: Ben-Hur was in charge of the hill country of Ephraim. 9 Ben-Deker was in charge of Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan. 10 Ben-Hesed was in charge of Arubboth; he controlled Socoh and all the territory of Hepher. 11 Ben-Abinadab was in charge of Naphath Dor. (He was married to Solomon’s daughter Taphath.) 12 Baana son of Ahilud was in charge of Taanach and Megiddo, as well as all of Beth Shan next to Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth Shan to Abel Meholah and on past Jokmeam. 13 Ben-Geber was in charge of Ramoth Gilead; he controlled the tent villages of Jair Kin of Humanityasseh in Gilead, as well as the region of Argob in Bashan, including sixty large walled cities with bronze bars locking their gates. 14 Ahinadab son of Iddo was in charge of Mahanaim. 15 Ahimaaz was in charge of Naphtali. (He married Solomon’s daughter Basemath.) 16 Baana son of Hushai was in charge of Asher and Aloth. 17 Jehoshaphat son of Paruah was in charge of Issachar. 18 Shimei son of Ela was in charge of Benjamin. 19 Geber son of Uri was in charge of the land of Gilead (the territory which had once belonged to King Sihon of the Amorites and to King Og of Bashan). He was sole governor of the area. 20 The people of Judah and Israel were as innumerable as the sand on the seashore; they had plenty to eat and drink and were happy. 21 (5:1) Solomon ruled all the reigns from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These reigns paid tribute as Solomon’s subjects throughout his lifetime. 22 Each day Solomon’s royal court consumed thirty cors of finely milled flour, sixty cors of cereal, 23 ten calves fattened in the stall, twenty calves from the pasture, and a hundred sheep, not to mention rams, gazelles, deer, and well-fed birds. 24 His royal court was so large because he ruled over all the reigns west of the Euphrates River from Tiphsah to Gaza; he was at peace with all his neighbors. 25 All the people of Judah and Israel had security; everyone from Dan to Beer Sheba enjoyed the produce of their vines and fig trees throughout Solomon’s lifetime. 26 Solomon had 4,000 stalls for his chariot horses and 12,000 horses. 27 The district governors acquired supplies for King Solomon and all who ate in his royal palace. Each was responsible for one month in the year; they made sure nothing was lacking. 28 Each one also brought to the assigned location his quota of barley and straw for the various horses. 29 Supermights gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment; the breadth of his understanding was as infinite as the sand on the seashore. 30 Solomon was wiser than all the men of the east and all the sages of Egypt. 31 He was wiser than any man, including Ethan the Ezrahite or Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol. He was famous in all the neighboring nationalities. 32 He composed 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. 33 He produced manuals on botany, describing every kind of plant, from the cedars of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows on walls. He also produced manuals on biology, describing animals, birds, insects, and fish. 34 People from all nationalities came to hear Solomon’s display of wisdom; they came from all the kings of the Earth who heard about his wisdom.

1 Kings 5

1 (5:15) King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to Solomon when he heard that he had been anointed king in his father’s place. (Hiram had always been an ally of David.) 2 Solomon then sent this message to Hiram: 3 “You know that my father David was unable to build a temple to honor Lifegiver his Supermights , for he was busy fighting battles on all fronts while Lifegiver subdued his enemies. 4 But now Lifegiver my Supermights has made me secure on all fronts; there is no adversary or dangerous threat. 5 So I’ve decided to build a temple to honor Lifegiver my Supermights , as Lifegiver instructed my father David, ‘Your son, whom I’ll put on your throne in your place, is the one who will build a temple to honor me.’ 6 So now order some cedars of Lebanon to be cut for me. My servants will work with your servants. I’ll pay your servants whatever you say is appropriate, for you know that we’ve no one among us who knows how to cut down trees like the Sidonians.” 7 When Hiram heard Solomon’s message, he was very happy. He said, “Lifegiver is worthy of praise today because he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation.” 8 Hiram then sent this message to Solomon: “I received the message you sent to me. I’ll give you all the cedars and evergreens you need. 9 My servants will bring the timber down from Lebanon to the sea. I’ll send it by sea in raft-like bundles to the place you designate. There I’ll separate the logs and you can carry them away. In exchange you’ll supply the food I need for my royal court.” 10 So Hiram supplied the cedars and evergreens Solomon needed, 11 and Solomon supplied Hiram annually with 20,000 cors of wheat as provision for his royal court, as well as 20,000 baths of pure olive oil. 12 So Lifegiver gave Solomon wisdom, as he had promised him. And Hiram and Solomon were at peace and made a treaty. 13 King Solomon conscripted work crews from throughout Israel, 30,000 men in all. 14 He sent them to Lebanon in shifts of 10,000 men per month. They worked in Lebanon for one month, and then spent two months at home. Adoniram was supervisor of the work crews. 15 Solomon also had 70,000 common laborers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hills, 16 besides 3,300 officials who supervised the workers. 17 By royal order they supplied large valuable stones in order to build the temple’s foundation with chiseled stone. 18 Solomon’s and Hiram’s construction workers, along with men from Byblos, did the chiseling and prepared the wood and stones for the building of the temple.

1 Kings 6

1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites left Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, during the month Ziv (the second month), he began building Lifegiver’s temple. 2 The temple King Solomon built for Lifegiver was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. 3 The porch in front of the main hall of the temple was 30 feet long, corresponding to the width of the temple. It was 15 feet wide, extending out from the front of the temple. 4 He made framed windows for the temple. 5 He built an extension all around the walls of the temple’s main hall and sacred place and constructed side rooms in it. 6 The bottom floor of the extension was seven and a half feet wide, the middle floor nine feet wide, and the third floor ten and a half feet wide. He made ledges on the temple’s outer walls so the beams would not have to be inserted into the walls. 7 As the temple was being built, only stones shaped at the quarry were used; the sound of hammers, pickaxes, or any other iron tool was not heard at the temple while it was being built. 8 The entrance to the bottom level of side rooms was on the south side of the temple; stairs went up to the middle floor and then on up to the third floor. 9 He finished building the temple and covered it with rafters and boards made of cedar. 10 He built an extension all around the temple; it was seven and a half feet high and it was attached to the temple by cedar beams. 11 Lifegiver said to Solomon: 12 “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my rules, observe my regulations, and obey all my commandments, I’ll fulfill through you the promise I made to your father David. 13 I’ll live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel.” 14 So Solomon finished building the temple. 15 He constructed the walls inside the temple with cedar planks; he paneled the inside with wood from the floor of the temple to the rafters of the ceiling. He covered the temple floor with boards made from the wood of evergreens. 16 He built a wall 30 feet in from the rear of the temple as a partition for an inner sanctuary that would be the most sacred place. He paneled the wall with cedar planks from the floor to the rafters. 17 The main hall in front of the inner sanctuary was 60 feet long. 18 The inside of the temple was all cedar and was adorned with carvings of round ornaments and of flowers in bloom. Everything was cedar; no stones were visible. 19 He prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple so that the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver could be placed there. 20 The inner sanctuary was 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet high. He plated it with gold, as well as the cedar altar. 21 Solomon plated the inside of the temple with gold. He hung golden chains in front of the inner sanctuary and plated the inner sanctuary with gold. 22 He plated the entire inside of the temple with gold, as well as the altar inside the inner sanctuary. 23 In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubs of olive wood; each stood 15 feet high. 24 Each of the first cherub’s wings was seven and a half feet long; its entire wingspan was 15 feet. 25 The second cherub also had a wingspan of 15 feet; it was identical to the first in measurements and shape. 26 Each cherub stood 15 feet high. 27 He put the cherubs in the inner sanctuary of the temple. Their wings were spread out. One of the first cherub’s wings touched one wall and one of the other cherub’s wings touched the opposite wall. The first cherub’s other wing touched the second cherub’s other wing in the middle of the room. 28 He plated the cherubs with gold. 29 On all the walls around the temple, inside and out, he carved cherubs, palm trees, and flowers in bloom. 30 He plated the floor of the temple with gold, inside and out. 31 He made doors of olive wood at the entrance to the inner sanctuary; the pillar on each doorpost was five-sided. 32 On the two doors made of olive wood he carved cherubs, palm trees, and flowers in bloom, and he plated them with gold. He plated the cherubs and the palm trees with hammered gold. 33 In the same way he made doorposts of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall, only with four-sided pillars. 34 He also made two doors out of wood from evergreens; each door had two folding leaves. 35 He carved cherubs, palm trees, and flowers in bloom and plated them with gold, leveled out over the carvings. 36 He built the inner courtyard with three rows of chiseled stones and a row of cedar beams. 37 In the month Ziv of the fourth year of Solomon’s reign the foundation was laid for Lifegiver’s temple. 38 In the eleventh year, in the month Bul (the eighth month) the temple was completed in accordance with all its specifications and blueprints. It took seven years to build.

1 Kings 7

1 Solomon took thirteen years to build his palace. 2 He named it “The Palace of the Lebanon Forest”; it was 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had four rows of cedar pillars and cedar beams above the pillars. 3 The roof above the beams supported by the pillars was also made of cedar; there were fourty-five beams, fifteen per row. 4 There were three rows of windows arranged in sets of three. 5 All of the entrances were rectangular in shape and they were arranged in sets of three. 6 He made a colonnade 75 feet long and 45 feet wide. There was a porch in front of this and pillars and a roof in front of the porch.

7 He also made a throne room, called “The Hall of Judgment,” where he made judicial decisions. It was paneled with cedar from the floor to the rafters. 8 The palace where he lived was constructed in a similar way. He also constructed a palace like this hall for Pharaoh’s daughter, whom he had married. 9 All of these were built with the best stones, chiseled to the right size and cut with a saw on all sides, from the foundation to the edge of the roof and from the outside to the great courtyard. 10 The foundation was made of large valuable stones, measuring either 15 feet or 12 feet. 11 Above the foundation the best stones, chiseled to the right size, were used along with cedar. 12 Around the great courtyard were three rows of chiseled stones and one row of cedar beams, like the inner courtyard of Lifegiver’s temple and the hall of the palace. 13 King Solomon sent for Hiram of Tyre. 14 He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a craftsman in bronze from Tyre. He had the skill and knowledge to make all kinds of works of bronze. He reported to King Solomon and did all the work he was assigned. 15 He fashioned two bronze pillars; each pillar was 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference. 16 He made two bronze tops for the pillars; each was seven-and-a-half feet high. 17 The latticework on the tops of the pillars was adorned with ornamental wreaths and chains; the top of each pillar had seven groupings of ornaments. 18 When he made the pillars, there were two rows of pomegranate-shaped ornaments around the latticework covering the top of each pillar. 19 The tops of the two pillars in the porch were shaped like lilies and were six feet high. 20 On the top of each pillar, right above the bulge beside the latticework, there were two hundred pomegranate-shaped ornaments arranged in rows all the way around. 21 He set up the pillars on the porch in front of the main hall. He erected one pillar on the right side and called it Jakin; he erected the other pillar on the left side and called it Boaz. 22 The tops of the pillars were shaped like lilies. So the construction of the pillars was completed. 23 He also made the large bronze basin called “The Sea.” It measured 15 feet from rim to rim, was circular in shape, and stood seven-and-a-half feet high. Its circumference was 45 feet. 24 Under the rim all the way around it were round ornaments arranged in settings 15 feet long. The ornaments were in two rows and had been cast with “The Sea.” 25 “The Sea” stood on top of twelve bulls. Three faced northward, three westward, three southward, and three eastward. “The Sea” was placed on top of them, and they all faced outward. 26 It was four fingers thick and its rim was like that of a cup shaped like a lily blossom. It could hold about 12,000 gallons. 27 He also made ten bronze movable stands. Each stand was six feet long, six feet wide, and four-and-a-half feet high. 28 The stands were constructed with frames between the joints. 29 On these frames and joints were ornamental lions, bulls, and cherubs. Under the lions and bulls were decorative wreaths. 30 Each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles and four supports. Under the basin the supports were fashioned on each side with wreaths. 31 Inside the stand was a round opening that was a foot-and-a-half deep; it had a support that was two and one-quarter feet long. On the edge of the opening were carvings in square frames. 32 The four wheels were under the frames and the crossbars of the axles were connected to the stand. Each wheel was two and one-quarter feet high. 33 The wheels were constructed like chariot wheels; their crossbars, rims, spokes, and hubs were made of cast metal. 34 Each stand had four supports, one per side projecting out from the stand. 35 On top of each stand was a round opening three-quarters of a foot deep; there were also supports and frames on top of the stands. 36 He engraved ornamental cherubs, lions, and palm trees on the plates of the supports and frames wherever there was room, with wreaths all around. 37 He made the ten stands in this way. All of them were cast in one mold and were identical in measurements and shape. 38 He also made ten bronze basins, each of which could hold about 240 gallons. Each basin was six feet in diameter; there was one basin for each stand. 39 He put five basins on the south side of the temple and five on the north side. He put “The Sea” on the south side, in the southeast corner. 40 Hiram also made basins, shovels, and bowls. He finished all the work on Lifegiver’s temple he had been assigned by King Solomon. 41 He made the two pillars, the two bowl-shaped tops of the pillars, the latticework for the bowl-shaped tops of the two pillars, 42 the four hundred pomegranate-shaped ornaments for the latticework of the two pillars (each latticework had two rows of these ornaments at the bowl-shaped top of the pillar), 43 the ten movable stands with their ten basins, 44 the big bronze basin called “The Sea” with its twelve bulls underneath, 45 and the pots, shovels, and bowls. All these items King Solomon assigned Hiram to make for Lifegiver’s temple were made from polished bronze. 46 The king had them cast in Earth foundries in the region of the Jordan between Succoth and Zarethan. 47 Solomon left all these items unweighed; there were so many of them they did not weigh the bronze. 48 Solomon also made all these items for Lifegiver’s temple: the gold altar, the gold table on which was kept the Bread of the Presence, 49 the pure gold lampstands at the entrance to the inner sanctuary (five on the right and five on the left), the gold flower-shaped ornaments, lamps, and tongs, 50 the pure gold bowls, trimming shears, basins, pans, and censers, and the gold door sockets for the inner sanctuary (the most sacred place) and for the doors of the main hall of the temple. 51 When King Solomon finished constructing Lifegiver’s temple, he put the sacred items that belonged to his father David (the silver, gold, and other articles) in the treasuries of Lifegiver’s temple.

1 Kings 8

1 Then Solomon convened in Jerusalem Israel’s elders, all the leaders of the Israelite tribes and families, so they could witness the transferal of the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement from the city of David (that is, Zion). 2 All the men of Israel assembled before King Solomon during the festival in the month Ethanim (the seventh month). 3 When all Israel’s seniors had arrived, the priests lifted the Cabinet . 4 The priests and Levites carried the Cabinet of Lifegiver, the tent of assembly, and all the sacred items in the tent. 5 Now King Solomon and all the Israelites who had assembled with him went on ahead of the Cabinet and sacrificed more sheep and cattle than could be counted or numbered. 6 The priests brought the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement to its assigned place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, in the most sacred place, under the wings of the cherubs. 7 The cherubs’ wings extended over the place where the Cabinet sat; the cherubs overshadowed the Cabinet and its poles. 8 The poles were so long their ends were visible from the sacred place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from beyond that point. They have remained there to this very day. 9 There was nothing in the Cabinet except the two stone tablets Moses had placed there in Horeb. It was there that Lifegiver made an agreement with the Israelites after he brought them out of the land of Egypt. 10 Once the priests left the sacred place, a cloud filled Lifegiver’s temple. 11 The priests could not carry out their duties because of the cloud; Lifegiver’s glory filled his temple. 12 Then Solomon said, “Lifegiver has said that he lives in thick darkness. 13 O Lifegiver, truly I’ve built a lofty temple for you, a place where you can live permanently.” 14 Then the king turned around and pronounced a blessing over the whole Israelite assembly as they stood there. 15 He said, “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel is worthy of praise because he has fulfilled what he promised my father David. 16 He told David, ‘Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I’ve not Designated a city from all the tribes of Israel to build a temple in which to live. But I’ve Designated David to lead my people Israel.’ 17 Now my father David had a strong desire to build a temple to honor Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 18 Lifegiver told my father David, ‘It is right for you to have a strong desire to build a temple to honor me. 19 But you’ll not build the temple; your very own son will build the temple for my honor.’ 20 Lifegiver has kept the promise he made. I’ve taken my father David’s place and have occupied the throne of Israel, as Lifegiver promised. I’ve built this temple for the honor of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel 21 and set up in it a place for the Cabinet containing the agreement Lifegiver made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.” 22 Solomon stood before the altar of Lifegiver in front of the entire assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward the sky. 23 He prayed: “O Lifegiver, Supermights of Israel, there is no Supermights like you in Celestial Bodies above or on Earth below! You maintain covenantal loyalty to your servants who obey you with sincerity. 24 You have kept your word to your servant, my father David; this very day you have fulfilled what you promised. 25 Now, O Lifegiver, Supermights of Israel, keep the promise you made to your servant, my father David, when you said, ‘You’ll never fail to have a successor ruling before me on the throne of Israel, provided that your descendants watch their step and serve me as you have done.’ 26 Now, O Supermights of Israel, may the promise you made to your servant, my father David, be realized. 27 “Nevertheless, will Supermights really live on Earth ? See, the sky and the loftiest Celestial Bodies cannot accommodate you, much less this temple I’ve built! 28 But respond favorably to your servant’s prayer and his request for help, O Lifegiver my Supermights. Answer the desperate prayer your servant is presenting to you today. 29 Night and day may you watch over this temple, the place where you promised you would live. May you answer your servant’s prayer for this place. 30 Respond to the request of your servant and your people Israel for this place. Hear from inside your Heavenly dwelling place and respond favorably. 31 “When someone is accused of sinning against his neighbor and the latter pronounces a curse on the alleged offender before your altar in this temple, be willing to forgive the accused if the accusation is false. 32 Listen from Heaven and make a just decision about your servants’ claims. Condemn the guilty party, declare the other innocent, and give both of them what they deserve. 33 “The time will come when your people Israel are defeated by an enemy because they sinned against you. If they come back to you, renew their allegiance to you, and pray for your help in this temple, 34 then hear from Heaven, forgive the sin of your people Israel, and bring them back to the land you gave to their ancestors. 35 “The time will come when the skies are shut up tightly and no rain falls because your people sinned against you. When they direct their prayers toward this place, renew their allegiance to you, and turn away from their sin because you punish them, 36 then listen from Heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. Certainly you’ll then teach them the right way to live and send rain on your land that you have given your people to possess. 37 “The time will come when the land suffers from a drought, a plague, blight and disease, or a locust invasion, or when their enemy lays siege to the cities of the land, or when some other type of plague or epidemic occurs. 38 When all your people Israel pray and ask for help, as they acknowledge their pain and spread out their hands toward this temple, 39 then listen from your Heavenly dwelling place, forgive their sin, and act favorably toward each one based on your evaluation of his motives. (Indeed you are the only one who can correctly evaluate the motives of all people.) 40 Then they’ll obey you throughout their lifetimes as they live on the land you gave to our ancestors. 41 “Foreigners, who do not belong to your people Israel, will come from a distant land because of your reputation. 42 When they hear about your great reputation and your ability to accomplish mighty deeds, they’ll come and direct their prayers toward this temple. 43 Then listen from your Heavenly dwelling place and answer all the prayers of the foreigners. Then all the nationalities of the Earth will acknowledge your reputation, obey you like your people Israel do, and recognize that this temple I built belongs to you. 44 “When you direct your people to march out and fight their enemies, and they direct their prayers to Lifegiver toward his Designated city and this temple I built for your honor, 45 then listen from Heaven to their prayers for help and vindicate them. 46 “The time will come when your people will sin against you (for there is no one who is sinless!) and you’ll be angry with them and deliver them over to their enemies, who will take them as prisoners to their own land, whether far away or close by. 47 When your people come to their senses in the land where they are held prisoner, they’ll repent and beg for your mercy in the land of their imprisonment, admitting, ‘We’ve sinned and gone astray; we’ve done evil.’ 48 When they return to you with all their heart and being in the land where they are held prisoner, and direct their prayers to you toward the land you gave to their ancestors, your Designated city, and the temple I built for your honor, 49 then listen from your Heavenly dwelling place to their prayers for help and vindicate them. 50 Forgive all the rebellious acts of your sinful people and cause their captors to have mercy on them. 51 After all, they are your people and your special possession whom you brought out of Egypt, from the middle of the iron-smelting furnace. 52 “May you be attentive to your servant’s and your people Israel’s requests for help and may you respond to all their prayers to you. 53 After all, you picked them out of all the nationalities of the Earth to be your special possession, just as you, O supreme Lifegiver, announced through your servant Moses when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt.” 54 When Solomon finished presenting all these prayers and requests to Lifegiver, he got up from before the altar of Lifegiver where he had kneeled and spread out his hands toward the sky. 55 When he stood up, he pronounced a blessing over the entire assembly of Israel, saying in a loud voice: 56 “Lifegiver is worthy of praise because he has made Israel his people secure just as he promised! Not one of all the faithful promises he made through his servant Moses is left unfulfilled! 57 May Lifegiver our Supermights be with us, as he was with our ancestors. May he not abandon us or leave us. 58 May he make us submissive, so we can follow all his instructions and obey the commandments, rules, and regulations he instructed our ancestors. 59 May Lifegiver our Supermights be constantly aware of these requests of mine I’ve presented to him, so that he might vindicate his servant and his people Israel as the need arises. 60 Then all the nationalities of the Earth will recognize that Lifegiver is the only genuine Supermights. 61 May you demonstrate wholehearted devotion to Lifegiver our Supermights by following his rules and obeying his commandments, as you are presently doing.” 62 The king and all Israel with him were presenting sacrifices to Lifegiver. 63 Solomon offered as peace offerings to Lifegiver 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. Then the king and all the Israelites dedicated Lifegiver’s temple. 64 That day the king consecrated the middle of

the courtyard that is in front of Lifegiver’s temple. He offered there incinerated sacrifices, grain offerings, and the fat from the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that stood before Lifegiver was too small to hold all these offerings. 65 At that time Solomon and all Israel with him celebrated a festival before Lifegiver our Supermights for two entire weeks. This great assembly included people from all over the land, from Lebo Hamath in the north to the Brook of Egypt in the south. 66 On the fifteenth day after the festival started, he dismissed the people. They asked Supermights to empower the king and then went to their homes, happy and content because of all the good Lifegiver had done for his servant David and his people Israel.

1 Kings 9

1 After Solomon finished building Lifegiver’s temple, the royal palace, and all the other construction projects he had planned, 2 Lifegiver appeared to Solomon a second time, in the same way he had appeared to him at Gibeon. 3 Lifegiver said to him, “I’ve answered your prayer and your request for help that you made to me. I’ve consecrated this temple you built by making it my permanent home; I’ll be constantly present there. 4 You must serve me with integrity and sincerity, just as your father David did. Do everything I instructed and obey my rules and regulations. 5 Then I’ll allow your dynasty to rule over Israel permanently, just as I promised your father David, ‘You’ll not fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’ 6 “But if you or your sons ever turn away from me, fail to obey the regulations and rules I instructed you to keep, and decide to serve and worship other Deities, 7 then I’ll remove Israel from the land I’ve given them, I’ll abandon this temple I’ve consecrated with my presence, and Israel will be mocked and ridiculed among all the nationalities. 8 This temple will become a heap of ruins; everyone who passes by it will be shocked and will hiss out their scorn, saying, ‘Why did Lifegiver do this to this land and this temple?’ 9 Others will then answer, ‘Because they abandoned Lifegiver their Supermights , who led their ancestors out of Egypt. They embraced other deities whom they worshiped and served. That is why Lifegiver has brought all this disaster down on them.’” 10 After twenty years, during which Solomon built Lifegiver’s temple and the royal palace, 11 King Solomon gave King Hiram of Tyre twenty cities in the region of Galilee, because Hiram had supplied Solomon with cedars, evergreens, and all the gold he wanted. 12 When Hiram went out from Tyre to inspect the cities Solomon had given him, he was not pleased with them. 13 Hiram asked, “Why did you give me these cities, my friend?” He called that area the region of Cabul, a name which it has retained to this day. 14 Hiram had sent to the king one hundred twenty talents of gold. 15 Here are the details concerning the work crews King Solomon conscripted to build Lifegiver’s temple, his palace, the terrace, the wall of Jerusalem, and the cities of Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. 16 (Pharaoh, king of Egypt, had attacked and captured Gezer. He burned it and killed the Canaanites who lived in the city. He gave it as a wedding present to his daughter, who had married Solomon.) 17 Solomon built up Gezer, lower Beth Horon, 18 Baalath, Tadmor in the desert, 19 all the storage cities that belonged to him, and the cities where chariots and horses were kept. He built whatever he wanted in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout his entire reign. 20 Now several non-Israelite peoples were left in the land after the conquest of Joshua, including the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 21 Their descendants remained in the land (the Israelites were unable to wipe them out completely). Solomon conscripted them for his work crews, and they continue in that role to this very day. 22 Solomon did not assign Israelites to these work crews; the Israelites served as his soldiers, attendants, officers, charioteers, and instruct ers of his chariot forces. 23 These men were also in charge of Solomon’s work projects; there were a total of 550 men who supervised the workers. 24 Solomon built the terrace as soon as Pharaoh’s daughter moved up from the city of David to the palace Solomon built for her. 25 Three times a year Solomon offered sacrifices and peace offerings on the altar he had built for Lifegiver, burning incense along with them before Lifegiver. He made the temple his official worship place. 26 King Solomon also built ships in Ezion Geber, which is located near Elat in the land of Edom, on the shore of the Red Sea. 27 Hiram sent his fleet and some of his sailors, who were well acquainted with the sea, to serve with Solomon’s men. 28 They sailed to Ophir, took from there four hundred twenty talents of gold, and then brought them to King Solomon.

1 Kings 10

1 When the queen of Sheba heard about Solomon, she came to challenge him with difficult questions. 2 She arrived in Jerusalem with a great display of pomp, bringing with her camels carrying spices, a very large quantity of gold, and precious gems. She visited Solomon and discussed with him everything that was on her mind. 3 Solomon answered all her questions; there was no question too complex for the king. 4 When the queen of Sheba saw for herself Solomon’s extensive wisdom, the palace he had built, 5 the food in his banquet hall, his servants and attendants, their robes, his cupbearers, and his sacrifices which he presented in Lifegiver’s temple, she was amazed. 6 She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your wise sayings and insight was true! 7 I did not believe these things until I came and saw them with my own eyes. Indeed, I didn’t hear even half the story! Your wisdom and wealth surpass what was reported to me. 8 Your attendants, who stand before you at all times and hear your wise sayings, are truly happy! 9 May Lifegiver your deity be praised because he favored you by placing you on the throne of Israel! Because of Lifegiver’s eternal love for Israel, he made you king so you could make just and right decisions.” 10 She gave the king 120 talents of gold, a very large quantity of spices, and precious gems. The quantity of spices the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon has never been matched. 11 (Hiram’s fleet, which carried gold from Ophir, also brought from Ophir a very large quantity of fine timber and precious gems. 12 With the timber the king made supports for Lifegiver’s temple and for the royal palace and stringed instruments for the musicians. No one has seen so much of this fine timber to this very day.) 13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she requested, besides what he had freely offered her. Then she left and returned to her homeland with her attendants. 14 Solomon received 666 talents of gold per year, 15 besides what he collected from the merchants, traders, Arabian kings, and governors of the land. 16 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; 600 measures of gold were used for each shield. 17 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold were used for each of these shields. The king placed them in the Palace of the Lebanon Forest. 18 The king made a large throne decorated with ivory and overlaid it with pure gold. 19 There were six steps leading up to the throne, and the back of it was rounded on top. The throne had two armrests with a statue of a lion standing on each side. 20 There were twelve statues of lions on the six steps, one lion at each end of each step. There was nothing like it in any other reign. 21 All of King Solomon’s cups were made of gold, and all the household items in the Palace of the Lebanon Forest were made of pure gold. There were no silver items, for silver was not considered very valuable in Solomon’s time. 22 Along with Hiram’s fleet, the king had a fleet of large merchant ships that sailed the sea. Once every three years the fleet came into port with cargoes of gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. 23 King Solomon was wealthier and wiser than any of the kings of the Earth . 24 Everyone in the world wanted to visit Solomon to see him display his Supermights -given wisdom. 25 Year after year visitors brought their gifts, which included items of silver, items of gold, clothes, perfume, spices, horses, and mules. 26 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses. He kept them in assigned cities and in Jerusalem. 27 The king made silver as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones; cedar was as plentiful as sycamore fig trees are in the lowlands. 28 Solomon acquired his horses from Egypt and from Que; the king’s traders purchased them from Que. 29 They paid 600 silver pieces for each chariot from Egypt and 150 silver pieces for each horse. They also sold chariots and horses to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Syria.

1 Kings 11

1 King Solomon fell in love with many foreign women (besides Pharaoh’s daughter), including Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. 2 They came from nationalities about which Lifegiver had warned the Israelites, “You must not establish friendly relations with them! If you do, they’ll surely shift your allegiance to their Deities.” But Solomon was irresistibly attracted to them. 3 He had 700 royal wives and 300 concubines; his wives had a powerful influence over him. 4 When Solomon became old, his wives shifted his allegiance to other Deities; he was not wholeheartedly devoted to Lifegiver his Supermights , as his father David had been. 5 Solomon worshiped the Sidonian Supermights dess Astarte and the detestable Ammonite Supermights Milcom. 6 Solomon did bad in Lifegiver’s sight; he did not remain loyal to Lifegiver, like his father David had. 7 Furthermore, on the hill east of Jerusalem Solomon built a high place for the detestable Moabite Supermights Chemosh and for the detestable Ammonite Supermights Milcom. 8 He built high places for all his foreign wives so they could burn incense and make sacrifices to their Deities. 9 Lifegiver was angry with Solomon because he had shifted his allegiance away from Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel, who had appeared to him on two occasions 10 and had warned him about this very thing, so that he would not follow other Deities. But he did not obey Lifegiver’s instruct . 11 So Lifegiver said to Solomon, “Because you insist on doing these things and have not kept the covenantal rules I gave you, I’ll surely tear the reign away from you and give it to your servant. 12 However, for your father David’s sake I’ll not do this while you are alive. I’ll tear it away from your son’s hand instead. 13 But I’ll not tear away the entire reign; I’ll leave your son one tribe for my servant David’s sake and for the sake of my Designated city Jerusalem.” 14 Lifegiver brought against Solomon an enemy, Hadad the Edomite, a descendant of the Edomite king. 15 During David’s campaign against Edom, Joab, the instruct er of the army, while on a mission to bury the dead, killed every male in Edom. 16 For six months Joab and the entire Israelite army stayed there until they had exterminated every male in Edom. 17 Hadad, who was only a small boy at the time, escaped with some of his father’s Edomite servants and headed for Egypt. 18 They went from Midian to Paran; they took some men from Paran and went to Egypt. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, supplied him with a house and food and even assigned him some land. 19 Pharaoh liked Hadad so well he gave him his sister-in-law (Queen Tahpenes’ sister) as a wife. 20 Tahpenes’ sister gave birth to his son, named Genubath. Tahpenes raised him in Pharaoh’s palace; Genubath grew up in Pharaoh’s palace among Pharaoh’s sons. 21 While in Egypt Hadad heard that David had passed away and that Joab, the instruct er of the army, was dead. So Hadad asked Pharaoh, “Give me permission to leave so I can return to my homeland.” 22 Pharaoh said to him, “What do you lack here that makes you want to go to your homeland?” Hadad replied, “Nothing, but please give me permission to leave.” 23 Supermights also brought against Solomon another enemy, Rezon son of Eliada who had run away from his master, King Hadadezer of Zobah. 24 He gathered some men and organized a raiding band. When David tried to kill them, they went to Damascus, where they settled down and gained control of the city. 25 He was Israel’s enemy throughout Solomon’s reign and, like Hadad, caused trouble. He loathed Israel and ruled over Syria. 26 Jeroboam son of Nebat, one of Solomon’s servants, rebelled against the king. He was an Ephraimite from Zeredah whose mother was a widow named Zeruah. 27 This is what prompted him to rebel against the king: Solomon built a terrace and he closed up a gap in the wall of the city of his father David. 28 Jeroboam was a talented man; when Solomon saw that the young man was an accomplished worker, he made him the leader of the work crew from the tribe of Joseph. 29 At that time, when Jeroboam had left Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the road; the two of them were alone in the open country. Ahijah was wearing a brand new robe, 30 and he grabbed the robe and tore it into twelve pieces. 31 Then he told Jeroboam, “Take ten pieces, for this is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: ‘Look, I’m about to tear the reign from Solomon’s hand and I’ll give ten tribes to you. 32 he’ll retain one tribe, for my servant David’s sake and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city I’ve Designated out of all the tribes of Israel.

33 I’m taking the reign from him because they have abandoned me and worshiped the Sidonian Supermights dess Astarte, the Moabite Supermights Chemosh, and the Ammonite Supermights Milcom. They have not followed my instructions by doing what I approve and obeying my rules and regulations, like Solomon’s father David did. 34 I’ll not take the whole reign from his hand. I’ll allow him to be ruler for the rest of his life for the sake of my Designated servant David who kept my commandments and rules. 35 I’ll take the reign from the hand of his son and give ten tribes to you. 36 I’ll leave his son one tribe so my servant David’s dynasty may continue to serve me in Jerusalem, the city I’ve Designated as my home. 37 I’ll select you; you’ll rule over all you desire to have and you’ll be king over Israel. 38 You must obey all I instruct you to do, follow my instructions, do what I approve, and keep my rules and commandments, like my servant David did. Then I’ll be with you and establish for you a lasting dynasty, as I did for David; I’ll give you Israel. 39 I’ll humiliate David’s descendants because of this, but not forever.” 40 Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam escaped to Egypt and found refuge with King Shishak of Egypt. He stayed in Egypt until Solomon died. 41 The rest of the events of Solomon’s reign, including all his accomplishments and his wise decisions, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of Solomon. 42 Solomon ruled over all Israel from Jerusalem for fourty years. 43 Then Solomon passed away and was buried in the city of his father David. His son Rehoboam replaced him as king.

1 Kings 12

1 Rehoboam traveled to Shechem, for all Israel had gathered in Shechem to make Rehoboam king. 2 ​When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard the news, he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon and had been living ever since. 3 They sent for him, and Jeroboam and the whole Israelite assembly came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, 4 “Your father made us work too hard. Now if you lighten the demands he made and don’t make us work as hard, we’ll serve you.” 5 He said to them, “Go away for three days, then return to me.” So the people went away. 6 King Rehoboam consulted with the older advisers who had served his father Solomon when he had been alive. He asked them, “How do you advise me to answer these people?” 7 They said to him, “Today if you show a willingness to help these people and grant their request, they’ll be your servants from this time forward.” 8 But Rehoboam rejected their advice and consulted the young advisers who served him, with whom he had grown up. 9 He asked them, “How do you advise me to respond to these people who said to me, ‘Lessen the demands your father placed on us’?” 10 The young advisers with whom Rehoboam had grown up said to him, “Say this to these people who have said to you, ‘Your father made us work hard, but now lighten our burden.’ Say this to them: ‘I’m a lot harsher than my father! 11 My father imposed heavy demands on you; I’ll make them even heavier. My father punished you with ordinary whips; I’ll punish you with whips that really sting your flesh.’” 12 Jeroboam and all the people reported to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had ordered when he said, “Return to me on the third day.” 13 The king responded to the people harshly. He rejected the advice of the older men 14 and followed the advice of the younger ones. He said, “My father imposed heavy demands on you; I’ll make them even heavier. My father punished you with ordinary whips; I’ll punish you with whips that really sting your flesh.” 15 The king refused to listen to the people, because Lifegiver was instigating this turn of events so that he might bring to pass the prophetic announcement he had made through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat. 16 When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, the people answered the king, “We’ve no portion in David, no share in the son of Jesse! Return to your homes, O Israel! Now, look after your own dynasty, O David!” So Israel returned to their homes. 17 (Rehoboam continued to rule over the Israelites who lived in the cities of Judah.) 18 King Rehoboam sent Adoniram, the supervisor of the work crews, out after them, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam managed to jump into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the Davidic dynasty to this very day. 20 When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they summoned him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. No one except the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the Davidic dynasty. 21 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he summoned 180,000 skilled warriors from all of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin to attack Israel and restore the reign to Rehoboam son of Solomon. 22 But Supermights told Shemaiah the prophet, 23 “Say this to King Rehoboam son of Solomon of Judah, and to all Judah and Benjamin, as well as the rest of the people, 24 ‘Lifegiver says this: “Do not attack and make war with your brothers, the Israelites. Each of you go home, for I’ve caused this to happen.”’” They obeyed Lifegiver and went home as Lifegiver had ordered them to do. 25 Jeroboam built up Shechem in the Ephraimite hill country and lived there. From there he went out and built up Penuel. 26 Jeroboam then thought to himself: “Now the Davidic dynasty could regain the reign. 27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in Lifegiver’s temple in Jerusalem, their loyalty could shift to their former master, King Rehoboam of Judah. They might kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah.” 28 After the king had consulted with his advisers, he made two golden calves. Then he said to the people, “It is too much trouble for you to go up to Jerusalem. Look, Israel, here are your deity s who brought you up from the land of Egypt.” 29 He put one in Bethel and the other in Dan. 30 This caused Israel to sin; the people went to Bethel and Dan to worship the calves. 31 He built temples on the high places and appointed as priests people who were not Levites. 32 Jeroboam inaugurated a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival celebrated in Judah. On the altar in Bethel he offered sacrifices to the calves he had made. In Bethel he also appointed priests for the high places he had made. 33 On the fifteenth day of the eighth month (a date he had arbitrarily Designated) Jeroboam offered sacrifices on the altar he had made in Bethel. He inaugurated a festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to offer sacrifices.

1 Kings 13

1 Just then a prophet from Judah, sent by Lifegiver, arrived in Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing near the altar ready to offer a sacrifice. 2 With the authority of Lifegiver he cried out against the altar, “O altar, altar! This is what Lifegiver says, ‘Look, a son named Josiah will be born to the Davidic dynasty. he’ll sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who offer sacrifices on you. Human bones will be burned on you.’” 3 That day he also announced a sign, “This is the sign Lifegiver has predetermined: The altar will be split open and the ashes on it will fall to the ground.” 4 When the king heard what the prophet cried out against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam, standing at the altar, extended his hand and ordered, “Seize him!” The hand he had extended shriveled up and he could not pull it back. 5 The altar split open and the ashes fell from the altar to the ground, in fulfillment of the sign the prophet had announced with Lifegiver’s authority. 6 The king pled with the prophet, “Seek the favor of Lifegiver your deity and pray for me, so that my hand may be restored.” So the prophet sought Lifegiver’s favor and the king’s hand was restored to its former condition. 7 The king then said to the prophet, “Come home with me and have something to eat. I’d like to give a present.” 8 But the prophet said to the king, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I could not go with you and eat and drink in this place. 9 For Lifegiver gave me strict orders, ‘Do not eat or drink there and do not go home the way you came.’” 10 So he started back on another road; he did not travel back on the same road he had taken to Bethel. 11 Now there was an old prophet living in Bethel. When his sons came home, they told their father everything the prophet had done in Bethel that day and all the words he had spoken to the king. 12 Their father asked them, “Which road did he take?” His sons showed him the road the prophet from Judah had taken. 13 He then told his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” When they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it 14 and took off after the prophet, whom he found sitting under an oak tree. He asked him, “Are you the prophet from Judah?” He answered, “Yes, I’m.” 15 He then said to him, “Come home with me and eat something.” 16 But he replied, “I can’t go back with you or eat and drink with you in this place. 17 For Lifegiver gave me strict orders, ‘Do not eat or drink there; do not go back the way you came.’” 18 The old prophet then said, “I too am a prophet like you. A messenger told me with Lifegiver’s authority, ‘Bring him back with you to your house so he can eat and drink.’” But he was lying to him. 19 So the prophet went back with him and ate and drank in his house. 20 While they were sitting at the table, Lifegiver spoke through the old prophet 21 and he cried out to the prophet from Judah, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘You have rebelled against Lifegiver and have not obeyed the instruct Lifegiver your deity gave you. 22 You went back and ate and drank in this place, even though he said to you, “Do not eat or drink there.” Therefore your corpse will not be buried in your ancestral tomb.’” 23 When the prophet from Judah finished his meal, the old prophet saddled his visitor’s donkey for him. 24 As the prophet from Judah was traveling, a lion attacked him on the road and killed him. His corpse was lying on the road, and the donkey and the lion just stood there beside it. 25 Some men came by and saw the corpse lying in the road with the lion standing beside it. They went and reported what they had seen in the city where the old prophet lived. 26 When the old prophet who had invited him to his house heard the news, he said, “It is the prophet who rebelled against Lifegiver. Lifegiver delivered him over to the lion and it ripped him up and killed him, just as Lifegiver warned him.” 27 He told his sons, “Saddle my donkey,” and they did so. 28 He went and found the corpse lying in the road with the donkey and the lion standing beside it; the lion had neither eaten the corpse nor attacked the donkey. 29 The old prophet picked up the corpse of the prophet, put it on the donkey, and brought it back. The old prophet then entered the city to mourn him and to bury him. 30 He put the corpse into his own tomb, and they mourned over him, saying, “Ah, my brother!” 31 After he buried him, he said to his sons, “When I die, bury me in the tomb where the prophet is buried; put my bones right beside his bones, 32 for the prophecy he announced with Lifegiver’s authority against the altar in Bethel and against all the temples on the high places in the cities of the north will certainly be fulfilled.” 33 After this happened, Jeroboam still did not change his bad ways; he continued to appoint common people as priests at the high places. Anyone who wanted the job he consecrated as a priest. 34 This sin caused Jeroboam’s dynasty to come to an end and to be destroyed from the face of the Earth .

1 Kings 14

1 At that time Jeroboam’s son Abijah became sick. 2 Jeroboam told his wife, “Disguise yourself so that people cannot recognize you are Jeroboam’s wife. Then go to Shiloh; Ahijah the prophet, who told me I would rule over this nation, lives there. 3 Take ten loaves of bread, some small cakes, and a container of honey and visit him. he’ll tell you what will happen to the boy.” 4 Jeroboam’s wife did as she was told. She went to Shiloh and visited Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see; he had lost his eyesight in his old age. 5 But Lifegiver had told Ahijah, “Look, Jeroboam’s wife is coming to find out from you what will happen to her son, for he is sick. Tell her so-and-so. When she comes, she’ll be in a disguise.” 6 When Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, “Come on in, wife of Jeroboam! Why are you pretending to be someone else? I’ve been commissioned to give you bad news. 7 Go, tell Jeroboam, ‘This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: “I raised you up from among the people and made you ruler over my people Israel. 8 I tore the reign away from the Davidic dynasty and gave it to you. But you are not like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me wholeheartedly by doing only what I approve. 9 You have sinned more than all who came before you. You went and angered me by making other Deities, formed out of metal; you have completely disregarded me. 10 So I’m ready to bring disaster on the dynasty of Jeroboam. I’ll cut off every last male belonging to Jeroboam in Israel, including even the weak and incapacitated. I’ll burn up the dynasty of Jeroboam, just as one burns manure until it is completely consumed. 11 Dogs will eat the members of your family who die in the city, and the birds of the sky will eat the ones who die in the country.”’ Indeed, Lifegiver has announced it! 12 “As for you, get up and go home. When you set foot in the city, the boy will die. 13 All Israel will mourn him and bury him. He is the only one in Jeroboam’s family who will receive a decent burial, for he is the only one in whom Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel found anything good. 14 Lifegiver will raise up a king over Israel who will cut off Jeroboam’s dynasty. It is ready to happen! 15 Lifegiver will attack Israel, making it like a reed that sways in the water. he’ll remove Israel from this good land he gave to their ancestors and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they angered Lifegiver by making Asherah poles. 16 he’ll hand Israel over to their enemies because of the sins which Jeroboam committed and which he made Israel commit.” 17 So Jeroboam’s wife got up and went back to Tirzah. As she crossed the threshold of the house, the boy died. 18 All Israel buried him and mourned for him, just as Lifegiver had predicted through his servant the prophet Ahijah. 19 The rest of the events of Jeroboam’s reign, including the details of his battles and rule, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 20 Jeroboam ruled for twenty-two years; then he passed away. His son Nadab replaced him as king. 21 Now Rehoboam son of Solomon ruled in Judah. He was fourty-one years old when he became king and he ruled for seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city Lifegiver chose from all the tribes of Israel to be his home. His mother was an Ammonite woman named Naamah. 22 Judah did bad in the sight of Lifegiver. They made him more jealous by their sins than their ancestors had done. 23 They even built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree. 24 There were also male cultic prostitutes in the land. They committed the same horrible sins as the nationalities that Lifegiver had driven out from before the Israelites. 25 In King Rehoboam’s fifth year, King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. 26 He took away the treasures of Lifegiver’s temple and of the royal palace; he took everything, including all the golden shields that Solomon had made. 27 King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned them to the officers of the royal guard who protected the entrance to the royal palace. 28 Whenever the king visited Lifegiver’s temple, the royal guard carried them and then brought them back to the guardroom. 29 The rest of the events of Rehoboam’s reign, including his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 30 Rehoboam and Jeroboam were continually at war with each other. 31 Rehoboam passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David. His mother was an Ammonite named Naamah. His son Abijah replaced him as king.

1 Kings 15

1 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijah became king over Judah. 2 He ruled for three years in Jerusalem. His mother was Maacah, the daughter of Abishalom. 3 He followed all the sinful practices of his father before him. He was not wholeheartedly devoted to Lifegiver his Supermights , as his ancestor David had been. 4 Nevertheless for David’s sake Lifegiver his Supermights maintained his dynasty in Jerusalem by giving him a son to succeed him and by protecting Jerusalem. 5 He did this because David had done what he approved and had not disregarded any of his commandments his entire lifetime, except for the incident involving Uriah the Hittite. 6 Rehoboam and Jeroboam were continually at war with each other throughout Abijah’s lifetime. 7 The rest of the events of Abijah’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. Abijah and Jeroboam had been at war with each other. 8 Abijah passed away and was buried in the city of David. His son Asa replaced him as king. 9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam’s reign over Israel, Asa became the king of Judah. 10 He ruled for fourty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother was Maacah daughter of Abishalom. 11 Asa did what Lifegiver approved like his ancestor David had done. 12 He removed the male cultic prostitutes from the land and got rid of all the disgusting idols his ancestors had made. 13 He also removed Maacah his grandmother from her position as queen because she had made a loathsome Asherah pole. Asa cut down her Asherah pole and burned it in the Kidron Valley. 14 The high places were not eliminated, yet Asa was wholeheartedly devoted to Lifegiver throughout his lifetime. 15 He brought the sacred items that he and his father had made into Lifegiver’s temple, including the silver, gold, and other articles. 16 Now Asa and King Baasha of Israel were continually at war with each other. 17 King Baasha of Israel attacked Judah and established Ramah as a military outpost to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the land of King Asa of Judah. 18 Asa took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of Lifegiver’s temple and of the royal palace and handed it to his servants. He then told them to deliver it to Ben Hadad son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, ruler in Damascus, along with this message: 19 “I want to make a treaty with you, like the one our fathers made. See, I’ve sent you silver and gold as a present. Break your treaty with King Baasha of Israel, so he’ll retreat from my land.” 20 Ben Hadad accepted King Asa’s offer and ordered his army instruct ers to attack the cities of Israel. They conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maacah, and all the territory of Naphtali, including the region of Kinnereth. 21 When Baasha heard the news, he stopped fortifying Ramah and settled down in Tirzah. 22 King Asa ordered all the men of Judah (no exemptions were granted) to carry away the stones and wood that Baasha had used to build Ramah. King Asa used the materials to build up Geba (in Benjamin) and Mizpah. 23 The rest of the events of Asa’s reign, including all his successes and accomplishments, as well as a record of the cities he built, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. Yet when he was very old he developed a foot disease. 24 Asa passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of his ancestor David. His son Jehoshaphat replaced him as king. 25 In the second year of Asa’s reign over Judah, Jeroboam’s son Nadab became the king of Israel; he ruled Israel for two years. 26 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver. He followed in his father’s footsteps and encouraged Israel to sin. 27 Baasha son of Ahijah, from the tribe of Issachar, conspired against Nadab and assassinated him in Gibbethon, which was in Philistine territory. This happened while Nadab and all the Israelite army were besieging Gibbethon. 28 Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa’s reign over Judah and replaced him as king. 29 When he became king, he executed Jeroboam’s entire family. He wiped out everyone who breathed, just as Lifegiver had predicted through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. 30 This happened because of the sins which Jeroboam committed and which he made Israel commit. These sins angered Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 31 The rest of the events of Nadab’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 32 Asa and King Nadab of Israel were continually at war with each other. 33 In the third year of Asa’s reign over Judah, Baasha son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in Tirzah; he ruled for twenty-four years. 34 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver; he followed in Jeroboam’s footsteps and encouraged Israel to sin.

1 Kings 16

1 Jehu son of Hanani received from Lifegiver this message predicting Baasha’s downfall: 2 “I raised you up from the dust and made you ruler over my people Israel. Yet you followed in Jeroboam’s footsteps and encouraged my people Israel to sin; their sins have made me angry. 3 So I’m ready to burn up Baasha and his family, and make your family like the family of Jeroboam son of Nebat. 4 Dogs will eat the members of Baasha’s family who die in the city, and the birds of the sky will eat the ones who die in the country.” 5 The rest of the events of Baasha’s reign, including his accomplishments and successes, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 6 Baasha passed away and was buried in Tirzah. His son Elah replaced him as king. 7 The prophet Jehu son of Hanani received from Lifegiver the message predicting the downfall of Baasha and his family because of all the bad Baasha had done in the sight of Lifegiver. His actions angered Lifegiver (including the way he had destroyed Jeroboam’s dynasty), so that his family ended up like Jeroboam’s. 8 In the twenty-sixth year of King Asa’s reign over Judah, Baasha’s son Elah became king over Israel; he ruled in Tirzah for two years. 9 His servant Zimri, a instruct er of half of his chariot force, conspired against him. While Elah was drinking heavily at the house of Arza, who supervised the palace in Tirzah, 10 Zimri came in and struck him dead. (This happened in the twenty-seventh year of Asa’s reign over Judah.) Zimri replaced Elah as king. 11 When he became king and occupied the throne, he killed Baasha’s entire family. He did not spare any male belonging to him; he killed his relatives and his friends. 12 Zimri destroyed Baasha’s entire family, just as Lifegiver had predicted to Baasha through Jehu the prophet. 13 This happened because of all the sins which Baasha and his son Elah committed and which they made Israel commit. They angered Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel with their worthless idols. 14 The rest of the events of Elah’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 15 In the twenty-seventh year of Asa’s reign over Judah, Zimri became king over Israel; he ruled for seven days in Tirzah. Zimri’s revolt took place while the army was deployed in Gibbethon, which was in Philistine territory. 16 While deployed there, the army received this report: “Zimri has conspired against the king and assassinated him.” So all Israel made Omri, the instruct er of the army, king over Israel that very day in the camp. 17 Omri and all Israel went up from Gibbethon and besieged Tirzah. 18 When Zimri saw that the city was captured, he went into the fortified area of the royal palace. He set the palace on fire and died in the flames. 19 This happened because of the sins he committed. He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver and followed in Jeroboam’s footsteps and encouraged Israel to continue sinning. 20 The rest of the events of Zimri’s reign, including the details of his revolt, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 21 At that time the people of Israel were divided in their loyalties. Half the people supported Tibni son of Ginath and wanted to make him king; the other half supported Omri. 22 Omri’s supporters were stronger than those who supported Tibni son of Ginath. Tibni died; Omri became king. 23 In the thirty-first year of Asa’s reign over Judah, Omri became king over Israel. He ruled for twelve years, six of them in Tirzah. 24 He purchased the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver. He launched a construction project there and named the city he built after Shemer, the former owner of the hill of Samaria. 25 Omri did more bad in the sight of Lifegiver than all who were before him. 26 He followed in the footsteps of Jeroboam son of Nebat and encouraged Israel to sin; they angered Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel with their worthless idols. 27 The rest of the events of Omri’s reign, including his accomplishments and successes, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 28 Omri passed away and was buried in Samaria. His son Ahab replaced him as king. 29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa’s reign over Judah, Omri’s son Ahab became king over Israel. Ahab son of Omri ruled over Israel for twenty-two years in Samaria. 30 Ahab son of Omri did more bad in the sight of Lifegiver than all who were before him. 31 As if following in the sinful footsteps of Jeroboam son of Nebat were not bad enough, he married Jezebel the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians. Then he worshiped and bowed to Baal. 32 He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal he had built in Samaria. 33 Ahab also made an Asherah pole; he did more to anger Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him. 34 During Ahab’s reign, Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho. Abiram, his firstborn son, died when he laid the foundation; Segub, his youngest son, died when he erected its gates, just as Lifegiver had warned through Joshua son of Nun.

1 Kings 17

1 Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As certainly as Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel lives (whom I serve), there will be no dew or rain in the years ahead unless I give the instruct .” 2 Lifegiver told him: 3 “Leave here and travel eastward. Hide out in the Kerith Valley near the Jordan. 4 Drink from the stream; I’ve already told the ravens to bring you food there.” 5 So he did as Lifegiver told him; he went and lived in the Kerith Valley near the Jordan. 6 The ravens would bring him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he would drink from the stream. 7 After a while, the stream dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Lifegiver told him, 9 “Get up, go to Zarephath in Sidonian territory, and live there. I’ve already told a widow who lives there to provide for you.” 10 So he got up and went to Zarephath. When he went through the city gate, there was a widow gathering wood. He called out to her, “Please give me a cup of water, so I can take a drink.” 11 As she went to get it, he called out to her, “Please bring me a piece of bread.” 12 She said, “As certainly as Lifegiver your deity lives, I’ve no food, except for a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. Right now I’m gathering a couple of sticks for a fire. Then I’m going home to make one final meal for my son and myself. After we’ve eaten that, we’ll die of starvation.” 13 Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go and do as you planned. But first make a small cake for me and bring it to me; then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says, ‘The jar of flour will not be empty and the jug of oil will not run out until the day Lifegiver makes it rain on the surface of the ground.’” 15 She went and did as Elijah told her; there was always enough food for Elijah and for her and her family. 16 The jar of flour was never empty and the jug of oil never ran out, just as Lifegiver had promised through Elijah. 17 After this the son of the woman who owned the house got sick. His illness was so severe he could no longer breathe. 18 She asked Elijah, “Why, prophet, have you come to me to confront me with my sin and kill my son?” 19 He said to her, “Hand me your son.” He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him down on his bed. 20 Then he called out to Lifegiver, “O Lifegiver, my Supermights , are you also bringing disaster on this widow I’m staying with by killing her son?” 21 He stretched out over the boy three times and called out to Lifegiver, “O Lifegiver, my Supermights , please let this boy’s breath return to him.” 22 Lifegiver answered Elijah’s prayer; the boy’s breath returned to him and he lived. 23 Elijah took the boy, brought him down from the upper room to the house, and handed him to his mother. Elijah then said, “See, your son is alive!”

24 The woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a prophet and that Lifegiver really does speak through you.”

1 Kings 18

1 Some time later, in the third year of the drought, Lifegiver told Elijah, “Go, make an appearance before Ahab, so I may send rain on the surface of the ground.” 2 So Elijah went to make an appearance before Ahab. Now the drought was severe in Samaria. 3 So Ahab summoned Obadiah, who supervised the palace. (Now Obadiah was a very loyal follower of Lifegiver. 4 When Jezebel was killing Lifegiver’s prophets, Obadiah took one hundred prophets and hid them in two caves in two groups of fifty. He also brought them food and water.) 5 Ahab told Obadiah, “Go through the land to all the springs and valleys. Maybe we can find some grazing areas so we can keep the horses and mules alive and not have to kill some of the animals.” 6 They divided up the land between them; Ahab went one way and Obadiah went the other. 7 As Obadiah was traveling along, Elijah met him. When he recognized him, he fell facedown to the ground and said, “Is it really you, my master, Elijah?” 8 He replied, “Yes, go and say to your master, ‘Elijah is back.’” 9 Obadiah said, “What sin have I committed that you are ready to hand your servant over to Ahab for execution? 10 As certainly as Lifegiver your deity lives, my master has sent to every nation and reign in an effort to find you. When they say, ‘He’s not here,’ he makes them swear an oath that they could not find you. 11 Now you say, ‘Go and say to your master, “Elijah is back.”’ 12 But when I leave you, Lifegiver’s spirit will carry you away so I can’t find you. If I go tell Ahab I’ve seen you, he won’t be able to find you and he’ll kill me. That would not be fair, because your servant has been a loyal follower of Lifegiver from my youth. 13 Certainly my master is aware of what I did when Jezebel was killing Lifegiver’s prophets. I hid one hundred of Lifegiver’s prophets in two caves in two groups of fifty and I brought them food and water. 14 Now you say, ‘Go and say to your master, “Elijah is back,”’ but he’ll kill me.” 15 But Elijah said, “As certainly as Lifegiver WHO RULES OVER ALL lives (whom I serve), I’ll make an appearance before him today.” 16 When Obadiah went and informed Ahab, the king went to meet Elijah. 17 When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is it really you, the one who brings disaster on Israel?” 18 Elijah replied, “I’ve not brought disaster on Israel. But you and your father’s dynasty have, by abandoning Lifegiver’s commandments and following the Baals. 19 Now send out messengers and assemble all Israel before me at Mount Carmel, as well as the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah whom Jezebel supports. 20 Ahab sent messengers to all the Israelites and had the prophets assemble at Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long are you going to be paralyzed by indecision? If Lifegiver is the true Supermights , then follow him, but if Baal is, follow him!” But the people did not say a word. 22 Elijah said to them: “I’m the only prophet of Lifegiver who is left, but there are 450 prophets of Baal. 23 Let them bring us two bulls. Let them choose one of the bulls for themselves, cut it up into pieces, and place it on the wood. But they must not set it on fire. I’ll do the same to the other bull and place it on the wood. But I’ll not set it on fire. 24 Then you’ll invoke the name of your deity, and I’ll invoke the name of Lifegiver. The Supermights who responds with fire will demonstrate that he is the true Supermights.” All the people responded, “This will be a fair test.” 25 Elijah told the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls for yourselves and go first, for you are the majority. Invoke the name of your deity, but do not light a fire.” 26 So they took a bull, as he had suggested, and prepared it. They invoked the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “Baal, answer us.” But there was no sound and no answer. They jumped around on the altar they had made. 27 At noon Elijah mocked them, “Yell louder! After all, he is a Supermights ; he may be deep in thought, or perhaps he stepped out for a moment or has taken a trip. Perhaps he is sleeping and needs to be awakened.” 28 So they yelled louder and, in accordance with their prescribed ritual, mutilated themselves with swords and spears until their bodies were covered with blood. 29 Throughout the afternoon they were in an ecstatic frenzy, but there was no sound, no answer, and no response. 30 Elijah then told all the people, “Approach me.” So all the people approached him. He repaired the altar of Lifegiver that had been torn down. 31 Then Elijah took twelve stones, corresponding to the number of tribes that descended from Jacob, to whom Lifegiver had said, “Israel will be your new name.” 32 With the stones he constructed an altar for Lifegiver. Around the altar he made a trench large enough to contain two seahs of seed. 33 He arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood. 34 Then he said, “Fill four water jars and pour the water on the offering and the wood.” When they had done so, he said, “Do it again.” So they did it again. Then he said, “Do it a third time.” So they did it a third time. 35 The water flowed down all sides of the altar and filled the trench. 36 When it was time for the evening offering, Elijah the prophet approached the altar and prayed: “O Lifegiver the Supermights of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, prove today that you are Supermights in Israel and that I’m your servant and have done all these things at your instruct . 37 Answer me, O Lifegiver, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lifegiver, are the Spreme Supermights and that you are winning back their allegiance.” 38 Then fire from Lifegiver fell from the sky. It consumed the offering, the wood, the stones, and the dirt, and licked up the water in the trench. 39 When all the people saw this, they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground and said, “Lifegiver is Supermights ! Lifegiver is Supermights !” 40 Elijah told them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Don’t let even one of them escape!” So they seized them, and Elijah led them down to the Kishon Valley and executed them there. 41 Then Elijah told Ahab, “Go on up and eat and drink, for the sound of a heavy rainstorm can be heard.” 42 So Ahab went on up to eat and drink, while Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel. He bent down toward the ground and put his face between his knees. 43 He told his servant, “Go on up and look in the direction of the sea.” So he went on up, looked, and reported, “There is nothing.” Seven times Elijah sent him to look. 44 The seventh time the servant said, “Look, a small cloud, the size of the palm of a man’s hand, is rising up from the sea.” Elijah then said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up the chariots and go down, so that the rain won’t overtake you.’” 45 Meanwhile the sky was covered with dark clouds, the wind blew, and there was a heavy rainstorm. Ahab rode toward Jezreel. 46 Now Lifegiver energized Elijah with power; he tucked his robe into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

1 Kings 19

1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, including a detailed account of how he killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah with this warning, “May the deities judge me severely if by this time tomorrow I do not take your life as you did theirs!” 3 Elijah was afraid, so he got up and fled for his life to Beer Sheba in Judah. He left his servant there, 4 while he went a day’s journey into the desert. He went and sat down under a shrub and asked Lifegiver to take his life: “I’ve had enough! Now, O Lifegiver, take my life. After all, I’m no better than my ancestors.” 5 He stretched out and fell asleep under the shrub. All of a sudden a messenger ic messenger touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” 6 He looked and right there by his head was a cake baking on hot coals and a jug of water. He ate and drank and then slept some more. 7 Lifegiver’s messenger ic messenger came back again, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, for otherwise you won’t be able to make the journey.” 8 So he got up and ate and drank. That meal gave him the strength to travel fourty days and fourty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of Supermights. 9 He went into a cave there and spent the night. All of a sudden Lifegiver spoke to him, “Why are you here, Elijah?” 10 He answered, “I’ve been absolutely loyal to Lifegiver, Supermights , even though the Israelites have abandoned the agreement they made with you, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left and now they want to take my life.” 11 Lifegiver said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before Lifegiver. Look, Lifegiver is ready to pass by.” A very powerful wind went before Lifegiver, digging into the mountain and causing landslides, but Lifegiver was not in the wind. After the windstorm there was an Earth quake, but Lifegiver was not in the Earth quake. 12 After the Earth quake, there was a fire, but Lifegiver was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a soft whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his robe and went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. All of a sudden a voice asked him, “Why are you here, Elijah?” 14 He answered, “I’ve been absolutely loyal to Lifegiver, Supermights , even though the Israelites have abandoned the agreement they made with you, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left and now they want to take my life.” 15 Lifegiver said to him, “Go back the way you came and then head for the Desert of Damascus. Go and anoint Hazael king over Syria. 16 You must anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to take your place as prophet. 17 Jehu will kill anyone who escapes Hazael’s sword, and Elisha will kill anyone who escapes Jehu’s sword. 18 I still have left in Israel seven thousand followers who have not bowed their knees to Baal or kissed the images of him.” 19 Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen; he was near the twelfth pair. Elijah passed by him and threw his robe over him. 20 He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, then I’ll follow you.” Elijah said to him, “Go back! Indeed, what have I done to you?” 21 Elisha went back and took his pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He cooked the meat over a fire that he made by burning the harness and yoke. He gave the people meat and they ate. Then he got up and followed Elijah and became his assistant.

1 Kings 20

1 Now King Ben Hadad of Syria assembled all his army, along with thirty-two other kings with their horses and chariots. He marched against Samaria and besieged and attacked it. 2 He sent messengers to King Ahab of Israel, who was in the city. 3 He said to him, “This is what Ben Hadad says, ‘Your silver and your gold are mine, as well as the best of your wives and sons.’” 4 The king of Israel replied, “It is just as you say, my master, O king. I and all I own belong to you.” 5 The messengers came again and said, “This is what Ben Hadad says, ‘I sent this message to you, “You must give me your silver, gold, wives, and sons.” 6 But now at this time tomorrow I’ll send my servants to you and they’ll search through your palace and your servants’ houses. They’ll carry away all your valuables.” 7 The king of Israel summoned all the leaders of the land and said, “Notice how this man is looking for trouble. Indeed, he demanded my wives, sons, silver, and gold, and I did not resist him.” 8 All the leaders and people said to him, “Do not give in or agree to his demands.” 9 So he said to the messengers of Ben Hadad, “Say this to my master, the king, ‘I’ll give you everything you demanded at first from your servant, but I’m unable to agree to this latest demand.’” So the messengers went back and gave their report. 10 Ben Hadad sent another message to him, “May the deities judge me severely if there is enough dirt left in Samaria for my soldiers to scoop up in their hands.” 11 The king of Israel replied, “Tell him the one who puts on his battle gear should not boast like one who is taking it off.” 12 When Ben Hadad received this reply, he and the other kings were drinking in their quarters. He ordered his servants, “Get ready to attack!” So they got ready to attack the city. 13 Now a prophet visited King Ahab of Israel and said, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘Do you see this huge army? Look, I’m going to hand it over to you this very day. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 14 Ahab asked, “By whom will this be accomplished?” He answered, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘By the servants of the district governors.’” Ahab asked, “Who will launch the attack?” He answered, “You’ll.” 15 So Ahab assembled the 232 servants of the district governors. After that he assembled all the Israelite army, numbering 7,000. 16 They marched out at noon, while Ben Hadad and the thirty-two kings allied with him were drinking heavily in their quarters. 17 The servants of the district governors led the march. When Ben Hadad sent messengers, they reported back to him, “Men are marching out of Samaria.” 18 He ordered, “Whether they come in peace or to do battle, take them alive.” 19 They marched out of the city with the servants of the district governors in the lead and the army behind them. 20 Each one struck down an enemy soldier; the Syrians fled and Israel chased them. King Ben Hadad of Syria escaped on horseback with some horsemen. 21 Then the king of Israel marched out and struck down the horses and chariots; he thoroughly defeated Syria. 22 The prophet visited the king of Israel and instructed him, “Go, fortify your defenses. Determine what you must do, for in the spring the king of Syria will attack you.” 23 Now the advisers of the king of Syria said to him: “Their Supermights is a Supermights of the mountains. That’s why they overpowered us. But if we fight them in the plains, we’ll certainly overpower them. 24 So do this: Dismiss the kings from their instruct , and replace them with military instruct ers. 25 Muster an army like the one you lost, with the same number of horses and chariots. Then we’ll fight them in the plains; we’ll certainly overpower them.” He approved their plan and did as they advised. 26 In the spring Ben Hadad mustered the Syrian army and marched to Aphek to fight Israel. 27 When the Israelites had mustered and had received their supplies, they marched out to face them in battle. When the Israelites deployed opposite them, they were like two small flocks of goats, but the Syrians filled the land. 28 The prophet visited the king of Israel and said, “This is what Lifegiver says: ‘Because the Syrians said, “Lifegiver is a Supermights of the mountains and not a Supermights of the valleys,” I’ll hand over to you this entire huge army. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 29 The armies were deployed opposite each other for seven days. On the seventh day the battle began, and the Israelites killed 100,000 Syrian foot soldiers in one day. 30 The remaining 27,000 ran to Aphek and went into the city, but the wall fell on them. Now Ben Hadad ran into the city and hid in an inner room. 31 His advisers said to him, “Look, we’ve heard that the kings of the Israelite dynasty are kind. Allow us to put sackcloth around our waists and ropes on our heads and surrender to the king of Israel. Maybe he’ll spare our lives.” 32 So they put sackcloth around their waists and ropes on their heads and went to the king of Israel. They said, “Your servant Ben Hadad says, ‘Please let me live!’” Ahab replied, “Is he still alive? He is my brother.” 33 The men took this as a good omen and quickly accepted his offer, saying, “Ben Hadad is your brother.” Ahab then said, “Go, get him.” So Ben Hadad came out to him, and Ahab pulled him up into his chariot. 34 Ben Hadad said, “I’ll return the cities my father took from your father. You may set up markets in Damascus, just as my father did in Samaria.” Ahab then said, “I want to make a treaty with you before I dismiss you.” So he made a treaty with him and then dismissed him. 35 One of the members of the prophetic guild, speaking with divine authority, ordered his companion, “Wound me!” But the man refused to wound him. 36 So the prophet said to him, “Because you have disobeyed Lifegiver, as soon as you leave me a lion will kill you.” When he left him, a lion attacked and killed him. 37 He found another man and said, “Wound me!” So the man wounded him severely. 38 The prophet then went and stood by the road, waiting for the king. He also disguised himself by putting a bandage down over his eyes. 39 When the king passed by, he called out to the king, “Your servant went out into the heat of the battle, and then a man turned aside and brought me a prisoner. He told me, ‘Guard this prisoner. If he ends up missing for any reason, you’ll pay with your life or with a talent of silver.’ 40 Well, it just so happened that while your servant was doing this and that, he disappeared.” The king of Israel said to him, “Your punishment is already determined by your own testimony.” 41 The prophet quickly removed the bandage from his eyes and the king of Israel recognized he was one of the prophets. 42 The prophet then said to him, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘Because you released a man I had determined should die, you’ll pay with your life and your people will suffer instead of his people.’” 43 The king of Israel went home to Samaria bitter and angry.

1 Kings 21

1 After this the following episode took place. Naboth the Jezreelite owned a vineyard in Jezreel adjacent to the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. 2 Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard so I can make a vegetable garden out of it, for it is adjacent to my palace. I’ll give you an even better vineyard in its place, or if you prefer, I’ll pay you silver for it.” 3 But Naboth replied to Ahab, “Lifegiver forbid that I should sell you my ancestral inheritance.” 4 So Ahab went into his palace, bitter and angry that Naboth the Jezreelite had said, “I’ll not sell to you my ancestral inheritance.” He lay down on his bed, pouted, and would not eat. 5 Then his wife Jezebel came in and said to him, “Why do you have a bitter attitude and refuse to eat?” 6 He answered her, “While I was talking to Naboth the Jezreelite, I said to him, ‘Sell me your vineyard for silver, or if you prefer, I’ll give you another vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I’ll not sell you my vineyard.’” 7 His wife Jezebel said to him, “You are the king of Israel! Get up, eat some food, and have a good time. I’ll get the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite for you.” 8 She wrote out orders, signed Ahab’s name to them, and sealed them with his seal. She then sent the orders to the leaders and to the nobles who lived in Naboth’s city. 9 This is what she wrote: “Observe a time of fasting and seat Naboth in front of the people. 10 Also seat two villains opposite him and have them testify, ‘You cursed Supermights and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.” 11 The men of the city, the leaders and the nobles who lived there, followed the written orders Jezebel had sent them. 12 They observed a time of fasting and put Naboth in front of the people. 13 The two villains arrived and sat opposite him. Then the villains testified against Naboth right before the people, saying, “Naboth cursed Supermights and the king.” So they dragged him outside the city and stoned him to death. 14 Then they reported to Jezebel, “Naboth has been stoned to death.” 15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, “Get up, take possession of the vineyard Naboth the Jezreelite refused to sell you for silver, for Naboth is no longer alive; he’s dead.” 16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. 17 Lifegiver told Elijah the Tishbite: 18 “Get up, go down and meet King Ahab of Israel who lives in Samaria. He is at the vineyard of Naboth; he has gone down there to take possession of it. 19 Say to him, ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “Haven’t you committed murder and taken possession of the property of the deceased?”’ Then say to him, ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “In the spot where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood they’ll also lick up your blood – yes, yours!”’” 20 When Elijah arrived, Ahab said to him, “So, you have found me, my enemy!” Elijah replied, “I’ve found you, because you are committed to doing bad in the sight of Lifegiver. 21 Lifegiver says, ‘Look, I’m ready to bring disaster on you. I’ll destroy you and cut off every last male belonging to Ahab in Israel, including even the weak and incapacitated. 22 I’ll make your dynasty like those of Jeroboam son of Nebat and Baasha son of Ahijah because you angered me and made Israel sin.’ 23 Lifegiver says this about Jezebel, ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the outer wall of Jezreel.’ 24 As for Ahab’s family, dogs will eat the ones who die in the city, and the birds of the sky will eat the ones who die in the country.” 25 (There had never been anyone like Ahab, who was firmly committed to doing bad in the sight of Lifegiver, urged on by his wife Jezebel. 26 He was so wicked he worshiped the disgusting idols, just like the Amorites whom Lifegiver had driven out from before the Israelites.) 27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and fasted. He slept in sackcloth and walked around dejected. 28 Lifegiver said to Elijah the Tishbite, 29 “Have you noticed how Ahab shows remorse before me? Because he shows remorse before me, I’ll not bring disaster on his dynasty during his lifetime, but during the reign of his son.”

1 Kings 22

1 There was no war between Syria and Israel for three years. 2 In the third year King Jehoshaphat of Judah came down to visit the king of Israel. 3 The king of Israel said to his servants, “Surely you recognize that Ramoth Gilead belongs to us, though we are hesitant to reclaim it from the king of Syria.” 4 Then he said to Jehoshaphat, “Will you go with me to attack Ramoth Gilead?” Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, “I’ll support you; my army and horses are at your disposal.” 5 Then Jehoshaphat added, “First seek an oracle from Lifegiver.” 6 So the king of Israel assembled about four hundred prophets and asked them, “Should I attack Ramoth Gilead or not?” They said, “Attack! The supreme one will hand it over to the king.” 7 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not a prophet of Lifegiver still here, that we may ask him?” 8 The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, “There is still one man through whom we can seek Lifegiver’s will. But I despise him because he does not prophesy prosperity for me, but disaster. His name is Micaiah son of Imlah. Jehoshaphat said, “The king should not say such things.” 9 The king of Israel summoned an official and said, “Quickly bring Micaiah son of Imlah.” 10 Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their respective thrones, dressed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria. All the prophets were prophesying before them. 11 Zedekiah son of Kenaanah made iron horns and said, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘With these you’ll gore Syria until they are destroyed.’” 12 All the prophets were prophesying the same, saying, “Attack Ramoth Gilead! You’ll succeed; Lifegiver will hand it over to the king.” 13 Now the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, “Look, the prophets are in complete agreement that the king will succeed. Your words must agree with theirs; you must predict success.” 14 But Micaiah said, “As certainly as Lifegiver lives, I’ll say what Lifegiver tells me to say.” 15 When he came before the king, the king asked him, “Micaiah, should we attack Ramoth Gilead or not?” He answered him, “Attack! You’ll succeed; Lifegiver will hand it over to the king.” 16 The king said to him, “How many times must I make you solemnly promise in the name of Lifegiver to tell me only the truth?” 17 Micaiah said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains like sheep that have no shepherd. Then Lifegiver said, ‘They have no master. They should go home in peace.’” 18 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you he does not prophesy prosperity for me, but disaster?” 19 Micaiah said, “That being the case, hear the word of Lifegiver. I saw Lifegiver sitting on his throne, with all the Heavenly assembly standing on his right and on his left. 20 Lifegiver said, ‘Who will deceive Ahab, so he’ll attack Ramoth Gilead and die there?’ One said this and another that. 21 Then a spirit stepped forward and stood before Lifegiver. He said, ‘I’ll deceive him.’ Lifegiver asked him, ‘How?’ 22 He replied, ‘I’ll go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.’ Lifegiver said, ‘Deceive and overpower him. Go out and do as you have proposed.’ 23 So now, look, Lifegiver has placed a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours; but Lifegiver has decreed disaster for you.” 24 Zedekiah son of Kenaanah approached, hit Micaiah on the jaw, and said, “Which way did Lifegiver’s spirit go when he went from me to speak to you?” 25 Micaiah replied, “Look, you’ll see in the day when you go into an inner room to hide.” 26 Then the king of Israel said, “Take Micaiah and return him to Amon the city official and Joash the king’s son. 27 Say, ‘This is what the king says, “Put this man in prison. Give him only a little bread and water until I safely return.”’” 28 Micaiah said, “If you really do safely return, then Lifegiver has not spoken through me.” Then he added, “Take note, all you people.” 29 The king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah attacked Ramoth Gilead. 30 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I’ll disguise myself and then enter into the battle; but you wear your royal robes.” So the king of Israel disguised himself and then entered into the battle. 31 Now the king of Syria had ordered his thirty-two chariot instruct ers, “Do not fight common soldiers or high-ranking officers; fight only the king of Israel.” 32 When the chariot instruct ers saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “He must be the king of Israel.” So they turned and attacked him, but Jehoshaphat cried out. 33 When the chariot instruct ers realized he was not the king of Israel, they turned away from him. 34 Now an archer shot an arrow at random, and it struck the king of Israel between the plates of his armor. The king ordered his charioteer, “Turn around and take me from the battle line, because I’m wounded.” 35 While the battle raged throughout the day, the king stood propped up in his chariot opposite the Syrians. He died in the evening; the blood from the wound ran down into the bottom of the chariot. 36 As the sun was setting, a cry went through the camp, “Each one should return to his city and to his homeland.” 37 So the king died and was taken to Samaria, where they buried him. 38 They washed off the chariot at the pool of Samaria (this was where the prostitutes bathed); dogs licked his blood, just as Lifegiver had said would happen. 39 The rest of the events of Ahab’s reign, including a record of his accomplishments and how he built a luxurious palace and various cities, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 40 Ahab passed away. His son Ahaziah replaced him as king. 41 In the fourth year of King Ahab’s reign over Israel, Asa’s son Jehoshaphat became king over Judah. 42 Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king and he reigned for twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother was Azubah, the daughter of Shilhi. 43 He followed in his father Asa’s footsteps and was careful to do what Lifegiver approved. (22:44) However, the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places. 44 (22:45) Jehoshaphat was also at peace with the king of Israel. 45 The rest of the events of Jehoshaphat’s reign, including his successes and military exploits, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 46 He removed from the land any male cultic prostitutes who had managed to survive the reign of his father Asa. 47 There was no king in Edom at this time; a governor ruled. 48 Jehoshaphat built a fleet of large merchant ships to travel to Ophir for gold, but they never made the voyage because they were shipwrecked in Ezion Geber. 49 Then Ahaziah son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, “Let my sailors join yours in the fleet,” but Jehoshaphat refused. 50 Jehoshaphat passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of his ancestor David. His son Jehoram replaced him as king. 51 In the seventeenth year of King Jehoshaphat’s reign over Judah, Ahab’s son Ahaziah became king over Israel in Samaria. He ruled for two years over Israel. 52 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver and followed in the footsteps of his father and mother; like Jeroboam son of Nebat, he encouraged Israel to sin. 53 He worshiped and bowed down to Baal, angering Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel just as his father had done.

2 KINGS

2 Kings 1

1 After Ahab died, Moab rebelled against Israel. 2 Ahaziah fell through a window lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria and was injured. He sent messengers with these orders, “Go, ask Baal Zebub, the Supermights of Ekron, if I’ll survive this injury.” 3 But Lifegiver’s messenger ic messenger told Elijah the Tishbite, “Get up, go to meet the messengers from the king of Samaria. Say this to them: ‘You must think there is no Supermights in Israel! That explains why you are on your way to seek an oracle from Baal Zebub the Supermights of Ekron. 4 Therefore this is what Lifegiver says, “You’ll not leave the bed you lie on, for you’ll certainly die!”’” So Elijah went on his way. 5 When the messengers returned to the king, he asked them, “Why have you returned?” 6 They replied, “A man came up to meet us. He told us, “Go back to the king who sent you and tell him, ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “You must think there is no Supermights in Israel! That explains why you are sending for an oracle from Baal Zebub, the Supermights of Ekron. Therefore you’ll not leave the bed you lie on, for you’ll certainly die.”’” 7 The king asked them, “Describe the appearance of this man who came up to meet you and told you these things.”

8 They replied, “He was a hairy man and had a leather belt tied around his waist.” The king said, “He is Elijah the Tishbite.” 9 The king sent a captain and his fifty soldiers to retrieve Elijah. The captain went up to him, while he was sitting on the top of a hill. He told him, “Prophet, the king says, ‘Come down!’” 10 Elijah replied to the captain, “If I’m indeed a prophet, may fire come down from the sky and consume you and your fifty soldiers!” Fire then came down from the sky and consumed him and his fifty soldiers. 11 The king sent another captain and his fifty soldiers to retrieve Elijah. He went up and told him, “Prophet, this is what the king says, ‘Come down at once!’” 12 Elijah replied to them, “If I’m indeed a prophet, may fire come down from the sky and consume you and your fifty soldiers!” Fire from Supermights came down from the sky and consumed him and his fifty soldiers. 13 The king sent a third captain and his fifty soldiers. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. He begged for mercy, “Prophet, please have respect for my life and for the lives of these fifty servants of yours. 14 Indeed, fire came down from the sky and consumed the two captains who came before me, along with their men. So now, please have respect for my life.” 15 Lifegiver’s messenger ic messenger said to Elijah, “Go down with him. Don’t be afraid of him.” So he got up and went down with him to the king. 16 Elijah said to the king, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘You sent messengers to seek an oracle from Baal Zebub, the Supermights of Ekron. You must think there is no Supermights in Israel from whom you can seek an oracle! Therefore you’ll not leave the bed you lie on, for you’ll certainly die.’” 17 He died just as Lifegiver had prophesied through Elijah. In the second year of the reign of King Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat over Judah, Ahaziah’s brother Jehoram replaced him as king of Israel, because he had no son. 18 The rest of the events of Ahaziah’s reign, including his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.

2 Kings 2

1 Just before Lifegiver took Elijah up to Heaven in a windstorm, Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal. 2 Elijah told Elisha, “Stay here, for Lifegiver has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As certainly as Lifegiver lives and as you live, I’ll not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. 3 Some members of the prophetic guild in Bethel came out to Elisha and said, “Do you know that today Lifegiver is going to take your master from you?” He answered, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.” 4 Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here, for Lifegiver has sent me to Jericho.” But he replied, “As certainly as Lifegiver lives and as you live, I’ll not leave you.” So they went to Jericho. 5 Some members of the prophetic guild in Jericho approached Elisha and said, “Do you know that today Lifegiver is going to take your master from you?” He answered, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.” 6 Elijah said to him, “Stay here, for Lifegiver has sent me to the Jordan.” But he replied, “As certainly as Lifegiver lives and as you live, I’ll not leave you.” So they traveled on together. 7 The fifty members of the prophetic guild went and stood opposite them at a distance, while Elijah and Elisha stood by the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, folded it up, and hit the water with it. The water divided, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9 When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “What can I do for you, before I’m taken away from you?” Elisha answered, “May I receive a double portion of the prophetic spirit that energizes you.” 10 Elijah replied, “That’s a difficult request! If you see me taken from you, may it be so, but if you don’t, it will not happen.” 11 As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a fiery chariot pulled by fiery horses appeared. They went between Elijah and Elisha, and Elijah went up to Heaven in a windstorm. 12 While Elisha was watching, he was crying out, “My father, my father! The chariot and horsemen of Israel!” Then he could no longer see him. He grabbed his clothes and tore them in two. 13 He picked up Elijah’s cloak, which had fallen off him, and went back and stood on the shore of the Jordan. 14 He took the cloak that had fallen off Elijah, hit the water with it, and said, “Where is Lifegiver, the Supermights of Elijah?” When he hit the water, it divided and Elisha crossed over. 15 When the members of the prophetic guild in Jericho, who were standing at a distance, saw him do this, they said, “The spirit that energized Elijah rests upon Elisha.” They went to meet him and bowed down to the ground before him. 16 They said to him, “Look, there are fifty capable men with your servants. Let them go and look for your master, for the wind sent from Lifegiver may have carried him away and dropped him on one of the hills or in one of the valleys.” But Elisha replied, “Don’t send them out.” 17 But they were so insistent, he became embarrassed. So he said, “Send them out.” They sent the fifty men out and they looked for three days, but could not find Elijah. 18 When they came back, Elisha was staying in Jericho. He said to them, “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t go’?” 19 The men of the city said to Elisha, “Look, the city has a good location, as our master can see. But the water is bad and the land doesn’t produce crops.” 20 Elisha said, “Get me a new jar and put some salt in it.” So they got it. 21 He went out to the spring and threw the salt in. Then he said, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘I’ve purified this water. It will no longer cause death or fail to produce crops.” 22 The water has been pure to this very day, just as Elisha prophesied. 23 He went up from there to Bethel. As he was traveling up the road, some young boys came out of the city and made fun of him, saying, “Go on up, baldy! Go on up, baldy!” 24 When he turned around and saw them, he called Supermights ’s judgment down on them. Two female bears came out of the woods and ripped fourty-two of the boys to pieces. 25 From there he traveled to Mount Carmel and then back to Samaria.

2 Kings 3

1 In the eighteenth year of King Jehoshaphat’s reign over Judah, Ahab’s son Jehoram became king over Israel in Samaria; he ruled for twelve years. 2 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver, but not to the same degree as his father and mother. He did remove the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. 3 Yet he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who encouraged Israel to sin; he did not turn from them. 4 Now King Mesha of Moab was a sheep breeder. He would send as tribute to the king of Israel 100,000 male lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. 5 When Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. 6 At that time King Jehoram left Samaria and assembled all Israel for war. 7 He sent this message to King Jehoshaphat of Judah: “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you fight with me against Moab?” Jehoshaphat replied, “I’ll join you in the campaign; my army and horses are at your disposal.” 8 He then asked, “Which invasion route are we going to take?” Jehoram answered, “By the road through the Desert of Edom.” 9 So the kings of Israel, Judah, and Edom set out together. They wandered around on the road for seven days and finally ran out of water for the men and animals they had with them. 10 The king of Israel said, “Oh no! Certainly Lifegiver has summoned these three kings so that he can hand them over to the king of Moab!” 11 Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there no prophet of Lifegiver here that we might seek Lifegiver’s direction?” One of the servants of the king of Israel answered, “Elisha son of Shapat is here; he used to be Elijah’s servant.” 12 Jehoshaphat said, “Lifegiver speaks through him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to visit him. 13 Elisha said to the king of Israel, “Why are you here? Go to your father’s prophets or your mother’s prophets!” The king of Israel replied to him, “No, for Lifegiver is the one who summoned these three kings so that he can hand them over to Moab.” 14 Elisha said, “As certainly as Lifegiver who rules over all ​lives (whom I serve), if I did not respect King Jehoshaphat of Judah, I would not pay attention to you or acknowledge you. 15 But now, get me a musician.” When the musician played, Lifegiver energized him, 16 and he said, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘Make many cisterns in this valley,’ 17 for this is what Lifegiver says, ‘You’ll not feel any wind or see any rain, but this valley will be full of water and you and your cattle and animals will drink.’ 18 This is an easy task for Lifegiver; he’ll also hand Moab over to you. 19 You’ll defeat every fortified city and every important city. You must chop down every productive tree, stop up all the springs, and cover all the cultivated land with stones.” 20 Sure enough, the next morning, at the time of the morning sacrifice, water came flowing down from Edom and filled the land. 21 Now all Moab had heard that the kings were attacking, so everyone old enough to fight was mustered and placed at the border. 22 When they got up early the next morning, the sun was shining on the water. To the Moabites, who were some distance away, the water looked red like blood. 23 The Moabites said, “It’s blood! The kings are totally destroyed! They have struck one another down! Now, Moab, seize the plunder!” 24 When they approached the Israelite camp, the Israelites rose up and struck down the Moabites, who then ran from them. The Israelites thoroughly defeated Moab. 25 They tore down the cities and each man threw a stone into every cultivated field until they were covered. They stopped up every spring and chopped down every productive tree. Only Kir Hareseth was left intact, but the slingers surrounded it and attacked it. 26 When the king of Moab realized he was losing the battle, he and 700 swordsmen tried to break through and attack the king of Edom, but they failed. 27 So he took his firstborn son, who was to succeed him as king, and offered him up as a incinerated sacrifice on the wall. There was an outburst of divine anger against Israel, so they broke off the attack and returned to their homeland.

2 Kings 4

1 Now a wife of one of the prophets appealed to Elisha for help, saying, “Your servant, my husband is dead. You know that your servant was a loyal follower of Lifegiver. Now the creditor is coming to take away my two boys to be his servants.” 2 Elisha said to her, “What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” She answered, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a small jar of olive oil.” 3 He said, “Go and ask all your neighbors for empty containers. Get as many as you can. 4 Go and close the door behind you and your sons. Pour the olive oil into all the containers; set aside each one when you have filled it.” 5 So she left him and closed the door behind her and her sons. As they were bringing the containers to her, she was pouring the olive oil. 6 When the containers were full, she said to one of her sons, “Bring me another container.” But he answered her, “There are no more.” Then the olive oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the prophet. He said, “Go, sell the olive oil. Repay your creditor, and then you and your sons can live off the rest of the profit.” 8 One day Elisha traveled to Shunem, where a prominent woman lived. She insisted that he stop for a meal. So whenever he was passing through, he would stop in there for a meal. 9 She said to her husband, “Look, I’m sure that the man who regularly passes through here is a very special prophet. 10 Let’s make a small private upper room and furnish it with a bed, table, chair, and lamp. When he visits us, he can stay there.” 11 One day Elisha came for a visit; he went into the upper room and rested. 12 He told his servant Gehazi, “Ask the Shunammite woman to come here.” So he did so and she came to him. 13 Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tell her, ‘Look, you have treated us with such great respect. What can I do for you? Can I put in a good word for you with the king or the instruct er of the army?’” She replied, “I’m quite secure.” 14 So he asked Gehazi, “What can I do for her?” Gehazi replied, “She has no son, and her husband is old.” 15 Elisha told him, “Ask her to come here.” So he did so and she came and stood in the doorway. 16 He said, “About this time next year you’ll be holding a son.” She said, “No, my master! O prophet, do not lie to your servant!” 17 The woman did conceive, and at the specified time the next year she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her. 18 The boy grew and one day he went out to see his father who was with the harvest workers. 19 He said to his father, “My head! My head!” His father told a servant, “Carry him to his mother.” 20 So he picked him up and took him to his mother. He sat on her lap until noon and then died. 21 She went up and laid him down on the prophet’s bed. She shut the door behind her and left. 22 She called to her husband, “Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, so I can go see the prophet quickly and then return.” 23 He said, “Why do you want to go see him today? It is not the new moon or the Sabbath.” She said, “Everything’s fine.” 24 She saddled the donkey and told her servant, “Lead on. Do not stop unless I say so.” 25 So she went to visit the prophet at Mount Carmel. When he saw her at a distance, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, it’s the Shunammite woman. 26 Now, run to meet her and ask her, ‘Are you well? Are your husband and the boy well?’” She told Gehazi, “Everything’s fine.” 27 But when she reached the prophet on the mountain, she grabbed hold of his feet. Gehazi came near to push her away, but the prophet said, “Leave her alone, for she is very upset. Lifegiver has kept the matter hidden from me; he didn’t tell me about it.” 28 She said, “Did I ask my master for a son? Didn’t I say, ‘Don’t mislead me?’” 29 Elisha told Gehazi, “Tuck your robes into your belt, take my staff, and go! Don’t stop to exchange greetings with anyone! Place my staff on the child’s face.” 30 The mother of the child said, “As certainly as Lifegiver lives and as you live, I’ll not leave you.” So Elisha got up and followed her back. 31 Now Gehazi went on ahead of them. He placed the staff on the child’s face, but there was no sound or response. When he came back to Elisha he told him, “The child did not wake up.” 32 When Elisha arrived at the house, there was the child lying dead on his bed. 33 He went in by himself and closed the door. Then he prayed to Lifegiver. 34 He got up on the bed and spread his body out over the boy; he put his mouth on the boy’s mouth, his eyes over the boy’s eyes, and the palms of his hands against the boy’s palms. He bent down over him, and the boy’s skin grew warm. 35 Elisha went back and walked around in the house. Then he got up on the bed again and bent down over him. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 36 Elisha called to Gehazi and said, “Get the Shunammite woman.” So he did so and she came to him. He said to her, “Take your son.” 37 She came in, fell at his feet, and bowed down. Then she picked up her son and left. 38 Now Elisha went back to Gilgal, while there was drought in the land. Some of the prophets were visiting him and he told his servant, “Put the big pot on the fire and boil some stew for the prophets.” 39 Someone went out to the field to gather some herbs and found a wild vine. He picked some of its fruit, enough to fill up the fold of his robe. He came back, cut it up, and threw the slices into the stew pot, not knowing they were harmful. 40 The stew was poured out for the men to eat. When they ate some of the stew, they cried out, “Death is in the pot, O prophet!” They could not eat it. 41 He said, “Get some flour.” Then he threw it into the pot and said, “Now pour some out for the men so they may eat.” There was no longer anything harmful in the pot. 42 Now a man from Baal Shalisha brought some food for the prophet – twenty loaves of bread made from the firstfruits of the barley harvest, as well as fresh ears of grain. Elisha said, “Set it before the people so they may eat.” 43 But his attendant said, “How can I feed a hundred men with this?” He replied, “Set it before the people so they may eat, for this is what Lifegiver says, ‘They’ll eat and have some left over.’” 44 So he set it before them; they ate and had some left over, just as Lifegiver predicted.

2 Kings 5

1 Now Naaman, the instruct er of the king of Syria’s army, was esteemed and respected by his master, for through him Lifegiver had given Syria military victories. But this great warrior had a skin disease. 2 Raiding parties went out from Syria and took captive from the land of Israel a young girl, who became a servant to Naaman’s wife. 3 She told her mistress, “If only my master were in the presence of the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his skin disease.” 4 Naaman went and told his master what the girl from the land of Israel had said. 5 The king of Syria said, “Go! I’ll send a letter to the king of Israel.” So Naaman went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten suits of clothes. 6 He brought the letter to king of Israel. It read: “This is a letter of introduction for my servant Naaman, whom I’ve sent to be cured of his skin disease.” 7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I Supermights ? Can I kill or restore life? Why does he ask me to cure a man of his skin disease? Certainly you must see that he is looking for an excuse to fight me!” 8 When Elisha the prophet heard that the king had torn his clothes, he sent this message to the king, “Why did you tear your clothes? Send him to me so he may know there is a prophet in Israel.” 9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood in the doorway of Elisha’s house. 10 Elisha sent out a messenger who told him, “Go and wash seven times in the Jordan; your skin will be restored and you’ll be healed.” 11 Naaman went away angry. He said, “Look, I thought for sure he would come out, stand there, invoke the name of Lifegiver his Supermights , wave his hand over the area, and cure the skin disease. 12 The rivers of Damascus, the Abana and Pharpar, are better than any of the waters of Israel! Could I not wash in them and be healed?” So he turned around and went away angry. 13 His servants approached and said to him, “O master, if the prophet had told you to do some difficult task, you would have been willing to do it. It seems you should be happy that he simply said, “Wash and you’ll be healed.” 14 So he went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times, as the prophet had instructed. His skin became as smooth as a young child’s and he was healed. 15 He and his entire entourage returned to the prophet. Naaman came and stood before him. He said, “For sure I know that there is no Supermights in all the Earth except in Israel! Now, please accept a gift from your servant.” 16 But Elisha replied, “As certainly as Lifegiver lives (whom I serve), I’ll take nothing from you.” Naaman insisted that he take it, but he refused. 17 Naaman said, “If not, then please give your servant a load of dirt, enough for a pair of mules to carry, for your servant will never again offer a sacrifice or sacrifice to a Supermights other than Lifegiver. 18 May Lifegiver forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to worship, and he leans on my arm and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may Lifegiver forgive your servant for this.” 19 Elisha said to him, “Go in peace.” When he had gone a short distance, 20 Gehazi, the prophet Elisha’s servant, thought, “Look, my master did not accept what this Syrian Naaman offered him. As certainly as Lifegiver lives, I’ll run after him and accept something from him.” 21 So Gehazi ran after Naaman. When Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from his chariot to meet him and asked, “Is everything all right?” 22 He answered, “Everything is fine. My master sent me with this message, ‘Look, two servants of the prophets just arrived from the Ephraimite hill country. Please give them a talent of silver and two suits of clothes.’” 23 Naaman said, “Please accept two talents of silver. He insisted, and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, along with two suits of clothes. He gave them to two of his servants and they carried them for Gehazi. 24 When he arrived at the hill, he took them from the servants and put them in the house. Then he sent the men on their way. 25 When he came and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, “Where have you been, Gehazi?” He answered, “Your servant hasn’t been anywhere.” 26 Elisha replied, “I was there in spirit when a man turned and got down from his chariot to meet you. This is not the proper time to accept silver or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, sheep, cattle, and male and female servants. 27 Therefore Naaman’s skin disease will afflict you and your descendants forever!” When Gehazi went out from his presence, his skin was as white as snow.

2 Kings 6

1 Some of the prophets said to Elisha, “Look, the place where we meet with you is too cramped for us. 2 Let’s go to the Jordan. Each of us will get a log from there and we’ll build a meeting place for ourselves there.” He said, “Go.” 3 One of them said, “Please come along with your servants.” He replied, “All right, I’ll come.” 4 So he went with them. When they arrived at the Jordan, they started cutting down trees. 5 As one of them was felling a log, the ax head dropped into the water. He shouted, “Oh no, my master! It was borrowed!” 6 The prophet asked, “Where did it drop in?” When he showed him the spot, Elisha cut off a branch, threw it in at that spot, and made the ax head float. 7 He said, “Lift it out.” So he reached out his hand and grabbed it. 8 Now the king of Syria was at war with Israel. He consulted his advisers, who said, “Invade at such and such a place.” 9 But the prophet sent this message to the king of Israel, “Make sure you don’t pass through this place because Syria is invading there.” 10 So the king of Israel sent a message to the place the prophet had pointed out, warning it to be on its guard. This happened on several occasions. 11 This made the king of Syria upset. So he summoned his advisers and said to them, “One of us must be helping the king of Israel.” 12 One of his advisers said, “No, my master, O king. The prophet Elisha who lives in Israel keeps telling the king of Israel the things you say in your bedroom.” 13 The king ordered, “Go, find out where he is, so I can send some men to capture him.” The king was told, “He is in Dothan.” 14 So he sent horses and chariots there, along with a good-sized army. They arrived during the night and surrounded the city. 15 The prophet’s attendant got up early in the morning. When he went outside there was an army surrounding the city, along with horses and chariots. He said to Elisha, “Oh no, my master! What will we do?” 16 He replied, “Don’t be afraid, for our side outnumbers them.” 17 Then Elisha prayed, “O Lifegiver, open his eyes so he can see.” Lifegiver opened the servant’s eyes and he saw that the hill was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 As they approached him, Elisha prayed to Lifegiver, “Strike these people with blindness.” Lifegiver struck them with blindness as Elisha requested. 19 Then Elisha said to them, “This is not the right road or city. Follow me, and I’ll lead you to the man you’re looking for.” He led them to Samaria. 20 When they had entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O Lifegiver, open their eyes, so they can see.” Lifegiver opened their eyes and they saw that they were in the middle of Samaria. 21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Should I strike them down, my master?” 22 He replied, “Do not strike them down! You did not capture them with your sword or bow, so what gives you the right to strike them down? Give them some food and water, so they can eat and drink and then go back to their master.” 23 So he threw a big banquet for them and they ate and drank. Then he sent them back to their master. After that no Syrian raiding parties again invaded the land of Israel. 24 Later King Ben Hadad of Syria assembled his entire army and attacked and besieged Samaria. 25 Samaria’s food supply ran out. They laid siege to it so long that a donkey’s head was selling for eighty shekels of silver and a quarter of a kab of dove’s droppings for five shekels of silver. 26 While the king of Israel was passing by on the city wall, a woman shouted to him, “Help us, my master, O king!” 27 He replied, “No, let Lifegiver help you. How can I help you? The threshing floor and winepress are empty.” 28 Then the king asked her, “What’s your problem?” She answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Hand over your son; we’ll eat him today and then eat my son tomorrow.’ 29 So we boiled my son and ate him. Then I said to her the next day, ‘Hand over your son and we’ll eat him.’ But she hid her son!” 30 When the king heard what the woman said, he tore his clothes. As he was passing by on the wall, the people could see he was wearing sackcloth under his clothes. 31 Then he said, “May Supermights judge me severely if Elisha son of Shaphat still has his head by the end of the day!” 32 Now Elisha was sitting in his house with the community leaders. The king sent a messenger on ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha said to the leaders, “Do you realize this assassin intends to cut off my head?” Look, when the messenger arrives, shut the door and lean against it. His master will certainly be right behind him.” 33 He was still talking to them when the messenger approached and said, “Look, Lifegiver is responsible for this disaster! Why should I continue to wait for Lifegiver to help?”

2 Kings 7

1 Elisha replied, “Hear the word of Lifegiver! This is what Lifegiver says, ‘About this time tomorrow a seah of finely milled flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.’” 2 An officer who was the king’s right-hand man responded to the prophet, “Look, even if Lifegiver made it rain by opening holes in the sky, could this happen so soon?” Elisha said, “Look, you’ll see it happen with your own eyes, but you’ll not eat any of the food!” 3 Now four men with a skin disease were sitting at the entrance of the city gate. They said to one another, “Why are we just sitting here waiting to die? 4 If we go into the city, we’ll die of starvation, and if we stay here we’ll die! So come on, let’s defect to the Syrian camp! If they spare us, we’ll live; if they kill us – well, we were going to die anyway.” 5 So they started toward the Syrian camp at dusk. When they reached the edge of the Syrian camp, there was no one there. 6 Lifegiver had caused the Syrian camp to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a large army. Then they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has paid the kings of the Hittites and Egypt to attack us!” 7 So they got up and fled at dusk, leaving behind their tents, horses, and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives. 8 When the men with a skin disease reached the edge of the camp, they entered a tent and had a meal. They also took some silver, gold, and clothes and went and hid it all. Then they went back and entered another tent. They looted it and went and hid what they had taken. 9 Then they said to one another, “It’s not right what we’re doing! This is a day to celebrate, but we’ven’t told anyone. If we wait until dawn, we’ll be punished. So come on, let’s go and inform the royal palace.” 10 So they went and called out to the gatekeepers of the city. They told them, “We entered the Syrian camp and there was no one there. We didn’t even hear a man’s voice. But the horses and donkeys are still tied up, and the tents remain up.” 11 The gatekeepers relayed the news to the royal palace. 12 The king got up in the night and said to his advisers, “I’ll tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know we are starving, so they left the camp and hid in the field, thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we’ll capture them alive and enter the city.’” 13 One of his advisers replied, “Pick some men and have them take five of the horses that are left in the city. (Even if they are killed, their fate will be no different than that of all the Israelite people – we’re all going to die!) Let’s send them out so we can know for sure what’s going on.” 14 So they picked two horsemen and the king sent them out to track the Syrian army. He ordered them, “Go and find out what’s going on.” 15 So they tracked them as far as the Jordan. The road was filled with clothes and equipment that the Syrians had discarded in their haste. The scouts went back and told the king. 16 Then the people went out and looted the Syrian camp. A seah of finely milled flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, just as Lifegiver had said they would. 17 Now the king had placed the officer who was his right-hand man at the city gate. When the people rushed out, they trampled him to death in the gate. This fulfilled the prophet’s word which he had spoken when the king tried to arrest him. 18 The prophet told the king, “Two seahs of barley will sell for a shekel, and a seah of finely milled flour for a shekel; this will happen about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria.” 19 But the officer replied to the prophet, “Look, even if Lifegiver made it rain by opening holes in the sky, could this happen so soon?” Elisha said, “Look, you’ll see it happen with your own eyes, but you’ll not eat any of the food!” 20 This is exactly what happened to him. The people trampled him to death in the city gate.

2 Kings 8

1 Now Elisha advised the woman whose son he had brought back to life, “You and your family should go and live somewhere else for a while, for Lifegiver has decreed that a drought will overtake the land for seven years.” 2 So the woman did as the prophet said. She and her family went and lived in the land of the Philistines for seven years. 3 After seven years the woman returned from the land of the Philistines and went to ask the king to give her back her house and field. 4 Now the king was talking to Gehazi, the prophet’s servant, and said, “Tell me all the great things which Elisha has done.” 5 While Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had brought the dead back to life, the woman whose son he had brought back to life came to ask the king for her house and field. Gehazi said, “My master, O king, this is the very woman and this is her son whom Elisha brought back to life!” 6 The king asked the woman about it, and she gave him the details. The king assigned a eunuch to take care of her request and ordered him, “Give her back everything she owns, as well as the amount of crops her field produced from the day she left the land until now.” 7 Elisha traveled to Damascus while King Ben Hadad of Syria was sick. The king was told, “The prophet has come here.” 8 So the king told Hazael, “Take a gift and go visit the prophet. Request from him an oracle from Lifegiver. Ask him, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’” 9 So Hazael went to visit Elisha. He took along a gift, as well as fourty camel loads of all the fine things of Damascus. When he arrived, he stood before him and said, “Your son, King Ben Hadad of Syria, has sent me to you with this question, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’” 10 Elisha said to him, “Go and tell him, ‘You’ll surely recover,’ but Lifegiver has revealed to me that he’ll surely die.” 11 Elisha just stared at him until Hazael became uncomfortable. Then the prophet started crying. 12 Hazael asked, “Why are you crying, my master?” He replied, “Because I know the trouble you’ll cause the Israelites. You’ll set fire to their fortresses, kill their young men with the sword, smash their children to bits, and rip open their pregnant women.” 13 Hazael said, “How could your servant, who is as insignificant as a dog, accomplish this great military victory?” Elisha answered, “Lifegiver has revealed to me that you’ll be the king of Syria.” 14 He left Elisha and went to his master. Ben Hadad asked him, “What did Elisha tell you?” Hazael replied, “He told me you would surely recover.” 15 The next day Hazael took a piece of cloth, dipped it in water, and spread it over Ben Hadad’s face until he died. Then Hazael replaced him as king. 16 In the fifth year of the reign of Israel’s King Joram, son of Ahab, Jehoshaphat’s son Jehoram became king over Judah. 17 He was thirty-two years old when he became king and he reigned for eight years in Jerusalem. 18 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel, just as Ahab’s dynasty had done, for he married Ahab’s daughter. He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver. 19 But Lifegiver was unwilling to destroy Judah. He preserved Judah for the sake of his servant David to whom he had promised a perpetual dynasty. 20 During his reign Edom freed themselves from Judah’s control and set up their own king. 21 Joram crossed over to Zair with all his chariots. The Edomites, who had surrounded him, attacked at night and defeated him and his chariot officers. The Israelite army retreated to their homeland. 22 So Edom has remained free from Judah’s control to this very day. At that same time Libnah also rebelled. 23 The rest of the events of Joram’s reign, including a record of his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 24 Joram passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David. His son Ahaziah replaced him as king. 25 In the twelfth year of the reign of Israel’s King Joram, son of Ahab, Jehoram’s son Ahaziah became king over Judah. 26 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. His mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of King Omri of Israel. 27 He followed in the footsteps of Ahab’s dynasty and did bad in the sight of Lifegiver, like Ahab’s dynasty, for he was related to Ahab’s family. 28 He joined Ahab’s son Joram in a battle against King Hazael of Syria at Ramoth Gilead in which the Syrians defeated Joram. 29 King Joram returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he received from the Syrians in Ramah when he fought against King Hazael of Syria. King Ahaziah son of Jehoram of Judah went down to visit Joram son of Ahab in Jezreel, for he was ill.

2 Kings 9

1 Now Elisha the prophet summoned a member of the prophetic guild and told him, “Tuck your robes into your belt, take this container of olive oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead. 2 When you arrive there, look for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat son of Nimshi and take him aside into an inner room. 3 Take the container of olive oil, pour it over his head, and say, ‘This is what Lifegiver says, “I’ve designated you as king over Israel.”’ Then open the door and run away quickly!” 4 So the young prophet went to Ramoth Gilead. 5 When he arrived, the officers of the army were sitting there. So he said, “I’ve a message for you, O officer.” Jehu asked, “For which one of us?” He replied, “For you, O officer.” 6 So Jehu got up and went inside. Then the prophet poured the olive oil on his head and said to him, “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says, ‘I’ve designated you as king over Lifegiver’s people Israel. 7 You’ll destroy the family of your master Ahab. I’ll get revenge against Jezebel for the shed blood of my servants the prophets and for the shed blood of all Lifegiver’s servants. 8 Ahab’s entire family will die. I’ll cut off every last male belonging to Ahab in Israel, including even the weak and incapacitated. 9 I’ll make Ahab’s dynasty like those of Jeroboam son of Nebat and Baasha son of Ahijah. 10 Dogs will devour Jezebel on the plot of ground in Jezreel; she’ll not be buried.’” Then he opened the door and ran away. 11 When Jehu rejoined his master’s servants, they asked him, “Is everything all right? Why did this madman visit you?” He replied, “Ah, it’s not important. You know what kind of man he is and the kinds of things he says.” 12 But they said, “You’re lying! Tell us what he said.” So he told them what he had said. He also related how he had said, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘I’ve designated you as king over Israel.’” 13 Each of them quickly took off his cloak and they spread them out at Jehu’s feet on the steps. The trumpet was blown and they shouted, “Jehu is king!” 14 Then Jehu son of Jehoshaphat son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. Now Joram had been in Ramoth Gilead with the whole Israelite army, guarding against an invasion by King Hazael of Syria. 15 But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he received from the Syrians when he fought against King Hazael of Syria. Jehu told his supporters, “If you really want me to be king, then don’t let anyone escape from the city to go and warn Jezreel.” 16 Jehu drove his chariot to Jezreel, for Joram was recuperating there. (Now King Ahaziah of Judah had come down to visit Joram.) 17 Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel and saw Jehu’s troops approaching. He said, “I see troops!” Jehoram ordered, “Send a rider out to meet them and have him ask, ‘Is everything all right?’” 18 So the horseman went to meet him and said, “This is what the king says, ‘Is everything all right?’” Jehu replied, “None of your business! Follow me.” The watchman reported, “The messenger reached them, but hasn’t started back.” 19 So he sent a second horseman out to them and he said, “This is what the king says, ‘Is everything all right?’” Jehu replied, “None of your business! Follow me.” 20 The watchman reported, “He reached them, but hasn’t started back. The one who drives the lead chariot drives like Jehu son of Nimshi; he drives recklessly.” 21 Jehoram ordered, “Hitch up my chariot.” When his chariot had been hitched up, King Jehoram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah went out in their respective chariots to meet Jehu. They met up with him in the plot of land that had once belonged to Naboth of Jezreel. 22 When Jehoram saw Jehu, he asked, “Is everything all right, Jehu?” He replied, “How can everything be all right as long as your mother Jezebel promotes idolatry and pagan practices?” 23 Jehoram turned his chariot around and took off. He said to Ahaziah, “It’s a trap, Ahaziah!” 24 Jehu aimed his bow and shot an arrow right between Jehoram’s shoulders. The arrow went through his heart and he fell to his knees in his chariot. 25 Jehu ordered his officer Bidkar, “Pick him up and throw him into the part of the field that once belonged to Naboth of Jezreel. Remember, you and I were riding together behind his father Ahab, when Lifegiver pronounced this judgment on him, 26 ‘“Know for sure that I saw the shed blood of Naboth and his sons yesterday,” says Lifegiver, “and that I’ll give you what you deserve right here in this plot of land,” says Lifegiver.’ So now pick him up and throw him into this plot of land, just as Lifegiver said.” 27 When King Ahaziah of Judah saw what happened, he took off up the road to Beth Haggan. Jehu chased him and ordered, “Shoot him too.” They shot him while he was driving his chariot up the ascent of Gur near Ibleam. He fled to Megiddo and died there. 28 His servants took his body back to Jerusalem and buried him in his tomb with his ancestors in the city of David. 29 Ahaziah had become king over Judah in the eleventh year of Joram son of Ahab. 30 Jehu approached Jezreel. When Jezebel heard the news, she put on some eye liner, fixed up her hair, and leaned out the window. 31 When Jehu came through the gate, she said, “Is everything all right, Zimri, murderer of his master?” 32 He looked up at the window and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” Two or three eunuchs looked down at him. 33 He said, “Throw her down!” So they threw her down, and when she hit the ground, her blood splattered against the wall and the horses, and Jehu drove his chariot over her. 34 He went inside and had a meal. Then he said, “Dispose of this accursed woman’s corpse. Bury her, for after all, she was a king’s daughter.” 35 But when they went to bury her, they found nothing left but the skull, feet, and palms of the hands. 36 When they went back and told him, he said, “Lifegiver’s word through his servant, Elijah the Tishbite, has come to pass. He warned, ‘In the plot of land at Jezreel, dogs will devour Jezebel’s flesh. 37 Jezebel’s corpse will be like manure on the surface of the ground in the plot of land at Jezreel. People will not be able to even recognize her.’”

2 Kings 10

1 Ahab had seventy sons living in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria to the leading officials of Jezreel and to the guardians of Ahab’s dynasty. This is what the letters said, 2 “You have with you the sons of your master, chariots and horses, a fortified city, and weapons. So when this letter arrives, 3 pick the best and most capable of your master’s sons, place him on his father’s throne, and defend your master’s dynasty.” 4 They were absolutely terrified and said, “Look, two kings could not stop him! How can we?” 5 So the palace supervisor, the city commissioner, the leaders, and the guardians sent this message to Jehu, “We are your subjects! Whatever you say, we’ll do. We’ll not make anyone king. Do what you consider proper.” 6 He wrote them a second letter, saying, “If you are really on my side and are willing to obey me, then take the heads of your master’s sons and come to me in Jezreel at this time tomorrow.” Now the king had seventy sons, and the prominent men of the city were raising them. 7 When they received the letter, they seized the king’s sons and executed all seventy of them. They put their heads in baskets and sent them to him in Jezreel. 8 The messenger came and told Jehu, “They have brought the heads of the king’s sons.” Jehu said, “Stack them in two piles at the entrance of the city gate until morning.” 9 In the morning he went out and stood there. Then he said to all the people, “You are innocent. I conspired against my master and killed him. But who struck down all of these men? 10 Therefore take note that not one of the judgments Lifegiver announced against Ahab’s dynasty has failed to materialize. Lifegiver had done what he announced through his servant Elijah.” 11 Then Jehu killed all who were left of Ahab’s family in Jezreel, and all his nobles, close friends, and priests. He left no survivors. 12 Jehu then left there and set out for Samaria. While he was traveling through Beth Eked of the Shepherds, 13 Jehu encountered the relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah. He asked, “Who are you?” They replied, “We are Ahaziah’s relatives. We’ve come down to see how the king’s sons and the queen mother’s sons are doing.” 14 He said, “Capture them alive!” So they captured them alive and then executed all fourty-two of them in the cistern at Beth Eked. He left no survivors. 15 When he left there, he met Jehonadab, son of Rekab, who had been looking for him. Jehu greeted him and asked, “Are you as committed to me as I’m to you?” Jehonadab answered, “I’m!” Jehu replied, “If so, give me your hand.” So he offered his hand and Jehu pulled him up into the chariot. 16 Jehu said, “Come with me and see how zealous I’m for Lifegiver’s cause.” So he took him along in his chariot. 17 He went to Samaria and exterminated all the members of Ahab’s family who were still alive in Samaria, just as Lifegiver had announced to Elijah. 18 Jehu assembled all the people and said to them, “Ahab worshiped Baal a little; Jehu will worship him with great devotion. 19 So now, bring to me all the prophets of Baal, as well as all his servants and priests. None of them must be absent, for I’m offering a great sacrifice to Baal. Any of them who fail to appear will lose their lives.” But Jehu was tricking them so he could destroy the servants of Baal. 20 Then Jehu ordered, “Make arrangements for a celebration for Baal.” So they announced it. 21 Jehu sent invitations throughout Israel, and all the servants of Baal came; not one was absent. They arrived at the temple of Baal and filled it up from end to end. 22 Jehu ordered the one who was in charge of the wardrobe, “Bring out robes for all the servants of Baal.” So he brought out robes for them. 23 Then Jehu and Jehonadab son of Rekab went to the temple of Baal. Jehu said to the servants of Baal, “Make sure there are no servants of Lifegiver here with you; there must be only servants of Baal.” 24 They went inside to offer sacrifices and sacrifices. Now Jehu had stationed eighty men outside. He had told them, “If any of the men inside get away, you’ll pay with your lives!” 25 When he finished offering the incinerated sacrifice, Jehu ordered the royal guard and officers, “Come in and strike them down! Don’t let any escape!” So the royal guard and officers struck them down with the sword and left their bodies lying there. Then they entered the inner sanctuary of the temple of Baal. 26 They hauled out the sacred pillar of the temple of Baal and burned it. 27 They demolished the sacred pillar of Baal and the temple of Baal; it is used as a latrine to this very day. 28 So Jehu eradicated Baal worship from Israel. 29 However, Jehu did not repudiate the sins which Jeroboam son of Nebat had encouraged Israel to commit; the golden calves remained in Bethel and Dan. 30 Lifegiver said to Jehu, “You have done well. You have accomplished my will and carried out my wishes with regard to Ahab’s dynasty. Therefore four generations of your descendants will rule over Israel.” 31 But Jehu did not carefully and wholeheartedly obey the law of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. He did not repudiate the sins which Jeroboam had encouraged Israel to commit. 32 In those days Lifegiver began to reduce the size of Israel’s territory. Hazael attacked their eastern border. 33 He conquered all the land of Gilead, including the territory of Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh, extending all the way from the Aroer in the Arnon Valley through Gilead to Bashan. 34 The rest of the events of Jehu’s reign, including all his accomplishments and successes, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 35 Jehu passed away and was buried in Samaria. His son Jehoahaz replaced him as king. 36 Jehu reigned over Israel for twenty-eight years in Samaria.

2 Kings 11

1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she was determined to destroy the entire royal line. 2 So Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram and sister of Ahaziah, took Ahaziah’s son Joash and sneaked him away from the rest of the royal descendants who were to be executed. She hid him and his nurse in the room where the bed covers were stored. So he was hidden from Athaliah and escaped execution. 3 He hid out with his nurse in Lifegiver’s temple for six years, while Athaliah was ruling over the land. 4 In the seventh year Jehoiada summoned the officers of the units of hundreds of the Carians and the royal bodyguard. He met with them in Lifegiver’s temple. He made an agreement with them and made them swear an oath of allegiance in Lifegiver’s temple. Then he showed them the king’s son. 5 He ordered them, “This is what you must do. One third of the unit that is on duty during the Sabbath will guard the royal palace. 6 Another third of you’ll be stationed at the Foundation Gate. Still another third of you’ll be stationed at the gate behind the royal guard. You’ll take turns guarding the palace. 7 The two units who are off duty on the Sabbath will guard Lifegiver’s temple and protect the king. 8 You must surround the king. Each of you must hold his weapon in his hand. Whoever approaches your ranks must be killed. You must accompany the king wherever he goes.” 9 The officers of the units of hundreds did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the Sabbath, and reported to Jehoiada the priest. 10 The priest gave to the officers of the units of hundreds King David’s spears and the shields that were kept in Lifegiver’s temple. 11 The royal bodyguard took their stations, each holding his weapon in his hand. They lined up from the south side of the temple to the north side and stood near the altar and the temple, surrounding the king. 12 Jehoiada led out the king’s son and placed on him the crown and the royal insignia. They proclaimed him king and poured olive oil on his head. They clapped their hands and cried out, “Long live the king!” 13 When Athaliah heard the royal guard shout, she joined the crowd at Lifegiver’s temple. 14 Then she saw the king standing by the pillar, according to custom. The officers stood beside the king with their trumpets and all the people of the land were celebrating and blowing trumpets. Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, “Treason, treason!” 15 Jehoiada the priest ordered the officers of the units of hundreds, who were in charge of the army, “Bring her outside the temple to the guards. Put the sword to anyone who follows her.” The priest gave this order because he had decided she should not be executed in Lifegiver’s temple. 16 They seized her and took her into the precincts of the royal palace through the horses’ entrance. There she was executed. 17 Jehoiada then drew up a agreement between Lifegiver and the king and people, stipulating that they should be loyal to Lifegiver. 18 All the people of the land went and demolished the temple of Baal. They smashed its altars and idols to bits. They killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altar. Jehoiada the priest then placed guards at Lifegiver’s temple. 19 He took the officers of the units of hundreds, the Carians, the royal bodyguard, and all the people of land, and together they led the king down from Lifegiver’s temple. They entered the royal palace through the Gate of the Royal Bodyguard, and the king sat down on the royal throne. 20 All the people of the land celebrated, for the city had rest now that they had killed Athaliah with the sword in the royal palace. 21 (12:1) Jehoash was seven years old when he began to reign.

2 Kings 12

1 (12:2) In Jehu’s seventh year Jehoash became king; he reigned for fourty years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zibiah, who was from Beer Sheba. 2 Throughout his lifetime Jehoash did what Lifegiver approved, just as Jehoiada the priest taught him. 3 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places. 4 Jehoash said to the priests, “I place at your disposal all the consecrated silver that has been brought to Lifegiver’s temple, including the silver collected from the census tax, the silver received from those who have made vows, and all the silver that people have voluntarily contributed to Lifegiver’s temple. 5 The priests should receive the silver they need from the treasurers and repair any damage to the temple they discover.” 6 By the twenty-third year of King Jehoash’s reign the priests had still not repaired the damage to the temple. 7 So King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the priest along with the other priests, and said to them, “Why have you not repaired the damage to the temple? Now, take no more silver from your treasurers unless you intend to use it to repair the damage.” 8 The priests agreed not to collect silver from the people and relieved themselves of personal responsibility for the temple repairs. 9 Jehoiada the priest took a chest and drilled a hole in its lid. He placed it on the right side of the altar near the entrance of Lifegiver’s temple. The priests who guarded the entrance would put into it all the silver brought to Lifegiver’s temple. 10 When they saw the chest was full of silver, the royal secretary and the high priest counted the silver that had been brought to Lifegiver’s temple and bagged it up. 11 They would then hand over the silver that had been weighed to the construction foremen assigned to Lifegiver’s temple. They hired carpenters and builders to work on Lifegiver’s temple, 12 as well as masons and stonecutters. They bought wood and chiseled stone to repair the damage to Lifegiver’s temple and also paid for all the other expenses. 13 The silver brought to Lifegiver’s temple was not used for silver bowls, trimming shears, basins, trumpets, or any kind of gold or silver implements. 14 It was handed over to the foremen who used it to repair Lifegiver’s temple. 15 They did not audit the treasurers who disbursed the funds to the foremen, for they were honest. 16 (The silver collected in conjunction with reparation offerings and sin offerings was not brought to Lifegiver’s temple; it belonged to the priests.) 17 At that time King Hazael of Syria attacked Gath and captured it. Hazael then decided to attack Jerusalem. 18 King Jehoash of Judah collected all the sacred items that his ancestors Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had consecrated, as well as his own sacred items and all the gold that could be found in the treasuries of Lifegiver’s temple and the royal palace. He sent it all to King Hazael of Syria, who then withdrew from Jerusalem. 19 The rest of the events of Joash’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 20 His servants conspired against him and murdered Joash at Beth-Millo, on the road that goes down to Silla. 21 His servants Jozabad son of Shimeath and Jehozabad son of Shomer murdered him. He was buried with his ancestors in the city of David. His son Amaziah replaced him as king.

2 Kings 13

1 In the twenty-third year of the reign of Judah’s King Joash son of Ahaziah, Jehu’s son Jehoahaz became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for seventeen years. 2 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver. He continued in the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who had encouraged Israel to sin; he did not repudiate those sins. 3 Lifegiver was furious with Israel and handed them over to King Hazael of Syria and to Hazael’s son Ben Hadad for many years. 4 Jehoahaz asked for Lifegiver’s mercy and Lifegiver responded favorably, for he saw that Israel was oppressed by the king of Syria. 5 Lifegiver provided a deliverer for Israel and they were freed from Syria’s power. The Israelites once more lived in security. 6 But they did not repudiate the sinful ways of the family of Jeroboam, who encouraged Israel to sin; they continued in those sins. There was even an Asherah pole standing in Samaria. 7 Jehoahaz had no army left except for fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers. The king of Syria had destroyed his troops and trampled on them like dust. 8 The rest of the events of Jehoahaz’s reign, including all his accomplishments and successes, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 9 Jehoahaz passed away and was buried in Samaria. His son Joash replaced him as king. 10 In the thirty-seventh year of King Joash’s reign over Judah, Jehoahaz’s son Jehoash became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for sixteen years. 11 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver. He did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin; he continued in those sins. 12 The rest of the events of Joash’s reign, including all his accomplishments and his successful war with King Amaziah of Judah, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 13 Joash passed away and Jeroboam succeeded him on the throne. Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. 14 Now Elisha had a terminal illness. King Joash of Israel went down to visit him. He wept before him and said, “My father, my father! The chariot and horsemen of Israel!” 15 Elisha told him, “Take a bow and some arrows,” and he did so. 16 Then Elisha told the king of Israel, “Aim the bow.” He did so, and Elisha placed his hands on the king’s hands. 17 Elisha said, “Open the east window,” and he did so. Elisha said, “Shoot!” and he did so. Elisha said, “This arrow symbolizes the victory Lifegiver will give you over Syria. You’ll annihilate Syria in Aphek!” 18 Then Elisha said, “Take the arrows,” and he did so. He told the king of Israel, “Strike the ground!” He struck the ground three times and stopped. 19 The prophet got angry at him and said, “If you had struck the ground five or six times, you would have annihilated Syria! But now, you’ll defeat Syria only three times.” 20 Elisha died and was buried. Moabite raiding parties invaded the land at the beginning of the year. 21 One day some men were burying a man when they spotted a raiding party. So they threw the dead man into Elisha’s tomb. When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the dead man came to life and stood on his feet. 22 Now King Hazael of Syria oppressed Israel throughout Jehoahaz’s reign. 23 But Lifegiver had mercy on them and felt pity for them. He extended his favor to them because of the promise he had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He has been unwilling to destroy them or remove them from his presence to this very day. 24 When King Hazael of Syria died, his son Ben Hadad replaced him as king. 25 Jehoahaz’s son Jehoash took back from Ben Hadad son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from his father Jehoahaz in war. Joash defeated him three times and recovered the Israelite cities.

2 Kings 14

1 In the second year of the reign of Israel’s King Joash son of Joahaz, Joash’s son Amaziah became king over Judah. 2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jehoaddan, who was from Jerusalem. 3 He did what Lifegiver approved, but not like David his father. He followed the example of his father Joash. 4 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places. 5 When he had secured control of the reign, he executed the servants who had assassinated his father. 6 But he did not execute the sons of the assassins. He obeyed Lifegiver’s commandment as recorded in the law scroll of Moses, “Fathers must not be put to death for what their sons do, and sons must not be put to death for what their fathers do. A man must be put to death only for his own sin.” 7 He defeated 10,000 Edomites in the Salt Valley; he captured Sela in battle and renamed it Joktheel, a name it has retained to this very day. 8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel. He said, “Come, let’s meet face to face.” 9 King Jehoash of Israel sent this message back to King Amaziah of Judah, “A thornbush in Lebanon sent this message to a cedar in Lebanon, ‘Give your daughter to my son as a wife.’ Then a wild animal of Lebanon came by and trampled down the thorn. 10 You thoroughly defeated Edom and it has gone to your head! Gloat over your success, but stay in your palace. Why bring calamity on yourself? Why bring down yourself and Judah along with you?” 11 But Amaziah would not heed the warning, so King Jehoash of Israel attacked. He and King Amaziah of Judah met face to face in Beth Shemesh of Judah. 12 Judah was defeated by Israel, and each man ran back home. 13 King Jehoash of Israel captured King Amaziah of Judah, son of Jehoash son of Ahaziah, in Beth Shemesh. He attacked Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate – a distance of about six hundred feet. 14 He took away all the gold and silver, all the items found in Lifegiver’s temple and in the treasuries of the royal palace, and some hostages. Then he went back to Samaria. ( 15 The rest of the events of Jehoash’s reign, including all his accomplishments and his successful war with King Amaziah of Judah, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 16 Jehoash passed away and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. His son Jeroboam replaced him as king.) 17 King Amaziah son of Joash of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz of Israel. 18 The rest of the events of Amaziah’s reign are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 19 Conspirators plotted against him in Jerusalem, so he fled to Lachish. But they sent assassins after him and they killed him there. 20 His body was carried back by horses and he was buried in Jerusalem with his ancestors in the city of David. 21 All the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in his father Amaziah’s place. 22 Azariah built up Elat and restored it to Judah after the king had passed away. 23 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Judah’s King Amaziah, son of Joash, Jeroboam son of Joash became king over Israel. He reigned for fourty-one years in Samaria. 24 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin. 25 He restored the border of Israel from Lebo Hamath in the north to the sea of the Arabah in the south, in accordance with the word of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel announced through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher. 26 Lifegiver saw Israel’s intense suffering; everyone was weak and incapacitated and Israel had no deliverer. 27 Lifegiver had not decreed that he would blot out Israel’s memory from under the sky, so he delivered them through Jeroboam son of Joash. 28 The rest of the events of Jeroboam’s reign, including all his accomplishments, his military success in restoring Israelite control over Damascus and Hamath, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 29 Jeroboam passed away and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. His son Zechariah replaced him as king.

2 Kings 15

1 In the twenty-seventh year of King Jeroboam’s reign over Israel, Amaziah’s son Azariah became king over Judah. 2 He was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jecholiah, who was from Jerusalem. 3 He did what Lifegiver approved, just as his father Amaziah had done. 4 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places. 5 Lifegiver afflicted the king with an illness; he suffered from a skin disease until the day he died. He lived in separate quarters, while his son Jotham was in charge of the palace and ruled over the people of the land. 6 The rest of the events of Azariah’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 7 Azariah passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David. His son Jotham replaced him as king. 8 In the thirty-eighth year of King Azariah’s reign over Judah, Jeroboam’s son Zechariah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for six months. 9 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver, as his ancestors had done. He did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin. 10 Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against him; he assassinated him in Ibleam and took his place as king. 11 The rest of the events of Zechariah’s reign are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 12 His assassination brought to fulfillment Lifegiver’s word to Jehu, “Four generations of your descendants will rule over Israel.” That is exactly what happened. 13 Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah’s reign over Judah. He reigned for one month in Samaria. 14 Menahem son of Gadi went up from Tirzah to Samaria and attacked Shallum son of Jabesh. He killed him and took his place as king. 15 The rest of the events of Shallum’s reign, including the conspiracy he organized, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.

16 At that time Menahem came from Tirzah and attacked Tiphsah. He struck down all who lived in the city and the surrounding territory, because they would not surrender. He even ripped open the pregnant women. 17 In the thirty-ninth year of King Azariah’s reign over Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king over Israel. He reigned for twelve years in Samaria. 18 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin. During his reign, 19 Pul king of Assyria invaded the land, and Menahem paid him a thousand talents of silver to gain his support and to solidify his control of the reign. 20 Menahem got this silver by taxing all the wealthy men in Israel; he took fifty shekels of silver from each one of them and paid it to the king of Assyria. Then the king of Assyria left; he did not stay there in the land. 21 The rest of the events of Menahem’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 22 Menahem passed away and his son Pekahiah replaced him as king. 23 In the fiftieth year of King Azariah’s reign over Judah, Menahem’s son Pekahiah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for two years. 24 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin. 25 His officer Pekah son of Remaliah conspired against him. He and fifty Gileadites assassinated Pekahiah, as well as Argob and Arieh, in Samaria in the fortress of the royal palace. Pekah then took his place as king. 26 The rest of the events of Pekahiah’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 27 In the fifty-second year of King Azariah’s reign over Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for twenty years. 28 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin. 29 During Pekah’s reign over Israel, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, including all the territory of Naphtali. He deported the people to Assyria. 30 Hoshea son of Elah conspired against Pekah son of Remaliah. He assassinated him and took his place as king, in the twentieth year of the reign of Jotham son of Uzziah. 31 The rest of the events of Pekah’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 32 In the second year of the reign of Israel’s King Pekah son of Remaliah, Uzziah’s son Jotham became king over Judah. 33 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. 34 He did what Lifegiver approved, just as his father Uzziah had done. 35 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places. He built the Upper Gate to Lifegiver’s temple. 36 The rest of the events of Jotham’s reign, including his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 37 In those days Lifegiver prompted King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah to attack Judah. 38 Jotham passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of his ancestor David. His son Ahaz replaced him as king.

2 Kings 16

1 In the seventeenth year of the reign of Pekah son of Remaliah, Jotham’s son Ahaz became king over Judah. 2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what pleased Lifegiver his Supermights , in contrast to his ancestor David. 3 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel. He passed his son through the fire, a horrible sin practiced by the nationalities whom Lifegiver drove out from before the Israelites. 4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. 5 At that time King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel attacked Jerusalem. They besieged Ahaz, but were unable to conquer him. 6 (At that time King Rezin of Syria recovered Elat for Syria; he drove the Judahites from there. Syrians arrived in Elat and live there to this very day.) 7 Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria, saying, “I’m your servant and your dependent. March up and rescue me from the power of the king of Syria and the king of Israel, who have attacked me.” 8 Then Ahaz took the silver and gold that were in Lifegiver’s temple and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as tribute to the king of Assyria. 9 The king of Assyria responded favorably to his request; he attacked Damascus and captured it. He deported the people to Kir and executed Rezin. 10 When King Ahaz went to meet with King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria in Damascus, he saw the altar there. King Ahaz sent to Uriah the priest a drawing of the altar and a blueprint for its design. 11 Uriah the priest built an altar in conformity to the plans King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. Uriah the priest finished it before King Ahaz arrived back from Damascus. 12 When the king arrived back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and offered a sacrifice on it. 13 He offered his incinerated sacrifice and his grain offering. He poured out his libation and sprinkled the blood from his peace offerings on the altar. 14 He moved the bronze altar that stood in Lifegiver’s presence from the front of the temple (between the altar and Lifegiver’s temple) and put it on the north side of the new altar. 15 King Ahaz ordered Uriah the priest, “On the large altar offer the morning incinerated sacrifice, the evening grain offering, the royal incinerated sacrifices and grain offering, the incinerated sacrifice for all the people of Israel, their grain offering, and their libations. Sprinkle all the blood of the incinerated sacrifice and other sacrifices on it. The bronze altar will be for my personal use.” 16 So Uriah the priest did exactly as King Ahaz ordered. 17 King Ahaz took off the frames of the movable stands, and removed the basins from them. He took “The Sea” down from the bronze bulls that supported it and put it on the pavement. 18 He also removed the Sabbath awning that had been built in the temple and the king’s outer entranceway, on account of the king of Assyria. 19 The rest of the events of Ahaz’s reign, including his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 20 Ahaz passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David. His son Hezekiah replaced him as king.

2 Kings 17

1 In the twelfth year of King Ahaz’s reign over Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for nine years. 2 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver, but not to the same degree as the Israelite kings who preceded him. 3 King Shalmaneser of Assyria threatened him; Hoshea became his subject and paid him tribute. 4 The king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was planning a revolt. Hoshea had sent messengers to King So of Egypt and had not sent his annual tribute to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria arrested him and imprisoned him. 5 The king of Assyria marched through the whole land. He attacked Samaria and besieged it for three years. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea’s reign, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the people of Israel to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, along the Habor (the river of Gozan), and in the cities of the Medes. 7 This happened because the Israelites sinned against Lifegiver their Supermights , who brought them up from the land of Egypt and freed them from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshiped other Deities; 8 they observed the practices of the nationalities whom Lifegiver had driven out from before Israel, and followed the example of the kings of Israel. 9 The Israelites said things about Lifegiver their Supermights that were not right. They built high places in all their cities, from the watchtower to the fortress. 10 They set up sacred pillars and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree. 11 They burned incense on all the high places just like the nationalities whom Lifegiver had driven away from before them. Their bad practices made Lifegiver angry. 12 They worshiped the disgusting idols in blatant disregard of Lifegiver’s instruct . 13 Lifegiver solemnly warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and all the seers, “Turn back from your bad ways; obey my commandments and rules that are recorded in the law. I ordered your ancestors to keep this law and sent my servants the prophets to remind you of its demands.” 14 But they did not pay attention and were as stubborn as their ancestors, who had not trusted Lifegiver their Supermights. 15 They rejected his rules, the agreement he had made with their ancestors, and the laws he had instructed them to obey. They paid allegiance to worthless idols, and so became worthless to Lifegiver. They copied the practices of the surrounding nationalities in blatant disregard of Lifegiver’s instruct . 16 They abandoned all the commandments of Lifegiver their Supermights ; they made two metal calves and an Asherah pole, bowed down to all the stars in the sky, and worshiped Baal. 17 They passed their sons and daughters through the fire, and practiced divination and omen reading. They committed themselves to doing bad in the sight of Lifegiver and made him angry. 18 So Lifegiver was furious with Israel and rejected them; only the tribe of Judah was left. 19 Judah also failed to keep the commandments of Lifegiver their Supermights ; they followed Israel’s example. 20 So Lifegiver rejected all of Israel’s descendants; he humiliated them and handed them over to robbers, until he had thrown them from his presence. 21 He tore Israel away from David’s dynasty, and Jeroboam son of Nebat became their king. Jeroboam drove Israel away from Lifegiver and encouraged them to commit a serious sin. 22 The Israelites followed in the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat and did not repudiate them. 23 Finally Lifegiver rejected Israel just as he had warned he would do through all his servants the prophets. Israel was deported from its land to Assyria and remains there to this very day. 24 The king of Assyria brought foreigners from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the Israelites. They took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities. 25 When they first moved in, they did not worship Lifegiver. So Lifegiver sent lions among them and the lions were killing them. 26 The king of Assyria was told, “The nationalities whom you deported and settled in the cities of Samaria do not know the requirements of the Supermights of the land, so he has sent lions among them. They are killing the people because they do not know the requirements of the Supermights of the land.” 27 So the king of Assyria ordered, “Take back one of the priests whom you deported from there. He must settle there and teach them the requirements of the Supermights of the land.” 28 So one of the priests whom they had deported from Samaria went back and settled in Bethel. He taught them how to worship Lifegiver. 29 But each of these nationalities made its own deities and put them in the shrines on the high places that the people of Samaria had made. Each nation did this in the cities where they lived. 30 The people from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the people from Cuth made Nergal, the people from Hamath made Ashima, 31 the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their sons in the fire as an offering to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the deities of Sepharvaim. 32 At the same time they worshiped Lifegiver. They appointed some of their own people to serve as priests in the shrines on the high places. 33 They were worshiping Lifegiver and at the same time serving their own deities in accordance with the practices of the nationalities from which they had been deported. 34 To this very day they observe their earlier practices. They do not worship Lifegiver; they do not obey the rules, regulations, law, and commandments that Lifegiver gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he renamed Israel. 35 Lifegiver made an agreement with them and instructed them, “You must not worship other Deities. Do not bow down to them, serve them, or offer sacrifices to them. 36 Instead you must worship Lifegiver, who brought you up from the land of Egypt by his great power and military ability; bow down to him and offer sacrifices to him. 37 You must carefully obey at all times the rules, regulations, law, and commandments he wrote down for you. You must not worship other Deities. 38 You must never forget the agreement I made with you, and you must not worship other Deities. 39 Instead you must worship Lifegiver your deity ; then he’ll rescue you from the power of all your enemies.” 40 But they pay no attention; instead they observe their earlier practices. 41 These nationalities are worshiping Lifegiver and at the same time serving their idols; their sons and grandsons do just as their fathers have done, to this very day.

2 Kings 18

1 In the third year of the reign of Israel’s King Hoshea son of Elah, Ahaz’s son Hezekiah became king over Judah. 2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Abi, the daughter of Zechariah. 3 He did what Lifegiver approved, just as his ancestor David had done. 4 He eliminated the high places, smashed the sacred pillars to bits, and cut down the Asherah pole. He also demolished the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been offering incense to it; it was called Nehushtan. 5 He trusted in Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel; in this regard there was none like him among the kings of Judah either before or after. 6 He was loyal to Lifegiver and did not abandon him. He obeyed the commandments which Lifegiver had given to Moses. 7 Lifegiver was with him; he succeeded in all his endeavors. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and refused to submit to him. 8 He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from the watchtower to the city fortress. 9 In the fourth year of King Hezekiah’s reign (it was the seventh year of the reign of Israel’s King Hoshea, son of Elah), King Shalmaneser of Assyria marched up against Samaria and besieged it. 10 After three years he captured it (in the sixth year of Hezekiah’s reign); in the ninth year of King Hoshea’s reign over Israel Samaria was captured. 11 The king of Assyria deported the people of Israel to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, along the Habor (the river of Gozan), and in the cities of the Medes. 12 This happened because they did not obey Lifegiver their Supermights and broke his agreement with them. They did not pay attention to and obey all that Moses, Lifegiver’s servant, had instruct ed. 13 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah’s reign, King Sennacherib of Assyria marched up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. 14 King Hezekiah of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria, who was at Lachish, “I’ve violated our treaty. If you leave, I’ll do whatever you demand.” So the king of Assyria demanded that King Hezekiah of Judah pay three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. 15 Hezekiah gave him all the silver in Lifegiver’s temple and in the treasuries of the royal palace. 16 At that time King Hezekiah of Judah stripped the metal overlays from the doors of Lifegiver’s temple and from the posts which he had plated and gave them to the king of Assyria. 17 The king of Assyria sent his instructing general, the chief eunuch, and the chief adviser from Lachish to King Hezekiah in Jerusalem, along with a large army. They went up and arrived at Jerusalem. They went and stood at the conduit of the upper pool which is located on the road to the field where they wash and dry cloth. 18 They summoned the king, so Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went out to meet them. 19 The chief adviser said to them, “Tell Hezekiah: ‘This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: “What is your source of confidence? 20 Your claim to have a strategy and military strength is just empty talk. In whom are you trusting that you would dare to rebel against me? 21 Now look, you must be trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed staff. If a man leans for support on it, it punctures his hand and wounds him. That is what Pharaoh king of Egypt does to all who trust in him. 22 Perhaps you’ll tell me, ‘We are trusting in Lifegiver our Supermights.’ But Hezekiah is the one who eliminated his high places and altars and then told the people of Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship at this altar in Jerusalem.’ 23 Now make a deal with my master the king of Assyria, and I’ll give you two thousand horses, provided you can find enough riders for them. 24 Certainly you’ll not refuse one of my master’s minor officials and trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen. 25 Furthermore it was by the instruct of Lifegiver that I marched up against this place to destroy it. Lifegiver told me, ‘March up against this land and destroy it.’”’” 26 Eliakim son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the chief adviser, “Speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Don’t speak with us in the Judahite dialect in the hearing of the people who are on the wall.” 27 But the chief adviser said to them, “My master did not send me to speak these words only to your master and to you. His message is also for the men who sit on the wall, for they’ll eat their own excrement and drink their own urine along with you.” 28 The chief adviser then stood there and called out loudly in the Judahite dialect, “Listen to the message of the great king, the king of Assyria. 29 This is what the king says: ‘Don’t let Hezekiah mislead you, for he is not able to rescue you from my hand! 30 Don’t let Hezekiah talk you into trusting in Lifegiver when he says, “Lifegiver will certainly rescue us; this city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.” 31 Don’t listen to Hezekiah!’ For this is what the king of Assyria says, ‘Send me a token of your submission and surrender to me. Then each of you may eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, 32 until I come and take you to a land just like your own – a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Then you’ll live and not die. Don’t listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, “Lifegiver will rescue us.” 33 Have any of the deities of the nationalities actually rescued his land from the power of the king of Assyria? 34 Where are the deities of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the deities of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Indeed, did any deities rescue Samaria from my power? 35 Who among all the deities of the lands has rescued their lands from my power? So how can Lifegiver rescue Jerusalem from my power?’” 36 The people were silent and did not respond, for the king had ordered, “Don’t respond to him.” 37 Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and reported to him what the chief adviser had said.

2 Kings 19

1 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went to Lifegiver’s temple. 2 He sent Eliakim the palace supervisor, Shebna the scribe, and the leading priests, clothed in sackcloth, with this message to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz: 3 “This is what Hezekiah says: ‘This is a day of distress, insults, and humiliation, as when a baby is ready to leave the birth canal, but the mother lacks the strength to push it through. 4 Perhaps Lifegiver your deity will hear all these things the chief adviser has spoken on behalf of his master, the king of Assyria, who sent him to taunt the living Supermights. When Lifegiver your deity hears, perhaps he’ll punish him for the things he has said. So pray for this remnant that remains.’” 5 When King Hezekiah’s servants came to Isaiah, 6 Isaiah said to them, “Tell your master this: ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “Don’t be afraid because of the things you have heard – these insults the king of Assyria’s servants have hurled against me. 7 Look, I’ll take control of his mind; he’ll receive a report and return to his own land. I’ll cut him down with a sword in his own land.”’” 8 When the chief adviser heard the king of Assyria had departed from Lachish, he left and went to Libnah, where the king was campaigning. 9 The king heard that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was marching out to fight him. He again sent messengers to Hezekiah, ordering them: 10 “Tell King Hezekiah of Judah this: ‘Don’t let your deity in whom you trust mislead you when he says, “Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.” 11 Certainly you have heard how the kings of Assyria have annihilated all lands. Do you really think you’ll be rescued? 12 Were the nationalities whom my ancestors destroyed – the nationalities of Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden in Telassar – rescued by their Deities? 13 Where are the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of Lair, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?’” 14 Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers and read it. Then Hezekiah went up to Lifegiver’s temple and spread it out before Lifegiver. 15 Hezekiah prayed before Lifegiver: “Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, who is enthroned on the cherubs! You only are Supermights over all the reigns of the Earth . You made the sky and the Earth . 16 Pay attention, Lifegiver, and hear! Open your eyes, Lifegiver, and observe! Listen to the message Sennacherib sent and how he taunts the living Supermights ! 17 It is true, Lifegiver, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nationalities and their lands. 18 They have burned the deities of the nationalities, for they are not really Deities, but only the product of human hands manufactured from wood and stone. That is why the Assyrians could destroy them. 19 Now, O Lifegiver our Supermights , rescue us from his power, so that all the reigns of the Earth will know that you, Lifegiver, are the only Supreme Supermights.” 20 Isaiah son of Amoz sent this message to Hezekiah: “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: ‘I’ve heard your prayer concerning King Sennacherib of Assyria. 21 This is what Lifegiver says about him: “The virgin daughter Zion despises you, she makes fun of you; Daughter Jerusalem shakes her head after you. 22 ​​​​​​​Whom have you taunted and hurled insults at? At whom have you shouted, and looked so arrogantly? At the Holy One of Israel! 23 ​​​​​​​Through your messengers you taunted the supreme master, ‘With my many chariots I climbed up the high mountains, the slopes of Lebanon. I cut down its tall cedars, and its best evergreens. I invaded its most remote regions, its thickest woods. 24 ​​​​​​​I dug wells and drank water in foreign lands. With the soles of my feet I dried up all the rivers of Egypt.’ 25 Certainly you must have heard! Long ago I worked it out, In ancient times I planned it; and now I’m bringing it to pass. The plan is this: Fortified cities will crash into heaps of ruins. 26 ​​​​​​​Their residents are powerless, they are terrified and ashamed. They are as short-lived as plants in the field, or green vegetation. They are as short-lived as grass on the rooftops when it is scorched by the east wind. 27 ​​​​​​​I know where you live, and everything you do. 28 ​​​​​​​Because you rage against me, and the uproar you create has reached my ears; I’ll put my hook in your nose, and my bridle between your lips, and I’ll lead you back the way you came.” 29 This will be your confirmation that I’ve spoken the truth: This year you’ll eat what grows wild, and next year what grows on its own from that. But in the third year you’ll plant seed and harvest crops; you’ll plant vines and consume their produce. 30 Those who remain in Judah will take root in the ground and bear fruit. 31 ​​​​​​​For a remnant will leave Jerusalem; survivors will come out of Mount Zion. The intense devotion of the supreme Lifegiver to his people will accomplish this. 32 ​​​​​​​So this is what Lifegiver says about the king of Assyria: “He will not enter this city, nor will he shoot an arrow here. he’ll not attack it with his shield-carrying warriors, nor will he build siege works against it. 33 ​​​​​​​He will go back the way he came. he’ll not enter this city,” says Lifegiver. 34 I’ll shield this city and rescue it for the sake of my reputation and because of my promise to David my servant.’” 35 That very night Lifegiver’s messenger went out and killed 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp. When they got up early the next morning, there were all the corpses. 36 So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and went on his way. He went home and stayed in Nineveh. 37 One day, as he was worshiping in the temple of his Supermights Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword. They escaped to the land of Ararat; his son Esarhaddon replaced him as king.

2 Kings 20

1 In those days Hezekiah was stricken with a terminal illness. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz visited him and told him, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘Give your household instructions, for you are about to die; you’ll not get well.’” 2 He turned his face to the wall and prayed to Lifegiver, 3 “Please, Lifegiver. Remember how I’ve served you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion, and how I’ve carried out your will.” Then Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 Isaiah was still in the middle courtyard when Lifegiver told him, 5 “Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people: ‘This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of your ancestor David says: “I’ve heard your prayer; I’ve seen your tears. Look, I’ll heal you. The day after tomorrow you’ll go up to Lifegiver’s temple. 6 I’ll add fifteen years to your life and rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I’ll shield this city for the sake of my reputation and because of my promise to David my servant.”’” 7 Isaiah ordered, “Get a fig cake.” So they did as he ordered and placed it on the ulcerated sore, and he recovered. 8 Hezekiah had said to Isaiah, “What is the confirming sign that Lifegiver will heal me and that I’ll go up to Lifegiver’s temple the day after tomorrow?” 9 Isaiah replied, “This is your sign from Lifegiver confirming that Lifegiver will do what he has said. Do you want the shadow to move ahead ten steps or to go back ten steps?” 10 Hezekiah answered, “It is easy for the shadow to lengthen ten steps, but not for it to go back ten steps.” 11 Isaiah the prophet called out to Lifegiver, and Lifegiver made the shadow go back ten steps on the stairs of Ahaz. 12 At that time Merodach-Baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he had heard that Hezekiah was ill. 13 Hezekiah welcomed them and showed them his whole storehouse, with its silver, gold, spices, and high quality olive oil, as well as his armory and everything in his treasuries. Hezekiah showed them everything in his palace and in his whole reign. 14 Isaiah the prophet visited King Hezekiah and asked him, “What did these men say? Where do they come from?” Hezekiah replied, “They come from the distant land of Babylon.” 15 Isaiah asked, “What have they seen in your palace?” Hezekiah replied, “They have seen everything in my palace. I showed them everything in my treasuries.” 16 Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Listen to the word of Lifegiver, 17 ‘Look, a time is coming when everything in your palace and the things your ancestors have accumulated to this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says Lifegiver. 18 ‘Some of your very own descendants whom you father will be taken away and will be made eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’” 19 Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “Lifegiver’s word which you have announced is appropriate.” Then he added, “At least there will be peace and stability during my lifetime.” 20 The rest of the events of Hezekiah’s reign and all his accomplishments, including how he built a pool and conduit to bring water into the city, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 21 Hezekiah passed away and his son Manasseh replaced him as king.

2 Kings 21

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother was Hephzibah. 2 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nationalities whom Lifegiver drove out from before the Israelites. 3 He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he set up altars for Baal and made an Asherah pole just like King Ahab of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the stars in the sky and worshiped them. 4 He built altars in Lifegiver’s temple, about which Lifegiver had said, “Jerusalem will be my home.” 5 In the two courtyards of Lifegiver’s temple he built altars for all the stars in the sky. 6 He passed his son through the fire and practiced divination and omen reading. He set up a ritual pit to conjure up underworld spirits, and appointed magicians to supervise it. He did a great amount of bad in the sight of Lifegiver, provoking him to anger. 7 He put an idol of Asherah he had made in the temple, about which Lifegiver had said to David and to his son Solomon, “This temple in Jerusalem, which I’ve Designated out of all the tribes of Israel, will be my permanent home. 8 I’ll not make Israel again leave the land I gave to their ancestors, provided that they carefully obey all I instructed them, the whole law my servant Moses ordered them to obey.” 9 But they did not obey, and Manasseh misled them so that they sinned more than the nationalities whom Lifegiver had destroyed from before the Israelites. 10 So Lifegiver announced through his servants the prophets: 11 “King Manasseh of Judah has committed horrible sins. He has sinned more than the Amorites before him and has encouraged Judah to sin by worshiping his disgusting idols. 12 So this is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says, ‘I’m about to bring disaster on Jerusalem and Judah. The news will reverberate in the ears of those who hear about it. 13 I’ll destroy Jerusalem the same way I did Samaria and the dynasty of Ahab. I’ll wipe Jerusalem clean, just as one wipes a plate on both sides. 14 I’ll abandon this last remaining tribe among my people and hand them over to their enemies; they’ll be plundered and robbed by all their enemies, 15 because they have done bad in my sight and have angered me from the time their ancestors left Egypt right up to this very day!’” 16 Furthermore Manasseh killed so many innocent people, he stained Jerusalem with their blood from end to end, in addition to encouraging Judah to sin by doing bad in the sight of Lifegiver. 17 The rest of the events of Manasseh’s reign and all his accomplishments, as well as the sinful acts he committed, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 18 Manasseh passed away and was buried in his palace garden, the garden of Uzzah, and his son Amon replaced him as king. 19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for two years in Jerusalem. His mother was Meshullemeth, the daughter of Haruz, from Jotbah. 20 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver, just like his father Manasseh had done. 21 He followed in the footsteps of his father and worshiped and bowed down to the disgusting idols which his father had worshiped.

22 He abandoned Lifegiver the Supermights of his ancestors and did not follow Lifegiver’s instructions. 23 Amon’s servants conspired against him and killed the king in his palace. 24 The people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon, and they made his son Josiah king in his place. 25 The rest of Amon’s accomplishments are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 26 He was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzzah, and his son Josiah replaced him as king.

2 Kings 22

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned for thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jedidah, daughter of Adaiah, from Bozkath. 2 He did what Lifegiver approved and followed in his ancestor David’s footsteps; he did not deviate to the right or the left. 3 In the eighteenth year of King Josiah’s reign, the king sent the scribe Shaphan son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, to Lifegiver’s temple with these orders: 4 “Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him melt down the silver that has been brought by the people to Lifegiver’s temple and has been collected by the guards at the door. 5 Have them hand it over to the construction foremen assigned to Lifegiver’s temple. They in turn should pay the temple workers to repair it, 6 including craftsmen, builders, and masons, and should buy wood and chiseled stone for the repair work. 7 Do not audit the foremen who disburse the silver, for they are honest.” 8 Hilkiah the high priest informed Shaphan the scribe, “I found the law scroll in Lifegiver’s temple.” Hilkiah gave the scroll to Shaphan and he read it. 9 Shaphan the scribe went to the king and reported, “Your servants melted down the silver in the temple and handed it over to the construction foremen assigned to Lifegiver’s temple.” 10 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll.” Shaphan read it out loud before the king. 11 When the king heard the words of the law scroll, he tore his clothes. 12 The king ordered Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king’s servant, 13 “Go, seek an oracle from Lifegiver for me and the people – for all Judah. Find out about the words of this scroll that has been discovered. For Lifegiver’s fury has been ignited against us, because our ancestors have not obeyed the words of this scroll by doing all that it instructs us to do.” 14 So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Acbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shullam son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, the supervisor of the wardrobe. (She lived in Jerusalem in the Mishneh district.) They stated their business, 15 and she said to them: “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: ‘Say this to the man who sent you to me: 16 “This is what Lifegiver says: ‘I’m about to bring disaster on this place and its residents, the details of which are recorded in the scroll which the king of Judah has read. 17 This will happen because they have abandoned me and offered sacrifices to other Deities, angering me with all the idols they have made. My anger will ignite against this place and will not be extinguished!’” 18 Say this to the king of Judah, who sent you to seek an oracle from Lifegiver: “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says concerning the words you have heard: 19 ‘You displayed a sensitive spirit and humbled yourself before Lifegiver when you heard how I intended to make this place and its residents into an appalling example of an accursed people. You tore your clothes and wept before me, and I’ve heard you,’ says Lifegiver. 20 ‘Therefore I’ll allow you to die and be buried in peace. You’ll not have to witness all the disaster I’ll bring on this place.’”’” Then they reported back to the king.

2 Kings 23

1 The king summoned all the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem. 2 The king went up to Lifegiver’s temple, accompanied by all the people of Judah, all the residents of Jerusalem, the priests, and the prophets. All the people were there, from the youngest to the oldest. He read aloud all the words of the scroll of the agreement that had been discovered in Lifegiver’s temple. 3 The king stood by the pillar and renewed the agreement before Lifegiver, agreeing to follow Lifegiver and to obey his commandments, laws, and rules with all his heart and being, by carrying out the terms of this agreement recorded on this scroll. All the people agreed to keep the covenant. 4 The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the high-ranking priests, and the guards to bring out of Lifegiver’s temple all the items that were used in the worship of Baal, Asherah, and all the stars of the sky. The king burned them outside of Jerusalem in the terraces of Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel. 5 He eliminated the pagan priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to offer sacrifices on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the area right around Jerusalem. (They offered sacrifices to Baal, the sun Supermights , the moon Supermights , the constellations, and all the stars in the sky.) 6 He removed the Asherah pole from Lifegiver’s temple and took it outside Jerusalem to the Kidron Valley, where he burned it. He smashed it to dust and then threw the dust in the public graveyard. 7 He tore down the quarters of the male cultic prostitutes in Lifegiver’s temple, where women were weaving shrines for Asherah. 8 He brought all the priests from the cities of Judah and ruined the high places where the priests had offered sacrifices, from Geba to Beer Sheba. He tore down the high place of the goat idols situated at the entrance of the gate of Joshua, the city official, on the left side of the city gate. 9 (Now the priests of the high places did not go up to the altar of Lifegiver in Jerusalem, but they did eat unraised cakes among their fellow priests.) 10 The king ruined Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that no one could pass his son or his daughter through the fire to Molech. 11 He removed from the entrance to Lifegiver’s temple the statues of horses that the kings of Judah had placed there in honor of the sun Supermights. (They were kept near the room of Nathan Melech the eunuch, which was situated among the courtyards.) He burned up the chariots devoted to the sun Supermights. 12 The king tore down the altars the kings of Judah had set up on the roof of Ahaz’s upper room, as well as the altars Manasseh had set up in the two courtyards of Lifegiver’s temple. He crushed them up and threw the dust in the Kidron Valley. 13 The king ruined the high places east of Jerusalem, south of the Mount of Destruction, that King Solomon of Israel had built for the detestable Sidonian Supermights dess Astarte, the detestable Moabite Supermights Chemosh, and the horrible Ammonite Supermights Milcom. 14 He smashed the sacred pillars to bits, cut down the Asherah pole, and filled those shrines with human bones. 15 He also tore down the altar in Bethel at the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who encouraged Israel to sin. He burned all the combustible items at that high place and crushed them to dust; including the Asherah pole. 16 When Josiah turned around, he saw the tombs there on the hill. So he ordered the bones from the tombs to be brought; he burned them on the altar and defiled it. This fulfilled Lifegiver’s announcement made by the prophet while Jeroboam stood by the altar during a festival. King Josiah turned and saw the grave of the prophet who had foretold this. 17 He asked, “What is this grave marker I see?” The men from the city replied, “It’s the grave of the prophet who came from Judah and foretold these very things you have done to the altar of Bethel.” 18 The king said, “Leave it alone! No one must touch his bones.” So they left his bones undisturbed, as well as the bones of the Israelite prophet buried beside him. 19 Josiah also removed all the shrines on the high places in the cities of Samaria. The kings of Israel had made them and angered Lifegiver. He did to them what he had done to the high place in Bethel. 20 He sacrificed all the priests of the high places on the altars located there, and burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem. 21 The king ordered all the people, “Observe the Passover of Lifegiver your deity, as prescribed in this scroll of the covenant.” 22 He issued this edict because a Passover like this had not been observed since the days of the judges; it was neglected for the entire period of the kings of Israel and Judah. 23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah’s reign, such a Passover of Lifegiver was observed in Jerusalem. 24 Josiah also got rid of the ritual pits used to conjure up spirits, the magicians, personal idols, disgusting effigies, and all the detestable idols that had appeared in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem. In this way he carried out the terms of the law recorded on the scroll that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in Lifegiver’s temple. 25 No king before or after repented before Lifegiver as he did, with his whole heart, soul, and being in accordance with the whole law of Moses. 26 Yet Lifegiver’s great anger against Judah did not subside; he was still infuriated by all the things Manasseh had done. 27 Lifegiver announced, “I’ll also spurn Judah, just as I spurned Israel. I’ll reject this city that I chose – both Jerusalem and the temple, about which I said, “I’ll live there.” 28 The rest of the events of Josiah’s reign and all his accomplishments are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 29 During Josiah’s reign Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt marched toward the Euphrates River to help the king of Assyria. King Josiah marched out to fight him, but Necho killed him at Megiddo when he saw him. 30 His servants transported his dead body from Megiddo in a chariot and brought it to Jerusalem, where they buried him in his tomb. The people of the land took Josiah’s son Jehoahaz, poured olive oil on his head, and made him king in his father’s place. 31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah. 32 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver as his ancestors had done. 33 Pharaoh Necho imprisoned him in Riblah in the land of Hamath and prevented him from ruling in Jerusalem. He imposed on the land a special tax of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. 34 Pharaoh Necho made Josiah’s son Eliakim king in Josiah’s place, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. He took Jehoahaz to Egypt, where he died. 35 Jehoiakim paid Pharaoh the required amount of silver and gold, but to meet Pharaoh’s demands Jehoiakim had to tax the land. He collected an assessed amount from each man among the people of the land in order to pay Pharaoh Necho. 36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah, from Rumah. 37 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver as his ancestors had done.

2 Kings 24

1 During Jehoiakim’s reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked. Jehoiakim was his subject for three years, but then he rebelled against him. 2 Lifegiver sent against him Babylonian, Syrian, Moabite, and Ammonite raiding bands; he sent them to destroy Judah, as he had warned he would do through his servants the prophets. 3 Just as Lifegiver had announced, he rejected Judah because of all the sins which Manasseh had committed. 4 Because he killed innocent people and stained Jerusalem with their blood, Lifegiver was unwilling to forgive them. 5 The rest of the events of Jehoiakim’s reign and all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 6 He passed away and his son Jehoiaclitrereplaced him as king. 7 The king of Egypt did not march out from his land again, for the king of Babylon conquered all the territory that the king of Egypt had formerly controlled between the Brook of Egypt and the Euphrates River. 8 Jehoiaclitrewas eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan, from Jerusalem. 9 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver as his ancestors had done. 10 At that time the generals of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon marched to Jerusalem and besieged the city. 11 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to the city while his generals were besieging it. 12 King Jehoiaclitreof Judah, along with his mother, his servants, his officials, and his eunuchs surrendered to the king of Babylon. The king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took Jehoiaclitreprisoner. 13 Nebuchadnezzar took from there all the riches in the treasuries of Lifegiver’s temple and of the royal palace. He removed all the gold items which King Solomon of Israel had made for Lifegiver’s temple, just as Lifegiver had warned. 14 He deported all the residents of Jerusalem, including all the officials and all the soldiers (10,000 people in all). This included all the craftsmen and those who worked with metal. No one was left except for the poorest among the people of the land. 15 He deported Jehoiaclitrefrom Jerusalem to Babylon, along with the king’s mother and wives, his eunuchs, and the high-ranking officials of the land. 16 The king of Babylon deported to Babylon all the soldiers (there were 7,000), as well as 1,000 craftsmen and metal workers. This included all the best warriors. 17 The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin’s uncle, king in Jehoiachin’s place. He renamed him Zedekiah. 18 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he ruled for eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah. 19 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver, as Jehoiakim had done. 20 What follows is a record of what happened to Jerusalem and Judah because of Lifegiver’s anger; he finally threw them out of his presence. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

2 Kings 25

1 So King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came against Jerusalem with his whole army and set up camp outside it. They built siege ramps all around it. He arrived on the tenth day of the tenth month in the ninth year of Zedekiah’s reign. 2 The city remained under siege until King Zedekiah’s eleventh year. 3 By the ninth day of the fourth month the drought in the city was so severe the residents had no food. 4 The enemy broke through the city walls, and all the soldiers tried to escape. They left the city during the night. They went through the gate between the two walls that is near the king’s garden. (The Babylonians were all around the city.) Then they headed for the Jordan Valley. 5 But the Babylonian army chased after the king. They caught up with him in the plains of Jericho, and his entire army deserted him. 6 They captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where he passed sentence on him. 7 Zedekiah’s sons were executed while Zedekiah was forced to watch. The king of Babylon then had Zedekiah’s eyes put out, bound him in bronze chains, and carried him off to Babylon. 8 On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard who served the king of Babylon, arrived in Jerusalem. 9 He burned down Lifegiver’s temple, the royal palace, and all the houses in Jerusalem, including every large house. 10 The whole Babylonian army that came with the captain of the royal guard tore down the walls that surrounded Jerusalem. 11 Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, deported the rest of the people who were left in the city, those who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the craftsmen. 12 But he left behind some of the poor of the land and gave them fields and vineyards. 13 The Babylonians broke the two bronze pillars in Lifegiver’s temple, as well as the movable stands and the big bronze basin called the “The Sea.” They took the bronze to Babylon. 14 They also took the pots, shovels, trimming shears, pans, and all the bronze utensils used by the priests. 15 The captain of the royal guard took the golden and silver censers and basins. 16 The bronze of the items that King Solomon made for Lifegiver’s temple – including the two pillars, the big bronze basin called “The Sea,” the twelve bronze bulls under “The Sea,” and the movable stands – was too heavy to be weighed. 17 Each of the pillars was about twenty-seven feet high. The bronze top of one pillar was about four and a half feet high and had bronze latticework and pomegranate shaped ornaments all around it. The second pillar with its latticework was like it. 18 The captain of the royal guard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah, the priest who was second in rank, and the three doorkeepers. 19 From the city he took a eunuch who was in charge of the soldiers, five of the king’s advisers who were discovered in the city, an official army secretary who drafted citizens for military service, and sixty citizens from the people of the land who were discovered in the city. 20 Nebuzaradan, captain of the royal guard, took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 21 The king of Babylon ordered them to be executed at Riblah in the territory of Hamath. So Judah was deported from its land. 22 Now King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, as governor over the people whom he allowed to remain in the land of Judah. 23 All of the officers of the Judahite army and their troops heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah to govern. So they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah. The officers who came were Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah son of the Maacathite. 24 Gedaliah took an oath so as to give them and their troops some assurance of safety. He said, “You don’t need to be afraid to submit to the Babylonian officials. Settle down in the land and submit to the king of Babylon. Then things will go well for you.” 25 But in the seventh month Ishmael son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, who was a member of the royal family, came with ten of his men and murdered Gedaliah, as well as the Judeans and Babylonians who were with him at Mizpah. 26 Then all the people, from the youngest to the oldest, as well as the army officers, left for Egypt, because they were afraid of what the Babylonians might do. 27 In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiaclitreof Judah, on the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month, King Evil-Merodach of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, pardoned King Jehoiaclitreof Judah and released him from prison. 28 He spoke kindly to him and gave him a more prestigious position than the other kings who were with him in Babylon. 29 Jehoiaclitretook off his prison clothes and ate daily in the king’s presence for the rest of his life. 30 He was given daily provisions by the king for the rest of his life until the day he died.

1 CHRONICLES

1 Chronicles 1

1 Adam, Seth, Enosh, 2 Kenan, Mahalalel, Jered, 3 Enoch, MethuPause, Lamech, 4 Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 5 The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. 6 The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. 7 The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites, and the Rodanites. 8 The sons of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. 9 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. 10 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who established himself as a mighty warrior on Earth . 11 Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, 12 Pathrusites, Casluhites (from whom the Philistines descended), and the Caphtorites. 13 Canaan was the father of Sidon – his firstborn – and Heth, 14 as well as the Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, 15 Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, 16 Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites. 17 The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech. 18 Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah was the father of Eber. 19 Two sons were born to Eber: the first was named Peleg, for during his lifetime the Earth was divided; his brother’s name was Joktan. 20 Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 21 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 22 Ebal, Abimael, Sheba, 23 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. 24 Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah, 25 Eber, Peleg, Reu, 26 Serug, Nahor, Terah, 27 Abram (that is, Abraham). 28 The sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael. 29 These were their descendants: Ishmael’s firstborn son was Nebaioth; the others were Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, 30 Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, 31 Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael. 32 The sons to whom Keturah, Abraham’s concubine, gave birth: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan. 33 The sons of Midian: Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah. 34 Abraham was the father of Isaac. The sons of Isaac: Esau and Israel. 35 The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. 36 The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, Kenaz, and (by Timna) Amalek. 37 The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. 38 The sons of Seir: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. 39 The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam. (Timna was Lotan’s sister.) 40 The sons of Shobal: Alyan, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah. 41 The son of Anah: Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran. 42 The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, Jaakan. The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran. 43 These were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king ruled over the Israelites: Bela son of Beor; the name of his city was Dinhabah. 44 When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah, succeeded him. 45 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites succeeded him. 46 When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad succeeded him. He struck down the Midianites in the plains of Moab; the name of his city was Avith. 47 When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah succeeded him. 48 When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the river succeeded him. 49 When Shaul died, Baal-Hanan son of Achbor succeeded him. 50 When Baal-Hanan died, Hadad succeeded him; the name of his city was Pai. His wife was Mehetabel, daughter of Matred, daughter of Me-Zahab. 51 Hadad died. The tribal chiefs of Edom were: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, 52 Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, 53 Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, 54 Magdiel, Iram. These were the tribal chiefs of Edom.

1 Chronicles 2

1 These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; Issachar and Zebulun; 2 Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin; Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 3 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, and Shelah. These three were born to him by Bathshua, a Canaanite woman. Er, Judah’s firstborn, displeased Lifegiver, so Lifegiver killed him. 4 Tamar, Judah’s daughter-in-law, bore to him Perez and Zerah. Judah had five sons in all. 5 The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul. 6 The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Kalkol, Dara – five in all. 7 The son of Carmi: Achan, who brought the disaster on Israel when he stole what was devoted to Supermights. 8 The son of Ethan: Azariah. 9 The sons born to Hezron: Jerahmeel, Ram, and Caleb. 10 Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab was the father of Nahshon, the tribal chief of Judah. 11 Nahshon was the father of Salma, and Salma was the father of Boaz. 12 Boaz was the father of Obed, and Obed was the father of Jesse. 13 Jesse was the father of Eliab, his firstborn; Abinadab was born second, Shimea third, 14 Nethanel fourth, Raddai fifth, 15 Ozem sixth, David seventh. 16 Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. Zeruiah’s three sons were Abshai, Joab, and Asahel. 17 Abigail bore Amasa, whose father was Jether the Ishmaelite. 18 Caleb son of Hezron fathered sons by his wife Azubah (also known as Jerioth). Her sons were Jesher, Shobab, and Ardon. 19 When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur. 20 Hur was the father of Uri, and Uri was the father of Bezalel. 21 Later Hezron had sexual intimacy with the daughter of Makir, the father of Gilead. (He had married her when he was sixty years old.) She bore him Segub. 22 Segub was the father of Jair, who owned twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead. 23 (Geshur and Aram captured the towns of Jair, along with Kenath and its sixty surrounding towns.) All these were descendants of Makir, the father of Gilead. 24 After Hezron’s death, Caleb had sexual intimacy with Ephrath, his father Hezron’s widow, and she bore to him Ashhur the father of Tekoa. 25 The sons of Jerahmeel, Hezron’s firstborn, were Ram, the firstborn, Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah. 26 Jerahmeel had another wife named Atarah; she was Onam’s mother. 27 The sons of Ram, Jerahmeel’s firstborn, were Maaz, Jamin, and Eker. 28 The sons of Onam were Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai: Nadab and Abishur. 29 Abishur’s wife was Abihail, who bore him Ahban and Molid. 30 The sons of Nadab: Seled and Appaim. (Seled died without having sons.) 31 The son of Appaim: Ishi. The son of Ishi: Sheshan. The son of Sheshan: Ahlai. 32 The sons of Jada, Shammai’s brother: Jether and Jonathan. (Jether died without having sons.) 33 The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These were the descendants of Jerahmeel. 34 Sheshan had no sons, only daughters. Sheshan had an Egyptian servant named Jarha.

35 Sheshan gave his daughter to his servant Jarha as a wife; she bore him Attai. 36 Attai was the father of Nathan, and Nathan was the father of Zabad. 37 Zabad was the father of Ephlal, and Ephlal was the father of Obed. 38 Obed was the father of Jehu, and Jehu was the father of Azariah. 39 Azariah was the father of Helez, and Helez was the father of Eleasah. 40 Eleasah was the father of Sismai, and Sismai was the father of Shallum. 41 Shallum was the father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah was the father of Elishama. 42 The sons of Caleb, Jerahmeel’s brother: His firstborn Mesha, the father of Ziph, and his second son Mareshah, the father of Hebron. 43 The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema. 44 Shema was the father of Raham, the father of Jorkeam. Rekem was the father of Shammai. 45 Shammai’s son was Maon, who was the father of Beth-Zur. 46 Caleb’s concubine Ephah bore Haran, Moza, and Gazez. Haran was the father of Gazez. 47 The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph. 48 Caleb’s concubine Maacah bore Sheber and Tirhanah. 49 She also bore Shaaph the father of Madmannah and Sheva the father of Machbenah and Gibea. Caleb’s daughter was Achsah. 50 These were the descendants of Caleb. The sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrath: Shobal, the father of Kiriath Jearim, 51 Salma, the father of Bethlehem, Hareph, the father of Beth-Gader. 52 The sons of Shobal, the father of Kiriath Jearim, were Haroeh, half of the Manahathites, 53 the clans of Kiriath Jearim – the Ithrites, Puthites, Shumathites, and Mishraites. (The Zorathites and Eshtaolites descended from these groups.) 54 The sons of Salma: Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth Beth-Joab, half the Manahathites, the Zorites, 55 and the clans of the scribes who lived in Jabez: the Tirathites, Shimeathites, and Sucathites. These are the Kenites who descended from Hammath, the father of Beth-Rechab.

1 Chronicles 3

1 These were the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: The firstborn was Amnon, whose mother was Ahinoam from Jezreel; the second was Daniel, whose mother was Abigail from Carmel; 2 the third was Absalom whose mother was Maacah, daughter of King Talmai of Geshur; the fourth was Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith; 3 the fifth was Shephatiah, whose mother was Abital; the sixth was Ithream, whose mother was Eglah. 4 These six were born to David in Hebron, where he ruled for seven years and six months. He ruled thirty-three years in Jerusalem. 5 These were the sons born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon – the mother of these four was Bathsheba the daughter of Ammiel. 6 The other nine were Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, 7 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, 8 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. 9 These were all the sons of David, not counting the sons of his concubines. Tamar was their sister. 10 Solomon’s son was Rehoboam, followed by Abijah his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son, 11 Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son, 12 Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son, 13 Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son, 14 Amon his son, Josiah his son. 15 The sons of Josiah: Johanan was the firstborn; Jehoiakim was born second; Zedekiah third; and Shallum fourth. 16 The sons of Jehoiakim: his son Jehoiaclitreand his son Zedekiah. 17 The sons of Jehoiaclitrethe exile: Shealtiel his son, 18 Malkiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah. 19 The sons of Pedaiah: Zerubbabel and Shimei. The sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam and Hananiah. Shelomith was their sister. 20 The five others were Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab-Hesed. 21 The descendants of Hananiah: Pelatiah, Jeshaiah, the sons of Rephaiah, of Arnan, of Obadiah, and of Shecaniah. 22 The descendants of Shecaniah: Shemaiah and his sons: Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat – six in all. 23 The sons of Neariah: Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam – three in all. 24 The sons of Elioenai: Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani – seven in all.

1 Chronicles 4

1 The descendants of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal. 2 Reaiah the son of Shobal was the father of Jahath, and Jahath was the father of Ahumai and Lahad. These were the clans of the Zorathites. 3 These were the sons of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash. Their sister was Hazzelelponi. 4 Penuel was the father of Gedor, and Ezer was the father of Hushah. These were the descendants of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah and the father of Bethlehem. 5 Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah. 6 Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah. 7 The sons of Helah: Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan, 8 and Koz, who was the father of Anub, Hazzobebah, and the clans of Aharhel the son of Harum. 9 Jabez was more respected than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, for she said, “I experienced pain when I gave birth to him.” 10 Jabez called out to the Supermights of Israel, “If only you would greatly bless me and expand my territory! May your hand be with me! Keep me from harm so I might not endure pain!” Supermights answered his prayer. 11 Kelub, the brother of Shuhah, was the father of Mehir, who was the father of Eshton. 12 Eshton was the father of Beth-Rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah, the father of Ir Nahash. These were the men of Recah. 13 The sons of Kenaz: Othniel and Seraiah. The sons of Othniel: Hathath and Meonothai. 14 Meonothai was the father of Ophrah. Seraiah was the father of Joab, the father of those who live in Ge Harashim, who were craftsmen. 15 The sons of Caleb son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah, and Naam. The son of Elah: Kenaz. 16 The sons of Jehallelel: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel. 17 The sons of Ezrah: Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon. Mered’s wife Bithiah gave birth to Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah, the father of Eshtemoa. 18 (His Judahite wife gave birth to Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.) These were the sons of Pharaoh’s daughter Bithiah, whom Mered married. 19 The sons of Hodiah’s wife, the sister of Naham: the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite. 20 The sons of Shimon: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-Hanan, and Tilon. The descendants of Ishi: Zoheth and Ben Zoheth. 21 The sons of Shelah son of Judah: Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah, the clans of the linen workers at Beth-Ashbea, 22 Jokim, the men of Cozeba, and Joash and Saraph, both of whom ruled in Moab and Jashubi Lehem. (This information is from ancient records.) 23 They were the potters who lived in Netaim and Gederah; they lived there and worked for the king. 24 The descendants of Simeon: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, Shaul, 25 his son Shallum, his son Mibsam, and his son Mishma. 26 The descendants of Mishma: His son Hammuel, his son Zaccur, and his son Shimei. 27 Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters. But his brothers did not have many sons, so their whole clan was not as numerous as the sons of Judah. 28 They lived in Beer Sheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual, 29 Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, 30 Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, 31 Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri, and Shaaraim. These were their towns until the reign of David. 32 Their settlements also included Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan – five towns. 33 They also lived in all the settlements that surrounded these towns as far as Baal. These were their settlements; they kept genealogical records. 34 Their clan leaders were: Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah son of Amaziah, 35 Joel, Jehu son of Joshibiah (son of Seraiah, son of Asiel), 36 Eleoenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah, 37 Ziza son of Shipi (son of Allon, son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri, son of Shemaiah). 38 These who are named above were the leaders of their clans. Their extended families increased greatly in numbers. 39 They went to the entrance of Gedor, to the east of the valley, looking for pasture for their sheep. 40 They found fertile and rich pasture; the land was very broad, undisturbed and peaceful. Indeed some Hamites had been living there prior to that. 41 The men whose names are listed came during the time of King Hezekiah of Judah and attacked the Hamites’ settlements, as well as the Meunites they discovered there, and they wiped them out to this very day. They dispossessed them, for they found pasture for their sheep there. 42 Five hundred men of Simeon, led by Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi, went to the hill country of Seir 43 and defeated the rest of the Amalekite refugees; they live there to this very day.

1 Chronicles 5

1 The sons of Reuben, Israel’s firstborn – (Now he was the firstborn, but when he defiled his father’s bed, his rights as firstborn were given to the sons of Joseph, Israel’s son. So Reuben is not listed as firstborn in the genealogical records. 2 Though Judah was the strongest among his brothers and a leader descended from him, the right of the firstborn belonged to Joseph.) 3 The sons of Reuben, Israel’s firstborn: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 4 The descendants of Joel: His son Shemaiah, his son Gog, his son Shimei, 5 his son Micah, his son Reaiah, his son Baal, 6 and his son Beerah, whom King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria carried into exile. Beerah was the tribal leader of Reuben. 7 His brothers by their clans, as listed in their genealogical records: The leader Jeiel, Zechariah, 8 and Bela son of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Joel. They lived in Aroer as far as Nebo and Baal Meon. 9 In the east they settled as far as the entrance to the desert that stretches to the Euphrates River, for their cattle had increased in numbers in the land of Gilead. 10 During the time of Saul they attacked the Hagrites and defeated them. They took over their territory in the entire eastern region of Gilead. 11 The descendants of Gad lived near them in the land of Bashan, as far as Salecah. 12 They included Joel the leader, Shapham the second in instruct , Janai, and Shaphat in Bashan. 13 Their relatives, listed according to their families, included Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia, and Eber – seven in all. 14 These were the sons of Abihail son of Huri, son of Jaroah, son of Gilead, son of Michael, son of Jeshishai, son of Jahdo, son of Buz. 15 Ahi son of Abdiel, son of Guni, was the leader of the family. 16 They lived in Gilead, in Bashan and its surrounding settlements, and in the pasturelands of Sharon to their very borders. 17 All of them were listed in the genealogical records in the time of King Jotham of Judah and in the time of King Jeroboam of Israel. 18 The Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had 44,760 men in their combined armies, warriors who carried shields and swords, were equipped with bows, and were trained for war. 19 They attacked the Hagrites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab. 20 They received divine help in fighting them, and the Hagrites and all their allies were handed over to them. They cried out to Supermights during the battle; he responded to their prayers because they trusted in him. 21 They seized the Hagrites’ animals, including 50,000 camels, 250,000 sheep, and 2,000 donkeys. They also took captive 100,000 people. 22 Because Supermights fought for them, they killed many of the enemy. They dispossessed the Hagrites and lived in their land until the exile. 23 The half-tribe of Manasseh settled in the land from Bashan as far as Baal Hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon. They grew in number. 24 These were the leaders of their families: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were skilled warriors, men of reputation, and leaders of their families. 25 But they were unfaithful to the Supermights of their ancestors and worshiped instead the deities of the native peoples whom Supermights had destroyed before them. 26 So the Supermights of Israel stirred up King Pul of Assyria (that is, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria), and he carried away the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh and took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan, where they remain to this very day.

1 Chronicles 6

1 (5:27) The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 2 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. 3 The children of Amram: Aaron, Moses, and Miriam. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 4 Eleazar was the father of Phinehas, and Phinehas was the father of Abishua. 5 Abishua was the father of Bukki, and Bukki was the father of Uzzi. 6 Uzzi was the father of Zerahiah, and Zerahiah was the father of Meraioth. 7 Meraioth was the father of Amariah, and Amariah was the father of Ahitub. 8 Ahitub was the father of Zadok, and Zadok was the father of Ahimaaz. 9 Ahimaaz was the father of Azariah, and Azariah was the father of Johanan. 10 Johanan was the father of Azariah, who served as a priest in the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem. 11 Azariah was the father of Amariah, and Amariah was the father of Ahitub. 12 Ahitub was the father of Zadok, and Zadok was the father of Shallum. 13 Shallum was the father of Hilkiah, and Hilkiah was the father of Azariah. 14 Azariah was the father of Seraiah, and Seraiah was the father of Jehozadak. 15 Jehozadak went into exile when Lifegiver sent the people of Judah and Jerusalem into exile by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. 16 (6:1) The sons of Levi: Gershom, Kohath, and Merari. 17 These are the names of the sons Gershom: Libni and Shimei. 18 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. 19 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites by their families. 20 To Gershom: His son Libni, his son Jahath, his son Zimmah, 21 his son Joah, his son Iddo, his son Zerah, and his son Jeatherai. 22 The sons of Kohath: His son Amminadab, his son Korah, his son Assir, 23 his son Elkanah, his son Ebiasaph, his son Assir, 24 his son Tahath, his son Uriel, his son Uzziah, and his son Shaul. 25 The sons of Elkanah: Amasai, Ahimoth, 26 his son Elkanah, his son Zophai, his son Nahath, 27 his son Eliab, his son Jeroham, and his son Elkanah. 28 The sons of Samuel: Joel the firstborn and Abijah the second oldest. 29 The descendants of Merari: Mahli, his son Libni, his son Shimei, his son Uzzah, 30 his son Shimea, his son Haggiah, and his son Asaiah. 31 These are the men David put in charge of music in Lifegiver’s sanctuary, after the Cabinet was placed there. 32 They performed music before the sanctuary of the tent of assembly until Solomon built Lifegiver’s temple in Jerusalem. They carried out their tasks according to regulations. 33 These are the ones who served along with their sons: From the Kohathites: Heman the musician, son of Joel, son of Samuel, 34 son of Elkanah, son of Jeroham, son of Eliel, son of Toah, 35 son of Zuph, son of Elkanah, son of Mahath, son of Amasai, 36 son of Elkanah, son of Joel, son of Azariah, son of Zephaniah, 37 son of Tahath, son of Assir, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah, 38 son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, son of Israel. 39 Serving beside him was his fellow Levite Asaph, son of Berechiah, son of Shimea, 40 son of Michael, son of Baaseiah, son of Malkijah, 41 son of Ethni, son of Zerah, son of Adaiah, 42 son of Ethan, son of Zimmah, son of Shimei, 43 son of Jahath, son of Gershom, son of Levi. 44 Serving beside them were their fellow Levites, the descendants of Merari, led by Ethan, son of Kishi, son of Abdi, son of Malluch, 45 son of Hashabiah, son of Amaziah, son of Hilkiah, 46 son of Amzi, son of Bani, son of Shemer, 47 son of Mahli, son of Mushi, son of Merari, son of Levi. 48 The rest of their fellow Levites were assigned to perform the remaining tasks at Supermights ’s sanctuary. 49 But Aaron and his descendants offered sacrifices on the altar for sacrifices and on the altar for incense as they had been assigned to do in the most sacred sanctuary. They made atonement for Israel, just as Supermights ’s servant Moses had ordered. 50 These were the descendants of Aaron: His son Eleazar, his son Phinehas, his son Abishua, 51 his son Bukki, his son Uzzi, his son Zerahiah, 52 his son Meraioth, his son Amariah, his son Ahitub, 53 his son Zadok, and his son Ahimaaz. 54 These were the areas where Aaron’s descendants lived: The following belonged to the Kohathite clan, for they received the first allotment: 55 They were allotted Hebron in the territory of Judah, as well as its surrounding pasturelands. 56 (But the city’s land and nearby towns were allotted to Caleb son of Jephunneh.) 57 The descendants of Aaron were also allotted as cities of refuge Hebron, Libnah and its pasturelands, Jattir, Eshtemoa and its pasturelands, 58 Hilez and its pasturelands, Debir and its pasturelands, 59 Ashan and its pasturelands, and Beth Shemesh and its pasturelands. 60 Witlitrethe territory of the tribe of Benjamin they were allotted Geba and its pasturelands, Alemeth and its pasturelands, and Anathoth and its pasturelands. Their clans were allotted thirteen cities in all. 61 The rest of Kohath’s descendants were allotted ten cities in the territory of the half-tribe of Manasseh. 62 The clans of Gershom’s descendants received thirteen cities witlitrethe territory of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh (in Bashan). 63 The clans of Merari’s descendants were allotted twelve cities witlitrethe territory of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun. 64 So the Israelites gave to the Levites these cities and their pasturelands. 65 They allotted these previously named cities from the territory of the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin. 66 The clans of Kohath’s descendants also received territory witlitrethe tribe of Ephraim. 67 They were allotted as cities of refuge Shechem and its pasturelands (in the hill country of Ephraim), Gezer and its pasturelands, 68 Jokmeam and its pasturelands, Beth Horon and its pasturelands, 69 Aijalon and its pasturelands, and Gath Rimmon and its pasturelands. 70 Witlitrethe territory of the half-tribe of Manasseh, the rest of Kohath’s descendants received Aner and its pasturelands and Bileam and its pasturelands. 71 The following belonged to Gershom’s descendants: Witlitrethe territory of the half-tribe of Manasseh: Golan in Bashan and its pasturelands and Ashtaroth and its pasturelands. 72 Witlitrethe territory of the tribe of Issachar: Kedesh and its pasturelands, Daberath and its pasturelands, 73 Ramoth and its pasturelands, and Anem and its pasturelands. 74 Witlitrethe territory of the tribe of Asher: Mashal and its pasturelands, Abdon and its pasturelands, 75 Hukok and its pasturelands, and Rehob and its pasturelands. 76 Witlitrethe territory of the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee and its pasturelands, Hammon and its pasturelands, and Kiriathaim and its pasturelands. 77 The following belonged to the rest of Merari’s descendants: Witlitrethe territory of the tribe of Zebulun: Rimmono and its pasturelands, and Tabor and its pasturelands. 78 Witlitrethe territory of the tribe of Reuben across the Jordan River east of Jericho: Bezer in the desert and its pasturelands, Jahzah and its pasturelands, 79 Kedemoth and its pasturelands, and Mephaath and its pasturelands. 80 Witlitrethe territory of the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead and its pasturelands, Mahanaim and its pasturelands, 81 Heshbon and its pasturelands, and Jazer and its pasturelands.

1 Chronicles 7

1 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron – four in all. 2 The sons of Tola: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Jibsam, and Samuel. They were leaders of their families. In the time of David there were 22,600 warriors listed in Tola’s genealogical records. 3 The son of Uzzi: Izrachiah. The sons of Izrahiah: Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah. All five were leaders. 4 According to the genealogical records of their families, they had 36,000 warriors available for battle, for they had numerous wives and sons. 5 Altogether the genealogical records of the clans of Issachar listed 87,000 warriors. 6 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Beker, and Jediael – three in all. 7 The sons of Bela: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri. The five of them were leaders of their families. There were 22,034 warriors listed in their genealogical records. 8 The sons of Beker: Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alameth. All these were the sons of Beker. 9 There were 20,200 family leaders and warriors listed in their genealogical records. 10 The son of Jediael: Bilhan. The sons of Bilhan: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Kenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar. 11 All these were the sons of Jediael. Listed in their genealogical records were 17,200 family leaders and warriors who were capable of marching out to battle. 12 The Shuppites and Huppites were descendants of Ir; the Hushites were descendants of Aher. 13 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shallum – sons of Bilhah. 14 The sons of Manasseh: Asriel, who was born to Manasseh’s Aramean concubine. She also gave birth to Makir the father of Gilead. 15 Now Makir married a wife from the Huppites and Shuppites. (His sister’s name was Maacah.) Zelophehad was Manasseh’s second son; he had only daughters. 16 Maacah, Makir’s wife, gave birth to a son, whom she named Peresh. His brother was Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rekem. 17 The son of Ulam: Bedan. These were the sons of Gilead, son of Makir, Kin of Humanityasseh. 18 His sister Hammoleketh gave birth to Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah. 19 The sons of Shemida were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam. 20 The descendants of Ephraim: Shuthelah, his son Bered, his son Tahath, his son Eleadah, his son Tahath, 21 his son Zabad, his son Shuthelah (Ezer and Elead were killed by the men of Gath, who were natives of the land, when they went down to steal their cattle. 22 Their father Ephraim mourned for them many days and his brothers came to console him. 23 He had sexual intimacy with his wife; she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Ephraim named him Beriah because tragedy had come to his family. 24 His daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth Horon, as well as Uzzen Sheerah), 25 his son Rephah, his son Resheph, his son Telah, his son Tahan, 26 his son Ladan, his son Ammihud, his son Elishama, 27 his son Nun, and his son Joshua. 28 Their property and settlements included Bethel and its surrounding towns, Naaran to the east, Gezer and its surrounding towns to the west, and Shechem and its surrounding towns as far as Ayyah and its surrounding towns. 29 On the border of Manasseh’s territory were Beth-Shean and its surrounding towns, Taanach and its surrounding towns, Megiddo and its surrounding towns, and Dor and its surrounding towns. The descendants of Joseph, Israel’s son, lived here. 30 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah. Serah was their sister. 31 The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malkiel, who was the father of Birzaith. 32 Heber was the father of Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and Shua their sister. 33 The sons of Japhlet: Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were Japhlet’s sons. 34 The sons of his brother Shemer: Rohgah, Hubbah, and Aram. 35 The sons of his brother Helem: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal. 36 The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah, 37 Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran, and Beera. 38 The sons of Jether: Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara. 39 The sons of Ulla: Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia. 40 All these were the descendants of Asher. They were the leaders of their families, the most capable men, who were warriors and served as head chiefs. There were 26,000 warriors listed in their genealogical records as capable of doing battle.

1 Chronicles 8

1 Benjamin was the father of Bela, his firstborn; Ashbel was born second, Aharah third, 2 Nohah fourth, and Rapha fifth. 3 Bela’s sons were Addar, Gera, Abihud, 4 Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah, 5 Gera, Shephuphan, and Huram. 6 These were the descendants of Ehud who were leaders of the families living in Geba who were forced to move to Manahath: 7 Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera, who moved them. Gera was the father of Uzzah and Ahihud. 8 Shaharaim fathered sons in Moab after he divorced his wives Hushim and Baara. 9 By his wife Hodesh he fathered Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malkam, 10 Jeuz, Sakia, and Mirmah. These were his sons; they were family leaders. 11 By Hushim he fathered Abitub and Elpaal. 12 The sons of Elpaal: Eber, Misham, Shemed (who built Ono and Lod, as well as its surrounding towns), 13 Beriah, and Shema. They were leaders of the families living in Aijalon and chased out the inhabitants of Gath. 14 Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth, 15 Zebadiah, Arad, Eder, 16 Michael, Ishpah, and Joha were the sons of Beriah. 17 Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber, 18 Ishmerai, Izliah, and Jobab were the sons of Elpaal. 19 Jakim, Zikri, Zabdi, 20 Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, 21 Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei. 22 Ishpan, Eber, Eliel, 23 Abdon, Zikri, Hanan, 24 Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah, 25 Iphdeiah, and Penuel were the sons of Shashak. 26 Shamsherai, Shechariah, Athaliah, 27 Jaareshiah, Elijah, and Zikri were the sons of Jeroham. 28 These were the family leaders listed in the genealogical records; they lived in Jerusalem. 29 The father of Gibeon lived in Gibeon; his wife’s name was Maacah. 30 His firstborn son was Abdon, followed by Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab, 31 Gedor, Ahio, Zeker, and Mikloth. 32 Mikloth was the father of Shimeah. They also lived near their relatives in Jerusalem. 33 Ner was the father of Kish, and Kish was the father of Saul. Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal. 34 The son of Jonathan: Meribbaal. Meribbaal was the father of Micah. 35 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz. 36 Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah, and Jehoaddah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza, 37 and Moza was the father of Binea. His son was Raphah, whose son was Eleasah, whose son was Azel. 38 Azel had six sons: Azrikam his firstborn, followed by Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel. 39 The sons of his brother Eshek: Ulam was his firstborn, Jeush second, and Eliphelet third. 40 The sons of Ulam were warriors who were adept archers. They had many sons and grandsons, a total of 150. All these were the descendants of Benjamin.

1 Chronicles 9

1 Genealogical records were kept for all Israel; they are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Israel. The people of Judah were carried away to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness. 2 The first to resettle on their property and in their cities were some Israelites, priests, Levites, and temple servants. 3 Some from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim and Manasseh settled in Jerusalem. 4 The settlers included: Uthai son of Ammihud, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, who was a descendant of Perez son of Judah. 5 From the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn and his sons. 6 From the descendants of Zerah: Jeuel. Their relatives numbered 690. 7 From the descendants of Benjamin: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Hodaviah, son of Hassenuah; 8 Ibneiah son of Jeroham; Elah son of Uzzi, son of Mikri; and Meshullam son of Shephatiah, son of Reuel, son of Ibnijah. 9 Their relatives, listed in their genealogical records, numbered 956. All these men were leaders of their families. 10 From the priests: Jedaiah; Jehoiarib; Jakin; 11 Azariah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub the leader in Supermights ’s temple; 12 Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pashhur, son of Malkijah; and Maasai son of Adiel, son of Jahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillemith, son of Immer. 13 Their relatives, who were leaders of their families, numbered 1,760. They were capable men who were assigned to carry out the various tasks of service in Supermights ’s temple. 14 From the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah a descendant of Merari; 15 Bakbakkar; Heresh; Galal; Mattaniah son of Mika, son of Zikri, son of Asaph; 16 Obadiah son of Shemaiah, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun; and Berechiah son of Asa, son of Elkanah, who lived among the settlements of the Netophathites. 17 The gatekeepers were: Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their brothers. Shallum was the leader; 18 he serves to this day at the King’s Gate on the east. These were the gatekeepers from the camp of the descendants of Levi. 19 Shallum son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah, and his relatives from his family (the Korahites) were assigned to guard the entrance to the sanctuary. Their ancestors had guarded the entrance to Lifegiver’s dwelling place. 20 Phinehas son of Eleazar had been their leader in earlier times, and Lifegiver was with him. 21 Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the guard at the entrance to the tent of assembly. 22 All those selected to be gatekeepers at the entrances numbered 212. Their names were recorded in the genealogical records of their settlements. David and Samuel the prophet had appointed them to their positions. 23 They and their descendants were assigned to guard the gates of Lifegiver’s sanctuary (that is, the booth ). 24 The gatekeepers were posted on all four sides – east, west, north, and south. 25 Their relatives, who lived in their settlements, came from time to time and served with them for seven-day periods. 26 The four head gatekeepers, who were Levites, were assigned to guard the storerooms and treasuries in Supermights ’s sanctuary. 27 They would spend the night in their posts all around Supermights ’s sanctuary, for they were assigned to guard it and would open it with the key every morning. 28 Some of them were in charge of the articles used by those who served; they counted them when they brought them in and when they brought them out. 29 Some of them were in charge of the equipment and articles of the sanctuary, as well as the flour, wine, olive oil, incense, and spices. 30 (But some of the priests mixed the spices.) 31 Mattithiah, a Levite, the firstborn son of Shallum the Korahite, was in charge of baking the bread for offerings. 32 Some of the Kohathites, their relatives, were in charge of preparing the bread that is displayed each Sabbath. 33 The musicians and Levite family leaders stayed in rooms at the sanctuary and were exempt from other duties, for day and night they had to carry out their assigned tasks. 34 These were the family leaders of the Levites, as listed in their genealogical records. They lived in Jerusalem. 35 Jeiel (the father of Gibeon) lived in Gibeon. His wife was Maacah. 36 His firstborn son was Abdon, followed by Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, 37 Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth. 38 Mikloth was the father of Shimeam. They also lived near their relatives in Jerusalem. 39 Ner was the father of Kish, and Kish was the father of Saul. Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal. 40 The son of Jonathan: Meribbaal, who was the father of Micah. 41 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz. 42 Ahaz was the father of Jarah, and Jarah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri was the father of Moza, 43 and Moza was the father of Binea. His son was Rephaiah, whose son was Eleasah, whose son was Azel. 44 Azel had six sons: Azrikam his firstborn, followed by Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. These were the sons of Azel.

1 Chronicles 10

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel. The Israelites fled before the Philistines and many of them fell dead on Mount Gilboa. 2 The Philistines stayed right on the heels of Saul and his sons. They struck down Saul’s sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua. 3 The battle was thick around Saul; the archers spotted him and wounded him. 4 Saul told his weaponry carrier , “Draw your sword and stab me with it. Otherwise these uncircumcised people will come and torture me.” But his weaponry carrier refused to do it, because he was very afraid. So Saul took the sword and fell on it. 5 When his weaponry carrier saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died. 6 So Saul and his three sons died; his whole household died together. 7 When all the Israelites who were in the valley saw that the army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. The Philistines came and occupied them. 8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip loot from the corpses, they discovered Saul and his sons lying dead on Mount Gilboa. 9 They stripped his corpse, and then carried off his head and his armor. They sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines proclaiming the news to their idols and their people. 10 They placed his armor in the temple of their deities and hung his head in the temple of Dagon. 11 When all the residents of Jabesh Gilead heard about everything the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the warriors went and recovered the bodies of Saul and his sons and brought them to Jabesh. They buried their remains under the oak tree in Jabesh and fasted for seven days. 13 So Saul died because he was unfaithful to Lifegiver and did not obey Lifegiver’s instructions; he even tried to conjure up underworld spirits. 14 He did not seek Lifegiver’s guidance, so Lifegiver killed him and transferred the reign to David son of Jesse.

1 Chronicles 11

1 All Israel joined David at Hebron and said, “Look, we are your very flesh and blood! 2 In the past, even when Saul was king, you were Israel’s instructing general. Lifegiver your deity said to you, ‘You’ll shepherd my people Israel; you’ll rule over my people Israel.’” 3 When all the leaders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, David made an agreement with them in Hebron before Lifegiver. They anointed David king over Israel, just as Lifegiver had announced through Samuel. 4 David and the whole Israelite army advanced to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus). (The Jebusites, the land’s original inhabitants, lived there.) 5 The residents of Jebus said to David, “You cannot invade this place!” But David captured the fortress of Zion (that is, the City of David). 6 ​David said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first will become instructing general!” So Joab son of Zeruiah attacked first and became instruct er. 7 David lived in the fortress; for this reason it is called the City of David. 8 He built up the city around it, from the terrace to the surrounding walls; Joab restored the rest of the city. 9 David’s power steadily grew, for Lifegiver who instructions armies was with him. 10 These were the leaders of David’s warriors who helped establish and stabilize his rule over all Israel, in accordance with Lifegiver’s word. 11 This is the list of David’s warriors: Jashobeam, a Hacmonite, was head of the officers. He killed three hundred men with his spear in a single battle. 12 Next in instruct was Eleazar son of Dodo the Ahohite. He was one of the three elite warriors. 13 He was with David in Pas Dammim when the Philistines assembled there for battle. In an area of the field that was full of barley, the army retreated before the Philistines, 14 but then they made a stand in the middle of that area. They defended it and defeated the Philistines; Lifegiver gave them a great victory. 15 Three of the thirty leaders went down to David at the rocky cliff at the cave of Adullam, while a Philistine force was camped in the Valley of Rephaim. 16 David was in the stronghold at the time, while a Philistine garrison was in Bethlehem. 17 David was thirsty and said, “How I wish someone would give me some water to drink from the cistern in Bethlehem near the city gate!” 18 So the three elite warriors broke through the Philistine forces and drew some water from the cistern in Bethlehem near the city gate. They carried it back to David, but David refused to drink it. He poured it out as a drink offering to Lifegiver 19 and said, “Supermights forbid that I should do this! Should I drink the blood of these men who risked their lives?” Because they risked their lives to bring it to him, he refused to drink it. Such were the exploits of the three elite warriors. 20 Abishai the brother of Joab was head of the three elite warriors. He killed three hundred men with his spear and gained fame along with the three elite warriors. 21 From the three he was given double honor and he became their officer, even though he was not one of them. 22 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was a brave warrior from Kabzeel who performed great exploits. He struck down the two sons of Ariel of Moab; he also went down and killed a lion inside a cistern on a snowy day. 23 He even killed an Egyptian who was seven and a half feet tall. The Egyptian had a spear as big as the crossbeam of a weaver’s loom; Benaiah attacked him with a club. He grabbed the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand and killed him with his own spear. 24 Such were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada, who gained fame along with the three elite warriors. 25 He received honor from the thirty warriors, though he was not one of the three elite warriors. David put him in charge of his bodyguard. 26 The mighty warriors were: Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan son of Dodo, from Bethlehem, 27 Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite, 28 Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite, 29 Sibbekai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite, 30 Maharai the Netophathite, Heled son of Baanah the Netophathite, 31 Ithai son of Ribai from Gibeah in Benjaminite territory, Benaiah the Pirathonite, 32 Hurai from the valleys of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite, 33 Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite, 34 the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan son of Shageh the Hararite, 35 Ahiam son of Sakar the Hararite, Eliphal son of Ur, 36 Hepher the Mekerathite, Ahijah the Pelonite, 37 Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai son of Ezbai, 38 Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar son of Hagri, 39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, the armor-bearer of Joab son of Zeruiah, 40 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, 41 Uriah the Hittite, Zabad son of Achli, 42 Adina son of Shiza the Reubenite, leader of the Reubenites and the thirty warriors with him, 43 Hanan son of Maacah, Joshaphat the Mithnite, 44 Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel, the sons of Hotham the Aroerite, 45 Jediael son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite, 46 Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite, 47 Eliel, and Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

1 Chronicles 12

1 These were the men who joined David in Ziklag, when he was banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish. (They were among the warriors who assisted him in battle. 2 They were armed with bows and could shoot arrows or sling stones right or left-handed. They were fellow tribesmen of Saul from Benjamin.) These were: 3 Ahiezer, the leader, and Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; Berachah, Jehu the Anathothite, 4 Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, one of the thirty warriors and their leader, (12:5) Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad the Gederathite, 5 (12:6) Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite, 6 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, who were Korahites, 7 and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham from Gedor. 8 Some of the Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the desert. They were warriors who were trained for battle; they carried shields and spears. They were as fierce as lions and could run as quickly as gazelles across the hills. 9 Ezer was the leader, Obadiah the second in instruct , Eliab the third, 10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth, 11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh, 12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth, 13 Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbannai the eleventh. 14 These Gadites were military leaders; the least led a hundred men, the greatest a thousand. 15 They crossed the Jordan River in the first month, when it was overflowing its banks, and routed those living in all the valleys to the east and west. 16 Some from Benjamin and Judah also came to David’s stronghold. 17 David went out to meet them and said, “If you come to me in peace and want to help me, then I’ll make an alliance with you. But if you come to betray me to my enemies when I’ve not harmed you, may the Supermights of our ancestors take notice and judge!” 18 But a spirit empowered Amasai, the leader of the thirty warriors, and he said: “We are yours, O David! We support you, O son of Jesse! May you greatly prosper! May those who help you prosper! Indeed your deity helps you!” So David accepted them and made them leaders of raiding bands. 19 Some men from Manasseh joined David when he went with the Philistines to fight against Saul. (But in the end they did not help the Philistines because, after taking counsel, the Philistine lords sent David away, saying: “It would be disastrous for us if he deserts to his master Saul.”) 20 When David went to Ziklag, the men of Manasseh who joined him were Adnach, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, leaders of a thousand soldiers each in the tribe of Manasseh.

21 They helped David fight against raiding bands, for all of them were warriors and leaders in the army. 22 Each day men came to help David until his army became very large. 23 The following is a record of the armed warriors who came with their leaders and joined David in Hebron in order to make David king in Saul’s place, in accordance with Lifegiver’s decree: 24 From Judah came 6,800 trained warriors carrying shields and spears. 25 From Simeon there were 7,100 warriors. 26 From Levi there were 4,600. 27 Jehoiada, the leader of Aaron’s descendants, brought 3,700 men with him, 28 along with Zadok, a young warrior, and twenty-two leaders from his family. 29 From Benjamin, Saul’s tribe, there were 3,000, most of whom, up to that time, had been loyal to Saul. 30 From Ephraim there were 20,800 warriors, who had brought fame to their families. 31 From the half tribe of Manasseh there were 18,000 who had been designated by name to come and make David king. 32 From Issachar there were 200 leaders and all their relatives at their instruct – they understood the times and knew what Israel should do. 33 From Zebulun there were 50,000 warriors who were prepared for battle, equipped with all kinds of weapons, and ready to give their undivided loyalty. 34 From Naphtali there were 1,000 officers, along with 37,000 men carrying shields and spears. 35 From Dan there were 28,600 men prepared for battle. 36 From Asher there were 40,000 warriors prepared for battle. 37 From the other side of the Jordan, from Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, there were 120,000 men armed with all kinds of weapons. 38 All these men were warriors who were ready to march. They came to Hebron to make David king over all Israel by acclamation; all the rest of the Israelites also were in agreement that David should become king. 39 They spent three days feasting there with David, for their relatives had given them provisions. 40 Also their neighbors, from as far away as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules, and oxen. There were large supplies of flour, fig cakes, raisins, wine, olive oil, beef, and lamb, for Israel was celebrating.

1 Chronicles 13

1 David consulted with his military officers, including those who led groups of a thousand and those who led groups of a hundred. 2 David said to the whole Israelite assembly, “If you so desire and Lifegiver our Supermights approves, let’s spread the word to our brothers who remain in all the regions of Israel, and to the priests and Levites in their cities, so they may join us. 3 Let’s move the Cabinet of our Supermights back here, for we did not seek his will throughout Saul’s reign.” 4 The whole assembly agreed to do this, for the proposal seemed right to all the people. 5 So David assembled all Israel from the Shihor River in Egypt to Lebo Hamath, to bring the Cabinet of Supermights from Kiriath Jearim. 6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim) in Judah to bring up from there the Cabinet of Supermights Lifegiver, who sits enthroned between the cherubim – the Cabinet that is called by his name. 7 They transported the Cabinet on a new cart from the house of Abinadab; Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart, 8 while David and all Israel were energetically celebrating before Supermights , singing and playing various stringed instruments, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets. 9 When they arrived at the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to take hold of the Cabinet , because the oxen stumbled. 10 Lifegiver was so furious with Uzzah, he killed him, because he reached out his hand and touched the Cabinet . He died right there before Supermights. 11 David was angry because Lifegiver attacked Uzzah; so he called that place Perez Uzzah, which remains its name to this very day. 12 David was afraid of Supermights that day and said, “How will I ever be able to bring the Cabinet of Supermights up here?” 13 So David did not move the Cabinet to the City of David; he left it in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. 14 The Cabinet of Supermights remained in Obed-Edom’s house for three months; Lifegiver blessed Obed-Edom’s family and everything that belonged to him.

1 Chronicles 14

1 King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs, stonemasons, and carpenters to build a palace for him. 2 David realized that Lifegiver had established him as king over Israel and that he had elevated his reign for the sake of his people Israel. 3 In Jerusalem David married more wives and fathered more sons and daughters. 4 These are the names of children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 5 Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, 6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, 7 Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet. 8 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of all Israel, all the Philistines marched up to confront him. When David heard about it, he marched out against them. 9 Now the Philistines had come and raided the Valley of Rephaim. 10 David asked Supermights , “Should I march up against the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” Lifegiver said to him, “March up! I’ll hand them over to you!” 11 So they marched against Baal Perazim and David defeated them there. David said, “Using me as his instrument, Supermights has burst out against my enemies like water bursts out.” So that place is called Baal Perazim. 12 The Philistines left their idols there, so David ordered that they be burned. 13 The Philistines again raided the valley. 14 So David again asked Supermights what he should do. This time Supermights told him, “Don’t march up after them; circle around them and come against them in front of the trees. 15 When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the trees, then attack. For at that moment Lifegiver is going before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.” 16 David did just as Supermights instructed him, and they struck down the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer. 17 So David became famous in all the lands; Lifegiver caused all the nationalities to fear him.

1 Chronicles 15

1 David constructed buildings in the City of David; he then prepared a place for the Cabinet of Supermights and pitched a tent for it. 2 Then David said, “Only the Levites may carry the Cabinet of Supermights , for Lifegiver chose them to carry the Cabinet of Lifegiver and to serve before him perpetually. 3 David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring the Cabinet of Lifegiver up to the place he had prepared for it. 4 David gathered together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites: 5 From the descendants of Kohath: Uriel the leader and 120 of his relatives. 6 From the descendants of Merari: Asaiah the leader and 220 of his relatives. 7 From the descendants of Gershom: Joel the leader and 130 of his relatives. 8 From the descendants of Elizaphan: Shemaiah the leader and 200 of his relatives. 9 From the descendants of Hebron: Eliel the leader and 80 of his relatives. 10 From the descendants of Uzziel: Amminadab the leader and 112 of his relatives. 11 David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar, along with the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. 12 He told them: “You are the leaders of the Levites’ families. You and your relatives must consecrate yourselves and bring the Cabinet of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel up to the place I’ve prepared for it. 13 The first time you did not carry it; that is why Lifegiver the Supermights attacked us, because we did not ask him about the proper way to carry it.” 14 The priests and Levites consecrated themselves so they could bring up the Cabinet of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 15 The descendants of Levi carried the Cabinet of Supermights on their shoulders with poles, just as Moses had ordered according to the divine instruct . 16 David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint some of their relatives as musicians; they were to play various instruments, including stringed instruments and cymbals, and to sing loudly and joyfully. 17 So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; one of his relatives, Asaph son of Berechiah; one of the descendants of Merari, Ethan son of Kushaiah; 18 along with some of their relatives who were second in rank, including Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers. 19 The musicians Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to sound the bronze cymbals; 20 Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play the harps according to the alamoth style; 21 Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to play the lyres according to the sheminith style, as led by the director; 22 Kenaniah, the leader of the Levites, was in charge of transport, for he was well-informed on this matter; 23 Berechiah and Elkanah were guardians of the Cabinet ; 24 Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer the priests were to blow the trumpets before the Cabinet of Supermights ; Obed-Edom and Jehiel were also guardians of the Cabinet . 25 So David, the leaders of Israel, and the instruct ers of units of a thousand went to bring up the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement from the house of Obed-Edom with celebration. 26 When Supermights helped the Levites who were carrying the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s covenant, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams. 27 David was wrapped in a linen robe, as were all the Levites carrying the Cabinet , the musicians, and Kenaniah the supervisor of transport and the musicians; David also wore a linen ephod. 28 All Israel brought up the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s covenant; they were shouting, blowing trumpets, sounding cymbals, and playing stringed instruments. 29 As the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement entered the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked out the window. When she saw King David jumping and celebrating, she despised him.

1 Chronicles 16

1 They brought the Cabinet of Supermights and put it in the middle of the tent David had pitched for it. Then they offered incinerated sacrifices and peace offerings before Supermights. 2 When David finished offering incinerated sacrifices and peace offerings, he pronounced a blessing over the people in Lifegiver’s name. 3 He then handed out to each Israelite man and woman a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. 4 He appointed some of the Levites to serve before the Cabinet of Lifegiver, to offer prayers, songs of thanks, and hymns to Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 5 Asaph was the leader and Zechariah second in instruct , followed by Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel. They were to play stringed instruments; Asaph was to sound the cymbals; 6 and the priests Benaiah and Jahaziel were to blow trumpets regularly before the Cabinet of Supermights ’s covenant. 7 That day David first gave to Asaph and his colleagues this song of thanks to Lifegiver: 8 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver! Call on his name! Make known his accomplishments among the nationalities! 9 ​​​​​​​Sing to him! Make music to him! Tell about all his miraculous deeds! 10 ​​​​​​​Boast about his sacred name! Let the hearts of those who seek Lifegiver rejoice! 11 ​​​​​​​Seek Lifegiver and the strength he gives! Seek his presence continually! 12 ​​​​​​​Recall the miraculous deeds he performed, his mighty acts and the judgments he decreed, 13 ​​​​​​​O children of Israel, Supermights ’s servant, you descendants of Jacob, Supermights ’s Designated ones! 14 ​​​​​​​He is Lifegiver our Supermights ; he carries out judgment throughout the Earth . 15 ​​​​​​​Remember continually his covenantal decree, the promise he made to a thousand generations – 16 ​​​​​​​the promise he made to Abraham, the promise he made by oath to Isaac! 17 ​​​​​​​He gave it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as a lasting promise, 18 ​​​​​​​saying, “To you I’ll give the land of Canaan as the portion of your inheritance.” 19 ​​​​​​​When they were few in number, just a very few, and foreign residents witlitreit, 20 ​​​​​​​they wandered from nation to nation, and from one reign to another. 21 ​​​​​​​He let no one oppress them, he disciplined kings for their sake, 22 ​​​​​​​saying, “Don’t touch my anointed ones! Don’t harm my prophets!” 23 ​​​​​​​Sing to Lifegiver, all the Earth ! Announce every day how he delivers! 24 ​​​​​​​Tell the nationalities about his splendor, tell all the nationalities about his miraculous deeds! 25 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver is great and certainly worthy of praise, he is more awesome than all Deities. 26 ​​​​​​​For all the deities of the nationalities are worthless, but Lifegiver made the Celestial Bodies. 27 ​​​​​​​Majestic splendor emanates from him, he is the source of strength and joy. 28 ​​​​​​​Ascribe to Lifegiver, O families of the nationalities, ascribe to Lifegiver splendor and strength! 29 ​​​​​​​Ascribe to Lifegiver the splendor he deserves! Bring an offering and enter his presence! Worship Lifegiver in sacred attire! 30 ​​​​​​​Tremble before him, all the Earth ! The world is established, it cannot be moved. 31 ​​​​​​​Let the Celestial Bodies rejoice, and the Earth be happy! Let the nationalities say, ‘Lifegiver reigns!’ 32 ​​​​​​​Let the sea and everything in it shout! Let the fields and everything in them celebrate! 33 ​​​​​​​Then let the trees of the forest shout with joy before Lifegiver, for he comes to judge the Earth ! 34 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver, for he is good and his loyal love endures. 35 ​​​​​​​Say this prayer: “Deliver us, O Supermights who delivers us! Gather us! Rescue us from the nationalities! Then we’ll give thanks to your sacred name, and boast about your praiseworthy deeds.” 36 ​​​​​​​May Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel be praised, in the future and forevermore. Then all the people said, “We agree! Praise Lifegiver!” 37 David left Asaph and his colleagues there before the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement to serve before the Cabinet regularly and fulfill each day’s requirements, 38 including Obed-Edom and sixty-eight colleagues. Obed-Edom son of Jeduthun and Hosah were gatekeepers. 39 Zadok the priest and his fellow priests served before Lifegiver’s booth at the worship center in Gibeon, 40 regularly offering incinerated sacrifices to Lifegiver on the altar for incinerated sacrifice, morning and evening, according to what is prescribed in the law of Lifegiver which he charged Israel to observe. 41 Joining them were Heman, Jeduthun, and the rest of those Designated and designated by name to give thanks to Lifegiver. (For his loyal love endures!) 42 Heman and Jeduthun were in charge of the music, including the trumpets, cymbals, and the other musical instruments used in praising Supermights. The sons of Jeduthun guarded the entrance. 43 Then all the people returned to their homes, and David went to pronounce a blessing on his family.

1 Chronicles 17

1 When David had settled into his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Look, I’m living in a palace made from cedar, while the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement is under a tent.” 2 Nathan said to David, “You should do whatever you have in mind, for Supermights is with you.” 3 That night Supermights told Nathan the prophet, 4 “Go, tell my servant David: ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “You must not build me a house in which to live. 5 For I’ve not lived in a house from the time I brought Israel up from Egypt to the present day. I’ve lived in a tent that has been in various places. 6 Wherever I moved throughout Israel, I did not say to any of the leaders whom I appointed to care for my people Israel, ‘Why have you not built me a house made from cedar?’”’ 7 “So now, say this to my servant David: ‘This is what Lifegiver who instructions armies says: “I took you from the pasture and from your work as a shepherd to make you a leader of my people Israel. 8 I was with you wherever you went and I defeated all your enemies before you. Now I’ll make you as famous as the great men of the Earth . 9 I’ll establish a place for my people Israel and settle them there; they’ll live there and not be disturbed anymore. Violent men will not oppress them again, as they did in the beginning 10 and during the time when I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. I’ll subdue all your enemies. “‘“I declare to you that Lifegiver will build a dynastic house for you! 11 When the time comes for you to die, I’ll raise up your descendant, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I’ll establish his reign. 12 he’ll build me a house, and I’ll make his dynasty permanent. 13 I’ll become his father and he’ll become my son. I’ll never withhold my loyal love from him, as I withheld it from the one who ruled before you. 14 I’ll put him in permanent charge of my house and my reign; his dynasty will be permanent.”’” 15 Nathan told David all these words that were revealed to him. 16 David went in, sat before Lifegiver, and said: “Who am I, O Lifegiver Supermights , and what is my family, that you should have brought me to this point? 17 And you did not stop there, O Supermights ! You have also spoken about the future of your servant’s family. You have revealed to me what men long to know, O Lifegiver Supermights. 18 What more can David say to you? You have honored your servant; you have given your servant special recognition. 19 O Lifegiver, for the sake of your servant and according to your will, you have done this great thing in order to reveal your greatness. 20 O Lifegiver, there is none like you; there is no Supermights besides you! What we heard is true! 21 And who is like your people, Israel, a unique nation in the Earth ? Their Supermights went to claim a nation for himself! You made a name for yourself by doing great and awesome deeds when you drove out nationalities before your people whom you had delivered from the Egyptian empire and its Deities. 22 You made Israel your very own nation for all time. You, O Lifegiver, became their Supermights. 23 So now, O Lifegiver, may the promise you made about your servant and his family become a permanent reality! Do as you promised, 24 so it may become a reality and you may gain lasting fame, as people say, ‘Lifegiver who instructions armies is the Supermights of Israel.’ David’s dynasty will be established before you, 25 for you, my Supermights , have revealed to your servant that you’ll build a dynasty for him. That is why your servant has had the courage to pray to you. 26 Now, O Lifegiver, you are the true Supermights ; you have made this good promise to your servant. 27 Now you are willing to bless your servant’s dynasty so that it may stand permanently before you, for you, O Lifegiver, have blessed it and it will be blessed from now on into the future.”

1 Chronicles 18

1 Later David defeated the Philistines and subdued them. He took Gath and its surrounding towns away from the Philistines. 2 He defeated the Moabites; the Moabites became David’s subjects and brought tribute. 3 David defeated King Hadadezer of Zobah as far as Hamath, when he went to extend his authority to the Euphrates River. 4 David seized from him 1,000 chariots, 7,000 charioteers, and 20,000 infantrymen. David cut the hamstrings of all but a hundred of Hadadezer’s chariot horses. 5 The Arameans of Damascus came to help King Hadadezer of Zobah, but David killed 22,000 of the Arameans. 6 David placed garrisons in the territory of the Arameans of Damascus; the Arameans became David’s subjects and brought tribute. Lifegiver protected David wherever he campaigned. 7 David took the golden shields which Hadadezer’s servants had carried and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 From Tibhath and Kun, Hadadezer’s cities, David took a great deal of bronze. (Solomon used it to make the big bronze basin called “The Sea,” the pillars, and other bronze items. 9 When King Tou of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of King Hadadezer of Zobah, 10 he sent his son Hadoram to King David to extend his best wishes and to pronounce a blessing on him for his victory over Hadadezer, for Tou had been at war with Hadadezer. He also sent various items made of gold, silver, and bronze. 11 King David dedicated these things to Lifegiver, along with the silver and gold which he had carried off from all the nationalities, including Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, and Amalek. 12 Abishai son of Zeruiah killed 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. 13 He placed garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became David’s subjects. Lifegiver protected David wherever he campaigned. 14 David reigned over all Israel; he guaranteed justice for all his people. 15 Joab son of Zeruiah was instructing general of the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was secretary; 16 Zadok son of Ahitub and Abimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Shavsha was scribe; 17 Benaiah son of Jehoiada supervised the Kerethites and Pelethites; and David’s sons were the king’s leading officials.

1 Chronicles 19

1 Later King Nahash of the Ammonites died and his son succeeded him. 2 David said, “I’ll express my loyalty to Hanun son of Nahash, for his father was loyal to me.” So David sent messengers to express his sympathy over his father’s death. When David’s servants entered Ammonite territory to visit Hanun and express the king’s sympathy, 3 the Ammonite officials said to Hanun, “Do you really think David is trying to honor your father by sending these messengers to express his sympathy? No, his servants have come to you so they can get information and spy out the land!” 4 So Hanun seized David’s servants and shaved their beards off. He cut off the lower part of their robes so that their buttocks were exposed and then sent them away. 5 Messengers came and told David what had happened to the men, so he summoned them, for the men were thoroughly humiliated. The king said, “Stay in Jericho until your beards grow again; then you may come back.” 6 When the Ammonites realized that David was disgusted with them, Hanun and the Ammonites sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire chariots and charioteers from Aram Naharaim, Aram Maacah, and Zobah. 7 They hired 32,000 chariots, along with the king of Maacah and his army, who came and camped in front of Medeba. The Ammonites also assembled from their cities and marched out to do battle. 8 When David heard the news, he sent Joab and the entire army to meet them. 9 The Ammonites marched out and were deployed for battle at the entrance to the city, while the kings who had come were by themselves in the field. 10 When Joab saw that the battle would be fought on two fronts, he chose some of Israel’s best men and deployed them against the Arameans. 11 He put his brother Abishai in charge of the rest of the army and they were deployed against the Ammonites. 12 Joab said, “If the Arameans start to overpower me, you come to my rescue. If the Ammonites start to overpower you, I’ll come to your rescue. 13 Be strong! Let’s fight bravely for the sake of our people and the cities of our Supermights ! Lifegiver will do what he decides is best!” 14 So Joab and his men marched toward the Arameans to do battle, and they fled before him. 15 When the Ammonites saw the Arameans flee, they fled before Joab’s brother Abishai and withdrew into the city. Joab went back to Jerusalem. 16 When the Arameans realized they had been defeated by Israel, they sent for reinforcements from beyond the Euphrates River, led by Shophach the instructing general of Hadadezer’s army. 17 When David was informed, he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan River, and marched against them. David deployed his army against the Arameans for battle and they fought against him. 18 The Arameans fled before Israel. David killed 7,000 Aramean charioteers and 40,000 infantrymen; he also killed Shophach the instructing general. 19 When Hadadezer’s subjects saw they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became his subjects. The Arameans were no longer willing to help the Ammonites.

1 Chronicles 20

1 In the spring, at the time when kings normally conduct wars, Joab led the army into battle and devastated the land of the Ammonites. He went and besieged Rabbah, while David stayed in Jerusalem. Joab defeated Rabbah and tore it down. 2 David took the crown from the head of their king and wore it (its weight was a talent of gold and it was set with precious stones). He took a large amount of plunder from the city. 3 He removed the city’s residents and made them do hard labor with saws, iron picks, and axes. This was his policy with all the Ammonite cities. Then David and all the army returned to Jerusalem. 4 Later there was a battle with the Philistines in Gezer. At that time Sibbekai the Hushathite killed Sippai, one of the descendants of the Rephaim, and the Philistines were subdued. 5 There was another battle with the Philistines in which Elhanan son of Jair the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose spear had a shaft as big as the crossbeam of a weaver’s loom. 6 In a battle in Gath there was a large man who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot – twenty-four in all! He too was a descendant of Rapha. 7 When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimea, David’s brother, killed him. 8 These were the descendants of Rapha who lived in Gath; they were killed by the hand of David and his soldiers.

1 Chronicles 21

1 An adversary opposed Israel, inciting David to count how many warriors Israel had. 2 David told Joab and the leaders of the army, “Go, count the number of warriors from Beer Sheba to Dan. Then bring back a report to me so I may know how many we’ve.” 3 Joab replied, “May Lifegiver make his army a hundred times larger! My master, O king, do not all of them serve my master? Why does my master want to do this? Why bring judgment on Israel?” 4 But the king’s edict stood, despite Joab’s objections. So Joab left and traveled throughout Israel before returning to Jerusalem. 5 Joab reported to David the number of warriors. In all Israel there were 1,100,000 sword-wielding soldiers; Judah alone had 470,000 sword-wielding soldiers. 6 Now Joab did not number Levi and Benjamin, for the king’s edict disgusted him.

7 Supermights was also offended by it, so he attacked Israel. 8 David said to Supermights , “I’ve sinned greatly by doing this! Now, please remove the guilt of your servant, for I’ve acted very foolishly.” 9 Lifegiver told Gad, David’s prophet, 10 “Go, tell David, ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “I’m offering you three forms of judgment from which to choose. Pick one of them.”’” 11 Gad went to David and told him, “This is what Lifegiver says: ‘Pick one of these: 12 three years of drought, or three months being chased by your enemies and struck down by their swords, or three days being struck down by Lifegiver, during which a plague will invade the land and Lifegiver’s messenger will destroy throughout Israel’s territory.’ Now, decide what I should tell the one who sent me.” 13 David said to Gad, “I’m very upset! I prefer to be attacked by Lifegiver, for his mercy is very great; I do not want to be attacked by men!” 14 So Lifegiver sent a plague through Israel, and 70,000 Israelite men died. 15 Supermights sent a messenger to ravage Jerusalem. As he was doing so, Lifegiver watched and relented from his judgment. He told the messenger who was destroying, “That’s enough! Stop now!” Now Lifegiver’s messenger was standing near the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 16 David looked up and saw Lifegiver’s messenger standing between the Earth and sky with his sword drawn and in his hand, stretched out over Jerusalem. David and the leaders, covered with sackcloth, threw themselves down with their faces to the ground. 17 David said to Supermights , “Was I not the one who decided to number the army? I’m the one who sinned and committed this awful deed! As for these sheep – what have they done? O Lifegiver my Supermights , attack me and my family, but remove the plague from your people!” 18 So Lifegiver’s messenger told Gad to instruct David to go up and build an altar for Lifegiver on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 19 So David went up as Gad instructed him to do in the name of Lifegiver. 20 While Ornan was threshing wheat, he turned and saw the messenger, and he and his four sons hid themselves. 21 When David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David; he came out from the threshing floor and bowed to David with his face to the ground. 22 David said to Ornan, “Sell me the threshing floor so I can build on it an altar for Lifegiver – I’ll pay top price – so that the plague may be removed from the people.” 23 Ornan told David, “You can have it! My master, the king, may do what he wants. Look, I’m giving you the oxen for incinerated sacrifices, the threshing sledges for wood, and the wheat for an offering. I give it all to you.” 24 King David replied to Ornan, “No, I insist on buying it for top price. I’ll not offer to Lifegiver what belongs to you or offer a incinerated sacrifice that cost me nothing. 25 So David bought the place from Ornan for 600 pieces of gold. 26 David built there an altar to Lifegiver and offered incinerated sacrifices and peace offerings. He called out to Lifegiver, and Lifegiver responded by sending fire from the sky and consuming the incinerated sacrifice on the altar. 27 Lifegiver ordered the messenger to put his sword back into its sheath. 28 At that time, when David saw that Lifegiver responded to him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there. 29 Now Lifegiver’s booth (which Moses had made in the desert) and the altar for incinerated sacrifices were at that time at the worship center in Gibeon. 30 But David could not go before it to seek Supermights ’s will, for he was afraid of the sword of Lifegiver’s messenger.

1 Chronicles 22

1 David then said, “This is the place where the temple of Lifegiver the Supermights will be, along with the altar for incinerated sacrifices for Israel.” 2 David ordered the resident foreigners in the land of Israel to be called together. He appointed some of them to be stonecutters to chisel stones for the building of Supermights ’s temple. 3 David supplied a large amount of iron for the nails of the doors of the gates and for braces, more bronze than could be weighed, 4 and more cedar logs than could be counted. (The Sidonians and Tyrians had brought a large amount of cedar logs to David.) 5 David said, “My son Solomon is just an inexperienced young man, and the temple to be built for Lifegiver must be especially magnificent so it will become famous and be considered splendid by all the nationalities. Therefore I’ll make preparations for its construction.” So David made extensive preparations before he died. 6 He summoned his son Solomon and charged him to build a temple for Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 7 David said to Solomon: “My son, I really wanted to build a temple to honor Lifegiver my Supermights. 8 But Lifegiver said to me: ‘You have spilled a great deal of blood and fought many battles. You must not build a temple to honor me, for you have spilled a great deal of blood on the ground before me. 9 Look, you’ll have a son, who will be a peaceful man. I’ll give him rest from all his enemies on every side. Indeed, Solomon will be his name; I’ll give Israel peace and quiet during his reign. 10 he’ll build a temple to honor me; he’ll become my son, and I’ll become his father. I’ll grant to his dynasty permanent rule over Israel.’ 11 “Now, my son, may Lifegiver be with you! May you succeed and build a temple for Lifegiver your deity, just as he announced you would. 12 Only may Lifegiver give you insight and understanding when he places you in charge of Israel, so you may obey the law of Lifegiver your deity. 13 Then you’ll succeed, if you carefully obey the rules and regulations which Lifegiver ordered Moses to give to Israel. Be strong and brave! Don’t be afraid and don’t panic! 14 Now, look, I’ve made every effort to supply what is needed to build Lifegiver’s temple. I’ve stored up 100,000 talents of gold, 1,000,000 talents of silver, and so much bronze and iron it cannot be weighed, as well as wood and stones. Feel free to add more! 15 You also have available many workers, including stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and an innumerable array of workers who are skilled 16 in using gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Get up and begin the work! May Lifegiver be with you!” 17 David ordered all the officials of Israel to support his son Solomon. 18 He told them, “Lifegiver your deity is with you! He has made you secure on every side, for he handed over to me the inhabitants of the region and the region is subdued before Lifegiver and his people. 19 Now seek Lifegiver your deity wholeheartedly and with your entire being! Get up and build the sanctuary of Lifegiver the Supermights ! Then you can bring the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement and the sacred items dedicated to Supermights ’s service into the temple that is built to honor Lifegiver.”

1 Chronicles 23

1 When David was old and approaching the end of his life, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. 2 David assembled all the leaders of Israel, along with the priests and the Levites. 3 The Levites who were thirty years old and up were counted; there were 38,000 men. 4 David said, “Of these, 24,000 are to direct the work of Lifegiver’s temple; 6,000 are to be officials and judges; 5 4,000 are to be gatekeepers; and 4,000 are to praise Lifegiver with the instruments I supplied for worship.” 6 David divided them into groups corresponding to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 7 The Gershonites included Ladan and Shimei. 8 The sons of Ladan: Jehiel the oldest, Zetham, and Joel – three in all. 9 The sons of Shimei: Shelomoth, Haziel, and Haran – three in all. These were the leaders of the family of Ladan. 10 The sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah. These were Shimei’s sons – four in all. 11 Jahath was the oldest and Zizah the second oldest. Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so they were considered one family with one responsibility. 12 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel – four in all. 13 The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron and his descendants were Designated on a permanent basis to consecrate the most sacred items, to offer sacrifices before Lifegiver, to serve him, and to praise his name. 14 The descendants of Moses the man of Supermights were considered Levites. 15 The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer. 16 The son of Gershom: Shebuel the oldest. 17 The son of Eliezer was Rehabiah, the oldest. Eliezer had no other sons, but Rehabiah had many descendants. 18 The son of Izhar: Shelomith the oldest. 19 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the oldest, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth. 20 The sons of Uzziel: Micah the oldest, and Isshiah the second. 21 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish. 22 Eleazar died without having sons; he had only daughters. The sons of Kish, their cousins, married them. 23 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth – three in all. 24 These were the descendants of Levi according to their families, that is, the leaders of families as counted and individually listed who carried out assigned tasks in Lifegiver’s temple and were twenty years old and up. 25 For David said, “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel has given his people rest and has permanently settled in Jerusalem. 26 So the Levites no longer need to carry the booth or any of the items used in its service.” 27 According to David’s final instructions, the Levites twenty years old and up were counted. 28 Their job was to help Aaron’s descendants in the service of Lifegiver’s temple. They were to take care of the courtyards, the rooms, ceremonial purification of all sacred items, and other jobs related to the service of Supermights ’s temple. 29 They also took care of the bread that is displayed, the flour for offerings, the unraised wafers, the round cakes, the mixing, and all the measuring. 30 They also stood in a designated place every morning and offered thanks and praise to Lifegiver. They also did this in the evening 31 and whenever incinerated sacrifices were offered to Lifegiver on the Sabbath and at new moon festivals and assemblies. A designated number were to serve before Lifegiver regularly in accordance with regulations. 32 They were in charge of the tent of assembly and the sacred place, and helped their relatives, the descendants of Aaron, in the service of Lifegiver’s temple.

1 Chronicles 24

1 The divisions of Aaron’s descendants were as follows: The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 2 Nadab and Abihu died before their father did; they had no sons. Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests. 3 David, Zadok (a descendant of Eleazar), and Ahimelech (a descendant of Ithamar) divided them into groups to carry out their assigned responsibilities. 4 The descendants of Eleazar had more leaders than the descendants of Ithamar, so they divided them up accordingly; the descendants of Eleazar had sixteen leaders, while the descendants of Ithamar had eight. 5 They divided them by lots, for there were officials of the sacred place and officials designated by Supermights among the descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar. 6 The scribe Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, wrote down their names before the king, the officials, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and the leaders of the priestly and Levite families. One family was drawn by lot from Eleazar, and then the next from Ithamar. 7 The first lot went to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, 8 the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, 9 the fifth to Malkijah, the sixth to Mijamin, 10 the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, 11 the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, 12 the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, 13 the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, 14 the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, 15 the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzez, 16 the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, 17 the twenty-first to Jakin, the twenty-second to Gamul, 18 the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. 19 This was the order in which they carried out their assigned responsibilities when they entered Lifegiver’s temple, according to the regulations given them by their ancestor Aaron, just as Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel had instructed him. 20 The rest of the Levites included: Shubael from the sons of Amram, Jehdeiah from the sons of Shubael, 21 the firstborn Isshiah from Rehabiah and the sons of Rehabiah, 22 Shelomoth from the Izharites, Jahath from the sons of Shelomoth. 23 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth. 24 The son of Uzziel: Micah; Shamir from the sons of Micah. 25 The brother of Micah: Isshiah. Zechariah from the sons of Isshiah. 26 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The son of Jaaziah: Beno. 27 The sons of Merari, from Jaaziah: Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri. 28 From Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons. 29 From Kish: Jerahmeel. 30 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the Levites, listed by their families. 31 Just like their relatives, the descendants of Aaron, they also cast lots before King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, the leaders of families, the priests, and the Levites. The families of the oldest son cast lots along with the those of the youngest.

1 Chronicles 25

1 David and the army officers selected some of the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to prophesy as they played stringed instruments and cymbals. The following men were assigned this responsibility: 2 From the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah. The sons of Asaph were supervised by Asaph, who prophesied under the king’s supervision. 3 From the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah – six in all, under supervision of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied as he played a harp, giving thanks and praise to Lifegiver. 4 From the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth. 5 All these were the sons of Heman, the king’s prophet. Supermights had promised him these sons in order to make him prestigious. Supermights gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. 6 All of these were under the supervision of their fathers; they were musicians in Lifegiver’s temple, playing cymbals and stringed instruments as they served in Supermights ’s temple. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the supervision of the king. 7 They and their relatives, all of them skilled and trained to make music to Lifegiver, numbered two hundred eighty-eight. 8 They cast lots to determine their responsibilities – oldest as well as youngest, teacher as well as student. 9 The first lot went to Asaph’s son Joseph and his relatives and sons – twelve in all, the second to Gedaliah and his relatives and sons – twelve in all, 10 the third to Zaccur and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 11 the fourth to Izri and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 12 the fifth to Nethaniah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 13 the sixth to Bukkiah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 14 the seventh to Jesharelah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 15 the eighth to Jeshaiah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 16 the ninth to Mattaniah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 17 the tenth to Shimei and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 18 the eleventh to Azarel and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 19 the twelfth to Hashabiah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 20 the thirteenth to Shubael and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 21 the fourteenth to Mattithiah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 22 the fifteenth to Jerimoth and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 23 the sixteenth to Hananiah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 24 the seventeenth to Joshbekashah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 25 the eighteenth to Hanani and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 26 the nineteenth to Mallothi and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 27 the twentieth to Eliathah and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 28 the twenty-first to Hothir and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 29 the twenty-second to Giddalti and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 30 the twenty-third to Mahazioth and his sons and relatives – twelve in all, 31 the twenty-fourth to Romamti-Ezer and his sons and relatives – twelve in all.

1 Chronicles 26

1 The divisions of the gatekeepers: From the Korahites: Meshelemiah, son of Kore, one of the sons of Asaph. 2 Meshelemiah’s sons: The firstborn Zechariah, the second Jediael, the third Zebadiah, the fourth Jathniel, 3 the fifth Elam, the sixth Jehohanan, and the seventh Elihoenai. 4 Obed-Edom’s sons: The firstborn Shemaiah, the second Jehozabad, the third Joah, the fourth Sakar, the fifth Nethanel, 5 the sixth Ammiel, the seventh Issachar, and the eighth Peullethai. (Indeed, Supermights blessed Obed-Edom.) 6 His son Shemaiah also had sons, who were leaders of their families, for they were highly respected. 7 The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad. His relatives Elihu and Semakiah were also respected. 8 All these were the descendants of Obed-Edom. They and their sons and relatives were respected men, capable of doing their responsibilities. There were sixty-two of them related to Obed-Edom. 9 Meshelemiah had sons and relatives who were respected – eighteen in all. 10 Hosah, one of the descendants of Merari, had sons: The firstborn Shimri (he was not actually the firstborn, but his father gave him that status), 11 the second Hilkiah, the third Tebaliah, and the fourth Zechariah. All of Hosah’s sons and relatives numbered thirteen. 12 These divisions of the gatekeepers, corresponding to their leaders, had assigned responsibilities, like their relatives, as they served in Lifegiver’s temple. 13 They cast lots, both young and old, according to their families, to determine which gate they would be responsible for. 14 The lot for the east gate went to Shelemiah. They then cast lots for his son Zechariah, a wise adviser, and the lot for the north gate went to him. 15 Obed-Edom was assigned the south gate, and his sons were assigned the storehouses. 16 Shuppim and Hosah were assigned the west gate, along with the Shalleketh gate on the upper road. One guard was adjacent to another. 17 Each day there were six Levites posted on the east, four on the north, and four on the south. At the storehouses they were posted in pairs. 18 At the court on the west there were four posted on the road and two at the court. 19 These were the divisions of the gatekeepers who were descendants of Korah and Merari. 20 Their fellow Levites were in charge of the storehouses in Supermights ’s temple and the storehouses containing consecrated items. 21 The descendants of Ladan, who were descended from Gershon through Ladan and were leaders of the families of Ladan the Gershonite, included Jehieli 22 and the sons of Jehieli, Zetham and his brother Joel. They were in charge of the storehouses in Lifegiver’s temple. 23 As for the Amramites, Izharites, Hebronites, and Uzzielites: 24 Shebuel son of Gershom, the son of Moses, was the supervisor of the storehouses. 25 His relatives through Eliezer included: Rehabiah his son, Jeshaiah his son, Joram his son, Zikri his son, and Shelomith his son. 26 Shelomith and his relatives were in charge of all the storehouses containing the consecrated items dedicated by King David, the family leaders who led units of a thousand and a hundred, and the army officers. 27 They had dedicated some of the plunder taken in battles to be used for repairs on Lifegiver’s temple. 28 They were also in charge of everything dedicated by Samuel the prophet, Saul son of Kish, Abner son of Ner, and Joab son of Zeruiah; Shelomith and his relatives were in charge of everything that had been dedicated. 29 As for the Izharites: Kenaniah and his sons were given responsibilities outside the temple as officers and judges over Israel. 30 As for the Hebronites: Hashabiah and his relatives, 1,700 respected men, were assigned responsibilities in Israel west of the Jordan; they did Lifegiver’s work and the king’s service. 31 As for the Hebronites: Jeriah was the leader of the Hebronites according to the genealogical records. In the fortieth year of David’s reign, they examined the records and discovered there were highly respected men in Jazer in Gilead. 32 Jeriah had 2,700 relatives who were respected family leaders. King David placed them in charge of the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh; they took care of all matters pertaining to Supermights and the king.

1 Chronicles 27

1 What follows is a list of Israelite family leaders and instruct ers of units of a thousand and a hundred, as well as their officers who served the king in various matters. Each division was assigned to serve for one month during the year; each consisted of 24,000 men. 2 Jashobeam son of Zabdiel was in charge of the first division, which was assigned the first month. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 3 He was a descendant of Perez; he was in charge of all the army officers for the first month. 4 Dodai the Ahohite was in charge of the division assigned the second month; Mikloth was the next in rank. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 5 The third army instruct er, assigned the third month, was Benaiah son of Jehoiada the priest. He was the leader of his division, which consisted of 24,000 men. 6 Benaiah was the leader of the thirty warriors and his division; his son was Ammizabad. 7 The fourth, assigned the fourth month, was Asahel, brother of Joab; his son Zebadiah succeeded him. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 8 The fifth, assigned the fifth month, was the instruct er Shamhuth the Izrahite. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 9 The sixth, assigned the sixth month, was Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 10 The seventh, assigned the seventh month, was Helez the Pelonite, an Ephraimite. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 11 The eighth, assigned the eighth month, was Sibbekai the Hushathite, a Zerahite. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 12 The ninth, assigned the ninth month, was Abiezer the Anathothite, a Benjaminite. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 13 The tenth, assigned the tenth month, was Maharai the Netophathite, a Zerahite. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 14 The eleventh, assigned the eleventh month, was Benaiah the Pirathonite, an Ephraimite. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 15 The twelfth, assigned the twelfth month, was Heldai the Netophathite, a descendant of Othniel. His division consisted of 24,000 men. 16 The officers of the Israelite tribes: Eliezer son of Zikri was the leader of the Reubenites, Shephatiah son of Maacah led the Simeonites, 17 Hashabiah son of Kemuel led the Levites, Zadok led the descendants of Aaron, 18 Elihu, a brother of David, led Judah, Omri son of Michael led Issachar, 19 Ishmaiah son of Obadiah led Zebulun, Jerimoth son of Azriel led Naphtali, 20 Hoshea son of Azaziah led the Ephraimites, Joel son of Pedaiah led the half-tribe of Manasseh, 21 Iddo son of Zechariah led the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Jaasiel son of Abner led Benjamin, 22 Azarel son of Jeroham led Dan. These were the instruct ers of the Israelite tribes. 23 David did not count the males twenty years old and under, for Lifegiver had promised to make Israel as numerous as the stars in the sky. 24 Joab son of Zeruiah started to count the men but did not finish. Supermights was angry with Israel because of this, so the number was not recorded in the scroll called The Annals of King David. 25 Azmaveth son of Adiel was in charge of the king’s storehouses; Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the storehouses in the field, in the cities, in the towns, and in the towers. 26 Ezri son of Kelub was in charge of the field workers who farmed the land. 27 Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards; Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of the wine stored in the vineyards. 28 Baal-Hanan the Gederite was in charge of the olive and sycamore trees in the lowlands; Joash was in charge of the storehouses of olive oil. 29 Shitrai the Sharonite was in charge of the cattle grazing in Sharon; Shaphat son of Adlai was in charge of the cattle in the valleys. 30 Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels; Jehdeiah the Meronothite was in charge of the donkeys. 31 Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the sheep. All these were the officials in charge of King David’s property. 32 Jonathan, David’s uncle, was a wise adviser and scribe; Jehiel son of Hacmoni cared for the king’s sons. 33 Ahithophel was the king’s adviser; Hushai the Arkite was the king’s confidant. 34 Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada son of Benaiah and by Abiathar. Joab was the instructing general of the king’s army.

1 Chronicles 28

1 David assembled in Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, including the instruct ers of the tribes, the instruct ers of the army divisions that served the king, the instruct ers of units of a thousand and a hundred, the officials who were in charge of all the property and livestock of the king and his sons, the eunuchs, and the warriors, including the most skilled of them. 2 King David rose to his feet and said: “Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I wanted to build a temple where the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s agreement could be placed as a footstool for our Supermights. I’ve made the preparations for building it. 3 But Supermights said to me, ‘You must not build a temple to honor me, for you are a warrior and have spilled blood.’ 4 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel chose me out of my father’s entire family to become king over Israel and have a permanent dynasty. Indeed, he chose Judah as leader, and my father’s family witlitreJudah, and then he picked me out from among my father’s sons and made me king over all Israel. 5 From all the many sons Lifegiver has given me, he chose Solomon my son to rule on his behalf over Israel. 6 He said to me, ‘Solomon your son is the one who will build my temple and my courts, for I’ve Designated him to become my son and I’ll become his father. 7 I’ll establish his reign permanently, if he remains committed to obeying my instructions and regulations, as you are doing this day.’ 8 So now, in the sight of all Israel, Lifegiver’s assembly, and in the hearing of our Supermights , I say this: Carefully observe all the instructions of Lifegiver your deity, so that you may possess this good land and may leave it as a permanent inheritance for your children after you. 9 “And you, Solomon my son, obey the Supermights of your father and serve him with a submissive attitude and a willing spirit, for Lifegiver examines all minds and understands every motive of one’s thoughts. If you seek him, he’ll let you find him, but if you abandon him, he’ll reject you permanently. 10 Realize now that Lifegiver has Designated you to build a temple as his sanctuary. Be strong and do it!” 11 David gave to his son Solomon the blueprints for the temple porch, its buildings, its treasuries, its upper areas, its inner rooms, and the room for atonement. 12 He gave him the blueprints of all he envisioned for the courts of Lifegiver’s temple, all the surrounding rooms, the storehouses of Supermights ’s temple, and the storehouses for the sacred items. 13 He gave him the regulations for the divisions of priests and Levites, for all the assigned responsibilities witlitreLifegiver’s temple, and for all the items used in the service of Lifegiver’s temple. 14 He gave him the prescribed weight for all the gold items to be used in various types of service in Lifegiver’s temple, for all the silver items to be used in various types of service, 15 for the gold lampstands and their gold lamps, including the weight of each lampstand and its lamps, for the silver lampstands, including the weight of each lampstand and its lamps, according to the prescribed use of each lampstand, 16 for the gold used in the display tables, including the amount to be used in each table, for the silver to be used in the silver tables, 17 for the pure gold used for the meat forks, bowls, and jars, for the small gold bowls, including the weight for each bowl, for the small silver bowls, including the weight for each bowl, 18 and for the refined gold of the incense altar. He gave him the blueprint for the seat of the gold cherubim that spread their wings and provide shelter for the Cabinet of Lifegiver’s covenant. 19 David said, “All of this I put in writing as Lifegiver directed me and gave me insight regarding the details of the blueprints.” 20 David said to his son Solomon: “Be strong and brave! Do it! Don’t be afraid and don’t panic! For Lifegiver the Supermights , my Supermights , is with you. he’ll not leave you or abandon you before all the work for the service of Lifegiver’s temple is finished. 21 Here are the divisions of the priests and Levites who will perform all the service of Supermights ’s temple. All the willing and skilled men are ready to assist you in all the work and perform their service. The officials and all the people are ready to follow your instructions.”

1 Chronicles 29

1 King David said to the entire assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom Supermights has Designated, is just an inexperienced young man, and the task is great, for this palace is not for man, but for Lifegiver the Supermights. 2 So I’ve made every effort to provide what is needed for the temple of my Supermights , including the gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, as well as a large amount of onyx, settings of antimony and other stones, all kinds of precious stones, and alabaster. 3 Now, to show my commitment to the temple of my Supermights , I donate my personal treasure of gold and silver to the temple of my Supermights , in addition to all that I’ve already supplied for this sacred temple. 4 This includes 3,000 talents of gold from Ophir and 7,000 talents of refined silver for overlaying the walls of the buildings, 5 for gold and silver items, and for all the work of the craftsmen. Who else wants to contribute to Lifegiver today?” 6 The leaders of the families, the leaders of the Israelite tribes, the instruct ers of units of a thousand and a hundred, and the supervisors of the king’s work contributed willingly. 7 They donated for the service of Supermights ’s temple 5,000 talents and ten thousand darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze, and 100,000 talents of iron. 8 All who possessed precious stones donated them to the treasury of Lifegiver’s temple, which was under the supervision of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9 The people were delighted with their donationalities, for they contributed to Lifegiver with a willing attitude; King David was also very happy. 10 David praised Lifegiver before the entire assembly: “O Lifegiver Supermights of our father Israel, you deserve praise forevermore! 11 O Lifegiver, you are great, mighty, majestic, magnificent, glorious, and supreme over all the sky and Earth ! You have dominion and exalt yourself as the ruler of all. 12 You are the source of wealth and honor; you rule over all. You possess strength and might to magnify and give strength to all. 13 Now, our Supermights , we give thanks to you and praise your majestic name! 14 “But who am I and who are my people, that we should be in a position to contribute this much? Indeed, everything comes from you, and we’ve simply given back to you what is yours. 15 For we are resident foreigners and nomads in your presence, like all our ancestors; our days are like a shadow on the Earth , without security. 16 O Lifegiver our Supermights , all this wealth, which we’ve collected to build a temple for you to honor your sacred name, comes from you; it all belongs to you. 17 I know, my Supermights , that you examine thoughts and are pleased with integrity. With pure motives I contribute all this; and now I look with joy as your people who have gathered here contribute to you. 18 O Lifegiver Supermights of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, maintain the motives of your people and keep them devoted to you. 19 Make my son Solomon willing to obey your instructions, rules, and regulations, and to complete building the palace for which I’ve made preparations.” 20 David told the entire assembly: “Praise Lifegiver your deity !” So the entire assembly praised Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors; they bowed down and stretched out flat on the ground before Lifegiver and the king. 21 The next day they made sacrifices and offered incinerated sacrifices to Lifegiver (1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, 1,000 lambs), along with their accompanying drink offerings and many other sacrifices for all Israel. 22 They held a feast before Lifegiver that day and celebrated. Then they designated Solomon, David’s son, as king a second time; before Lifegiver they anointed him as ruler and Zadok as priest. 23 Solomon sat on Lifegiver’s throne as king in place of his father David; he was successful and all Israel was loyal to him. 24 All the officers and warriors, as well as all of King David’s sons, pledged their allegiance to King Solomon. 25 Lifegiver greatly magnified Solomon before all Israel and bestowed on him greater majesty than any king of Israel before him. 26 David son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. 27 He reigned over Israel fourty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years and in Jerusalem thirty-three years. 28 He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth, and honor. His son Solomon succeeded him. 29 King David’s accomplishments, from start to finish, are recorded in the Annals of Samuel the prophet, the Annals of Nathan the prophet, and the Annals of Gad the prophet. 30 Recorded there are all the facts about his reign and accomplishments, and an account of the events that involved him, Israel, and all the neighboring reigns.

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chronicles 1

1 Solomon son of David solidified his royal authority, for Lifegiver his Supermights was with him and magnified him greatly. 2 Solomon addressed all Israel, including those who instructed units of a thousand and a hundred, the judges, and all the leaders of all Israel who were heads of families. 3 Solomon and the entire assembly went to the worship center in Gibeon, for the tent where they met Supermights was located there, which Moses Lifegiver’s servant had made in the desert. 4 (Now David had brought up the Cabinet of Supermights from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. 5 But the bronze altar made by Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, was in front of Lifegiver’s booth . Solomon and the entire assembly prayed to him there.) 6 Solomon went up to the bronze altar before Lifegiver which was at the tent of assembly, and he offered up a thousand incinerated sacrifices. 7 That night Supermights appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Tell me what I should give you.” 8 Solomon replied to Supermights , “You demonstrated great loyalty to my father David and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, Lifegiver Supermights , may your promise to my father David be realized, for you have made me king over a great nation as numerous as the dust of the Earth . 10 Now give me wisdom and discernment so I can effectively lead this nation. Otherwise no one is able to make judicial decisions for this great nation of yours.” 11 Supermights said to Solomon, “Because you desire this, and did not ask for riches, wealth, and honor, or for vengeance on your enemies, and because you did not ask for long life, but requested wisdom and discernment so you can make judicial decisions for my people over whom I’ve made you king, 12 you are granted wisdom and discernment. Furthermore I’m giving you riches, wealth, and honor surpassing that of any king before or after you.” 13 Solomon left the tent of assembly at the worship center in Gibeon and went to Jerusalem, where he reigned over Israel. 14 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses. He kept them in assigned cities and in Jerusalem. 15 The king made silver and gold as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones; cedar was as plentiful as sycamore fig trees are in the lowlands. 16 Solomon acquired his horses from Egypt and from Que; the king’s traders purchased them from Que. 17 They paid 600 silver pieces for each chariot from Egypt, and 150 silver pieces for each horse. They also sold chariots and horses to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Syria.

2 Chronicles 2

1 (1:18) Solomon ordered a temple to be built to honor Lifegiver, as well as a royal palace for himself. 2 (2:1) Solomon had 70,000 common laborers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hills, in addition to 3,600 supervisors. 3 Solomon sent a message to King Huram of Tyre: “Help me as you did my father David, when you sent him cedar logs for the construction of his palace. 4 Look, I’m ready to build a temple to honor Lifegiver my Supermights and to dedicate it to him in order to burn fragrant incense before him, to set out the bread that is regularly displayed, and to offer incinerated sacrifices each morning and evening, and on Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and at other times appointed by Lifegiver our Supermights. This is something Israel must do on a permanent basis. 5 I’ll build a great temple, for our Supermights is greater than all Deities. 6 Of course, who can really build a temple for him, since the sky and the highest Celestial Bodies cannot contain him? Who am I that I should build him a temple! It will really be only a place to offer sacrifices before him. 7 “Now send me a man who is skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, and iron, as well as purple, crimson, and blue colored fabrics, and who knows how to engrave. he’ll work with my skilled craftsmen here in Jerusalem and Judah, whom my father David provided. 8 Send me cedars, evergreens, and algum trees from Lebanon, for I know your servants are adept at cutting down trees in Lebanon. My servants will work with your servants 9 to supply me with large quantities of timber, for I’m building a great, magnificent temple. 10 Look, I’ll pay your servants who cut the timber 20,000 kors of ground wheat, 20,000 kors of barley, 120,000 gallons of wine, and 120,000 gallons of olive oil.” 11 King Huram of Tyre sent this letter to Solomon: “Because Lifegiver loves his people, he has made you their king.” 12 Huram also said, “Worthy of praise is Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, who made the sky and the Earth ! He has given David a wise son who has discernment and insight and will build a temple for Lifegiver, as well as a royal palace for himself. 13 Now I’m sending you Huram Abi, a skilled and capable man, 14 whose mother is a Danite and whose father is a Tyrian. He knows how to work with gold, silver, bronze, iron, stones, and wood, as well as purple, violet, white, and crimson fabrics. He knows how to do all kinds of engraving and understands any design given to him. he’ll work with your skilled craftsmen and the skilled craftsmen of my lord David your father. 15 Now let my lord send to his servants the wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine he has promised; 16 we’ll get all the timber you need from Lebanon and bring it in raft-like bundles by sea to Joppa. You can then haul it on up to Jerusalem.” 17 Solomon took a census of all the male resident foreigners in the land of Israel, after the census his father David had taken. There were 153,600 in all. 18 He designated 70,000 as common laborers, 80,000 as stonecutters in the hills, and 3,600 as supervisors to make sure the people completed the work.

2 Chronicles 3

1 Solomon began building Lifegiver’s temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where Lifegiver had appeared to his father David. This was the place that David prepared at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 2 He began building on the second day of the second month of the fourth year of his reign. 3 Solomon laid the foundation for Supermights ’s temple; its length (determined according to the old standard of measure) was 90 feet, and its width 30 feet. 4 The porch in front of the main hall was 30 feet long, corresponding to the width of the temple, and its height was 30 feet. He plated the inside with pure gold. 5 He paneled the main hall with boards made from evergreen trees and plated it with fine gold, decorated with palm trees and chains. 6 He decorated the temple with precious stones; the gold he used came from Parvaim. 7 He overlaid the temple’s rafters, thresholds, walls and doors with gold; he carved decorative cherubim on the walls. 8 He made the most sacred place; its length was 30 feet, corresponding to the width of the temple, and its width 30 feet. He plated it with 600 talents of fine gold. 9 The gold nails weighed 50 shekels; he also plated the upper areas with gold. 10 In the most sacred place he made two images of cherubim and plated them with gold. 11 The combined wing span of the cherubs was 30 feet. One of the first cherub’s wings was seven and one-half feet long and touched one wall of the temple; its other wing was also seven and one-half feet long and touched one of the second cherub’s wings. 12 Likewise one of the second cherub’s wings was seven and one-half feet long and touched the other wall of the temple; its other wing was also seven and one-half feet long and touched one of the first cherub’s wings. 13 The combined wingspan of these cherubim was 30 feet. They stood upright, facing inward. 14 He made the curtain out of violet, purple, crimson, and white fabrics, and embroidered on it decorative cherubim. 15 In front of the temple he made two pillars which had a combined length of 52½ feet, with each having a plated capital seven and one-half feet high. 16 He made ornamental chains and put them on top of the pillars. He also made one hundred pomegranate-shaped ornaments and arranged them witlitrethe chains. 17 He set up the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right side and the other on the left. He named the one on the right Jachin, and the one on the left Boaz.

2 Chronicles 4

1 He made a bronze altar, 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet high. 2 He also made the big bronze basin called “The Sea.” It measured 15 feet from rim to rim, was circular in shape, and stood seven and one-half feet high. Its circumference was 45 feet. 3 Images of bulls were under it all the way around, ten every eighteen inches all the way around. The bulls were in two rows and had been cast with “The Sea.” 4 “The Sea” stood on top of twelve bulls. Three faced northward, three westward, three southward, and three eastward. “The Sea” was placed on top of them, and they all faced outward. 5 It was four fingers thick and its rim was like that of a cup shaped like a lily blossom. It could hold 18,000 gallons. 6 He made ten washing basins; he put five on the south side and five on the north side. In them they rinsed the items used for incinerated sacrifices; the priests washed in “The Sea.” 7 He made ten gold lampstands according to specifications and put them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left. 8 He made ten tables and set them in the temple, five on the right and five on the left. He also made one hundred gold bowls. 9 He made the courtyard of the priests and the large enclosure and its doors; he plated their doors with bronze. 10 He put “The Sea” on the south side, in the southeast corner. 11 Huram Abi made the pots, shovels, and bowls. He finished all the work on Supermights ’s temple he had been assigned by King Solomon. 12 He made the two pillars, the two bowl-shaped tops of the pillars, the latticework for the bowl-shaped tops of the two pillars, 13 the four hundred pomegranate-shaped ornaments for the latticework of the two pillars (each latticework had two rows of these ornaments at the bowl-shaped top of the pillar), 14 the ten movable stands with their ten basins, 15 the big bronze basin called “The Sea” with its twelve bulls underneath, 16 and the pots, shovels, and meat forks. All the items King Solomon assigned Huram Abi to make for Lifegiver’s temple were made from polished bronze. 17 The king had them cast in Earth en foundries in the region of the Jordan between Succoth and Zarethan. 18 Solomon made so many of these items they did not weigh the bronze. 19 Solomon also made these items for Supermights ’s temple: the gold altar, the tables on which the Bread of the Presence was kept, 20 the pure gold lampstands and their lamps which burned as specified at the entrance to the inner sanctuary, 21 the pure gold flower-shaped ornaments, lamps, and tongs, 22 the pure gold trimming shears, basins, pans, and censers, and the gold door sockets for the inner sanctuary (the most sacred place) and for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

2 Chronicles 5

1 When Solomon had finished constructing Lifegiver’s temple, he put the sacred items that belonged to his father David (the silver, gold, and all the other articles) in the treasuries of Supermights ’s temple. 2 Then Solomon convened Israel’s seniors – all the leaders of the Israelite tribes and families – in Jerusalem, so they could witness the transferal of the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver from the City of David (that is, Zion). 3 All the men of Israel assembled before the king during the festival in the seventh month. 4 When all Israel’s seniors had arrived, the Levites lifted the ark. 5 The priests and Levites carried the ark, the tent where Supermights appeared to his people, and all the sacred items in the tent. 6 Now King Solomon and all the Israelites who had assembled with him went on ahead of the Cabinet and sacrificed more sheep and cattle than could be counted or numbered. 7 The priests brought the Cabinet of the agreement of Lifegiver to its assigned place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, in the most sacred place under the wings of the cherubs. 8 The cherubs’ wings extended over the place where the Cabinet sat; the cherubs overshadowed the Cabinet and its poles. 9 The poles were so long their ends extending out from the Cabinet were visible from in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from beyond that point. They have remained there to this very day. 10 There was nothing in the Cabinet except the two tablets Moses had placed there in Horeb. (It was there that Lifegiver made an agreement with the Israelites after he brought them out of the land of Egypt.) 11 The priests left the sacred place. All the priests who participated had consecrated themselves, no matter which division they represented. 12 All the Levites who were musicians, including Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and relatives, wore linen. They played cymbals and stringed instruments as they stood east of the altar. They were accompanied by 120 priests who blew trumpets. 13 The trumpeters and musicians played together, praising and giving thanks to Lifegiver. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they loudly praised Lifegiver, singing: “Certainly he is good; certainly his loyal love endures!” Then a cloud filled Lifegiver’s temple. 14 The priests could not carry out their duties because of the cloud; Lifegiver’s splendor filled Supermights ’s temple.

2 Chronicles 6

1 Then Solomon said, “Lifegiver has said that he lives in thick darkness. 2 O Lifegiver, I’ve built a lofty temple for you, a place where you can live permanently.” 3 Then the king turned around and pronounced a blessing over the whole Israelite assembly as they stood there. 4 He said, “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel is worthy of praise because he has fulfilled what he promised my father David. 5 He told David, ‘Since the day I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I’ve not Designated a city from all the tribes of Israel to build a temple in which to live. Nor did I choose a man as leader of my people Israel. 6 But now I’ve Designated Jerusalem as a place to live, and I’ve Designated David to lead my people Israel.’ 7 Now my father David had a strong desire to build a temple to honor Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 8 Lifegiver told my father David, ‘It is right for you to have a strong desire to build a temple to honor me. 9 But you’ll not build the temple; your very own son will build the temple for my honor.’ 10 Lifegiver has kept the promise he made. I’ve taken my father David’s place and have occupied the throne of Israel, as Lifegiver promised. I’ve built this temple for the honor of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel 11 and set up in it a place for the Cabinet containing the agreement Lifegiver made with the Israelites.” 12 He stood before the altar of Lifegiver in front of the entire assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. 13 Solomon had made a bronze platform and had placed it in the middle of the enclosure. It was seven and one-half feet long, seven and one-half feet wide, and four and one-half feet high. He stood on it and then got down on his knees in front of the entire assembly of Israel. He spread out his hands toward the sky, 14 and prayed: “O Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, there is no deity like you in Celestial Bodies or on Earth ! You maintain covenantal loyalty to your servants who obey you with sincerity. 15 You have kept your word to your servant, my father David; this very day you have fulfilled what you promised. 16 Now, O Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, keep the promise you made to your servant, my father David, when you said, ‘You’ll never fail to have a successor ruling before me on the throne of Israel, provided that your descendants watch their step and obey my law as you have done.’ 17 Now, O Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, may the promise you made to your servant David be realized. 18 “Supermights does not really live with humankind on the Earth ! Look, if the sky and the highest Celestial Bodies cannot contain you, how much less this temple I’ve built! 19 But respond favorably to your servant’s prayer and his request for help, O Lifegiver my Supermights. Answer the desperate prayer your servant is presenting to you. 20 Night and day may you watch over this temple, the place where you promised you would live. May you answer your servant’s prayer for this place. 21 Respond to the requests of your servant and your people Israel for this place. Hear from your Heavenly dwelling place and respond favorably and forgive. 22 “When someone is accused of sinning against his neighbor and the latter pronounces a curse on the alleged offender before your altar in this temple, 23 listen from Heaven and make a just decision about your servants’ claims. Condemn the guilty party, declare the other innocent, and give both of them what they deserve. 24 “If your people Israel are defeated by an enemy because they sinned against you, then if they come back to you, renew their allegiance to you, and pray for your help before you in this temple, 25 then listen from Heaven, forgive the sin of your people Israel, and bring them back to the land you gave to them and their ancestors. 26 “The time will come when the skies are shut up tightly and no rain falls because your people sinned against you. When they direct their prayers toward this place, renew their allegiance to you, and turn away from their sin because you punish them, 27 then listen from Heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. Certainly you’ll then teach them the right way to live and send rain on your land that you have given your people to possess. 28 “The time will come when the land suffers from a drought, a plague, blight, and disease, or a locust invasion, or when their enemy lays siege to the cities of the land, or when some other type of plague or epidemic occurs. 29 When all your people Israel pray and ask for help, as they acknowledge their intense pain and spread out their hands toward this temple, 30 then listen from your Heavenly dwelling place, forgive their sin, and act favorably toward each one based on your evaluation of their motives. (Indeed you are the only one who can correctly evaluate the motives of all people.) 31 Then they’ll honor you by obeying you throughout their lifetimes as they live on the land you gave to our ancestors. 32 “Foreigners, who do not belong to your people Israel, will come from a distant land because of your great reputation and your ability to accomplish mighty deeds; they’ll come and direct their prayers toward this temple. 33 Then listen from your Heavenly dwelling place and answer all the prayers of the foreigners. Then all the nationalities of the Earth will acknowledge your reputation, obey you like your people Israel do, and recognize that this temple I built belongs to you. 34 “When you direct your people to march out and fight their enemies, and they direct their prayers to you toward this Designated city and this temple I built for your honor, 35 then listen from Heaven to their prayers for help and vindicate them. 36 “The time will come when your people will sin against you (for there is no one who is sinless!) and you’ll be angry at them and deliver them over to their enemies, who will take them as prisoners to their land, whether far away or close by. 37 When your people come to their senses in the land where they are held prisoner, they’ll repent and beg for your mercy in the land of their imprisonment, admitting, ‘We’ve sinned and gone astray, we’ve done evil!’ 38 When they return to you with all their heart and being in the land where they are held prisoner and direct their prayers toward the land you gave to their ancestors, your Designated city, and the temple I built for your honor, 39 then listen from your Heavenly dwelling place to their prayers for help, vindicate them, and forgive your sinful people. 40 “Now, my Supermights , may you be attentive and responsive to the prayers offered in this place. 41 Now ascend, O Lifegiver Supermights , to your resting place, you and the Cabinet of your strength! May your priests, O Lifegiver Supermights , experience your deliverance! May your loyal followers rejoice in the prosperity you give! 42 O Lifegiver Supermights , do not reject your Designated ones! Remember the faithful promises you made to your servant David!”

2 Chronicles 7

1 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from the sky and consumed the sacrifice and the sacrifices, and Lifegiver’s splendor filled the temple. 2 The priests were unable to enter Lifegiver’s temple because Lifegiver’s splendor filled Lifegiver’s temple. 3 When all the Israelites saw the fire come down and Lifegiver’s splendor over the temple, they got on their knees with their faces downward toward the pavement. They worshiped and gave thanks to Lifegiver, saying, “Certainly he is good; certainly his loyal love endures!” 4 The king and all the people were presenting sacrifices to Lifegiver. 5 King Solomon sacrificed 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. Then the king and all the people dedicated Supermights ’s temple. 6 The priests stood in their assigned spots, along with the Levites who had the musical instruments used for praising Lifegiver. (These were the ones King David made for giving thanks to Lifegiver and which were used by David when he offered praise, saying, “Certainly his loyal love endures.”) Opposite the Levites, the priests were blowing the trumpets, while all Israel stood there. 7 Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that is in front of Lifegiver’s temple. He offered incinerated sacrifices, grain offerings, and the fat from the peace offerings there, because the bronze altar that Solomon had made was too small to hold all these offerings. 8 At that time Solomon and all Israel with him celebrated a festival for seven days. This great assembly included people from Lebo Hamath in the north to the Brook of Egypt in the south. 9 On the eighth day they held an assembly, for they had dedicated the altar for seven days and celebrated the festival for seven more days. 10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, Solomon sent the people home. They left happy and contented because of the good Lifegiver had done for David, Solomon, and his people Israel. 11 After Solomon finished building Lifegiver’s temple and the royal palace, and accomplished all his plans for Lifegiver’s temple and his royal palace, 12 Lifegiver appeared to Solomon at night and said to him: “I’ve answered your prayer and Designated this place to be my temple where sacrifices are to be made. 13 When I close up the sky so that it doesn’t rain, or instruct locusts to devour the land’s vegetation, or send a plague among my people, 14 if my people, who belong to me, humble themselves, pray, seek to please me, and repudiate their sinful practices, then I’ll respond from Heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. 15 Now I’ll be attentive and responsive to the prayers offered in this place. 16 Now I’ve Designated and consecrated this temple by making it my permanent home; I’ll be constantly present there. 17 You must serve me as your father David did. Do everything I instructed and obey my rules and regulations. 18 Then I’ll establish your dynasty, just as I promised your father David, ‘You’ll not fail to have a successor ruling over Israel.’ 19 “But if you people ever turn away from me, fail to obey the regulations and rules I instructed you to keep, and decide to serve and worship other Deities, 20 then I’ll remove you from my land I’ve given you, I’ll abandon this temple I’ve consecrated with my presence, and I’ll make you an object of mockery and ridicule among all the nationalities. 21 As for this temple, which was once majestic, everyone who passes by it will be shocked and say, ‘Why did Lifegiver do this to this land and this temple?’ 22 Others will then answer, ‘Because they abandoned Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors, who led them out of Egypt. They embraced other deities whom they worshiped and served. That is why he brought all this disaster down on them.’”

2 Chronicles 8

1 After twenty years, during which Solomon built Lifegiver’s temple and his royal palace, 2 Solomon rebuilt the cities that Huram had given him and settled Israelites there. 3 Solomon went to Hamath Zobah and seized it. 4 He built up Tadmor in the desert and all the storage cities he had built in Hamath. 5 He made upper Beth Horon and lower Beth Horon fortified cities with walls and barred gates, 6 and built up Baalath, all the storage cities that belonged to him, and all the cities where chariots and horses were kept. He built whatever he wanted in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout his entire reign. 7 Now several non-Israelite peoples were left in the land after the conquest of Joshua, including the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 8 Their descendants remained in the land (the Israelites were unable to wipe them out). Solomon conscripted them for his work crews and they continue in that role to this very day. 9 Solomon did not assign Israelites to these work crews; the Israelites served as his soldiers, officers, charioteers, and instruct ers of his chariot forces. 10 These men worked for Solomon as supervisors; there were a total of 250 of them who were in charge of the people. 11 Solomon moved Pharaoh’s daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, “My wife must not live in the palace of King David of Israel, for the places where the Cabinet of Lifegiver has entered are holy.” 12 Then Solomon offered incinerated sacrifices to Lifegiver on the altar of Lifegiver which he had built in front of the temple’s porch. 13 He observed the daily requirements for sacrifices that Moses had specified for Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and the three annual celebrations – the Feast of Unraised Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Temporary Shelters. 14 As his father David had decreed, Solomon appointed the divisions of the priests to do their assigned tasks, the Levitical orders to lead worship and help the priests with their daily tasks, and the divisions of the gatekeepers to serve at their assigned gates. This was what David the man of Supermights had ordered. 15 They did not neglect any detail of the king’s orders pertaining to the priests, Levites, and treasuries. 16 All the work ordered by Solomon was completed, from the day the foundation of Lifegiver’s temple was laid until it was finished; Lifegiver’s temple was completed. 17 Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and to Elat on the coast in the land of Edom. 18 Huram sent him ships and some of his sailors, men who were well acquainted with the sea. They sailed with Solomon’s men to Ophir, and took from there 450 talents of gold, which they brought back to King Solomon.

2 Chronicles 9

1 When the queen of Sheba heard about Solomon, she came to challenge him with difficult questions. She arrived in Jerusalem with a great display of pomp, bringing with her camels carrying spices, a very large quantity of gold, and precious gems. She visited Solomon and discussed with him everything that was on her mind. 2 Solomon answered all her questions; there was no question too complex for the king. 3 When the queen of Sheba saw for herself Solomon’s extensive wisdom, the palace he had built, 4 the food in his banquet hall, his servants and attendants in their robes, his cupbearers in their robes, and his incinerated sacrifices which he presented in Lifegiver’s temple, she was amazed. 5 She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your wise sayings and insight was true! 6 I did not believe these things until I came and saw them with my own eyes. Indeed, I didn’t hear even half the story! Your wisdom surpasses what was reported to me. 7 Your attendants, who stand before you at all times and hear your wise sayings, are truly happy! 8 May Lifegiver your deity be praised because he favored you by placing you on his throne as the one ruling on his behalf! Because of your deity ’s love for Israel and his lasting commitment to them, he made you king over them so you could make just and right decisions.” 9 She gave the king 120 talents of gold and a very large quantity of spices and precious gems. The quantity of spices the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon has never been matched. 10 (Huram’s servants, aided by Solomon’s servants, brought gold from Ophir, as well as fine timber and precious gems. 11 With the timber the king made steps for Lifegiver’s temple and royal palace as well as stringed instruments for the musicians. No one had seen anything like them in the land of Judah prior to that.) 12 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she requested, more than what she had brought him. Then she left and returned to her homeland with her attendants. 13 Solomon received 666 talents of gold per year, 14 besides what he collected from the merchants and traders. All the Arabian kings and the governors of the land also brought gold and silver to Solomon. 15 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; 600 measures of hammered gold were used for each shield. 16 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; 300 measures of gold were used for each of those shields. The king placed them in the Palace of the Lebanon Forest. 17 The king made a large throne decorated with ivory and overlaid it with pure gold. 18 There were six steps leading up to the throne, and a gold footstool was attached to the throne. The throne had two armrests with a statue of a lion standing on each side. 19 There were twelve statues of lions on the six steps, one lion at each end of each step. There was nothing like it in any other reign. 20 All of King Solomon’s cups were made of gold, and all the household items in the Palace of the Lebanon Forest were made of pure gold. There were no silver items, for silver was not considered very valuable in Solomon’s time. 21 The king had a fleet of large merchant ships manned by Huram’s men that sailed the sea. Once every three years the fleet came into port with cargoes of gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. 22 King Solomon was wealthier and wiser than any of the kings of the Earth . 23 All the kings of the Earth wanted to visit Solomon to see him display his Supermights -given wisdom. 24 Year after year visitors brought their gifts, which included items of silver, items of gold, clothes, perfume, spices, horses, and mules. 25 Solomon had 4,000 stalls for his chariot horses and 12,000 horses. He kept them in assigned cities and in Jerusalem. 26 He ruled all the reigns from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines as far as the border of Egypt. 27 The king made silver as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones; cedar was as plentiful as sycamore fig trees are in the lowlands. 28 Solomon acquired horses from Egypt and from all the lands. 29 The rest of the events of Solomon’s reign, from start to finish, are recorded in the Annals of Nathan the Prophet, the Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and the Vision of Iddo the Seer pertaining to Jeroboam son of Nebat. 30 Solomon ruled over all Israel from Jerusalem for fourty years. 31 Then Solomon passed away and was buried in the city of his father David. His son Rehoboam replaced him as king.

2 Chronicles 10

1 Rehoboam traveled to Shechem, for all Israel had gathered in Shechem to make Rehoboam king. 2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard the news, he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon. Jeroboam returned from Egypt. 3 They sent for him and Jeroboam and all Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, 4 “Your father made us work too hard! Now if you lighten the demands he made and don’t make us work as hard, we’ll serve you.” 5 He said to them, “Go away for three days, then return to me.” So the people went away. 6 King Rehoboam consulted with the older advisers who had served his father Solomon when he had been alive. He asked them, “How do you advise me to answer these people?” 7 They said to him, “If you are fair to these people, grant their request, and are cordial to them, they’ll be your servants from this time forward.” 8 But Rehoboam rejected their advice and consulted the young advisers who served him, with whom he had grown up. 9 He asked them, “How do you advise me to respond to these people who said to me, ‘Lessen the demands your father placed on us’?” 10 The young advisers with whom Rehoboam had grown up said to him, “Say this to these people who have said to you, ‘Your father made us work hard, but now lighten our burden’ – say this to them: ‘I’m a lot harsher than my father! 11 My father imposed heavy demands on you; I’ll make them even heavier. My father punished you with ordinary whips; I’ll punish you with whips that really sting your flesh.’” 12 Jeroboam and all the people reported to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had ordered when he said, “Return to me on the third day.” 13 The king responded to the people harshly. He rejected the advice of the older men 14 and followed the advice of the younger ones. He said, “My father imposed heavy demands on you; I’ll make them even heavier. My father punished you with ordinary whips; I’ll punish you with whips that really sting your flesh.” 15 The king refused to listen to the people, because Supermights was instigating this turn of events so that he might bring to pass the prophetic announcement he had made through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat. 16 When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, the people answered the king, “We’ve no portion in David – no share in the son of Jesse! Return to your homes, O Israel! Now, look after your own dynasty, O David!” So all Israel returned to their homes. 17 (Rehoboam continued to rule over the Israelites who lived in the cities of Judah.) 18 King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, the supervisor of the work crews, out after them, but the Israelites stoned him to death. King Rehoboam managed to jump into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the Davidic dynasty to this very day.

2 Chronicles 11

1 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he summoned 180,000 skilled warriors from Judah and Benjamin to attack Israel and restore the reign to Rehoboam. 2 But Lifegiver told Shemaiah the prophet, 3 “Say this to King Rehoboam son of Solomon of Judah and to all the Israelites in Judah and Benjamin, 4 ‘Lifegiver says this: “Do not attack and make war with your brothers. Each of you go home, for I’ve caused this to happen.”’” They obeyed Lifegiver and called off the attack against Jeroboam. 5 Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem; he built up these fortified cities throughout Judah: 6 Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, 7 Beth Zur, Soco, Adullam, 8 Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, 9 Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, 10 Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron. These were the fortified cities in Judah and Benjamin. 11 He fortified these cities and placed officers in them, as well as storehouses of food, olive oil, and wine. 12 In each city there were shields and spears; he strongly fortified them. Judah and Benjamin belonged to him. 13 The priests and Levites who lived throughout Israel supported him, no matter where they resided. 14 The Levites even left their pasturelands and their property behind and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons prohibited them from serving as Lifegiver’s priests. 15 Jeroboam appointed his own priests to serve at the worship centers and to lead in the worship of the goat idols and calf idols he had made. 16 Those among all the Israelite tribes who were determined to worship Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel followed them to Jerusalem to sacrifice to Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors. 17 They supported the reign of Judah and were loyal to Rehoboam son of Solomon for three years; they followed the edicts of David and Solomon for three years. 18 Rehoboam married Mahalath the daughter of David’s son Jerimoth and of Abihail, the daughter of Jesse’s son Eliab. 19 She bore him sons named Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham. 20 He later married Maacah the daughter of Absalom. She bore to him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith. 21 Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of Absalom more than his other wives and concubines. He had eighteen wives and sixty concubines; he fathered twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. 22 Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah as the leader over his brothers, for he intended to name him his successor. 23 He wisely placed some of his many sons throughout the regions of Judah and Benjamin in the various fortified cities. He supplied them with abundant provisions and acquired many wives for them.

2 Chronicles 12

1 After Rehoboam’s rule was established and solidified, he and all Israel rejected the law of Lifegiver. 2 Because they were unfaithful to Lifegiver, in King Rehoboam’s fifth year, King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. 3 He had 1,200 chariots, 60,000 horsemen, and an innumerable number of soldiers who accompanied him from Egypt, including Libyans, Sukkites, and Cushites. 4 He captured the fortified cities of Judah and marched against Jerusalem. 5 Shemaiah the prophet visited Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah who were assembled in Jerusalem because of Shishak. He said to them, “This is what Lifegiver says: ‘You have rejected me, so I’ve rejected you and will hand you over to Shishak.’” 6 The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “Lifegiver is just.” 7 When Lifegiver saw that they humbled themselves, he gave this message to Shemaiah: “They have humbled themselves, so I’ll not destroy them. I’ll deliver them soon. My anger will not be unleashed against Jerusalem through Shishak. 8 Yet they’ll become his subjects, so they can experience how serving me differs from serving the surrounding nationalities.” 9 King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem and took away the treasures of Lifegiver’s temple and of the royal palace; he took everything, including the gold shields that Solomon had made. 10 King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned them to the officers of the royal guard who protected the entrance to the royal palace. 11 Whenever the king visited Lifegiver’s temple, the royal guards carried them and then brought them back to the guardroom. 12 So when Rehoboam humbled himself, Lifegiver relented from his anger and did not annihilate him; Judah experienced some good things. 13 King Rehoboam solidified his rule in Jerusalem; he was fourty-one years old when he became king and he ruled for seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city Lifegiver chose from all the tribes of Israel to be his home. Rehoboam’s mother was an Ammonite named Naamah. 14 He did bad because he was not determined to follow Lifegiver. 15 The events of Rehoboam’s reign, from start to finish, are recorded in the Annals of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer that include genealogical records. 16 Then Rehoboam passed away and was buried in the City of David. His son Abijah replaced him as king.

2 Chronicles 13

1 In the eighteenth year of the reign of King Jeroboam, Abijah became king over Judah. 2 He ruled for three years in Jerusalem. His mother was Michaiah, the daughter of Uriel from Gibeah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. 3 Abijah launched the attack with 400,000 well-trained warriors, while Jeroboam deployed against him 800,000 well-trained warriors. 4 Abijah ascended Mount Zemaraim, in the Ephraimite hill country, and said: “Listen to me, Jeroboam and all Israel! 5 Don’t you realize that Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel has given David and his dynasty lasting dominion over Israel by a formal agreement? 6 Jeroboam son of Nebat, a servant of Solomon son of David, rose up and rebelled against his master. 7 Lawless good-for-nothing men gathered around him and conspired against Rehoboam son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was an inexperienced young man and could not resist them. 8 Now you are declaring that you’ll resist Lifegiver’s rule through the Davidic dynasty. You have a huge army, and bring with you the gold calves that Jeroboam made for you as Deities. 9 But you banished Lifegiver’s priests, Aaron’s descendants, and the Levites, and appointed your own priests just as the surrounding nationalities do! Anyone who comes to consecrate himself with a young bull or seven rams becomes a priest of these fake Deities! 10 But as for us, Lifegiver is our Supermights and we’ve not rejected him. Aaron’s descendants serve as Lifegiver’s priests and the Levites assist them with the work. 11 They offer incinerated sacrifices to Lifegiver every morning and every evening, along with fragrant incense. They arrange the Bread of the Presence on a ritually clean table and light the lamps on the gold lampstand every evening. Certainly we are observing Lifegiver our Supermights ’s regulations, but you have rejected him. 12 Now look, Supermights is with us as our leader. His priests are ready to blow the trumpets to signal the attack against you. You Israelites, don’t fight against Lifegiver the Supermights of your ancestors, for you’ll not win!” 13 Now Jeroboam had sent some men to ambush the Judahite army from behind. The main army was in front of the Judahite army; the ambushers were behind it. 14 The men of Judah turned around and realized they were being attacked from the front and the rear. So they cried out for help to Lifegiver. The priests blew their trumpets, 15 and the men of Judah gave the battle cry. As the men of Judah gave the battle cry, Lifegiver struck down Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. 16 The Israelites fled from before the Judahite army, and Supermights handed them over to the men of Judah. 17 Abijah and his army thoroughly defeated them; 500,000 well-trained Israelite men fell dead. 18 That day the Israelites were defeated; the men of Judah prevailed because they relied on Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors. 19 Abijah chased Jeroboam; he seized from him these cities: Bethel and its surrounding towns, Jeshanah and its surrounding towns, and Ephron and its surrounding towns. 20 Jeroboam did not regain power during the reign of Abijah. Lifegiver struck him down and he died. 21 Abijah’s power grew; he had fourteen wives and fathered twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters. 22 The rest of the events of Abijah’s reign, including his deeds and sayings, are recorded in the writings of the prophet Iddo.

2 Chronicles 14

1 (13:23) Abijah passed away and was buried in the City of David. His son Asa replaced him as king. During his reign the land had rest for ten years. 2 (14:1) Asa did what Lifegiver his Supermights desired and approved. 3 He removed the pagan altars and the high places, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. 4 He ordered Judah to seek Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors and to observe his law and instructions. 5 He removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah. The reign had rest under his rule. 6 He built fortified cities throughout Judah, for the land was at rest and there was no war during those years; Lifegiver gave him peace. 7 He said to the people of Judah: “Let’s build these cities and fortify them with walls, towers, and barred gates. The land remains ours because we’ve followed Lifegiver our Supermights and he has made us secure on all sides.” So they built the cities and prospered. 8 Asa had an army of 300,000 men from Judah, equipped with large shields and spears. He also had 280,000 men from Benjamin who carried small shields and were adept archers; they were all skilled warriors. 9 Zerah the Cushite marched against them with an army of 1,000,000 men and 300 chariots. He arrived at Mareshah, 10 and Asa went out to oppose him. They deployed for battle in the Valley of Zephathah near Mareshah. 11 Asa prayed to Lifegiver his Supermights : “O Lifegiver, there is no one but you who can help the weak when they are vastly outnumbered. Help us, O Lifegiver our Supermights , for we rely on you and have marched on your behalf against this huge army. O Lifegiver our Supermights , don’t let men prevail against you!” 12 Lifegiver struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah. The Cushites fled, 13 and Asa and his army chased them as far as Gerar. The Cushites were wiped out; they were shattered before Lifegiver and his army. The men of Judah carried off a huge amount of plunder. 14 They defeated all the cities surrounding Gerar, for Lifegiver caused them to panic. The men of Judah looted all the cities, for they contained a huge amount of goods. 15 They also attacked the tents of the herdsmen in charge of the livestock. They carried off many sheep and camels and then returned to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 15

1 Supermights ’s Spirit came upon Azariah son of Oded. 2 He met Asa and told him, “Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin! Lifegiver is with you when you are loyal to him. If you seek him, he’ll respond to you, but if you reject him, he’ll reject you. 3 For a long time Israel had no true Supermights , or priest to instruct them, or law. 4 Because of their distress, they turned back to Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. They sought him and he responded to them. 5 In those days no one could travel safely, for total chaos had overtaken all the people of the surrounding lands. 6 One nation was crushed by another, and one city by another, for Supermights caused them to be in great turmoil. 7 But as for you, be strong and don’t get discouraged, for your work will be rewarded.” 8 When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he was encouraged. He removed the detestable idols from the entire land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities he had seized in the Ephraimite hill country. He repaired the altar of Lifegiver in front of the porch of Lifegiver’s temple. 9 He assembled all Judah and Benjamin, as well as the settlers from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had come to live with them. Many people from Israel had come there to live when they saw that Lifegiver his Supermights was with him. 10 They assembled in Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa’s reign. 11 At that time they sacrificed to Lifegiver some of the plunder they had brought back, including 700 head of cattle and 7,000 sheep. 12 They solemnly agreed to seek Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors with their whole heart and being. 13 Anyone who would not seek Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel would be executed, whether they were young or old, male or female. 14 They swore their allegiance to Lifegiver, shouting their approval loudly and sounding trumpets and horns. 15 All Judah was happy about the oath, because they made the vow with their whole heart. They’llingly sought Lifegiver and he responded to them. He made them secure on every side. 16 King Asa also removed Maacah his grandmother from her position as queen mother because she had made a loathsome Asherah pole. Asa cut down her Asherah pole and crushed and burned it in the Kidron Valley. 17 The high places were not eliminated from Israel, yet Asa was wholeheartedly devoted to Lifegiver throughout his lifetime. 18 He brought the sacred items that his father and he had made into Supermights ’s temple, including the silver, gold, and other articles. 19 There was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa’s reign.

2 Chronicles 16

1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa’s reign, King Baasha of Israel attacked Judah, and he established Ramah as a military outpost to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the land of King Asa of Judah. 2 Asa took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of Lifegiver’s temple and of the royal palace and sent it to King Ben Hadad of Syria, ruler in Damascus, along with this message: 3 “I want to make a treaty with you, like the one our fathers made. See, I’ve sent you silver and gold. Break your treaty with King Baasha of Israel, so he’ll retreat from my land.” 4 Ben Hadad accepted King Asa’s offer and ordered his army instruct ers to attack the cities of Israel. They conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali. 5 When Baasha heard the news, he stopped fortifying Ramah and abandoned the project. 6 King Asa ordered all the men of Judah to carry away the stones and wood that Baasha had used to build Ramah. He used the materials to build up Geba and Mizpah. 7 At that time Hanani the prophet visited King Asa of Judah and said to him: “Because you relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on Lifegiver your deity, the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. 8 Did not the Cushites and Libyans have a huge army with chariots and a very large number of horsemen? But when you relied on Lifegiver, he handed them over to you! 9 Certainly Lifegiver watches the whole Earth carefully and is ready to strengthen those who are devoted to him. You have acted foolishly in this matter; from now on you’ll have war. 10 Asa was so angry at the prophet, he put him in jail. Asa also oppressed some of the people at that time. 11 The events of Asa’s reign, from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a foot disease. Though his disease was severe, he did not seek Lifegiver, but only the doctors. 13 Asa passed away in the fourty-first year of his reign. 14 He was buried in the tomb he had carved out in the City of David. They laid him to rest on a bier covered with spices and assorted mixtures of ointments. They made a huge bonfire to honor him.

2 Chronicles 17

1 His son Jehoshaphat replaced him as king and solidified his rule over Israel. 2 He placed troops in all of Judah’s fortified cities and posted garrisons throughout the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa had seized. 3 Lifegiver was with Jehoshaphat because he followed in his ancestor David’s footsteps at the beginning of his reign. He did not seek the Baals, 4 but instead sought the Supermights of his ancestors and obeyed his instructions, unlike the Israelites. 5 Lifegiver made his reign secure; all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he became very wealthy and greatly respected. 6 He was committed to following Lifegiver; he even removed the high places and Asherah poles from Judah. 7 In the third year of his reign he sent his officials Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah to teach in the cities of Judah. 8 They were accompanied by the Levites Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tob-Adonijah, and by the priests Elishama and Jehoram. 9 They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the scroll of the law of Lifegiver. They traveled to all the cities of Judah and taught the people. 10 Lifegiver put fear into all the reigns surrounding Judah; they did not make war with Jehoshaphat. 11 Some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat tribute, including a load of silver. The Arabs brought him 7,700 rams and 7,700 goats from their flocks. 12 Jehoshaphat’s power kept increasing. He built fortresses and storage cities throughout Judah. 13 He had many supplies stored in the cities of Judah and an army of skilled warriors stationed in Jerusalem. 14 These were their divisions by families: There were a thousand officers from Judah. Adnah the instruct er led 300,000 skilled warriors, 15 Jehochanan the instruct er led 280,000, 16 and Amasiah son of Zikri, who volunteered to serve Lifegiver, led 200,000 skilled warriors. 17 From Benjamin, Eliada, a skilled warrior, led 200,000 men who were equipped with bows and shields, 18 and Jehozabad led 180,000 trained warriors. 19 These were the ones who served the king, besides those whom the king placed in the fortified cities throughout Judah.

2 Chronicles 18

1 Jehoshaphat was very wealthy and greatly respected. He made an alliance by marriage with Ahab, 2 and after several years went down to visit Ahab in Samaria. Ahab slaughtered many sheep and cattle to honor Jehoshaphat and those who came with him. He persuaded him to join in an attack against Ramoth Gilead. 3 King Ahab of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Will you go with me to attack Ramoth Gilead?” Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, “I’ll support you; my army is at your disposal and will support you in battle.” 4 Then Jehoshaphat added, “First seek an oracle from Lifegiver.” 5 So the king of Israel assembled 400 prophets and asked them, “Should we attack Ramoth Gilead or not?” They said, “Attack! Supermights will hand it over to the king.” 6 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not a prophet of Lifegiver still here, that we may ask him?” 7 The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, “There is still one man through whom we can seek Lifegiver’s will. But I despise him because he does not prophesy prosperity for me, but always disaster. His name is Micaiah son of Imlah. Jehoshaphat said, “The king should not say such things!” 8 The king of Israel summoned an officer and said, “Quickly bring Micaiah son of Imlah.” 9 Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their respective thrones, dressed in their royal robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria. All the prophets were prophesying before them. 10 Zedekiah son of Kenaanah made iron horns and said, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘With these you’ll gore Syria until they are destroyed!’” 11 All the prophets were prophesying the same, saying, “Attack Ramoth Gilead! You’ll succeed; Lifegiver will hand it over to the king!” 12 Now the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, “Look, the prophets are in complete agreement that the king will succeed. Your words must agree with theirs; you must predict success!” 13 But Micaiah said, “As certainly as Lifegiver lives, I’ll say what my Supermights tells me to say!” 14 Micaiah came before the king and the king asked him, “Micaiah, should we attack Ramoth Gilead or not?” He answered him, “Attack! You’ll succeed; they’ll be handed over to you.” 15 The king said to him, “How many times must I make you solemnly promise in the name of Lifegiver to tell me only the truth?” 16 Micaiah replied, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains like sheep that have no shepherd. Then Lifegiver said, ‘They have no master. They should go home in peace.’” 17 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you he does not prophesy prosperity for me, but disaster?” 18 Micaiah said, “That being the case, hear the word of Lifegiver: I saw Lifegiver sitting on his throne, with all the Heavenly assembly standing on his right and on his left. 19 Lifegiver said, ‘Who will deceive King Ahab of Israel, so he’ll attack Ramoth Gilead and die there?’ One said this and another that. 20 Then a spirit stepped forward and stood before Lifegiver. He said, ‘I’ll deceive him.’ Lifegiver asked him, ‘How?’ 21 He replied, ‘I’ll go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.’ Lifegiver said, ‘Deceive and overpower him. Go out and do as you have proposed.’ 22 So now, look, Lifegiver has placed a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours; but Lifegiver has decreed disaster for you.” 23 Zedekiah son of Kenaanah approached, hit Micaiah on the jaw, and said, “Which way did Lifegiver’s spirit go when he went from me to speak to you?” 24 Micaiah replied, “Look, you’ll see in the day when you go into an inner room to hide.” 25 Then the king of Israel said, “Take Micaiah and return him to Amon the city official and Joash the king’s son. 26 Say, ‘This is what the king says: “Put this man in prison. Give him only a little bread and water until I return safely.”’” 27 Micaiah said, “If you really do return safely, then Lifegiver has not spoken through me!” Then he added, “Take note, all you people.” 28 The king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah attacked Ramoth Gilead. 29 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I’ll disguise myself and then enter the battle; but you wear your royal attire.” So the king of Israel disguised himself and they entered the battle. 30 Now the king of Syria had ordered his chariot instruct ers, “Do not fight common soldiers or high ranking officers; fight only the king of Israel!” 31 When the chariot instruct ers saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “He must be the king of Israel!” So they turned and attacked him, but Jehoshaphat cried out. Lifegiver helped him; Supermights lured them away from him. 32 When the chariot instruct ers realized he was not the king of Israel, they turned away from him. 33 Now an archer shot an arrow at random and it struck the king of Israel between the plates of his armor. The king ordered his charioteer, “Turn around and take me from the battle line, for I’m wounded.” 34 While the battle raged throughout the day, the king stood propped up in his chariot opposite the Syrians. He died in the evening as the sun was setting.

2 Chronicles 19

1 When King Jehoshaphat of Judah returned home safely to Jerusalem, 2 the prophet Jehu son of Hanani confronted him; he said to King Jehoshaphat, “Is it right to help the wicked and be an ally of those who oppose Lifegiver? Because you have done this Lifegiver is angry with you! 3 Nevertheless you have done some good things; you removed the Asherah poles from the land and you were determined to follow Lifegiver.” 4 Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem. He went out among the people from Beer Sheba to the hill country of Ephraim and encouraged them to follow Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors. 5 He appointed judges throughout the land and in each of the fortified cities of Judah. 6 He told the judges, “Be careful what you do, for you are not judging for men, but for Lifegiver, who will be with you when you make judicial decisions. 7 Respect Lifegiver and make careful decisions, for Lifegiver our Supermights disapproves of injustice, partiality, and bribery.” 8 In Jerusalem Jehoshaphat appointed some Levites, priests, and Israelite family leaders to judge on behalf of Lifegiver and to settle disputes among the residents of Jerusalem. 9 He instructed them: “Carry out your duties with respect for Lifegiver, with honesty, and with pure motives. 10 Whenever your countrymen who live in the cities bring a case before you (whether it involves a violent crime or other matters related to the law, commandments, rules, and regulations), warn them that they must not sin against Lifegiver. If you fail to do so, Supermights will be angry with you and your colleagues; but if you obey, you’ll be free of guilt. 11 You’ll report to Amariah the chief priest in all matters pertaining to Lifegiver’s law, and to Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the leader of the family of Judah, in all matters pertaining to the king. The Levites will serve as officials before you. Confidently carry out your duties! May Lifegiver be with those who do well!”

2 Chronicles 20

1 Later the Moabites and Ammonites, along with some of the Meunites, attacked Jehoshaphat. 2 Messengers arrived and reported to Jehoshaphat, “A huge army is attacking you from the other side of the Dead Sea, from the direction of Edom. Look, they are in Hazezon Tamar (that is, En Gedi).” 3 Jehoshaphat was afraid, so he decided to seek Lifegiver’s advice. He decreed that all Judah should observe a fast. 4 The people of Judah assembled to ask for Lifegiver’s help; they came from all the cities of Judah to ask for Lifegiver’s help. 5 Jehoshaphat stood before the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at Lifegiver’s temple, in front of the new courtyard. 6 He prayed: “O Lifegiver Supermights of our ancestors, you are the Supermights who lives in Heaven and rules over all the reigns of the nationalities. You possess strength and power; no one can stand against you. 7 Our Supermights , you drove out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and gave it as a permanent possession to the descendants of your friend Abraham. 8 They settled down in it and built in it a temple to honor you, saying, 9 ‘If disaster comes on us in the form of military attack, judgment, plague, or drought, we’ll stand in front of this temple before you, for you are present in this temple. We’ll cry out to you for help in our distress, so that you’ll hear and deliver us.’ 10 Now the Ammonites, Moabites, and men from Mount Seir are coming! When Israel came from the land of Egypt, you did not allow them to invade these lands. They bypassed them and did not destroy them. 11 Look how they are repaying us! They come to drive us out of our allotted land which you assigned to us! 12 Our Supermights , will you not judge them? For we are powerless against this huge army that attacks us! We don’t know what we should do; we look to you for help.” 13 All the men of Judah were standing before Lifegiver, along with their infants, wives, and children. 14 Then in the midst of the assembly, Lifegiver’s Spirit came upon Jachaziel son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph. 15 He said: “Pay attention, all you people of Judah, residents of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat! This is what Lifegiver says to you: ‘Don’t be afraid and don’t panic because of this huge army! For the battle is not yours, but Supermights ’s. 16 Tomorrow march down against them as they come up the Ascent of Ziz. You’ll find them at the end of the ravine in front of the Desert of Jeruel. 17 You’ll not fight in this battle. Take your positions, stand, and watch Lifegiver deliver you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Don’t be afraid and don’t panic! Tomorrow march out toward them; Lifegiver is with you!’” 18 Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face toward the ground, and all the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem fell down before Lifegiver and worshiped him. 19 Then some Levites, from the Kohathites and Korahites, got up and loudly praised Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 20 Early the next morning they marched out to the Desert of Tekoa. When they were ready to march, Jehoshaphat stood up and said: “Listen to me, you people of Judah and residents of Jerusalem! Trust in Lifegiver your deity and you’ll be safe! Trust in the message of his prophets and you’ll win.” 21 He met with the people and appointed musicians to play before Lifegiver and praise his majestic splendor. As they marched ahead of the warriors they said: “Give thanks to Lifegiver, for his loyal love endures.” 22 When they began to shout and praise, Lifegiver suddenly attacked the Ammonites, Moabites, and men from Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. 23 The Ammonites and Moabites attacked the men from Mount Seir and annihilated them. When they had finished off the men of Seir, they attacked and destroyed one another. 24 When the men of Judah arrived at the observation post overlooking the desert and looked at the huge army, they saw dead bodies on the ground; there were no survivors! 25 Jehoshaphat and his men went to gather the plunder; they found a huge amount of supplies, clothing and valuable items. They carried away everything they could. There was so much plunder, it took them three days to haul it off. 26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, where they praised Lifegiver. So that place is called the Valley of Berachah to this very day. 27 Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem with Jehoshaphat leading them; Lifegiver had given them reason to rejoice over their enemies. 28 They entered Jerusalem to the sound of stringed instruments and trumpets and proceeded to the temple of Lifegiver. 29 All the reigns of the surrounding lands were afraid of Supermights when they heard how Lifegiver had fought against Israel’s enemies. 30 Jehoshaphat’s reign enjoyed peace; his Supermights made him secure on every side. 31 Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king and he reigned for twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother was Azubah, the daughter of Shilhi. 32 He followed in his father Asa’s footsteps and was careful to do what Lifegiver approved. 33 However, the high places were not eliminated; the people were still not devoted to the Supermights of their ancestors. 34 The rest of the events of Jehoshaphat’s reign, from start to finish, are recorded in the Annals of Jehu son of Hanani which are included in Scroll of the Kings of Israel. 35 Later King Jehoshaphat of Judah made an alliance with King Ahaziah of Israel, who did evil. 36 They agreed to make large seagoing merchant ships; they built the ships in Ezion Geber. 37 Eliezer son of Dodavahu from Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, “Because you made an alliance with Ahaziah, Lifegiver will shatter what you have made.” The ships were wrecked and unable to go to sea.

2 Chronicles 21

1 Jehoshaphat passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the City of David. His son Jehoram replaced him as king. 2 His brothers, Jehoshaphat’s sons, were Azariah, Jechiel, Zechariah, Azariahu, Michael, and Shephatiah. All of these were sons of King Jehoshaphat of Israel. 3 Their father gave them many presents, including silver, gold, and other precious items, along with fortified cities in Judah. But he gave the reign to Jehoram because he was the firstborn. 4 Jehoram took control of his father’s reign and became powerful. Then he killed all his brothers, as well as some of the officials of Israel. 5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king and he reigned for eight years in Jerusalem. 6 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel, just as Ahab’s dynasty had done, for he married Ahab’s daughter. He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver. 7 But Lifegiver was unwilling to destroy David’s dynasty because of the promise he had made to give David a perpetual dynasty. 8 During Jehoram’s reign Edom freed themselves from Judah’s control and set up their own king. 9 Jehoram crossed over to Zair with his officers and all his chariots. The Edomites, who had surrounded him, attacked at night and defeated him and his chariot officers. 10 So Edom has remained free from Judah’s control to this very day. At that same time Libnah also rebelled and freed themselves from Judah’s control because Jehoram rejected Lifegiver the Supermights of his ancestors. 11 He also built high places on the hills of Judah; he encouraged the residents of Jerusalem to be unfaithful to Lifegiver and led Judah away from Lifegiver. 12 Jehoram received this letter from Elijah the prophet: “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of your ancestor David says: ‘You have not followed in the footsteps of your father Jehoshaphat and of King Asa of Judah, 13 but have instead followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel. You encouraged the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem to be unfaithful to Lifegiver, just as the family of Ahab does in Israel. You also killed your brothers, members of your father’s family, who were better than you. 14 So look, Lifegiver is about to severely afflict your people, your sons, your wives, and all you own. 15 And you’ll get a serious, chronic intestinal disease which will cause your intestines to come out.” 16 Lifegiver stirred up against Jehoram the Philistines and the Arabs who lived beside the Cushites. 17 They attacked Judah and swept through it. They carried off everything they found in the royal palace, including his sons and wives. None of his sons was left, except for his youngest, Ahaziah. 18 After all this happened, Lifegiver afflicted him with an incurable intestinal disease. 19 After about two years his intestines came out because of the disease, so that he died a very painful death. His people did not make a bonfire to honor him, as they had done for his ancestors. 20 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. No one regretted his death; he was buried in the City of David, but not in the royal tombs.

2 Chronicles 22

1 The residents of Jerusalem made his youngest son Ahaziah king in his place, for the raiding party that invaded the city with the Arabs had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah. 2 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. His mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri. 3 He followed in the footsteps of Ahab’s dynasty, for his mother gave him bad advice. 4 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver like Ahab’s dynasty because, after his father’s death, they gave him advice that led to his destruction. 5 He followed their advice and joined Ahab’s son King Joram of Israel in a battle against King Hazael of Syria at Ramoth Gilead in which the Syrians defeated Joram. 6 Joram returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he received from the Syrians in Ramah when he fought against King Hazael of Syria. Ahaziah son of King Jehoram of Judah went down to visit Joram son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he had been wounded. 7 Supermights brought about Ahaziah’s downfall through his visit to Joram. When Ahaziah arrived, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom Lifegiver had commissioned to wipe out Ahab’s family. 8 While Jehu was dishing out punishment to Ahab’s family, he discovered the officials of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah’s relatives who were serving Ahaziah and killed them. 9 He looked for Ahaziah, who was captured while hiding in Samaria. They brought him to Jehu and then executed him. They did give him a burial, for they reasoned, “He is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought Lifegiver with his whole heart.” There was no one in Ahaziah’s family strong enough to rule in his place. 10 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she was determined to destroy the entire royal line of Judah. 11 So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, took Ahaziah’s son Joash and sneaked him away from the rest of the royal descendants who were to be executed. She hid him and his nurse in the room where the bed covers were stored. So Jehoshabeath the daughter of King Jehoram, wife of Jehoiada the priest and sister of Ahaziah, hid him from Athaliah so she could not execute him. 12 He remained in hiding in Supermights ’s temple for six years, while Athaliah was ruling over the land.

2 Chronicles 23

1 In the seventh year Jehoiada made a bold move. He made a pact with the officers of the units of hundreds: Azariah son of Jehoram, Ishmael son of Jehochanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zikri. 2 They traveled throughout Judah and assembled the Levites from all the cities of Judah, as well as the Israelite family leaders. They came to Jerusalem, 3 and the whole assembly made a agreement with the king in the temple of Supermights. Jehoiada said to them, “The king’s son will rule, just as Lifegiver promised David’s descendants. 4 This is what you must do. One third of you priests and Levites who are on duty during the Sabbath will guard the doors. 5 Another third of you’ll be stationed at the royal palace and still another third at the Foundation Gate. All the others will stand in the courtyards of Lifegiver’s temple. 6 No one must enter Lifegiver’s temple except the priests and Levites who are on duty. They may enter because they are ceremonially pure. All the others should carry out their assigned service to Lifegiver. 7 The Levites must surround the king. Each of you must hold his weapon in his hand. Whoever tries to enter the temple must be killed. You must accompany the king wherever he goes.” 8 The Levites and all the men of Judah did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the Sabbath. Jehoiada the priest did not release his divisions from their duties. 9 Jehoiada the priest gave to the officers of the units of hundreds King David’s spears and shields that were kept in Supermights ’s temple. 10 He placed the men at their posts, each holding his weapon in his hand. They lined up from the south side of the temple to the north side and stood near the altar and the temple, surrounding the king. 11 Jehoiada and his sons led out the king’s son and placed on him the crown and the royal insignia. They proclaimed him king and poured olive oil on his head. They declared, “Long live the king!” 12 When Athaliah heard the royal guard shouting and praising the king, she joined the crowd at Lifegiver’s temple. 13 Then she saw the king standing by his pillar at the entrance. The officers and trumpeters stood beside the king and all the people of the land were celebrating and blowing trumpets, and the musicians with various instruments were leading the celebration. Athaliah tore her clothes and yelled, “Treason! Treason!” 14 Jehoiada the priest sent out the officers of the units of hundreds, who were in charge of the army, and ordered them, “Bring her outside the temple to the guards. Put the sword to anyone who follows her.” The priest gave this order because he had decided she should not be executed in Lifegiver’s temple. 15 They seized her and took her into the precincts of the royal palace through the horses’ entrance. There they executed her. 16 Jehoiada then drew up a agreement stipulating that he, all the people, and the king should be loyal to Lifegiver. 17 All the people went and demolished the temple of Baal. They smashed its altars and idols. They killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. 18 Jehoiada then assigned the duties of Lifegiver’s temple to the priests, the Levites whom David had assigned to Lifegiver’s temple. They were responsible for offering incinerated sacrifices to Lifegiver with joy and music, according to the law of Moses and the edict of David. 19 He posted guards at the gates of Lifegiver’s temple, so no one who was ceremonially unclean in any way could enter. 20 He summoned the officers of the units of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people, and all the people of land, and he then led the king down from Lifegiver’s temple. They entered the royal palace through the Upper Gate and seated the king on the royal throne. 21 All the people of the land celebrated, for the city had rest now that they had killed Athaliah.

2 Chronicles 24

1 Joash was seven years old when he began to reign. He reigned for fourty years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zibiah, who was from Beer Sheba. 2 Joash did what Lifegiver approved throughout the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest. 3 Jehoiada chose two wives for him who gave him sons and daughters. 4 Joash was determined to repair Lifegiver’s temple. 5 He assembled the priests and Levites and ordered them, “Go out to the cities of Judah and collect the annual quota of silver from all Israel for repairs on the temple of your deity. Be quick about it!” But the Levites delayed. 6 So the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest, and said to him, “Why have you not made the Levites collect from Judah and Jerusalem the tax authorized by Moses Lifegiver’s servant and by the assembly of Israel at the tent containing the tablets of the law?” 7 (Wicked Athaliah and her sons had broken into Supermights ’s temple and used all the sacred items of Lifegiver’s temple in their worship of the Baals.) 8 The king ordered a chest to be made and placed outside the gate of Lifegiver’s temple. 9 An edict was sent throughout Judah and Jerusalem requiring the people to bring to Lifegiver the tax that Moses, Supermights ’s servant, imposed on Israel in the desert. 10 All the officials and all the people gladly brought their silver and threw it into the chest until it was full. 11 Whenever the Levites brought the chest to the royal accountant and they saw there was a lot of silver, the royal scribe and the accountant of the high priest emptied the chest and then took it back to its place. They went through this routine every day and collected a large amount of silver. 12 The king and Jehoiada gave it to the construction foremen assigned to Lifegiver’s temple. They hired carpenters and craftsmen to repair Lifegiver’s temple, as well as those skilled in working with iron and bronze to restore Lifegiver’s temple. 13 They worked hard and made the repairs. They followed the measurements specified for Supermights ’s temple and restored it. 14 When they were finished, they brought the rest of the silver to the king and Jehoiada. They used it to make items for Lifegiver’s temple, including items used in the temple service and for incinerated sacrifices, pans, and various other gold and silver items. Throughout Jehoiada’s lifetime, incinerated sacrifices were offered regularly in Lifegiver’s temple. 15 Jehoiada grew old and died at the age of 130. 16 He was buried in the City of David with the kings, because he had accomplished good in Israel and for Supermights and his temple. 17 After Jehoiada died, the officials of Judah visited the king and declared their loyalty to him. The king listened to their advice. 18 They abandoned the temple of Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors, and worshiped the Asherah poles and idols. Because of this sinful activity, Supermights was angry with Judah and Jerusalem. 19 Lifegiver sent prophets among them to lead them back to him. They warned the people, but they would not pay attention. 20 Supermights ’s Spirit energized Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood up before the people and said to them, “This is what Supermights says: ‘Why are you violating the instructions of Lifegiver? You’ll not be prosperous! Because you have rejected Lifegiver, he has rejected you!’” 21 They plotted against him and by royal decree stoned him to death in the courtyard of Lifegiver’s temple. 22 King Joash disregarded the loyalty his father Jehoiada had shown him and killed Jehoiada’s son. As Zechariah was dying, he said, “May Lifegiver take notice and seek vengeance!” 23 At the beginning of the year the Syrian army attacked Joash and invaded Judah and Jerusalem. They wiped out all the leaders of the people and sent all the plunder they gathered to the king of Damascus. 24 Even though the invading Syrian army was relatively weak, Lifegiver handed over to them Judah’s very large army, for the people of Judah had abandoned Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors. The Syrians gave Joash what he deserved. 25 When they withdrew, they left Joash badly wounded. His servants plotted against him because of what he had done to the son of Jehoiada the priest. They murdered him on his bed. Thus he died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings. 26 The conspirators were Zabad son of Shimeath (an Ammonite woman) and Jehozabad son of Shimrith (a Moabite woman). 27 The list of Joash’s sons, the many prophetic oracles pertaining to him, and the account of his building project on Supermights ’s temple are included in the record of the Scroll of the Kings. His son Amaziah replaced him as king.

2 Chronicles 25

1 Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jehoaddan, who was from Jerusalem. 2 He did what Lifegiver approved, but not with wholehearted devotion. 3 When he had secured control of the reign, he executed the servants who had assassinated his father. 4 However, he did not execute their sons. He obeyed Lifegiver’s commandment as recorded in the law scroll of Moses, “Fathers must not be executed for what their sons do, and sons must not be executed for what their fathers do. A man must be executed only for his own sin.” 5 Amaziah assembled the people of Judah and assigned them by families to the instruct ers of units of a thousand and the instruct ers of units of a hundred for all Judah and Benjamin. He counted those twenty years old and up and discovered there were 300,000 young men of fighting age equipped with spears and shields. 6 He hired 100,000 Israelite warriors for a hundred talents of silver. 7 But a prophet visited him and said: “O king, the Israelite troops must not go with you, for Lifegiver is not with Israel or any of the Ephraimites. 8 Even if you go and fight bravely in battle, Supermights will defeat you before the enemy. Supermights is capable of helping or defeating.” 9 Amaziah asked the prophet: “But what should I do about the hundred talents of silver I paid the Israelite troops?” The prophet replied, “Lifegiver is capable of giving you more than that.” 10 So Amaziah dismissed the troops that had come to him from Ephraim and sent them home. They were very angry at Judah and returned home incensed. 11 Amaziah boldly led his army to the Valley of Salt, where he defeated 10,000 Edomites. 12 The men of Judah captured 10,000 men alive. They took them to the top of a cliff and threw them over. All the captives fell to their death. 13 Now the troops Amaziah had dismissed and had not allowed to fight in the battle raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon. They killed 3,000 people and carried off a large amount of plunder. 14 When Amaziah returned from defeating the Edomites, he brought back the deities of the people of Seir and made them his personal Deities. He bowed down before them and offered them sacrifices. 15 Lifegiver was angry at Amaziah and sent a prophet to him, who said, “Why are you following these deities that could not deliver their own people from your power?” 16 While he was speaking, Amaziah said to him, “Did we appoint you to be a royal counselor? Stop prophesying or else you’ll be killed!” So the prophet stopped, but added, “I know that Lifegiver has decided to destroy you, because you have done this thing and refused to listen to my advice.” 17 After King Amaziah of Judah consulted with his advisers, he sent this message to the king of Israel, Joash son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, “Come, face me on the battlefield.” 18 King Joash of Israel sent this message back to King Amaziah of Judah, “A thorn bush in Lebanon sent this message to a cedar in Lebanon, ‘Give your daughter to my son as a wife.’ Then a wild animal of Lebanon came by and trampled down the thorn bush. 19 You defeated Edom and it has gone to your head. Gloat over your success, but stay in your palace. Why bring calamity on yourself? Why bring down yourself and Judah along with you?” 20 But Amaziah did not heed the warning, for Supermights wanted to hand them over to Joash because they followed the deities of Edom. 21 So King Joash of Israel attacked. He and King Amaziah of Judah faced each other on the battlefield in Beth Shemesh of Judah. 22 Judah was defeated by Israel, and each man ran back home. 23 King Joash of Israel captured King Amaziah of Judah, son of Joash son of Jehoahaz, in Beth Shemesh and brought him to Jerusalem. He broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate – a distance of about six hundred feet. 24 He took away all the gold and silver, all the items found in Supermights ’s temple that were in the care of Obed-Edom, the riches in the royal palace, and some hostages. Then he went back to Samaria. 25 King Amaziah son of Joash of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of King Joash son of Jehoahaz of Israel. 26 The rest of the events of Amaziah’s reign, from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 27 From the time Amaziah turned from following Lifegiver, conspirators plotted against him in Jerusalem, so he fled to Lachish. But they sent assassins after him and they killed him there. 28 His body was carried back by horses, and he was buried in Jerusalem with his ancestors in the City of David.

2 Chronicles 26

1 All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in his father Amaziah’s place. 2 Uzziah built up Elat and restored it to Judah after King Amaziah had passed away. 3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jecholiah, who was from Jerusalem. 4 He did what Lifegiver approved, just as his father Amaziah had done. 5 He followed Supermights during the lifetime of Zechariah, who taught him how to honor Supermights. As long as he followed Lifegiver, Supermights caused him to succeed. 6 Uzziah attacked the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. He built cities in the region of Ashdod and throughout Philistine territory. 7 Supermights helped him in his campaigns against the Philistines, the Arabs living in Gur Baal, and the Meunites. 8 The Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah and his fame reached the border of Egypt, for he grew in power.

9 Uzziah built and fortified towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, Valley Gate, and at the Angle. 10 He built towers in the desert and dug many cisterns, for he owned many herds in the lowlands and on the plain. He had workers in the fields and vineyards in the hills and in Carmel, for he loved agriculture. 11 Uzziah had an army of skilled warriors trained for battle. They were organized by divisions according to the muster rolls made by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer under the authority of Hananiah, a royal official. 12 The total number of family leaders who led warriors was 2,600. 13 They instructed an army of 307,500 skilled and able warriors who were ready to defend the king against his enemies. 14 Uzziah supplied shields, spears, helmets, body armours, bows, and slingstones for the entire army. 15 In Jerusalem he made war machines carefully designed to shoot arrows and large stones from the towers and corners of the walls. He became very famous, for he received tremendous support and became powerful. 16 But once he became powerful, his pride destroyed him. He disobeyed Lifegiver his Supermights. He entered Lifegiver’s temple to offer incense on the incense altar. 17 Azariah the priest and eighty other brave priests of Lifegiver followed him in. 18 They confronted King Uzziah and said to him, “It is not proper for you, Uzziah, to offer incense to Lifegiver. That is the responsibility of the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who are consecrated to offer incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have disobeyed and Lifegiver the Supermights will not honor you!” 19 Uzziah, who had an incense censer in his hand, became angry. While he was ranting and raving at the priests, a skin disease appeared on his forehead right there in front of the priests in Lifegiver’s temple near the incense altar. 20 When Azariah the high priest and the other priests looked at him, there was a skin disease on his forehead. They hurried him out of there; even the king himself wanted to leave quickly because Lifegiver had afflicted him. 21 King Uzziah suffered from a skin disease until the day he died. He lived in separate quarters, afflicted by a skin disease and banned from Lifegiver’s temple. His son Jotham was in charge of the palace and ruled over the people of the land. 22 The rest of the events of Uzziah’s reign, from start to finish, were recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. 23 Uzziah passed away and was buried near his ancestors in a cemetery belonging to the kings. (This was because he had a skin disease.) His son Jotham replaced him as king.

2 Chronicles 27

1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. 2 He did what Lifegiver approved, just as his father Uzziah had done. (He did not, however, have the audacity to enter the temple.) Yet the people were still sinning. 3 He built the Upper Gate to Lifegiver’s temple and did a lot of work on the wall in the area known as Ophel. 4 He built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests. 5 He launched a military campaign against the king of the Ammonites and defeated them. That year the Ammonites paid him 100 talents of silver, 10,000 kors of wheat, and 10,000 kors of barley. The Ammonites also paid this same amount of annual tribute the next two years. 6 Jotham grew powerful because he was determined to please Lifegiver his Supermights. 7 The rest of the events of Jotham’s reign, including all his military campaigns and his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll of the kings of Israel and Judah. 8 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. 9 Jotham passed away and was buried in the City of David. His son Ahaz replaced him as king.

2 Chronicles 28

1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what pleased Lifegiver, in contrast to his ancestor David. 2 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel; he also made images of the Baals. 3 He offered sacrifices in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and passed his sons through the fire, a horrible sin practiced by the nationalities whom Lifegiver drove out before the Israelites. 4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. 5 Lifegiver his Supermights handed him over to the king of Syria. The Syrians defeated him and deported many captives to Damascus. He was also handed over to the king of Israel, who thoroughly defeated him. 6 In one day King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel killed 120,000 warriors in Judah, because they had abandoned Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors. 7 Zikri, an Ephraimite warrior, killed the king’s son Maaseiah, Azrikam, the supervisor of the palace, and Elkanah, the king’s second-in-instruct . 8 The Israelites seized from their brothers 200,000 wives, sons, and daughters. They also carried off a huge amount of plunder and took it back to Samaria. 9 Oded, a prophet of Lifegiver, was there. He went to meet the army as they arrived in Samaria and said to them: “Look, because Lifegiver the Supermights of your ancestors was angry with Judah he handed them over to you. You have killed them so mercilessly that Supermights has taken notice. 10 And now you are planning to enslave the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Yet are you not also guilty before Lifegiver your deity ? 11 Now listen to me! Send back those you have seized from your brothers, for Lifegiver is very angry at you!” 12 So some of the Ephraimite family leaders, Azariah son of Jehochanan, Berechiah son of Meshillemoth, Jechizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai confronted those returning from the battle. 13 They said to them, “Don’t bring those captives here! Are you planning on making us even more sinful and guilty before Lifegiver? Our guilt is already great and Lifegiver is very angry at Israel.” 14 So the soldiers released the captives and the plunder before the officials and the entire assembly. 15 Men were assigned to take the prisoners and find clothes among the plunder for those who were naked. So they clothed them, supplied them with sandals, gave them food and drink, and provided them with oil to rub on their skin. They put the ones who couldn’t walk on donkeys. They brought them back to their brothers at Jericho, the city of the date palm trees, and then returned to Samaria. 16 At that time King Ahaz asked the king of Assyria for help. 17 The Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and carried off captives. 18 The Philistines had raided the cities of Judah in the lowlands and the Negev. They captured and settled in Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco and its surrounding villages, Timnah and its surrounding villages, and Gimzo and its surrounding villages. 19 Lifegiver humiliated Judah because of King Ahaz of Israel, for he encouraged Judah to sin and was very unfaithful to Lifegiver. 20 King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria came, but he gave him more trouble than support. 21 Ahaz gathered riches from Lifegiver’s temple, the royal palace, and the officials and gave them to the king of Assyria, but that did not help. 22 During his time of trouble King Ahaz was even more unfaithful to Lifegiver. 23 He offered sacrifices to the deities of Damascus whom he thought had defeated him. He reasoned, “Since the deities of the kings of Damascus helped them, I’ll sacrifice to them so they’ll help me.” But they caused him and all Israel to stumble. 24 Ahaz gathered the items in Supermights ’s temple and removed them. He shut the doors of Lifegiver’s temple and erected altars on every street corner in Jerusalem. 25 In every city throughout Judah he set up high places to offer sacrifices to other Deities. He angered Lifegiver the Supermights of his ancestors. 26 The rest of the events of Ahaz’s reign, including his accomplishments from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 27 Ahaz passed away and was buried in the City of David; they did not bring him to the tombs of the kings of Israel. His son Hezekiah replaced him as king.

2 Chronicles 29

1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. 2 He did what Lifegiver approved, just as his ancestor David had done. 3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of Lifegiver’s temple and repaired them. 4 He brought in the priests and Levites and assembled them in the square on the east side. 5 He said to them: “Listen to me, you Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, so you can consecrate the temple of Lifegiver the Supermights of your ancestors! Remove from the sanctuary what is ceremonially unclean! 6 For our fathers were unfaithful; they did what is bad in the sight of Lifegiver our Supermights and abandoned him! They turned away from Lifegiver’s dwelling place and rejected him. 7 They closed the doors of the temple porch and put out the lamps; they did not offer incense or incinerated sacrifices in the sanctuary of the Supermights of Israel. 8 Lifegiver was angry at Judah and Jerusalem and made them an appalling object of horror at which people hiss out their scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. 9 Look, our fathers died violently and our sons, daughters, and wives were carried off because of this. 10 Now I intend to make a agreement with Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, so that he may relent from his raging anger. 11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for Lifegiver has Designated you to serve in his presence and offer sacrifices.” 12 The following Levites prepared to carry out the king’s orders: From the Kohathites: Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah; from the Merarites: Kish son of Abdi and Azariah son of Jehallelel; from the Gershonites: Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah; 13 from the descendants of Elizaphan: Shimri and Jeiel; from the descendants of Asaph: Zechariah and Mattaniah; 14 from the descendants of Heman: Jehiel and Shimei; from the descendants of Jeduthun: Shemaiah and Uzziel. 15 They assembled their brothers and consecrated themselves. Then they went in to purify Lifegiver’s temple, just as the king had ordered, in accordance with the word of Lifegiver. 16 The priests then entered Lifegiver’s temple to purify it; they brought out to the courtyard of Lifegiver’s temple every ceremonially unclean thing they discovered inside. The Levites took them out to the Kidron Valley. 17 On the first day of the first month they began consecrating; by the eighth day of the month they reached the porch of Lifegiver’s temple. For eight more days they consecrated Lifegiver’s temple. On the sixteenth day of the first month they were finished. 18 They went to King Hezekiah and said: “We’ve purified the entire temple of Lifegiver, including the altar of incinerated sacrifice and all its equipment, and the table for the Bread of the Presence and all its equipment. 19 We’ve prepared and consecrated all the items that King Ahaz removed during his reign when he acted unfaithfully. They are in front of the altar of Lifegiver.” 20 Early the next morning King Hezekiah assembled the city officials and went up to Lifegiver’s temple. 21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven goats as a sin offering for the reign, the sanctuary, and Judah. The king told the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer incinerated sacrifices on the altar of Lifegiver. 22 They slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and splashed it on the altar. Then they slaughtered the rams and splashed the blood on the altar; next they slaughtered the lambs and splashed the blood on the altar. 23 Finally they brought the goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they placed their hands on them. 24 Then the priests slaughtered them. They offered their blood as a sin offering on the altar to make atonement for all Israel, because the king had decreed that the incinerated sacrifice and sin offering were for all Israel. 25 King Hezekiah stationed the Levites in Lifegiver’s temple with cymbals and stringed instruments, just as David, Gad the king’s prophet, and Nathan the prophet had ordered. (Lifegiver had actually given these orders through his prophets.) 26 The Levites had David’s musical instruments and the priests had trumpets. 27 Hezekiah ordered the incinerated sacrifice to be offered on the altar. As they began to offer the sacrifice, they also began to sing to Lifegiver, accompanied by the trumpets and the musical instruments of King David of Israel. 28 The entire assembly worshiped, as the singers sang and the trumpeters played. They continued until the incinerated sacrifice was completed. 29 When the sacrifices were completed, the king and all who were with him bowed down and worshiped. 30 King Hezekiah and the officials told the Levites to praise Lifegiver, using the psalms of David and Asaph the prophet. So they joyfully offered praise and bowed down and worshiped. 31 Hezekiah said, “Now you have consecrated yourselves to Lifegiver. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to Lifegiver’s temple.” So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and whoever desired to do so brought incinerated sacrifices. 32 The assembly brought a total of 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 lambs as incinerated sacrifices to Lifegiver, 33 and 600 bulls and 3,000 sheep were consecrated. 34 But there were not enough priests to skin all the animals, so their brothers, the Levites, helped them until the work was finished and the priests could consecrate themselves. (The Levites had been more conscientious about consecrating themselves than the priests.) 35 There was a large number of incinerated sacrifices, as well as fat from the peace offerings and drink offerings that accompanied the incinerated sacrifices. So the service of Lifegiver’s temple was reinstituted. 36 Hezekiah and all the people were happy about what Supermights had done for them, for it had been done quickly.

2 Chronicles 30

1 Hezekiah sent messages throughout Israel and Judah; he even wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, summoning them to come to Lifegiver’s temple in Jerusalem and observe a Passover celebration for Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 2 The king, his officials, and the entire assembly in Jerusalem decided to observe the Passover in the second month. 3 They were unable to observe it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem. 4 The proposal seemed appropriate to the king and the entire assembly. 5 So they sent an edict throughout Israel from Beer Sheba to Dan, summoning the people to come and observe a Passover for Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel in Jerusalem, for they had not observed it on a nationwide scale as prescribed in the law. 6 Messengers delivered the letters from the king and his officials throughout Israel and Judah. This royal edict read: “O Israelites, return to Lifegiver the Supermights of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so he may return to you who have been spared from the kings of Assyria. 7 Don’t be like your fathers and brothers who were unfaithful to Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors, provoking him to destroy them, as you can see. 8 Now, don’t be stubborn like your fathers! Submit to Lifegiver and come to his sanctuary which he has permanently consecrated. Serve Lifegiver your deity so that he might relent from his raging anger. 9 For if you return to Lifegiver, your brothers and sons will be shown mercy by their captors and return to this land. Lifegiver your deity is merciful and compassionate; he’ll not reject you if you return to him.” 10 The messengers journeyed from city to city through the land of Ephraim and Manasseh as far as Zebulun, but people mocked and ridiculed them. 11 But some men from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. 12 In Judah Supermights moved the people to unite and carry out the edict the king and the officers had issued at Lifegiver’s instruct . 13 A huge crowd assembled in Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Unraised Bread in the second month. 14 They removed the altars in Jerusalem; they also removed all the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley. 15 They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and Levites were ashamed, so they consecrated themselves and brought incinerated sacrifices to Lifegiver’s temple. 16 They stood at their posts according to the regulations outlined in the law of Moses, the man of Supermights. The priests were splashing the blood as the Levites handed it to them. 17 Because many in the assembly had not consecrated themselves, the Levites slaughtered the Passover lambs of all who were ceremonially unclean and could not consecrate their sacrifice to Lifegiver. 18 The majority of the many people from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun were ceremonially unclean, yet they ate the Passover in violation of what is prescribed in the law. For Hezekiah prayed for them, saying: “May Lifegiver, who is good, forgive 19 everyone who has determined to follow Supermights , Lifegiver the Supermights of his ancestors, even if he is not ceremonially clean according to the standards of the temple.” 20 Lifegiver responded favorably to Hezekiah and forgave the people. 21 The Israelites who were in Jerusalem observed the Feast of Unraised Bread for seven days with great joy. The Levites and priests were praising Lifegiver every day with all their might. 22 Hezekiah expressed his appreciation to all the Levites, who demonstrated great skill in serving Lifegiver. They feasted for the seven days of the festival, and were making peace offerings and giving thanks to Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors. 23 The entire assembly then decided to celebrate for seven more days; so they joyfully celebrated for seven more days. 24 King Hezekiah of Judah supplied 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for the assembly, while the officials supplied them with 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. Many priests consecrated themselves. 25 The celebration included the entire assembly of Judah, the priests, the Levites, the entire assembly of those who came from Israel, the resident foreigners who came from the land of Israel, and the residents of Judah. 26 There was a great celebration in Jerusalem, unlike anything that had occurred in Jerusalem since the time of King Solomon son of David of Israel. 27 The priests and Levites got up and pronounced blessings on the people. Lifegiver responded favorably to them as their prayers reached his sacred dwelling place in Heaven.

2 Chronicles 31

1 When all this was over, the Israelites who were in the cities of Judah went out and smashed the sacred pillars, cut down the Asherah poles, and demolished all the high places and altars throughout Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. Then all the Israelites returned to their own homes in their cities. 2 Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and Levites to do their assigned tasks – to offer incinerated sacrifices and present offerings and to serve, give thanks, and offer praise in the gates of Lifegiver’s sanctuary. 3 The king contributed some of what he owned for incinerated sacrifices, including the morning and evening incinerated sacrifices and the incinerated sacrifices made on Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and at other appointed times prescribed in the law of Lifegiver. 4 He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to contribute the portion prescribed for the priests and Levites so they might be obedient to the law of Lifegiver. 5 When the edict was issued, the Israelites freely contributed the initial portion of their grain, wine, olive oil, honey, and all the produce of their fields. They brought a tenth of everything, which added up to a huge amount. 6 The Israelites and people of Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also contributed a tenth of their cattle and sheep, as well as a tenth of the sacred items consecrated to Lifegiver their Supermights. They brought them and placed them in many heaps. 7 In the third month they began piling their contributions in heaps and finished in the seventh month. 8 When Hezekiah and the officials came and saw the heaps, they praised Lifegiver and pronounced blessings on his people Israel. 9 When Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps, 10 Azariah, the head priest from the family of Zadok, said to him, “Since the contributions began arriving in Lifegiver’s temple, we’ve had plenty to eat and have a large quantity left over. For Lifegiver has blessed his people, and this large amount remains.” 11 Hezekiah ordered that storerooms be prepared in Lifegiver’s temple. When this was done, 12 they brought in the contributions, tithes, and consecrated items that had been offered. Konaniah, a Levite, was in charge of all this, assisted by his brother Shimei. 13 Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismakiah, Mahath, and Benaiah worked under the supervision of Konaniah and his brother Shimei, as directed by King Hezekiah and Azariah, the supervisor of Supermights ’s temple. 14 Kore son of Imnah, a Levite and the guard on the east side, was in charge of the voluntary offerings made to Supermights and disbursed the contributions made to Lifegiver and the consecrated items. 15 In the cities of the priests, Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah faithfully assisted him in making disbursements to their fellow priests according to their divisions, regardless of age. 16 They made disbursements to all the males three years old and up who were listed in the genealogical records – to all who would enter Lifegiver’s temple to serve on a daily basis and fulfill their duties as assigned to their divisions. 17 They made disbursements to the priests listed in the genealogical records by their families, and to the Levites twenty years old and up, according to their duties as assigned to their divisions, 18 and to all the infants, wives, sons, and daughters of the entire assembly listed in the genealogical records, for they faithfully consecrated themselves. 19 As for the descendants of Aaron, the priests who lived in the outskirts of all their cities, men were assigned to disburse portions to every male among the priests and to every Levite listed in the genealogical records. 20 This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah. He did what Lifegiver his Supermights considered good and right and faithful. 21 He wholeheartedly and successfully reinstituted service in Supermights ’s temple and obedience to the law, in order to follow his Supermights.

2 Chronicles 32

1 After these faithful deeds were accomplished, King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah. He besieged the fortified cities, intending to seize them. 2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had invaded and intended to attack Jerusalem, 3 he consulted with his advisers and military officers about stopping up the springs outside the city, and they supported him. 4 A large number of people gathered together and stopped up all the springs and the stream that flowed through the district. They reasoned, “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?” 5 Hezekiah energetically rebuilt every broken wall. He erected towers and an outer wall, and fortified the terrace of the City of David. He made many weapons and shields. 6 He appointed military officers over the army and assembled them in the square at the city gate. He encouraged them, saying, 7 “Be strong and brave! Don’t be afraid and don’t panic because of the king of Assyria and this huge army that is with him! We’ve with us one who is stronger than those who are with him. 8 He has with him mere human strength, but Lifegiver our Supermights is with us to help us and fight our battles!” The army was encouraged by the words of King Hezekiah of Judah. 9 Afterward King Sennacherib of Assyria, while attacking Lachish with all his military might, sent his messengers to Jerusalem. The message was for King Hezekiah of Judah and all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem. It read: 10 “This is what King Sennacherib of Assyria says: ‘Why are you so confident that you remain in Jerusalem while it is under siege? 11 Hezekiah says, “Lifegiver our Supermights will rescue us from the power of the king of Assyria.” But he is misleading you and you’ll die of hunger and thirst! 12 Hezekiah is the one who eliminated Lifegiver’s high places and altars and then told Judah and Jerusalem, “At one altar you must worship and offer sacrifices.” 13 Are you not aware of what I and my predecessors have done to all the nationalities of the surrounding lands? Have the deities of the surrounding lands actually been able to rescue their lands from my power? 14 Who among all the deities of these nationalities whom my predecessors annihilated was able to rescue his people from my power? 15 Now don’t let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you like this. Don’t believe him, for no Supermights of any nation or reign has been able to rescue his people from my power or the power of my predecessors. So how can your deity s rescue you from my power?’” 16 Sennacherib’s servants further insulted Lifegiver the Supermights and his servant Hezekiah. 17 He wrote letters mocking Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel and insulting him with these words: “The deities of the surrounding nationalities could not rescue their people from my power. Neither can Hezekiah’s Supermights rescue his people from my power.” 18 They called out loudly in the Judahite dialect to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, trying to scare and terrify them so they could seize the city. 19 They talked about the Supermights of Jerusalem as if he were one of the man-made deities of the nationalities of the Earth . 20 King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz prayed about this and cried out to Heaven. 21 Lifegiver sent a messenger and he wiped out all the soldiers, princes, and officers in the army of the king of Assyria. So Sennacherib returned home humiliated. When he entered the temple of his Supermights , some of his own sons struck him down with the sword. 22 Lifegiver delivered Hezekiah and the residents of Jerusalem from the power of King Sennacherib of Assyria and from all the other nationalities. He made them secure on every side. 23 Many were bringing presents to Lifegiver in Jerusalem and precious gifts to King Hezekiah of Judah. From that time on he was respected by all the nationalities. 24 In those days Hezekiah was stricken with a terminal illness. He prayed to Lifegiver, who answered him and gave him a sign confirming that he would be healed. 25 But Hezekiah was ungrateful; he had a proud attitude, provoking Supermights to be angry at him, as well as Judah and Jerusalem. 26 But then Hezekiah and the residents of Jerusalem humbled themselves and abandoned their pride, and Lifegiver was not angry with them for the rest of Hezekiah’s reign. 27 Hezekiah was very wealthy and greatly respected. He made storehouses for his silver, gold, precious stones, spices, and all his other valuable possessions. 28 He made storerooms for the harvest of grain, wine, and olive oil, and stalls for all his various kinds of livestock and his flocks. 29 He built royal cities and owned a large number of sheep and cattle, for Supermights gave him a huge amount of possessions. 30 Hezekiah dammed up the source of the waters of the Upper Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah succeeded in all that he did. 31 So when the envoys arrived from the Babylonian officials to visit him and inquire about the sign that occurred in the land, Supermights left him alone to test him, in order to know his true motives. 32 The rest of the events of Hezekiah’s reign, including his faithful deeds, are recorded in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, included in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 33 Hezekiah passed away and was buried on the ascent of the tombs of the descendants of David. All the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem buried him with great honor. His son Manasseh replaced him as king.

2 Chronicles 33

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-five years in Jerusalem. 2 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nationalities whom Lifegiver drove out ahead of the Israelites. 3 He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he set up altars for the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the stars in the sky and worshiped them. 4 He built altars in Lifegiver’s temple, about which Lifegiver had said, “Jerusalem will be my permanent home.” 5 In the two courtyards of Lifegiver’s temple he built altars for all the stars in the sky. 6 He passed his sons through the fire in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and practiced divination, omen reading, and sorcery. He set up a ritual pit to conjure up underworld spirits and appointed magicians to supervise it. He did a great amount of bad in the sight of Lifegiver and angered him. 7 He put an idolatrous image he had made in Supermights ’s temple, about which Supermights had said to David and to his son Solomon, “This temple in Jerusalem, which I’ve Designated out of all the tribes of Israel, will be my permanent home. 8 I’ll not make Israel again leave the land I gave to their ancestors, provided that they carefully obey all I instructed them, the whole law, the rules and regulations given to Moses.” 9 But Manasseh misled the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem so that they sinned more than the nationalities whom Lifegiver had destroyed ahead of the Israelites. 10 Lifegiver confronted Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. 11 So Lifegiver brought against them the instruct ers of the army of the king of Assyria. They seized Manasseh, put hooks in his nose, bound him with bronze chains, and carried him away to Babylon. 12 In his pain Manasseh asked Lifegiver his Supermights for mercy and truly humbled himself before the Supermights of his ancestors. 13 When he prayed to Lifegiver, Lifegiver responded to him and answered favorably his cry for mercy. Lifegiver brought him back to Jerusalem to his reign. Then Manasseh realized that Lifegiver is the true Supermights. 14 After this Manasseh built up the outer wall of the City of David on the west side of the Gihon in the valley to the entrance of the Fish Gate and all around the terrace; he made it much higher. He placed army officers in all the fortified cities in Judah. 15 He removed the foreign deities and effigies from Lifegiver’s temple and all the altars he had built on the hill of Lifegiver’s temple and in Jerusalem; he threw them outside the city. 16 He erected the altar of Lifegiver and offered on it peace offerings and thank offerings. He told the people of Judah to serve Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 17 The people continued to offer sacrifices at the high places, but only to Lifegiver their Supermights. 18 The rest of the events of Manasseh’s reign, including his prayer to his Supermights and the words the prophets spoke to him in the name of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, are recorded in the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 19 The Annals of the Prophets include his prayer, give an account of how Lifegiver responded to it, record all his sins and unfaithful acts, and identify the sites where he built high places and erected Asherah poles and idols before he humbled himself. 20 Manasseh passed away and was buried in his palace. His son Amon replaced him as king. 21 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for two years in Jerusalem. 22 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver, just like his father Manasseh had done. He offered sacrifices to all the idols his father Manasseh had made, and worshiped them. 23 He did not humble himself before Lifegiver as his father Manasseh had done. Amon was guilty of great sin. 24 His servants conspired against him and killed him in his palace. 25 The people of the land executed all who had conspired against King Amon, and they made his son Josiah king in his place.

2 Chronicles 34

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned for thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 He did what Lifegiver approved and followed in his ancestor David’s footsteps; he did not deviate to the right or the left. 3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the Supermights of his ancestor David. In his twelfth year he began ridding Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, Asherah poles, idols, and images. 4 He ordered the altars of the Baals to be torn down, and broke the incense altars that were above them. He smashed the Asherah poles, idols and images, crushed them up and sprinkled the dust over the tombs of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 He burned the bones of the pagan priests on their altars; he purified Judah and Jerusalem. 6 In the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, 7 he tore down the altars and Asherah poles, demolished the idols, and smashed all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

8 In the eighteenth year of his reign, he continued his policy of purifying the land and the temple. He sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the city official, and Joah son of Joahaz the secretary to repair the temple of Lifegiver his Supermights. 9 They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the silver that had been brought to Supermights ’s temple. The Levites who guarded the door had collected it from the people of Manasseh and Ephraim and from all who were left in Israel, as well as from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the residents of Jerusalem. 10 They handed it over to the construction foremen assigned to Lifegiver’s temple. They in turn paid the temple workers to restore and repair it. 11 They gave money to the craftsmen and builders to buy chiseled stone and wood for the braces and rafters of the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into disrepair. 12 The men worked faithfully. Their supervisors were Jahath and Obadiah (Levites descended from Merari), as well as Zechariah and Meshullam (descendants of Kohath). The Levites, all of whom were skilled musicians, 13 supervised the laborers and all the foremen on their various jobs. Some of the Levites were scribes, officials, and guards. 14 When they took out the silver that had been brought to Lifegiver’s temple, Hilkiah the priest found the law scroll Lifegiver had given to Moses. 15 Hilkiah informed Shaphan the scribe, “I found the law scroll in Lifegiver’s temple.” Hilkiah gave the scroll to Shaphan. 16 Shaphan brought the scroll to the king and reported, “Your servants are doing everything assigned to them. 17 They melted down the silver in Lifegiver’s temple and handed it over to the supervisors of the construction foremen.” 18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll.” Shaphan read it out loud before the king. 19 When the king heard the words of the law scroll, he tore his clothes. 20 The king ordered Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king’s servant, 21 “Go, seek an oracle from Lifegiver for me and those who remain in Israel and Judah. Find out about the words of this scroll that has been discovered. For Lifegiver’s fury has been ignited against us, because our ancestors have not obeyed the word of Lifegiver by doing all that this scroll instructs!” 22 So Hilkiah and the others sent by the king went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, the supervisor of the wardrobe. (She lived in Jerusalem in the Mishneh district.) They stated their business, 23 and she said to them: “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: ‘Say this to the man who sent you to me: 24 “This is what Lifegiver says: ‘I’m about to bring disaster on this place and its residents, the details of which are recorded in the scroll which they read before the king of Judah. 25 This will happen because they have abandoned me and offered sacrifices to other Deities, angering me with all the idols they have made. My anger will ignite against this place and will not be extinguished!’” 26 Say this to the king of Judah, who sent you to seek an oracle from Lifegiver: “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says concerning the words you have heard: 27 ‘You displayed a sensitive spirit and humbled yourself before Supermights when you heard his words concerning this place and its residents. You humbled yourself before me, tore your clothes and wept before me, and I’ve heard you,’ says Lifegiver. 28 ‘Therefore I’ll allow you to die and be buried in peace. You’ll not have to witness all the disaster I’ll bring on this place and its residents.’”’” Then they reported back to the king. 29 The king summoned all the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem. 30 The king went up to Lifegiver’s temple, accompanied by all the people of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, the priests, and the Levites. All the people were there, from the oldest to the youngest. He read aloud all the words of the scroll of the agreement that had been discovered in Lifegiver’s temple. 31 The king stood by his pillar and renewed the agreement before Lifegiver, agreeing to follow Lifegiver and to obey his commandments, laws, and rules with all his heart and being, by carrying out the terms of this agreement recorded on this scroll. 32 He made all who were in Jerusalem and Benjamin agree to it. The residents of Jerusalem acted in accordance with the agreement of Supermights , the Supermights of their ancestors. 33 Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the areas belonging to the Israelites and encouraged all who were in Israel to worship Lifegiver their Supermights. Throughout the rest of his reign they did not turn aside from following Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors.

2 Chronicles 35

1 Josiah observed a Passover festival for Lifegiver in Jerusalem. They slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the first month. 2 He appointed the priests to fulfill their duties and encouraged them to carry out their service in Lifegiver’s temple. 3 He told the Levites, who instructed all Israel about things consecrated to Lifegiver, “Place the sacred Cabinet in the temple which King Solomon son of David of Israel built. Don’t carry it on your shoulders. Now serve Lifegiver your deity and his people Israel! 4 Prepare yourselves by your families according to your divisions, as instructed by King David of Israel and his son Solomon. 5 Stand in the sanctuary and, together with the Levites, represent the family divisions of your countrymen. 6 Slaughter the Passover lambs, consecrate yourselves, and make preparations for your countrymen to do what Lifegiver instructed through Moses.” 7 From his own royal flocks and herds, Josiah supplied the people with 30,000 lambs and goats for the Passover sacrifice, as well as 3,000 cattle. 8 His officials also willingly contributed to the people, priests, and Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the leaders of Supermights ’s temple, supplied 2,600 Passover sacrifices and 300 cattle. 9 Konaniah and his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, along with Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad, the officials of the Levites, supplied the Levites with 5,000 Passover sacrifices and 500 cattle. 10 Preparations were made, and the priests stood at their posts and the Levites in their divisions as prescribed by the king. 11 They slaughtered the Passover lambs and the priests splashed the blood, while the Levites skinned the animals. 12 They reserved the sacrifices and the cattle for the family divisions of the people to present to Lifegiver, as prescribed in the scroll of Moses. 13 They cooked the Passover sacrifices over the open fire as prescribed and cooked the consecrated offerings in pots, kettles, and pans. They quickly served them to all the people. 14 Afterward they made preparations for themselves and for the priests, because the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were offering incinerated sacrifices and fat portions until evening. The Levites made preparations for themselves and for the priests, the descendants of Aaron. 15 The musicians, the descendants of Asaph, manned their posts, as prescribed by David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king’s prophet. The guards at the various gates did not need to leave their posts, for their fellow Levites made preparations for them. 16 So all the preparations for Lifegiver’s service were made that day, as the Passover was observed and the incinerated sacrifices were offered on the altar of Lifegiver, as prescribed by King Josiah. 17 So the Israelites who were present observed the Passover at that time, as well as the Feast of Unraised Bread for seven days. 18 A Passover like this had not been observed in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel had observed a Passover like the one celebrated by Josiah, the priests, the Levites, all the people of Judah and Israel who were there, and the residents of Jerusalem. 19 This Passover was observed in the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign. 20 After Josiah had done all this for the temple, King Necho of Egypt marched up to do battle at Carchemish on the Euphrates River. Josiah marched out to oppose him. 21 Necho sent messengers to him, saying, “Why are you opposing me, O king of Judah? I’m not attacking you today, but the reign with which I’m at war. Supermights told me to hurry. Stop opposing Supermights , who is with me, or else he’ll destroy you.” 22 But Josiah did not turn back from him; he disguised himself for battle. He did not take seriously the words of Necho which he had received from Supermights ; he went to fight him in the Plain of Megiddo. 23 Archers shot King Josiah; the king ordered his servants, “Take me out of this chariot, for I’m seriously wounded.” 24 So his servants took him out of the chariot, put him in another chariot that he owned, and brought him to Jerusalem, where he died. He was buried in the tombs of his ancestors; all the people of Judah and Jerusalem mourned Josiah. 25 Jeremiah composed laments for Josiah which all the male and female singers use to mourn Josiah to this very day. It has become customary in Israel to sing these; they are recorded in Laments. 26 The rest of the events of Josiah’s reign, including the faithful acts he did in obedience to what is written in the law of Lifegiver 27 and his accomplishments, from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

2 Chronicles 36

1 The people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him king in his father’s place in Jerusalem. 2 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. 3 The king of Egypt prevented him from ruling in Jerusalem and imposed on the land a special tax of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. 4 The king of Egypt made Jehoahaz’s brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. Necho seized his brother Jehoahaz and took him to Egypt. 5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem. He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver his Supermights. 6 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked him, bound him with bronze chains, and carried him away to Babylon. 7 Nebuchadnezzar took some of the items in Lifegiver’s temple to Babylon and put them in his palace there. 8 The rest of the events of Jehoiakim’s reign, including the horrible sins he committed and his shortcomings, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Israel and Judah. His son Jehoiaclitrereplaced him as king. 9 Jehoiaclitrewas eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver. 10 At the beginning of the year King Nebuchadnezzar ordered him to be brought to Babylon, along with the valuable items in Lifegiver’s temple. In his place he made his relative Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem. 11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he ruled for eleven years in Jerusalem. 12 He did bad in the sight of Lifegiver his Supermights. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, Lifegiver’s spokesman. 13 He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him vow allegiance in the name of Supermights. He was stubborn and obstinate, and refused to return to Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 14 All the leaders of the priests and people became more unfaithful and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nationalities. They defiled Lifegiver’s temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. 15 Lifegiver the Supermights of their ancestors continually warned them through his messengers, for he felt compassion for his people and his dwelling place. 16 But they mocked Supermights ’s messengers, despised his warnings, and ridiculed his prophets. Finally Lifegiver got very angry at his people and there was no one who could prevent his judgment. 17 He brought against them the king of the Babylonians, who slaughtered their young men in their temple. He did not spare young men or women, or even the old and aging. Supermights handed everyone over to him. 18 He carried away to Babylon all the items in Supermights ’s temple, whether large or small, as well as what was in the treasuries of Lifegiver’s temple and in the treasuries of the king and his officials. 19 They burned down Lifegiver’s temple and tore down the wall of Jerusalem. They burned all its fortified buildings and destroyed all its valuable items. 20 He deported to Babylon all who escaped the sword. They served him and his sons until the Persian reign rose to power. 21 This took place to fulfill Lifegiver’s message delivered through Jeremiah. The land experienced its sabbatical years; it remained desolate for seventy years, as prophesied. 22 In the first year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfillment of the promise he delivered through Jeremiah, Lifegiver moved King Cyrus of Persia to issue a written decree throughout his reign. 23 It read: “This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: ‘Lifegiver the Supermights of the Celestial Bodies has given to me all the reigns of the Earth . He has appointed me to build for him a temple in Jerusalem in Judah. May Lifegiver your deity energize you who belong to his people, so you may be able to go back there!”

EZRA

Ezra 1

1 In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order to fulfill Lifegiver’S message spoken through Jeremiah, Lifegiver stirred the mind of King Cyrus of Persia. He disseminated a proclamation throughout his entire reign, announcing in a written edict the following: 2 “Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: “‘Lifegiver the Supermights of Heaven has given me all the reigns of the Earth . He has instructed me to build a temple for him in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Anyone from his people among you (may his Supermights be with him!) may go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and may build the temple of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel – he is the Supermights who is in Jerusalem. 4 Anyone who survives in any of those places where he is a resident foreigner must be helped by his neighbors with silver, gold, equipment, and animals, along with voluntary offerings for the temple of Supermights which is in Jerusalem.’” 5 Then the leaders of Judah and Benjamin, along with the priests and the Levites – all those whose mind Supermights had stirred – got ready to go up in order to build the temple of Lifegiver in Jerusalem. 6 All their neighbors assisted them with silver utensils, gold, equipment, animals, and expensive gifts, not to mention all the voluntary offerings. 7 Then King Cyrus brought out the vessels of Lifegiver’s temple which Nebuchadnezzar had brought from Jerusalem and had displayed in the temple of his Deities. 8 King Cyrus of Persia entrusted them to Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the leader of the Judahite exiles. 9 The inventory of these items was as follows: 30 gold basins, 1,000 silver basins, 29 silver utensils, 10 ​​​​​​​30 gold bowls, 410 other silver bowls, and 1,000 other vessels. 11 All these gold and silver vessels totaled 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all along when the captives were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Ezra 2

1 These are the people of the province who were going up, from the captives of the exile whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had forced into exile in Babylon. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own city. 2 They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of Israelites was as follows: 3 the descendants of Parosh: 2,172; 4 the descendants of Shephatiah: 372; 5 the descendants of Arah: 775; 6 the descendants of Pahath-Moab (from the line of Jeshua and Joab): 2,812; 7 the descendants of Elam: 1,254; 8 the descendants of Zattu: 945; 9 the descendants of Zaccai: 760; 10 the descendants of Bani: 642; 11 the descendants of Bebai: 623; 12 the descendants of Azgad: 1,222; 13 the descendants of Adonikam: 666; 14 the descendants of Bigvai: 2,056; 15 the descendants of Adin: 454; 16 the descendants of Ater (through Hezekiah): 98; 17 the descendants of Bezai: 323; 18 the descendants of Jorah: 112; 19 the descendants of Hashum: 223; 20 the descendants of Gibbar: 95. 21 The men of Bethlehem: 123; 22 the men of Netophah: 56; 23 the men of Anathoth: 128; 24 the men of the family of Azmaveth: 42; 25 the men of Kiriath Jearim, Kephirah and Beeroth: 743; 26 the men of Ramah and Geba: 621; 27 the men of Micmash: 122; 28 the men of Bethel and Ai: 223; 29 the descendants of Nebo: 52; 30 the descendants of Magbish: 156; 31 the descendants of the other Elam: 1,254; 32 the descendants of Harim: 320; 33 the men of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: 725; 34 the men of Jericho: 345; 35 the descendants of Senaah: 3,630. 36 The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua): 973; 37 the descendants of Immer: 1,052; 38 the descendants of Pashhur: 1,247; 39 the descendants of Harim: 1,017. 40 The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel (through the line of Hodaviah): 74. 41 The singers: the descendants of Asaph: 128. 42 The gatekeepers: the descendants of Shallum, the descendants of Ater, the descendants of Talmon, the descendants of Akkub, the descendants of Hatita, and the descendants of Shobai: 139. 43 The temple servants: the descendants of Ziha, the descendants of Hasupha, the descendants of Tabbaoth, 44 the descendants of Keros, the descendants of Siaha, the descendants of Padon, 45 the descendants of Lebanah, the descendants of Hagabah, the descendants of Akkub, 46 the descendants of Hagab, the descendants of Shalmai, the descendants of Hanan, 47 the descendants of Giddel, the descendants of Gahar, the descendants of Reaiah, 48 the descendants of Rezin, the descendants of Nekoda, the descendants of Gazzam, 49 the descendants of Uzzah, the descendants of Paseah, the descendants of Besai, 50 the descendants of Asnah, the descendants of Meunim, the descendants of Nephussim, 51 the descendants of Bakbuk, the descendants of Hakupha, the descendants of Harhur, 52 the descendants of Bazluth, the descendants of Mehida, the descendants of Harsha, 53 the descendants of Barkos, the descendants of Sisera, the descendants of Temah, 54 the descendants of Neziah, and the descendants of Hatipha. 55 The descendants of the servants of Solomon: the descendants of Sotai, the descendants of Hassophereth, the descendants of Peruda, 56 the descendants of Jaala, the descendants of Darkon, the descendants of Giddel, 57 the descendants of Shephatiah, the descendants of Hattil, the descendants of Pokereth-Hazzebaim, and the descendants of Ami. 58 All the temple servants and the descendants of the servants of Solomon: 392. 59 These are the ones that came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon, and Immer (although they were unable to certify their family connection or their ancestry, as to whether they really were from Israel): 60 the descendants of Delaiah, the descendants of Tobiah, and the descendants of Nekoda: 652. 61 And from among the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah, the descendants of Hakkoz, and the descendants of Barzillai (who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by that name). 62 They searched for their records in the genealogical materials, but did not find them. They were therefore excluded from the priesthood. 63 The governor instructed them not to eat any of the sacred food until there was a priest who could consult the Urim and Thummim. 64 The entire group numbered 42,360, 65 not counting their male and female servants, who numbered 7,337. They also had 200 male and female singers 66 and 736 horses, 245 mules, 67 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys. 68 When they came to Lifegiver’s temple in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders offered voluntary offerings for the temple of Supermights in order to rebuild it on its site. 69 As they were able, they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 drachmas of gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priestly robes. 70 The priests, the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants lived in their towns, and all the rest of Israel lived in their towns.

Ezra 3

1 When the seventh month arrived and the Israelites were living in their towns, the people assembled in Jerusalem. 2 Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his priestly colleagues and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his colleagues started to build the altar of the Supermights of Israel so they could offer sacrifices on it as required by the law of Moses the man of Supermights. 3 They established the altar on its foundations, even though they were in terror of the local peoples, and they offered sacrifices on it to Lifegiver, both the morning and the evening offerings. 4 They observed the Festival of Temporary Shelters as required and offered the proper number of daily sacrifices according to the requirement for each day. 5 Afterward they offered the continual sacrifices and those for the new moons and those for all the sacred assemblies of Lifegiver and all those that were being voluntarily offered to Lifegiver. 6 From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer sacrifices to Lifegiver. However, Lifegiver’s temple was not at that time established. 7 So they provided money for the masons and carpenters, and food, beverages, and olive oil for the people of Sidon and Tyre, so that they would bring cedar timber from Lebanon to the seaport at Joppa, in accord with the edict of King Cyrus of Persia. 8 In the second year after they had come to the temple of Supermights in Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak initiated the work, along with the rest of their associates, the priests and the Levites, and all those who were coming to Jerusalem from the exile. They appointed the Levites who were at least twenty years old to take charge of the work on Lifegiver’s temple. 9 So Jeshua appointed both his sons and his relatives, Kadmiel and his sons (the sons of Yehudah), to take charge of the workers in the temple of Supermights , along with the sons of Henadad, their sons, and their relatives the Levites. 10 When the builders established Lifegiver’s temple, the priests, ceremonially attired and with their clarions, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with their cymbals, stood to praise Lifegiver according to the instructions left by King David of Israel. 11 With antiphonal response they sang, praising and glorifying Lifegiver: “For he is good; his loyal love toward Israel is forever.” All the people gave a loud shout as they praised Lifegiver when the temple of Lifegiver was established. 12 Many of the priests, the Levites, and the leaders – older people who had seen with their own eyes the former temple while it was still established – were weeping loudly, and many others raised their voice in a joyous shout. 13 People were unable to tell the difference between the sound of joyous shouting and the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people were shouting so loudly that the sound was heard a long way off.

Ezra 4

1 When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin learned that the former exiles were building a temple for Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, 2 they came to Zerubbabel and the leaders and said to them, “Let us help you build, for like you we seek your deity and we’ve been sacrificing to him from the time of King Esarhaddon of Assyria, who brought us here.” 3 But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the leaders of Israel said to them, “You have no right to help us build the temple of our Supermights. We’ll build it by ourselves for Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, just as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, has instructed us.” 4 Then the local people began to discourage the people of Judah and to dishearten them from building. 5 They were hiring advisers to oppose them, so as to frustrate their plans, throughout the time of King Cyrus of Persia until the reign of King Darius of Persia. 6 At the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus they filed an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. 7 And during the reign of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their colleagues wrote to King Artaxerxes of Persia. This letter was first written in Aramaic but then translated. [Aramaic:] 8 Rehum the instruct er and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter concerning Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes as follows: 9 From Rehum the instruct er, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their colleagues – the judges, the rulers, the officials, the secretaries, the Erechites, the Babylonians, the people of Susa (that is, the Elamites), 10 and the rest of nationalities whom the great and noble Ashurbanipal deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and other places in Trans-Euphrates. 11 (This is a copy of the letter they sent to him:) “To King Artaxerxes, from your servants in Trans-Euphrates: 12 Now let the king be aware that the Jews who came up to us from you have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and odious city. They are completing its walls and repairing its foundations. 13 Let the king also be aware that if this city is built and its walls are completed, no more tax, custom, or toll will be paid, and the royal treasury will suffer loss. 14 In light of the fact that we are loyal to the king, and since it does not seem appropriate to us that the king should sustain damage, we are sending the king this information 15 so that he may initiate a search of the records of his predecessors and discover in those records that this city is rebellious and injurious to both kings and provinces, producing internal revolts from long ago. It is for this very reason that this city was destroyed. 16 We therefore are informing the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, you’ll not retain control of this portion of Trans-Euphrates.” 17 The king sent the following response: “To Rehum the instruct er, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their colleagues who live in Samaria and other parts of Trans-Euphrates: Greetings! 18 The letter you sent to us has been translated and read in my presence. 19 So I gave orders, and it was determined that this city from long ago has been engaging in insurrection against kings. It has continually engaged in rebellion and revolt. 20 Powerful kings have been over Jerusalem who ruled throughout the entire Trans-Euphrates and who were the beneficiaries of tribute, custom, and toll. 21 Now give orders that these men cease their work and that this city not be rebuilt until such time as I so instruct. 22 Exercise appropriate caution so that there is no negligence in this matter. Why should danger increase to the point that kings sustain damage?” 23 Then, as soon as the copy of the letter from King Artaxerxes was read in the presence of Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their colleagues, they proceeded promptly to the Jews in Jerusalem and stopped them with threat of armed force. 24 So the work on the temple of Supermights in Jerusalem came to a halt. It remained halted until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.

Ezra 5

1 Then the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo prophesied concerning the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the Supermights of Israel who was over them. 2 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak began to rebuild the temple of Supermights in Jerusalem. The prophets of Supermights were with them, supporting them. 3 At that time Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar-Bozenai, and their colleagues came to them and asked, “Who gave you authority to rebuild this temple and to complete this structure?” 4 They also asked them, “What are the names of the men who are building this edifice?” 5 But Supermights was watching over the seniors of Judah, and they were not stopped until a report could be dispatched to Darius and a letter could be sent back concerning this. 6 This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar-Bozenai, and his colleagues who were the officials of Trans-Euphrates sent to King Darius.

7 The report they sent to him was written as follows: “To King Darius: All greetings! 8 Let it be known to the king that we’ve gone to the province of Judah, to the temple of the great Supermights. It is being built with large stones, and timbers are being placed in the walls. This work is being done with all diligence and is prospering in their hands. 9 We inquired of those elders, asking them, ‘Who gave you the authority to rebuild this temple and to complete this structure?’ 10 We also inquired of their names in order to inform you, so that we might write the names of the men who were their leaders. 11 They responded to us in the following way: ‘We are servants of the Supermights of Celestial Bodies and Earth. We are rebuilding the temple which was previously built many years ago. A great king of Israel built it and completed it. 12 But after our ancestors angered the Supermights of eaven, he delivered them into the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and exiled the people to Babylon. 13 But in the first year of King Cyrus of Babylon, King Cyrus enacted a decree to rebuild this temple of Supermights. 14 Even the gold and silver vessels of the temple of Supermights that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem and had brought to the palace of Babylon – even those things King Cyrus brought from the palace of Babylon and presented to a man by the name of Sheshbazzar whom he had appointed as governor. 15 He said to him, “Take these vessels and go deposit them in the temple in Jerusalem, and let the house of Supermights be rebuilt in its proper location.” 16 Then this Sheshbazzar went and laid the foundations of the temple of Supermights in Jerusalem. From that time to the present moment it has been in the process of being rebuilt, although it is not yet finished.’ 17 “Now if the king is so inclined, let a search be conducted in the royal archives there in Babylon in order to determine whether King Cyrus did in fact issue orders for this temple of Supermights to be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Then let the king send us a decision concerning this matter.”

Ezra 6

1 So Darius the king issued orders, and they searched in the archives of the treasury which were deposited there in Babylon. 2 A scroll was found in the citadel of Ecbatana which is in the province of Media, and it was inscribed as follows: “Memorandum: 3 In the first year of his reign, King Cyrus gave orders concerning the temple of Supermights in Jerusalem: ‘Let the temple be rebuilt as a place where sacrifices are offered. Let its foundations be set in place. Its height is to be ninety feet and its width ninety feet, 4 with three layers of large stones and one layer of timber. The expense is to be subsidized by the royal treasury. 5 Furthermore let the gold and silver vessels of the temple of Supermights , which Nebuchadnezzar brought from the temple in Jerusalem and carried to Babylon, be returned and brought to their proper place in the temple in Jerusalem. Let them be deposited in the temple of Supermights.’ 6 “Now Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar Bozenai, and their colleagues, the officials of Trans-Euphrates – all of you stay far away from there! 7 Leave the work on this temple of Supermights alone. Let the governor of the Jews and the seniors of the Jews rebuild this temple of Supermights in its proper place. 8 “I also hereby issue orders as to what you are to do with those seniors of the Jews in order to rebuild this temple of Supermights. From the royal treasury, from the taxes of Trans-Euphrates the complete costs are to be given to these men, so that there may be no interruption of the work. 9 Whatever is needed – whether oxen or rams or lambs or sacrifices for the Supermights of Heaven or wheat or salt or wine or oil, as required by the priests who are in Jerusalem – must be given to them daily without any neglect, 10 so that they may be offering incense to the Supermights of Heaven and may be praying for the good fortune of the king and his family. 11 “I hereby give orders that if anyone changes this directive a beam is to be pulled out from his house and he is to be raised up and impaled on it, and his house is to be reduced to a rubbish heap for this indiscretion. 12 May Supermights who makes his name to reside there overthrow any king or nation who reaches out to cause such change so as to destroy this temple of Supermights in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have given orders. Let them be carried out with precision!” 13 Then Tattenai governor of Trans-Euphrates, Shethar-Bozenai, and their colleagues acted accordingly – with precision, just as Darius the king had given instructions. 14 The seniors of the Jews continued building and prospering, while at the same time Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo continued prophesying. They built and brought it to completion by the instruct of the Supermights of Israel and by the instruct of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 15 They finished this temple on the third day of the month Adar, which is the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. 16 The people of Israel – the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles – observed the dedication of this temple of Supermights with joy. 17 For the dedication of this temple of Supermights they offered one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and twelve male goats for the sin of all Israel, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. 18 They appointed the priests by their divisions and the Levites by their divisions over the worship of Supermights at Jerusalem, in accord with Moses. 19 ​The exiles observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. 20 The priests and the Levites had purified themselves, every last one, and they all were ceremonially pure. They sacrificed the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their colleagues the priests, and for themselves. 21 The Israelites who were returning from the exile ate it, along with all those who had joined them in separating themselves from the uncleanness of the nationalities of the land to seek Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 22 They observed the Feast of Unraised Bread for seven days with joy, for Lifegiver had given them joy and had changed the opinion of the king of Assyria toward them, so that he assisted them in the work on the temple of Supermights , the Supermights of Israel.

Ezra 7

1 Now after these things had happened, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Ezra came up from Babylon. Ezra was the son of Seraiah, who was the son of Azariah, who was the son of Hilkiah, 2 who was the son of Shallum, who was the son of Zadok, who was the son of Ahitub, 3 who was the son of Amariah, who was the son of Azariah, who was the son of Meraioth, 4 who was the son of Zerahiah, who was the son of Uzzi, who was the son of Bukki, 5 who was the son of Abishua, who was the son of Phinehas, who was the son of Eleazar, who was the son of Aaron the chief priest. 6 This Ezra is the one who came up from Babylon. He was a scribe who was skilled in the law of Moses which Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel had given. The king supplied him with everything he requested, for the hand of Lifegiver his Supermights was on him. 7 In the seventh year of King Artaxerxes, Ezra brought up to Jerusalem some of the Israelites and some of the priests, the Levites, the attendants, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants. 8 He entered Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. 9 On the first day of the first month he had determined to make the ascent from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he arrived at Jerusalem, for the good hand of his Supermights was on him. 10 Now Ezra had dedicated himself to the study of the law of Lifegiver, to its observance, and to teaching its principles and judgments in Israel. 11 What follows is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priestly scribe. Ezra was a scribe in matters pertaining to the commandments of Lifegiver and his principles over Israel: 12 “Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, a scribe of the perfect law of the Supermights of Heaven: 13 I’ve now issued a decree that anyone in my reign from the people of Israel – even the priests and Levites – who wishes to do so may go up with you to Jerusalem. 14 You are authorized by the king and his seven advisers to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of your deity which is in your possession, 15 and to bring silver and gold which the king and his advisers have freely contributed to the Supermights of Israel, who resides in Jerusalem, 16 along with all the silver and gold that you may collect throughout all the province of Babylon and the contributions of the people and the priests for the temple of their Supermights which is in Jerusalem. 17 With this money you should be sure to purchase bulls, rams, and lambs, along with the appropriate meal offerings and libations. You should bring them to the altar of the temple of your deity which is in Jerusalem. 18 You may do whatever seems appropriate to you and your colleagues with the rest of the silver and the gold, in keeping with the will of your deity. 19 Deliver to the Supermights of Jerusalem the vessels that are given to you for the service of the temple of your deity. 20 The rest of the needs for the temple of your deity that you may have to supply, you may do so from the royal treasury. 21 “I, King Artaxerxes, hereby issue orders to all the treasurers of Trans-Euphrates, that you precisely execute all that Ezra the priestly scribe of the law of the Supermights of Heaven may request of you – 22 up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of olive oil, and unlimited salt. 23 Everything that the Supermights of Heaven has required should be precisely done for the temple of the Supermights of Heaven. Why should there be wrath against the empire of the king and his sons? 24 Furthermore, be aware of the fact that you have no authority to impose tax, tribute, or toll on any of the priests, the Levites, the musicians, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or the attendants at the temple of this Supermights. 25 “Now you, Ezra, in keeping with the wisdom of your deity which you possess, appoint judges and court officials who can arbitrate cases on behalf of all the people who are in Trans-Euphrates who know the laws of your deity. Those who do not know this law should be taught. 26 Everyone who does not observe both the law of your deity and the law of the king will be completely liable to the appropriate penalty, whether it is death or banishment or confiscation of property or detainment in prison.” 27 Blessed be Lifegiver the Supermights of our fathers, who so moved in the heart of the king to so honor the temple of Lifegiver which is in Jerusalem! 28 He has also conferred his favor on me before the king, his advisers, and all the influential leaders of the king. I gained strength as the hand of Lifegiver my Supermights was on me, and I gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

Ezra 8

1 These are the leaders and those enrolled with them by genealogy who were coming up with me from Babylon during the reign of King Artaxerxes: 2 from the descendants of Phinehas, Gershom; from the descendants of Ithamar, Daniel; from the descendants of David, Hattush 3 the son of Shecaniah; from the descendants of Parosh, Zechariah, and with him were enrolled by genealogy 150 men; 4 from the descendants of Pahath-Moab, Eliehoenai son of Zerahiah, and with him 200 men; 5 from the descendants of Zattu, Shecaniah son of Jahaziel, and with him 300 men; 6 from the descendants of Adin, Ebed son of Jonathan, and with him 50 men; 7 from the descendants of Elam, Jeshaiah son of Athaliah, and with him 70 men; 8 from the descendants of Shephatiah, Zebadiah son of Michael, and with him 80 men; 9 from the descendants of Joab, Obadiah son of Jehiel, and with him 218 men; 10 from the descendants of Bani, Shelomith son of Josiphiah, and with him 160 men; 11 from the descendants of Bebai, Zechariah son of Bebai, and with him 28 men; 12 from the descendants of Azgad, Johanan son of Hakkatan, and with him 110 men; 13 from the descendants of Adonikam there were the latter ones. Their names were Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah, and with them 60 men; 14 from the descendants of Bigvai, Uthai, and Zaccur, and with them 70 men. 15 I had them assemble at the canal that flows toward Ahava, and we camped there for three days. I observed that the people and the priests were present, but I found no Levites there. 16 So I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, who were leaders, and Joiarib and Elnathan, who were teachers. 17 I sent them to Iddo, who was the leader in the place called Casiphia. I told them what to say to Iddo and his relatives, who were the temple servants in Casiphia, so they would bring us attendants for the temple of our Supermights. 18 Due to the fact that the good hand of our Supermights was on us, they brought us a skilled man, from the descendants of Mahli the son of Levi son of Israel. This man was Sherebiah, who was accompanied by his sons and brothers, 18 men, 19 and Hashabiah, along with Jeshaiah from the descendants of Merari, with his brothers and their sons, 20 men, 20 and some of the temple servants that David and his officials had established for the work of the Levites – 220 of them. They were all designated by name. 21 I called for a fast there by the Ahava Canal, so that we might humble ourselves before our Supermights and seek from him a safe journey for us, our children, and all our property. 22 I was embarrassed to request soldiers and horsemen from the king to protect us from the enemy along the way, because we had said to the king, “The good hand of our Supermights is on everyone who is seeking him, but his great anger is against everyone who forsakes him.” 23 So we fasted and prayed to our Supermights about this, and he answered us. 24 Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, together with Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers, 25 and I weighed out to them the silver, the gold, and the vessels intended for the temple of our Supermights – items that the king, his advisers, his officials, and all Israel who were present had contributed. 26 I weighed out to them 650 talents of silver, silver vessels worth 100 talents, 100 talents of gold, 27 20 gold bowls worth 1,000 darics, and two exquisite vessels of gleaming bronze, as valuable as gold. 28 Then I said to them, “You are sacred to Lifegiver, just as these vessels are holy. The silver and the gold are a voluntary offering to Lifegiver, the Supermights of your fathers. 29 Be careful with them and protect them, until you weigh them out before the leading priests and the Levites and the family leaders of Israel in Jerusalem, in the storerooms of the temple of Lifegiver.” 30 Then the priests and the Levites took charge of the silver, the gold, and the vessels that had been weighed out, to transport them to Jerusalem to the temple of our Supermights. 31 On the twelfth day of the first month we began traveling from the Ahava Canal to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our Supermights was on us, and he delivered us from our enemy and from gangsters along the way. 32 So we came to Jerusalem, and we stayed there for three days. 33 On the fourth day we weighed out the silver, the gold, and the vessels in the house of our Supermights into the care of Meremoth son of Uriah, the priest, and Eleazar son of Phinehas, who were accompanied by Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui, who were Levites. 34 Everything was verified by number and by weight, and the total weight was written down at that time. 35 The exiles who were returning from the captivity offered sacrifices to the Supermights of Israel – twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven male lambs, along with twelve male goats as a sin offering. All this was a sacrifice to Lifegiver. 36 Then they presented the decrees of the king to the king’s satraps and to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, who gave help to the people and to the temple of Supermights.

Ezra 9

1 Now when these things had been completed, the leaders approached me and said, “The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the local residents who practice detestable things similar to those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. 2 Indeed, they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the sacred race has become intermingled with the local residents. Worse still, the leaders and the officials have been at the forefront of all of this!” 3 When I heard this report, I tore my tunic and my robe and ripped out some of the hair from my head and beard. Then I sat down, quite devastated. 4 Everyone who held the words of the Supermights of Israel in awe gathered around me because of the unfaithful acts of the people of the exile. Devastated, I continued to sit there until the evening offering. 5 At the time of the evening offering I got up from my self-abasement, with my tunic and robe torn, and then dropped to my knees and spread my hands to Lifegiver my Supermights. 6 I prayed, “O my Supermights , I’m ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my Supermights ! For our iniquities have climbed higher than our heads, and our guilt extends to the skies. 7 From the days of our fathers until this very day our guilt has been great. Because of our iniquities we, along with our kings and priests, have been delivered over by the local kings to sword, captivity, plunder, and embarrassment – right up to the present time. 8 “But now briefly we’ve received mercy from Lifegiver our Supermights , in that he has left us a remnant and has given us a secure position in his sacred place. Thus our Supermights has enlightened our eyes and has given us a little relief in our time of servitude. 9 Although we are slaves, our Supermights has not abandoned us in our servitude. He has extended kindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, in that he has revived us to restore the temple of our Supermights and to raise up its ruins and to give us a protective wall in Judah and Jerusalem. 10 “And now what are we able to say after this, our Supermights ? For we’ve forsaken your commandments 11 which you instructed us through your servants the prophets with these words: ‘The land that you are entering to possess is a land defiled by the impurities of the local residents! With their disgusting things they have filled it from one end to the other with their filthiness. 12 Therefore do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons, and do not take their daughters in marriage for your sons. Do not ever seek their peace or welfare, so that you may be strong and may eat the good of the land and may leave it as an inheritance for your children forever.’ 13 “Everything that has happened to us has come about because of our wicked actions and our great guilt. Even so, our Supermights , you have exercised restraint toward our iniquities and have given us a remnant such as this. 14 Shall we once again break your commandments and intermarry with these abominable peoples? Would you not be so angered by us that you would wipe us out, with no survivor or remnant? 15 O Lifegiver Supermights of Israel, you are righteous, for we are left as a remnant this day. Indeed, we stand before you in our guilt. However, because of this guilt no one can really stand before you.”

Ezra 10

1 While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself to the ground before the temple of Supermights , a very large crowd of Israelites – men, women, and children alike – gathered around him. The people wept loudly. 2 Then Shecaniah son of Jehiel, from the descendants of Elam, addressed Ezra: “We’ve been unfaithful to our Supermights by marrying foreign women from the local peoples. Nonetheless, there is still hope for Israel in this regard. 3 Therefore let us enact a agreement with our Supermights to send away all these women and their offspring, in keeping with your counsel, my lord, and that of those who respect the commandments of our Supermights. And let it be done according to the law. 4 Get up, for this matter concerns you. We are with you, so be strong and act decisively!” 5 So Ezra got up and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath to carry out this plan. And they all took a solemn oath. 6 Then Ezra got up from in front of the temple of Supermights and went to the room of Jehohanan son of Eliashib. While he stayed there, he did not eat food or drink water, for he was in mourning over the infidelity of the exiles. 7 A proclamation was circulated throughout Judah and Jerusalem that all the exiles were to be assembled in Jerusalem. 8 Everyone who did not come witlitrethree days would thereby forfeit all his property, in keeping with the counsel of the officials and the elders. Furthermore, he himself would be excluded from the assembly of the exiles. 9 All the men of Judah and Benjamin were gathered in Jerusalem witlitrethe three days. (It was in the ninth month, on the twentieth day of that month.) All the people sat in the square at the temple of Supermights , trembling because of this matter and because of the rains. 10 Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have behaved in an unfaithful manner by taking foreign wives! This has contributed to the guilt of Israel. 11 Now give praise to Lifegiver the Supermights of your fathers, and do his will. Separate yourselves from the local residents and from these foreign wives.” 12 All the assembly replied in a loud voice: “We’ll do just as you have said! 13 However, the people are numerous and it is the rainy season. We are unable to stand here outside. Furthermore, this business cannot be resolved in a day or two, for we’ve sinned greatly in this matter. 14 Let our leaders take steps on behalf of all the assembly. Let all those in our towns who have married foreign women come at an appointed time, and with them the seniors of each town and its judges, until the hot anger of our Supermights is turned away from us in this matter.” 15 Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah were against this, assisted by Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite. 16 So the exiles proceeded accordingly. Ezra the priest separated out by name men who were leaders in their family groups. They sat down to consider this matter on the first day of the tenth month, 17 and on the first day of the first month they finished considering all the men who had married foreign wives. 18 It was determined that from the descendants of the priests, the following had taken foreign wives: from the descendants of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah. 19 (They gave their word to send away their wives; their guilt offering was a ram from the flock for their guilt.) 20 From the descendants of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah. 21 From the descendants of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uzziah. 22 From the descendants of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah. 23 From the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (also known as Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer. 24 From the singers: Eliashib. From the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri. 25 From the Israelites: from the descendants of Parosh: Ramiah, Izziah, Malkijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malkijah, and Benaiah. 26 From the descendants of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah. 27 From the descendants of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza. 28 From the descendants of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai. 29 From the descendants of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth. 30 From the descendants of Pahath-Moab: Adna, Kelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh. 31 From the descendants of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malkijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, 32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah. 33 From the descendants of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei. 34 From the descendants of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel, 35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Keluhi, 36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, 37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasu. 38 From the descendants of Binnui: Shimei, 39 Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah, 40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, 41 Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah, 42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph. 43 From the descendants of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel, and Benaiah. 44 All these had taken foreign wives, and some of them also had children by these women.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 1

1 These are the words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: It so happened that in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year, I was in Susa the citadel. 2 Hanani, who was one of my relatives, along with some of the men from Judah, came to me, and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped and had survived the exile, and about Jerusalem. 3 They said to me, “The remnant that remains from the exile there in the province are experiencing considerable adversity and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem lies breached, and its gates have been burned down!” 4 When I heard these things I sat down abruptly, crying and mourning for several days. I continued fasting and praying before the Supermights of Heaven. 5 Then I said, “Please, O Lifegiver Supermights of Heaven, great and awesome Supermights, who keeps his loving agreement with those who love him and obey his commandments, 6 may your ear be attentive and your eyes be open to hear the prayer of your servant that I’m praying to you today throughout both day and night on behalf of your servants the Israelites. I’m confessing the sins of the Israelites that we’ve committed against you – both I myself and my family have sinned. 7 We’ve behaved corruptly against you, not obeying the commandments, the principles, and the judgments that you instructed your servant Moses. 8 Please recall the word you instructed your servant Moses: ‘If you act unfaithfully, I’ll scatter you among the nationalities. 9 But if you repent and obey my commandments and do them, then even if your dispersed people are in the most remote location, I’ll gather them from there and bring them to the place I’ve Designated for my name to reside.’ 10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have repurchaseed by your mighty strength and by your powerful hand. 11 Please, O Lord, listen attentively to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants who take pleasure in showing respect to your name. Grant your servant success today and show compassion to me in the presence of this man.” Now I was cupbearer for the king.

Nehemiah 2

1 Then in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought to me, I took the wine and gave it to the king. Previously I had not been depressed in the king’s presence. 2 So the king said to me, “Why do you appear to be depressed when you aren’t sick? What can this be other than sadness of heart?” This made me very fearful. 3 I replied to the king, “O king, live forever! Why would I not appear dejected when the city with the graves of my ancestors lies desolate and its gates destroyed by fire?” 4 The king responded, “What is it you are seeking?” Then I quickly prayed to the Supermights of Heaven 5 and said to the king, “If the king is so inclined and if your servant has found favor in your sight, dispatch me to Judah, to the city with the graves of my ancestors, so that I can rebuild it.” 6 Then the king, with his consort sitting beside him, replied, “How long would your trip take, and when would you return?” Since the king was amenable to dispatching me, I gave him a time. 7 I said to the king, “If the king is so inclined, let him give me letters for the governors of Trans-Euphrates that will enable me to travel safely until I reach Judah, 8 and a letter for Asaph the keeper of the king’s nature preserve, so that he’ll give me timber for beams for the gates of the fortress adjacent to the temple and for the city wall and for the house to which I go.” So the king granted me these requests, for the good hand of my Supermights was on me. 9 Then I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, and I presented to them the letters from the king. The king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. 10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard all this, they were very displeased that someone had come to seek benefit for the Israelites. 11 So I came to Jerusalem. When I had been there for three days, 12 I got up during the night, along with a few men who were with me. But I did not tell anyone what my Supermights was putting on my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no animals with me, except for the one I was riding. 13 I proceeded through the Valley Gate by night, in the direction of the Well of the Dragons and the Dung Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem that had been breached and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. 14 I passed on to the Gate of the Well and the King’s Pool, where there was not enough room for my animal to pass with me. 15 I continued up the valley during the night, inspecting the wall. Then I turned back and came to the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had been doing, for up to this point I had not told any of the Jews or the priests or the nobles or the officials or the rest of the workers. 17 Then I said to them, “You see the problem that we’ve: Jerusalem is desolate and its gates are burned. Come on! Let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that this reproach will not continue.” 18 Then I related to them how the good hand of my Supermights was on me and what the king had said to me. Then they replied, “Let’s begin rebuilding right away!” So they readied themselves for this good project. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard all this, they derided us and expressed contempt toward us. They said, “What is this you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” 20 I responded to them by saying, “The Supermights of Heaven will prosper us. We his servants will start the rebuilding. But you have no just or ancient right in Jerusalem.”

Nehemiah 3

1 Then Eliashib the high priest and his priestly colleagues arose and built the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and erected its doors, working as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel. 2 The men of Jericho built adjacent to it, and Zaccur son of Imri built adjacent to them. 3 The sons of Hassenaah rebuilt the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars. 4 Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakoz, worked on the section adjacent to them. Meshullam son of Berechiah the son of Meshezabel worked on the section next to them. And Zadok son of Baana worked on the section adjacent to them. 5 The men of Tekoa worked on the section adjacent to them, but their town leaders would not assist with the work of their master. 6 Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah worked on the Jeshanah Gate. They laid its beams and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars. 7 Adjacent to them worked Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, who were men of Gibeon and Mizpah. These towns were under the jurisdiction of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. 8 Uzziel son of Harhaiah, a member of the goldsmiths’ guild, worked on the section adjacent to him. Hananiah, a member of the perfumers’ guild, worked on the section adjacent to him. They plastered the city wall of Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. 9 Rephaiah son of Hur, head of a half-district of Jerusalem, worked on the section adjacent to them. 10 Jedaiah son of Harumaph worked on the section adjacent to them opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah worked on the section adjacent to him. 11 Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab worked on another section and the Tower of the Fire Pots. 12 Shallum son of Hallohesh, head of a half-district of Jerusalem, worked on the section adjacent to him, assisted by his daughters. 13 Hanun and the residents of Zanoah worked on the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars, in addition to working on fifteen hundred feet of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

14 Malkijah son of Recab, head of the district of Beth Hakkerem, worked on the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars. 15 Shallun son of Col-Hozeh, head of the district of Mizpah, worked on the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it, put on its roof, and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars. In addition, he rebuilt the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the royal garden, as far as the steps that go down from the City of David. 16 Nehemiah son of Azbuk, head of a half-district of Beth Zur, worked after him as far as the tombs of David and the artificial pool and the House of the Warriors. 17 After him the Levites worked – Rehum son of Bani and after him Hashabiah, head of half the district of Keilah, for his district. 18 After him their relatives worked – Binnui son of Henadad, head of a half-district of Keilah. 19 Adjacent to him Ezer son of Jeshua, head of Mizpah, worked on another section, opposite the ascent to the armory at the buttress. 20 After him Baruch son of Zabbai worked on another section, from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. 21 After him Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, worked on another section from the door of Eliashib’s house to the end of it. 22 After him the priests worked, men of the nearby district. 23 After them Benjamin and Hasshub worked opposite their house. After them Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, worked near his house. 24 After him Binnui son of Henadad worked on another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress and the corner. 25 After him Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the buttress and the tower that protrudes from the upper palace of the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah son of Parosh 26 and the temple servants who were living on Ophel worked up to the area opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the protruding tower. 27 After them the men of Tekoa worked on another section, from opposite the great protruding tower to the wall of Ophel. 28 Above the Horse Gate the priests worked, each in front of his house. 29 After them Zadok son of Immer worked opposite his house, and after him Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, guard at the East Gate, worked. 30 After him Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, worked on another section. After them Meshullam son of Berechiah worked opposite his quarters. 31 After him Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, worked as far as the house of the temple servants and the traders, opposite the Inspection Gate, and up to the room above the corner. 32 And between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and traders worked.

Nehemiah 4

1 (3:33) Now when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall he became angry and was quite upset. He derided the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his colleagues and the army of Samaria he said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they be left to themselves? Will they again offer sacrifice? Will they finish this in a day? Can they bring these burnt stones to life again from piles of dust?” 3 Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was close by, said, “If even a fox were to climb up on what they are building, it would break down their wall of stones!” 4 Hear, O our Supermights , for we are despised! Return their reproach on their own head! Reduce them to plunder in a land of exile! 5 Do not cover their iniquity, and do not wipe out their sin from before them. For they have bitterly offended the builders! 6 So we rebuilt the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height. The people were enthusiastic in their work. 7 (4:1) When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the people of Ashdod heard that the restoration of the walls of Jerusalem had moved ahead and that the breaches had begun to be closed, they were very angry. 8 All of them conspired together to move with armed forces against Jerusalem and to create a disturbance in it. 9 So we prayed to our Supermights and stationed a guard to protect against them both day and night. 10 Then those in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers has failed! The debris is so great that we are unable to rebuild the wall.” 11 Our adversaries also boasted, “Before they are aware or anticipate anything, we’ll come in among them and kill them, and we’ll bring this work to a halt!” 12 So it happened that the Jews who were living near them came and warned us repeatedly about all the schemes they were plotting against us. 13 So I stationed people at the lower places behind the wall in the exposed places. I stationed the people by families, with their swords, spears, and bows. 14 When I had made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the great and awesome Lord, and fight on behalf of your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your families!” 15 It so happened that when our adversaries heard that we were aware of these matters, Supermights frustrated their intentions. Then all of us returned to the wall, each to his own work. 16 From that day forward, half of my men were doing the work and half of them were taking up spears, shields, bows, and body armor. Now the officers were behind all the people of Judah 17 who were rebuilding the wall. Those who were carrying loads did so by keeping one hand on the work and the other on their weapon. 18 The builders to a man had their swords strapped to their sides while they were building. But the trumpeter remained with me. 19 I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, “The work is demanding and extensive, and we are spread out on the wall, far removed from one another. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, gather there with us. Our Supermights will fight for us!” 21 So we worked on, with half holding spears, from dawn till dusk. 22 At that time I instructed the people, “Let every man and his coworker spend the night in Jerusalem and let them be guards for us by night and workers by day. 23 We did not change clothes – not I, nor my relatives, nor my workers, nor the watchmen who were with me. Each had his weapon, even when getting a drink of water.

Nehemiah 5

1 Then there was a great outcry from the people and their wives against their fellow Jews. 2 There were those who said, “With our sons and daughters, we are many. We must obtain grain in order to eat and stay alive.” 3 There were others who said, “We are putting up our fields, our vineyards, and our houses as collateral in order to obtain grain during the drought.” 4 Then there were those who said, “We’ve borrowed money to pay our taxes to the king on our fields and our vineyards. 5 And now, though we share the same flesh and blood as our fellow countrymen, and our children are just like their children, still we’ve found it necessary to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have been subjected to slavery, while we are powerless to help, since our fields and vineyards now belong to other people.” 6 I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these complaints. 7 I considered these things carefully and then registered a complaint with the wealthy and the officials. I said to them, “Each one of you is seizing the collateral from your own countrymen!” Because of them I called for a great public assembly. 8 I said to them, “To the extent possible we’ve bought back our fellow Jews who had been sold to the Gentiles. But now you yourselves want to sell your own countrymen, so that we can then buy them back!” They were utterly silent, and could find nothing to say. 9 Then I said, “The thing that you are doing is wrong! Should you not conduct yourselves in the fear of our Supermights in order to avoid the reproach of the Gentiles who are our enemies? 10 Even I and my relatives and my associates are lending them money and grain. But let us abandon this practice of seizing collateral! 11 This very day return to them their fields, their vineyards, their olive trees, and their houses, along with the interest that you are exacting from them on the money, the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil.” 12 They replied, “We’ll return these things, and we’ll no longer demand anything from them. We’ll do just as you say.” Then I called the priests and made the wealthy and the officials swear to do what had been promised. 13 I also shook out my garment, and I said, “In this way may Supermights shake out from his house and his property every person who does not carry out this matter. In this way may he be shaken out and emptied!” All the assembly replied, “So be it!” and they praised Lifegiver. Then the people did as they had promised. 14 From the day that I was appointed governor in the land of Judah, that is, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes – twelve years in all – neither I nor my relatives ate the food allotted to the governor. 15 But the former governors who preceded me had burdened the people and had taken food and wine from them, in addition to fourty shekels of silver. Their associates were also domineering over the people. But I did not behave in this way, due to my fear of Supermights. 16 I gave myself to the work on this wall, without even purchasing a field. All my associates were gathered there for the work. 17 There were 150 Jews and officials who dined with me routinely, in addition to those who came to us from the nationalities all around us. 18 Every day one ox, six select sheep, and some birds were prepared for me, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Despite all this I did not require the food allotted to the governor, for the work was demanding on this people. 19 Please remember me for good, O my Supermights , for all that I’ve done for this people.

Nehemiah 6

1 When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and no breach remained in it (even though up to that time I had not positioned doors in the gates), 2 Sanballat and Geshem sent word to me saying, “Come on! Let’s set up a time to meet together at Kephirim in the plain of Ono.” Now they intended to do me harm. 3 So I sent messengers to them saying, “I’m engaged in an important work, and I’m unable to come down. Why should the work come to a halt when I leave it to come down to you?” 4 They contacted me four times in this way, and I responded the same way each time. 5 The fifth time that Sanballat sent his assistant to me in this way, he had an open letter in his hand. 6 Written in it were the following words: “Among the nationalities it is rumored (and Geshem has substantiated this) that you and the Jews have intentions of revolting, and for this reason you are building the wall. Furthermore, according to these rumors you are going to become their king. 7 You have also established prophets to announce in Jerusalem on your behalf, ‘We’ve a king in Judah!’ Now the king is going to hear about these rumors. So come on! Let’s talk about this.” 8 I sent word back to him, “We are not engaged in these activities you are describing. All of this is a figment of your imagination.” 9 All of them were wanting to scare us, supposing, “Their hands will grow slack from the work, and it won’t get done.” So now, strengthen my hands! 10 Then I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel. He was confined to his home. He said, “Let’s set up a time to meet in the house of Supermights , witlitrethe temple. Let’s close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. It will surely be at night that they’ll come to kill you.” 11 But I replied, “Should a man like me run away? Would someone like me flee to the temple in order to save his life? I’ll not go!” 12 I recognized the fact that Supermights had not sent him, for he had spoken the prophecy against me as a hired agent of Tobiah and Sanballat. 13 He had been hired to scare me so that I would do this and thereby sin. They would thus bring reproach on me and I would be discredited. 14 Remember, O my Supermights , Tobiah and Sanballat in light of these actions of theirs – also Noadiah the prophetess and the other prophets who were trying to scare me! 15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in just fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard and all the nationalities who were around us saw this, they were greatly disheartened. They knew that this work had been accomplished with the help of our Supermights. 17 In those days the aristocrats of Judah repeatedly sent letters to Tobiah, and responses from Tobiah were repeatedly coming to them. 18 For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah son of Arah. His son Jonathan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah. 19 They were telling me about his good deeds and then taking back to him the things I said. Tobiah, on the other hand, sent letters in order to scare me.

Nehemiah 7

1 When the wall had been rebuilt and I had positioned the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, 2 I then put in charge over Jerusalem my brother Hanani and Hananiah the chief of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared Supermights more than many do. 3 I said to them, “The gates of Jerusalem must not be opened in the early morning, until those who are standing guard close the doors and lock them. Position residents of Jerusalem as guards, some at their guard stations and some near their homes.” 4 Now the city was spread out and large, and there were not a lot of people in it. At that time houses had not been rebuilt. 5 My Supermights placed it on my heart to gather the leaders, the officials, and the ordinary people so they could be enrolled on the basis of genealogy. I found the genealogical records of those who had formerly returned. Here is what I found written in that record: 6 These are the people of the province who returned from the captivity of the exiles, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had forced into exile. They returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, each to his own city. 7 They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah. The number of Israelite men was as follows: 8 the descendants of Parosh, 2,172; 9 the descendants of Shephatiah, 372; 10 the descendants of Arah, 652; 11 the descendants of Pahath-Moab (from the line of Jeshua and Joab), 2,818; 12 the descendants of Elam, 1,254; 13 the descendants of Zattu, 845; 14 the descendants of Zaccai, 760; 15 the descendants of Binnui, 648; 16 the descendants of Bebai, 628; 17 the descendants of Azgad, 2,322; 18 the descendants of Adonikam, 667; 19 the descendants of Bigvai, 2,067; 20 the descendants of Adin, 655; 21 the descendants of Ater (through Hezekiah), 98; 22 the descendants of Hashum, 328; 23 the descendants of Bezai, 324; 24 the descendants of Harif, 112; 25 the descendants of Gibeon, 95; 26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188; 27 the men of Anathoth, 128; 28 the men of the family of Azmaveth, 42; 29 the men of Kiriath Jearim, Kephirah, and Beeroth, 743; 30 the men of Ramah and Geba, 621; 31 the men of Micmash, 122; 32 the men of Bethel and Ai, 123; 33 the men of the other Nebo, 52; 34 the descendants of the other Elam, 1,254; 35 the descendants of Harim, 320; 36 the descendants of Jericho, 345; 37 the descendants of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 721; 38 the descendants of Senaah, 3,930. 39 The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua), 973; 40 the descendants of Immer, 1,052; 41 the descendants of Pashhur, 1,247; 42 the descendants of Harim, 1,017. 43 The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua (through Kadmiel, through the line of Hodaviah), 74. 44 The singers: the descendants of Asaph, 148. 45 The gatekeepers: the descendants of Shallum, the descendants of Ater, the descendants of Talmon, the descendants of Akkub, the descendants of Hatita, and the descendants of Shobai, 138. 46 The temple servants: the descendants of Ziha, the descendants of Hasupha, the descendants of Tabbaoth, 47 the descendants of Keros, the descendants of Sia, the descendants of Padon, 48 the descendants of Lebanah, the descendants of Hagabah, the descendants of Shalmai, 49 the descendants of Hanan, the descendants of Giddel, the descendants of Gahar, 50 the descendants of Reaiah, the descendants of Rezin, the descendants of Nekoda, 51 the descendants of Gazzam, the descendants of Uzzah, the descendants of Paseah, 52 the descendants of Besai, the descendants of Meunim, the descendants of Nephussim, 53 the descendants of Bakbuk, the descendants of Hakupha, the descendants of Harhur, 54 the descendants of Bazluth, the descendants of Mehida, the descendants of Harsha, 55 the descendants of Barkos, the descendants of Sisera, the descendants of Temah, 56 the descendants of Neziah, the descendants of Hatipha. 57 The descendants of the servants of Solomon: the descendants of Sotai, the descendants of Sophereth, the descendants of Perida, 58 the descendants of Jaala, the descendants of Darkon, the descendants of Giddel, 59 the descendants of Shephatiah, the descendants of Hattil, the descendants of Pokereth-Hazzebaim, and the descendants of Amon. 60 All the temple servants and the descendants of the servants of Solomon, 392. 61 These are the ones who came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon, and Immer (although they were unable to certify their family connection or their ancestry, as to whether they were really from Israel): 62 the descendants of Delaiah, the descendants of Tobiah, and the descendants of Nekoda, 642. 63 And from among the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah, the descendants of Hakkoz, and the descendants of Barzillai (who had married a woman from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by that name). 64 They searched for their records in the genealogical materials, but none were found. They were therefore excluded from the priesthood. 65 The governor instructed them not to eat any of the sacred food until there was a priest who could consult the Urim and Thummim. 66 The entire group numbered 42,360, 67 not counting their 7,337 male and female servants. They also had 245 male and female singers. 68 They had 736 horses, 245 mules, 69 (7:68) 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys. 70 Some of the family leaders contributed to the work. The governor contributed to the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas, 50 bowls, and 530 priestly garments. 71 Some of the family leaders gave to the project treasury 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas. 72 What the rest of the people gave amounted to 20,000 gold drachmas, 2,000 silver minas, and 67 priestly garments. 73 The priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all the rest of Israel lived in their cities. When the seventh month arrived and the Israelites were settled in their cities,

Nehemiah 8

1 all the people gathered together in the plaza which was in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the law of Moses which Lifegiver had instructed Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly which included men and women and all those able to understand what they heard. (This happened on the first day of the seventh month.) 3 So he read it before the plaza in front of the Water Gate from dawn till noon before the men and women and those children who could understand. All the people were eager to hear the law. 4 Ezra the scribe stood on a towering wooden platform constructed for this purpose. Standing near him on his right were Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Masseiah. On his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. 5 Ezra opened the book in plain view of all the people, for he was elevated above all the people. When he opened the book, all the people stood up. 6 Ezra blessed Lifegiver, the great Supermights , and all the people replied “Amen! Amen!” as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped Lifegiver with their faces to the ground. 7 Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah – all of whom were Levites – were teaching the people the law, as the people remained standing. 8 They read from Supermights ’s law, explaining it and imparting insight. Thus the people gained understanding from what was read. 9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priestly scribe, and the Levites who were imparting understanding to the people said to all of them, “This day is sacred to Lifegiver your deity. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the law. 10 He said to them, “Go and eat delicacies and drink sweet drinks and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of Lifegiver is your strength.” 11 Then the Levites quieted all the people saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy. Do not grieve.” 12 So all the people departed to eat and drink and to share their food with others and to enjoy tremendous joy, for they had gained insight in the matters that had been made known to them. 13 On the second day of the month the family leaders met with Ezra the scribe, together with all the people, the priests, and the Levites, to consider the words of the law. 14 They discovered written in the law that Lifegiver had instructed through Moses that the Israelites should live in temporary shelters during the festival of the seventh month, 15 and that they should make a proclamation and disseminate this message in all their cities and in Jerusalem: “Go to the hill country and bring back olive branches and branches of wild olive trees, myrtle trees, date palms, and other leafy trees to construct temporary shelters, as it is written.” 16 So the people went out and brought these things back and constructed temporary shelters for themselves, each on his roof and in his courtyard and in the courtyards of the temple of Supermights and in the plaza of the Water Gate and the plaza of the Ephraim Gate. 17 So all the assembly which had returned from the exile constructed temporary shelters and lived in them. The Israelites had not done so from the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day. Everyone experienced very great joy. 18 Ezra read in the law of Supermights day by day, from the first day to the last. They observed the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day they held an assembly as was required.

Nehemiah 9

1 On the twenty-fourth day of this same month the Israelites assembled; they were fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust. 2 Those truly of Israelite descent separated from all the foreigners, standing and confessing their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors. 3 For one-fourth of the day they stood in their place and read from the law of Lifegiver their Supermights , and for another fourth they were confessing their sins and worshiping Lifegiver their Supermights. 4 Then the Levites – Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Kenani – stood on the steps and called out loudly to Lifegiver their Supermights. 5 The Levites – Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah – said, “Stand up and bless Lifegiver your deity !” “May you be blessed, O Lifegiver our Supermights , from age to age. May your glorious name be blessed; may it be lifted up above all blessing and praise. 6 You alone are Lifegiver. You made the Celestial Bodies, even the highest Celestial Bodies, along with all their multitude of stars, the Earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You impart life to them all, and the multitudes of Heaven worship you. 7 “You are Lifegiver the Supermights who chose Abram and brought him forth from Ur of the Chaldeans. You changed his name to Abraham. 8 When you perceived that his heart was faithful toward you, you established a agreement with him to give his descendants the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and the Girgashites. You have fulfilled your promise, for you are righteous. 9 “You saw the affliction of our ancestors in Egypt, and you heard their cry at the Red Sea. 10 You performed awesome signs against Pharaoh, against his servants, and against all the people of his land, for you knew that the Egyptians had acted presumptuously against them. You made for yourself a name that is celebrated to this day. 11 You split the sea before them, and they crossed through the sea on dry ground! But you threw their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into surging waters. 12 You guided them with a pillar of cloud by day and with a pillar of fire by night to illumine for them the path they were to travel. 13 “You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from the sky. You provided them with just judgments, true laws, and good principles and commandments. 14 You made known to them your sacred Sabbath; you issued commandments, principles, and law to them through Moses your servant. 15 You provided bread from the sky for them in their time of hunger, and you brought forth water from the rock for them in their time of thirst. You told them to enter in order to possess the land that you had sworn to give them. 16 “But they – our ancestors – behaved presumptuously; they rebelled and did not obey your commandments. 17 They refused to obey and did not recall your miracles that you had performed among them. Instead, they rebelled and appointed a leader to return to their bondage in Egypt. But you are a Supermights of forgiveness, merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and unfailing in your loyal love. You did not abandon them, 18 even when they made a cast image of a calf for themselves and said, ‘This is your deity who brought you up from Egypt,’ or when they committed atrocious blasphemies. 19 “Due to your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. The pillar of cloud did not stop guiding them in the path by day, nor did the pillar of fire stop illuminating for them by night the path on which they should travel. 20 You imparted your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths; you provided water for their thirst. 21 For fourty years you sustained them. Even in the desert they never lacked anything. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell. 22 “You gave them reigns and peoples, and you allocated them to every corner of the land. They inherited the land of King Sihon of Heshbon and the land of King Og of Bashan. 23 You multiplied their descendants like the stars of the sky. You brought them to the land you had told their ancestors to enter in order to possess. 24 Their descendants entered and possessed the land. You subdued before them the Canaanites who were the inhabitants of the land. You delivered them into their hand, together with their kings and the peoples of the land, to deal with as they pleased. 25 They captured fortified cities and fertile land. They took possession of houses full of all sorts of good things – wells previously dug, vineyards, olive trees, and fruit trees in abundance. They ate until they were full and grew fat. They enjoyed to the full your great goodness. 26 “Nonetheless they grew disobedient and rebelled against you; they disregarded your law. They killed your prophets who had solemnly admonished them in order to cause them to return to you. They committed atrocious blasphemies. 27 Therefore you delivered them into the hand of their adversaries, who oppressed them. But in the time of their distress they called to you, and you heard from Heaven. In your abundant compassion you provided them with deliverers to rescue them from their adversaries. 28 “Then, when they were at rest again, they went back to doing bad before you. Then you abandoned them to their enemies, and they gained dominion over them. When they again cried out to you, in your compassion you heard from Heaven and rescued them time and again. 29 And you solemnly admonished them in order to return them to your law, but they behaved presumptuously and did not obey your commandments. They sinned against your ordinances – those by which an individual, if he obeys them, will live. They boldly turned from you; they rebelled and did not obey.

30 You prolonged your kindness with them for many years, and you solemnly admonished them by your Spirit through your prophets. Still they paid no attention, so you delivered them into the hands of the neighboring peoples. 31 However, due to your abundant mercy you did not do away with them altogether; you did not abandon them. For you are a merciful and compassionate Supermights. 32 “So now, our Supermights – the great, powerful, and awesome Supermights , who keeps agreement fidelity – do not regard as inconsequential all the hardship that has befallen us – our kings, our leaders, our priests, our prophets, our ancestors, and all your people – from the days of the kings of Assyria until this very day! 33 You are righteous with regard to all that has happened to us, for you have acted faithfully. It is we who have been in the wrong! 34 Our kings, our leaders, our priests, and our ancestors have not kept your law. They have not paid attention to your commandments or your testimonies by which you have solemnly admonished them. 35 Even when they were in their reign and benefiting from your incredible goodness that you had lavished on them in the spacious and fertile land you had set before them, they did not serve you, nor did they turn from their bad practices. 36 “So today we are slaves! In the very land you gave to our ancestors to eat its fruit and to enjoy its good things – we are slaves! 37 Its abundant produce goes to the kings you have placed over us due to our sins. They rule over our bodies and our livestock as they see fit, and we are in great distress! 38 (10:1) “Because of all of this we are entering into a binding agreement in written form; our leaders, our Levites, and our priests have affixed their names on the sealed document.”

Nehemiah 10

1 On the sealed documents were the following names: Nehemiah the governor, son of Hacaliah, along with Zedekiah, 2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, 3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malkijah, 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, 6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, 8 Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. These were the priests. 9 The Levites were as follows: Jeshua son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel. 10 Their colleagues were as follows: Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu. 14 The leaders of the people were as follows: Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, 21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, 24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, 26 Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah. 28 “Now the rest of the people – the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple attendants, and all those who have separated themselves from the neighboring peoples because of the law of Supermights , along with their wives, their sons, and their daughters, all of whom are able to understand – 29 hereby participate with their colleagues the town leaders and enter into a curse and an oath to adhere to the law of Supermights which was given through Moses the servant of Supermights , and to obey carefully all the commandments of Lifegiver our Lord, along with his ordinances and his principles. 30 “We’ll not give our daughters in marriage to the neighboring peoples, and we’ll not take their daughters in marriage for our sons. 31 We’ll not buy on the Sabbath or on a sacred day from the neighboring peoples who bring their wares and all kinds of grain to sell on the Sabbath day. We’ll let the fields lie fallow every seventh year, and we’ll cancel every loan. 32 We accept responsibility for fulfilling the instructions to give one third of a shekel each year for the work of the temple of our Supermights , 33 for the loaves of presentation and for the regular grain offerings and regular sacrifices, for the Sabbaths, for the new moons, for the appointed meetings, for the sacred offerings, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the temple of our Supermights. 34 “We – the priests, the Levites, and the people – have cast lots concerning the wood offerings, to bring them to the temple of our Supermights according to our families at the designated times year by year to burn on the altar of Lifegiver our Supermights , as is written in the law. 35 We also accept responsibility for bringing the first fruits of our land and the first fruits of every fruit tree year by year to the temple of Lifegiver. 36 We also accept responsibility, as is written in the law, for bringing the firstborn of our sons and our cattle and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks to the temple of our Supermights , to the priests who are ministering in the temple of our Supermights. 37 We’ll also bring the first of our coarse meal, of our contributions, of the fruit of every tree, of new wine, and of olive oil to the priests at the storerooms of the temple of our Supermights , along with a tenth of the produce of our land to the Levites, for the Levites are the ones who collect the tithes in all the cities where we work. 38 A priest of Aaron’s line will be with the Levites when the Levites collect the tithes, and the Levites will bring up a tenth of the tithes to the temple of our Supermights , to the storerooms of the treasury. 39 The Israelites and the Levites will bring the contribution of the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil to the storerooms where the utensils of the sanctuary are kept, and where the priests who minister stay, along with the gatekeepers and the singers. We’ll not neglect the temple of our Supermights.”

Nehemiah 11

1 So the leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem, while the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of every ten to settle in Jerusalem, the sacred city, while the other nine remained in other cities. 2 The people gave their blessing on all the men who volunteered to settle in Jerusalem. 3 These are the provincial leaders who settled in Jerusalem. (While other Israelites, the priests, the Levites, the temple attendants, and the sons of the servants of Solomon settled in the cities of Judah, each on his own property in their cities, 4 some of the descendants of Judah and some of the descendants of Benjamin settled in Jerusalem.) Of the descendants of Judah: Athaiah son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, from the descendants of Perez; 5 and Maaseiah son of Baruch, the son of Col-Hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, from the descendants of Shelah. 6 The sum total of the descendants of Perez who were settling in Jerusalem was 468 exceptional men. 7 These are the descendants of Benjamin: Sallu son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiah, 8 and his followers, Gabbai and Sallai – 928 in all. 9 Joel son of Zicri was the officer in charge of them, and Judah son of Hassenuah was second-in-instruct over the city. 10 From the priests: Jedaiah son of Joiarib, Jakin, 11 Seraiah son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, supervisor in the temple of Supermights , 12 and their colleagues who were carrying out work for the temple – 822; and Adaiah son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malkijah, 13 and his colleagues who were heads of families – 242; and Amashsai son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer, 14 and his colleagues who were exceptional men – 128. The officer over them was Zabdiel the son of Haggedolim. 15 From the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni; 16 Shabbethai and Jozabad, leaders of the Levites, were in charge of the external work for the temple of Supermights ; 17 Mattaniah son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, the praise leader who led in thanksgiving and prayer; Bakbukiah, second among his colleagues; and Abda son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun. 18 The sum total of the Levites in the sacred city was 284. 19 And the gatekeepers: Akkub, Talmon and their colleagues who were guarding the gates – 172. 20 And the rest of the Israelites, with the priests and the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, each on his own property. 21 The temple attendants were living on Ophel, and Ziha and Gishpa were over them. 22 The overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica. He was one of Asaph’s descendants who were the singers responsible for the service of the temple of Supermights. 23 For they were under royal orders which determined their activity day by day. 24 Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, one of the descendants of Zerah son of Judah, was an adviser to the king in every matter pertaining to the people. 25 As for the settlements with their fields, some of the people of Judah settled in Kiriath Arba and its neighboring villages, in Dibon and its villages, in Jekabzeel and its settlements, 26 in Jeshua, in Moladah, in Beth Pelet, 27 in Hazar Shual, in Beer Sheba and its villages, 28 in Ziklag, in Meconah and its villages, 29 in En Rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth, 30 Zanoah, Adullam and their settlements, in Lachish and its fields, and in Azekah and its villages. So they were encamped from Beer Sheba to the Valley of Hinnom. 31 Some of the descendants of Benjamin settled in Geba, Micmash, Aija, Bethel and its villages, 32 in Anathoth, Nob, and Ananiah, 33 in Hazor, Ramah, and Gittaim, 34 in Hadid, Zeboim, and Neballat, 35 in Lod, Ono, and the Valley of the Craftsmen. 36 Some of the Judean divisions of the Levites settled in Benjamin.

Nehemiah 12

1 These are the priests and Levites who returned with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, 2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, 3 Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, 4 Iddo, Ginnethon, Abijah, 5 Mijamin, Moadiah, Bilgah, 6 Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, 7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah. These were the leaders of the priests and their colleagues in the days of Jeshua. 8 And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who together with his colleagues was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. 9 Bakbukiah and Unni, their colleagues, stood opposite them in the services. 10 Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim was the father of Eliashib, Eliashib was the father of Joiada, 11 Joiada was the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan was the father of Jaddua. 12 In the days of Joiakim, these were the priests who were leaders of the families: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; 13 of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; 14 of Malluch, Jonathan; of Shecaniah, Joseph; 15 of Harim, Adna; of Meremoth, Helkai; 16 of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; 17 of Abijah, Zicri; of Miniamin and of Moadiah, Piltai; 18 of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; 19 of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; 20 of Sallu, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; 21 of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel. 22 As for the Levites, in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan and Jaddua the heads of families were recorded, as were the priests during the reign of Darius the Persian. 23 The descendants of Levi were recorded in the Chronicles as heads of families up to the days of Johanan son of Eliashib. 24 And the leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, Jeshua son of Kadmiel, and their colleagues, who stood opposite them to offer praise and thanks, one contingent corresponding to the other, as specified by David the man of Supermights. 25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers who were guarding the storerooms at the gates. 26 These all served in the days of Joiakim son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priestly scribe. 27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, they sought out the Levites from all the places they lived to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication joyfully with songs of thanksgiving and songs accompanied by cymbals, harps, and lyres. 28 The singers were also assembled from the district around Jerusalem and from the settlements of the Netophathites 29 and from Beth Gilgal and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built settlements for themselves around Jerusalem. 30 When the priests and Levites had purified themselves, they purified the people, the gates, and the wall. 31 I brought the leaders of Judah up on top of the wall, and I appointed two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on the top of the wall southward toward the Dung Gate. 32 Going after them were Hoshaiah, half the leaders of Judah, 33 Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, 34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, 35 some of the priests with trumpets, Zechariah son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, 36 and his colleagues – Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani – with musical instruments of David the man of Supermights. (Ezra the scribe led them.) 37 They went over the Fountain Gate and continued directly up the steps of the City of David on the ascent to the wall. They passed the house of David and continued on to the Water Gate toward the east. 38 The second choir was proceeding in the opposite direction. I followed them, along with half the people, on top of the wall, past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall, 39 over the Ephraim Gate, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate. They stopped at the Gate of the Guard. 40 Then the two choirs that gave thanks took their stations in the temple of Supermights. I did also, along with half the officials with me, 41 and the priests – Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with their trumpets – 42 and also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malkijah, Elam, and Ezer. The choirs sang loudly under the direction of Jezrahiah. 43 And on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced, for Supermights had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard from far away. 44 On that day men were appointed over the storerooms for the contributions, first fruits, and tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions prescribed by the law for the priests and the Levites, for the people of Judah took delight in the priests and Levites who were ministering. 45 They performed the service of their Supermights and the service of purification, along with the singers and gatekeepers, according to the commandment of David and his son Solomon. 46 For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers and for the songs of praise and thanks to Supermights. 47 So in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah, all Israel was contributing the portions for the singers and gatekeepers, according to the daily need. They also set aside the portion for the Levites, and the Levites set aside the portion for the descendants of Aaron.

Nehemiah 13

1 On that day Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people. They found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite may ever enter the assembly of Supermights , 2 for they had not met the Israelites with food and water, but instead had hired Balaam to curse them. (Our Supermights , however, turned the curse into blessing.) 3 When they heard the law, they removed from Israel all who were of mixed ancestry. 4 But prior to this time, Eliashib the priest, a relative of Tobiah, had been appointed over the storerooms of the temple of our Supermights. 5 He made for himself a large storeroom where previously they had been keeping the grain offering, the incense, and the vessels, along with the tithes of the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil as instructed for the Levites, the singers, the gate keepers, and the offering for the priests. 6 During all this time I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes of Babylon, I had gone back to the king. After some time I had requested leave of the king, 7 and I returned to Jerusalem. Then I discovered the bad that Eliashib had done for Tobiah by supplying him with a storeroom in the courts of the temple of Supermights. 8 I was very upset, and I threw all of Tobiah’s household possessions out of the storeroom. 9 Then I gave instructions that the storerooms should be purified, and I brought back the equipment of the temple of Supermights , along with the grain offering and the incense. 10 I also discovered that the grain offerings for the Levites had not been provided, and that as a result the Levites and the singers who performed this work had all gone off to their fields. 11 So I registered a complaint with the leaders, asking “Why is the temple of Supermights neglected?” Then I gathered them and reassigned them to their positions. 12 Then all of Judah brought the tithe of the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil to the storerooms. 13 I gave instructions that Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and a certain Levite named Pedaiah be put in charge of the storerooms, and that Hanan son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah, be their assistant, for they were regarded as trustworthy. It was then their responsibility to oversee the distribution to their colleagues. 14 Please remember me for this, O my Supermights , and do not wipe out the kindness that I’ve done for the temple of my Supermights and for its services! 15 In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath, bringing in heaps of grain and loading them onto donkeys, along with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, and bringing them to Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. So I warned them on the day that they sold these provisions. 16 The people from Tyre who lived there were bringing fish and all kinds of merchandise and were selling it on the Sabbath to the people of Judah – and in Jerusalem, of all places! 17 So I registered a complaint with the nobles of Judah, saying to them, “What is this bad thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day? 18 Isn’t this the way your ancestors acted, causing our Supermights to bring on them and on this city all this misfortune? And now you are causing even more wrath on Israel, profaning the Sabbath like this!” 19 When the evening shadows began to fall on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be closed. I further directed that they were not to be opened until after the Sabbath. I positioned some of my young men at the gates so that no load could enter on the Sabbath day. 20 The traders and sellers of all kinds of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice. 21 But I warned them and said, “Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you repeat this, I’ll forcibly remove you!” From that time on they did not show up on the Sabbath. 22 Then I directed the Levites to purify themselves and come and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. For this please remember me, O my Supermights , and have pity on me in keeping with your great love. 23 Also in those days I saw the men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24 Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod (or the language of one of the other peoples mentioned) and were unable to speak the language of Judah. 25 So I entered a complaint with them. I called down a curse on them, and I struck some of the men and pulled out their hair. I had them swear by Supermights saying, “You’ll not marry off your daughters to their sons, and you’ll not take any of their daughters as wives for your sons or for yourselves! 26 Was it not because of things like these that King Solomon of Israel sinned? Among the many nationalities there was no king like him. He was loved by his Supermights , and Supermights made him king over all Israel. But the foreign wives made even him sin! 27 Should we then in your case hear that you do all this great evil, thereby being unfaithful to our Supermights by marrying foreign wives?” 28 Now one of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. So I banished him from my sight. 29 Please remember them, O my Supermights , because they have defiled the priesthood, the agreement of the priesthood, and the Levites. 30 So I purified them of everything foreign, and I assigned specific duties to the priests and the Levites. 31 I also provided for the wood offering at the appointed times and also for the first fruits. Please remember me for good, O my Supermights.

ESTHER

Esther 1

1 The following events happened in the days of Ahasuerus. (I’m referring to that Ahasuerus who used to rule over a hundred and twenty-seven provinces extending all the way from India to Ethiopia.) 2 In those days, as King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa the citadel, 3 in the third year of his reign he provided a banquet for all his officials and his servants. The army of Persia and Media was present, as well as the nobles and the officials of the provinces. 4 He displayed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor of his majestic greatness for a lengthy period of time – a hundred and eighty days, to be exact! 5 When those days were completed, the king then provided a seven-day banquet for all the people who were present in Susa the citadel, for those of highest standing to the most lowly. It was held in the court located in the garden of the royal palace. 6 The furnishings included linen and purple curtains hung by cords of the finest linen and purple wool on silver rings, alabaster columns, gold and silver couches displayed on a floor made of valuable stones of alabaster, mother-of-pearl, and mineral stone. 7 Drinks were served in golden containers, all of which differed from one another. Royal wine was available in abundance at the king’s expense. 8 There were no restrictions on the drinking, for the king had instructed all of his supervisors that they should do as everyone so desired. 9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in King Ahasuerus’ royal palace. 10 On the seventh day, as King Ahasuerus was feeling the effects of the wine, he ordered Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who attended him, 11 to bring Queen Vashti into the king’s presence wearing her royal high turban. He wanted to show the people and the officials her beauty, for she was very attractive. 12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s bidding conveyed through the eunuchs. Then the king became extremely angry, and his rage consumed him. 13 The king then inquired of the scientists who were discerners of the times – for it was the royal custom to confer with all those who were proficient in laws and legalities. 14 Those who were closest to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan. These men were the seven officials of Persia and Media who saw the king on a regular basis and had the most prominent offices in the reign. 15 The king asked, “By law, what should be done to Queen Vashti in light of the fact that she has not obeyed the instructions of King Ahasuerus conveyed through the eunuchs?” 16 Memucan then replied to the king and the officials, “The wrong of Queen Vashti is not against the king alone, but against all the officials and all the people who are throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. 17 For the matter concerning the queen will spread to all the women, leading them to treat their husbands with contempt, saying, ‘When King Ahasuerus gave orders to bring Queen Vashti into his presence, she would not come.’ 18 And this very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media who have heard the matter concerning the queen will respond in the same way to all the royal officials, and there will be more than enough contempt and anger! 19 If the king is so inclined, let a royal edict go forth from him, and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media that cannot be repealed, that Vashti may not come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king convey her royalty to another who is more deserving than she. 20 And let the king’s decision which he’ll enact be disseminated throughout all his reign, vast though it is. Then all the women will give honor to their husbands, from the most prominent to the lowly.” 21 The matter seemed appropriate to the king and the officials. So the king acted on the advice of Memucan. 22 He sent letters throughout all the royal provinces, to each province according to its own script and to each people according to its own language, that every man should be ruling his family and should be speaking the language of his own people.

Esther 2

1 When these things had been accomplished and the rage of King Ahasuerus had diminished, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decided against her. 2 The king’s servants who attended him said, “Let a search be conducted in the king’s behalf for attractive young women. 3 And let the king appoint officers throughout all the provinces of his reign to gather all the attractive young women to Susa the citadel, to the harem under the authority of Hegai, the king’s eunuch who oversees the women, and let him provide whatever cosmetics they desire. 4 Let the young woman whom the king finds most attractive become queen in place of Vashti.” This seemed like a good idea to the king, so he acted accordingly. 5 Now there happened to be a Jewish man in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai. He was the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjaminite, 6 who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried into exile with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile. 7 Now he was acting as the guardian of Hadassah (that is, Esther), the daughter of his uncle, for neither her father nor her mother was alive. This young woman was very attractive and had a beautiful figure. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had raised her as if she were his own daughter. 8 It so happened that when the king’s edict and his law became known many young women were taken to Susa the citadel to be placed under the authority of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the royal palace to be under the authority of Hegai, who was overseeing the women. 9 This young woman pleased him, and she found favor with him. He quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her rations; he also provided her with the seven specially Designated young women who were from the palace. He then transferred her and her young women to the best quarters in the harem. 10 Now Esther had not disclosed her people or her lineage, for Mordecai had instructed her not to do so. 11 And day after day Mordecai used to walk back and forth in front of the court of the harem in order to learn how Esther was doing and what might happen to her. 12 At the end of the twelve months that were required for the women, when the turn of each young woman arrived to go to King Ahasuerus – for in this way they had to fulfill their time of cosmetic treatment: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfume and various ointments used by women – 13 the woman would go to the king in the following way: Whatever she asked for would be provided for her to take with her from the harem to the royal palace. 14 In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to a separate part of the harem, to the authority of Shaashgaz the king’s eunuch who was overseeing the concubines. She would not go back to the king unless the king was pleased with her and she was requested by name. 15 When it became the turn of Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai (who had raised her as if she were his own daughter) to go to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai the king’s eunuch, who was overseer of the women, had recommended. Yet Esther met with the approval of all who saw her. 16 Then Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus at his royal residence in the tenth month (that is, the month of Tebeth) in the seventh year of his reign.

17 And the king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she met with his loving approval more than all the other young women. So he placed the royal high turban on her head and appointed her queen in place of Vashti. 18 Then the king prepared a large banquet for all his officials and his servants – it was actually Esther’s banquet. He also set aside a holiday for the provinces, and he provided for offerings at the king’s expense. 19 Now when the young women were being gathered again, Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate. 20 Esther was still not divulging her lineage or her people, just as Mordecai had instructed her. Esther continued to do whatever Mordecai said, just as she had done when he was raising her. 21 In those days while Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs who protected the entrance, became angry and plotted to assassinate King Ahasuerus. 22 When Mordecai learned of the conspiracy, he informed Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in Mordecai’s behalf. 23 The king then had the matter investigated and, finding it to be so, had the two conspirators hanged on a gallows. It was then recorded in the daily chronicles in the king’s presence.

Esther 3

1 Some time later King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, exalting him and setting his position above that of all the officials who were with him. 2 As a result, all the king’s servants who were at the king’s gate were bowing and paying homage to Haman, for the king had so instruct ed. However, Mordecai did not bow, nor did he pay him homage. 3 Then the servants of the king who were at the king’s gate asked Mordecai, “Why are you violating the king’s commandment?” 4 And after they had spoken to him day after day without his paying any attention to them, they informed Haman to see whether this attitude on Mordecai’s part would be permitted. Furthermore, he had disclosed to them that he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing or paying homage to him, he was filled with rage. 6 But the thought of striking out against Mordecai alone was repugnant to him, for he had been informed of the identity of Mordecai’s people. So Haman sought to destroy all the Jews (that is, the people of Mordecai) who were in all the reign of Ahasuerus. 7 In the first month (that is, the month of Nisan), in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus’ reign, pur (that is, the lot) was cast before Haman in order to determine a day and a month. It turned out to be the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar). 8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a particular people that is dispersed and spread among the inhabitants throughout all the provinces of your reign whose laws differ from those of all other peoples. Furthermore, they do not observe the king’s laws. It is not appropriate for the king to provide a haven for them. 9 If the king is so inclined, let an edict be issued to destroy them. I’ll pay ten thousand talents of silver to be conveyed to the king’s treasuries for the officials who carry out this business.” 10 So the king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, who was hostile toward the Jews. 11 The king replied to Haman, “Keep your money, and do with those people whatever you wish.” 12 So the royal scribes were summoned in the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month. Everything Haman instructed was written to the king’s satraps and governors who were in every province and to the officials of every people, province by province according to its script and people by people according to its language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written and sealed with the king’s signet ring. 13 Letters were sent by the runners to all the king’s provinces stating that they should destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jews, from youth to elderly, both women and children, on a particular day, namely the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar), and to loot and plunder their possessions. 14 A copy of this edict was to be presented as law throughout every province; it was to be made known to all the inhabitants, so that they would be prepared for this day. 15 The messengers scurried forth with the king’s order. The edict was issued in Susa the citadel. While the king and Haman sat down to drink, the city of Susa was in an uproar!

Esther 4

1 Now when Mordecai became aware of all that had been done, he tore his garments and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went out into the city, crying out in a loud and bitter voice. 2 But he went no further than the king’s gate, for no one was permitted to enter the king’s gate clothed in sackcloth. 3 Throughout each and every province where the king’s edict and law were announced there was considerable mourning among the Jews, along with fasting, weeping, and sorrow. Sackcloth and ashes were characteristic of many. 4 When Esther’s female attendants and her eunuchs came and informed her about Mordecai’s behavior, the queen was overcome with anguish. Although she sent garments for Mordecai to put on so that he could remove his sackcloth, he would not accept them. 5 So Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs who had been placed at her service, and instructed him to find out the cause and reason for Mordecai’s behavior. 6 So Hathach went to Mordecai at the plaza of the city in front of the king’s gate. 7 Then Mordecai related to him everything that had happened to him, even the specific amount of money that Haman had offered to pay to the king’s treasuries for the Jews to be destroyed. 8 He also gave him a written copy of the law that had been disseminated in Susa for their destruction so that he could show it to Esther and talk to her about it. He also gave instructions that she should go to the king to implore him and petition him on behalf of her people. 9 So Hathach returned and related Mordecai’s instructions to Esther. 10 Then Esther replied to Hathach with instructions for Mordecai: 11 “All the servants of the king and the people of the king’s provinces know that there is only one law applicable to any man or woman who comes uninvited to the king in the inner court – that person will be put to death, unless the king extends to him the gold scepter, permitting him to be spared. Now I’ve not been invited to come to the king for some thirty days!” 12 When Esther’s reply was conveyed to Mordecai, 13 he said to take back this answer to Esther: 14 “Don’t imagine that because you are part of the king’s household you’ll be the one Jew who will escape. If you keep quiet at this time, liberation and protection for the Jews will appear from another source, while you and your father’s household perish. It may very well be that you have achieved royal status for such a time as this!” 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa and fast in my behalf. Don’t eat and don’t drink for three days, night or day. My female attendants and I’ll also fast in the same way. Afterward I’ll go to the king, even though it violates the law. If I perish, I perish!” 17 So Mordecai set out to do everything that Esther had instructed him.

Esther 5

1 It so happened that on the third day Esther put on her royal attire and stood in the inner court of the palace, opposite the king’s quarters. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the palace, opposite the entrance. 2 When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she met with his approval. The king extended to Esther the gold scepter that was in his hand, and Esther approached and touched the end of the scepter. 3 The king said to her, “What is on your mind, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even as much as half the reign will be given to you!” 4 Esther replied, “If the king is so inclined, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I’ve prepared for him.” 5 The king replied, “Find Haman quickly so that we can do as Esther requests.” So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared. 6 While at the banquet of wine, the king said to Esther, “What is your request? It shall be given to you. What is your petition? Ask for as much as half the reign, and it shall be done!” 7 Esther responded, “My request and my petition is this: 8 If I’ve found favor in the king’s sight and if the king is inclined to grant my request and perform my petition, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet that I’ll prepare for them. At that time I’ll do as the king wishes. 9 Now Haman went forth that day pleased and very much encouraged. But when Haman saw Mordecai at the king’s gate, and he did not rise nor tremble in his presence, Haman was filled with rage toward Mordecai. 10 But Haman restrained himself and went on to his home. He then sent for his friends to join him, along with his wife Zeresh. 11 Haman then recounted to them his fabulous wealth, his many sons, and how the king had magnified him and exalted him over the king’s other officials and servants. 12 Haman said, “Furthermore, Queen Esther invited only me to accompany the king to the banquet that she prepared! And also tomorrow I’m invited along with the king. 13 Yet all of this fails to satisfy me so long as I’ve to see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.” 14 Haman’s wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Have a gallows seventy-five feet high built, and in the morning tell the king that Mordecai should be hanged on it. Then go with the king to the banquet contented.” It seemed like a good idea to Haman, so he had the gallows built.

Esther 6

1 Throughout that night the king was unable to sleep, so he asked for the book containing the historical records to be brought. As the records were being read in the king’s presence, 2 it was found written that Mordecai had disclosed that Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs who guarded the entrance, had plotted to assassinate King Ahasuerus. 3 The king asked, “What great honor was bestowed on Mordecai because of this?” The king’s attendants who served him responded, “Not a thing was done for him.” 4 Then the king said, “Who is that in the courtyard?” Now Haman had come to the outer courtyard of the palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had constructed for him. 5 The king’s attendants said to him, “It is Haman who is standing in the courtyard.” The king said, “Let him enter.” 6 So Haman came in, and the king said to him, “What should be done for the man whom the king wishes to honor?” Haman thought to himself, “Who is it that the king would want to honor more than me?” 7 So Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king wishes to honor, 8 let them bring royal attire which the king himself has worn and a horse on which the king himself has ridden – one bearing the royal insignia! 9 Then let this clothing and this horse be given to one of the king’s noble officials. Let him then clothe the man whom the king wishes to honor, and let him lead him about through the plaza of the city on the horse, calling before him, ‘So shall it be done to the man whom the king wishes to honor!’” 10 The king then said to Haman, “Go quickly! Take the clothing and the horse, just as you have described, and do as you just indicated to Mordecai the Jew who sits at the king’s gate. Don’t neglect a single thing of all that you have said.” 11 So Haman took the clothing and the horse, and he clothed Mordecai. He led him about on the horse throughout the plaza of the city, calling before him, “So shall it be done to the man whom the king wishes to honor!” 12 Then Mordecai again sat at the king’s gate, while Haman hurried away to his home, mournful and with a veil over his head. 13 Haman then related to his wife Zeresh and to all his friends everything that had happened to him. These wise men, along with his wife Zeresh, said to him, “If indeed this Mordecai before whom you have begun to fall is Jewish, you’ll not prevail against him. No, you’ll surely fall before him!” 14 While they were still speaking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived. They quickly brought Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Esther 7

1 So the king and Haman came to dine with Queen Esther. 2 On the second day of the banquet of wine the king asked Esther, “What is your request, Queen Esther? It shall be granted to you. And what is your petition? Ask up to half the reign, and it shall be done!” 3 Queen Esther replied, “If I’ve met with your approval, O king, and if the king is so inclined, grant me my life as my request, and my people as my petition. 4 For we’ve been sold – both I and my people – to destruction and to slaughter and to annihilation! If we had simply been sold as male and female slaves, I would have remained silent, for such distress would not have been sufficient for troubling the king.” 5 Then King Ahasuerus responded to Queen Esther, “Who is this individual? Where is this person to be found who is presumptuous enough to act in this way?” 6 Esther replied, “The oppressor and enemy is this bad Haman!” Then Haman became terrified in the presence of the king and queen. 7 In rage the king arose from the banquet of wine and withdrew to the palace garden. Meanwhile, Haman stood to beg Queen Esther for his life, for he realized that the king had now determined a catastrophic end for him. 8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet of wine, Haman was throwing himself down on the couch where Esther was lying. The king exclaimed, “Will he also attempt to rape the queen while I’m still in the building!” As these words left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. 9 Harbona, one of the king’s eunuchs, said, “Indeed, there is the gallows that Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke out in the king’s behalf. It stands near Haman’s home and is seventy-five feet high.” The king said, “Hang him on it!” 10 So they hanged Haman on the very gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. The king’s rage then abated.

Esther 8

1 On that same day King Ahasuerus gave the estate of Haman, that adversary of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Now Mordecai had come before the king, for Esther had revealed how he was related to her. 2 The king then removed his signet ring (the very one he had taken back from Haman) and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther designated Mordecai to be in charge of Haman’s estate. 3 Then Esther again spoke with the king, falling at his feet. She wept and begged him for mercy, that he might nullify the bad of Haman the Agagite which he had intended against the Jews. 4 When the king extended to Esther the gold scepter, she arose and stood before the king. 5 She said, “If the king is so inclined and if I’ve met with his approval and if the matter is agreeable to the king and if I’m attractive to him, let an edict be written rescinding those recorded intentions of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, which he wrote in order to destroy the Jews who are throughout all the king’s provinces. 6 For how can I watch the calamity that will befall my people, and how can I watch the destruction of my relatives?” 7 King Ahasuerus replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Look, I’ve already given Haman’s estate to Esther, and he has been hanged on the gallows because he took hostile action against the Jews. 8 Now you write in the king’s name whatever in your opinion is appropriate concerning the Jews and seal it with the king’s signet ring. Any decree that is written in the king’s name and sealed with the king’s signet ring cannot be rescinded. 9 The king’s scribes were quickly summoned – in the third month (that is, the month of Sivan), on the twenty-third day. They wrote out everything that Mordecai instructed to the Jews and to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces all the way from India to Ethiopia – a hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all – to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language, and to the Jews according to their own script and their own language. 10 Mordecai wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king’s signet ring. He then sent letters by couriers on horses, who rode royal horses that were very swift. 11 The king thereby allowed the Jews who were in every city to assemble and to stand up for themselves – to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any army of whatever people or province that should become their adversaries, including their women and children, and to confiscate their property. 12 This was to take place on a certain day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus – namely, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar). 13 A copy of the edict was to be presented as law throughout each and every province and made known to all peoples, so that the Jews might be prepared on that day to avenge themselves from their enemies. 14 The couriers who were riding the royal horses went forth with the king’s edict without delay. And the law was presented in Susa the citadel as well. 15 Now Mordecai went out from the king’s presence in purple and white royal attire, with a large golden crown and a purple linen mantle. The city of Susa shouted with joy. 16 For the Jews there was radiant happiness and joyous honor. 17 Throughout every province and throughout every city where the king’s edict and his law arrived, the Jews experienced happiness and joy, banquets and holidays. Many of the resident peoples pretended to be Jews, because the fear of the Jews had overcome them.

Esther 9

1 In the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar), on its thirteenth day, the edict of the king and his law were to be executed. It was on this day that the enemies of the Jews had supposed that they would gain power over them. But contrary to expectations, the Jews gained power over their enemies. 2 The Jews assembled themselves in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to strike out against those who were seeking their harm. No one was able to stand before them, for dread of them fell on all the peoples. 3 All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and those who performed the king’s business were assisting the Jews, for the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them. 4 Mordecai was of high rank in the king’s palace, and word about him was spreading throughout all the provinces. His influence continued to become greater and greater. 5 The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, bringing death and destruction, and they did as they pleased with their enemies. 6 In Susa the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. 7 In addition, they also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha, 10 the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not confiscate their property. 11 On that same day the number of those killed in Susa the citadel was brought to the king’s attention. 12 Then the king said to Queen Esther, “In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman! What then have they done in the rest of the king’s provinces? What is your request? It shall be given to you. What other petition do you have? It shall be done.” 13 Esther replied, “If the king is so inclined, let the Jews who are in Susa be permitted to act tomorrow also according to today’s law, and let them hang the ten sons of Haman on the gallows.” 14 So the king issued orders for this to be done. A law was passed in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged. 15 The Jews who were in Susa then assembled on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they killed three hundred men in Susa. But they did not confiscate their property. 16 The rest of the Jews who were throughout the provinces of the king assembled in order to stand up for themselves and to have rest from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of their adversaries, but they did not confiscate their property. 17 All of this happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. They then rested on the fourteenth day and made it a day for banqueting and happiness. 18 But the Jews who were in Susa assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth days, and rested on the fifteenth, making it a day for banqueting and happiness. 19 This is why the Jews who are in the rural country – those who live in rural cities – set aside the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a holiday for happiness, banqueting, holiday, and sending gifts to one another. 20 Mordecai wrote these matters down and sent letters to all the Jews who were throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21 to have them observe the fourteenth and the fifteenth day of the month of Adar each year 22 as the time when the Jews gave themselves rest from their enemies – the month when their trouble was turned to happiness and their mourning to a holiday. These were to be days of banqueting, happiness, sending gifts to one another, and providing for the poor. 23 So the Jews committed themselves to continue what they had begun to do and to what Mordecai had written to them. 24 For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised plans against the Jews to destroy them. He had cast pur (that is, the lot) in order to afflict and destroy them. 25 But when the matter came to the king’s attention, the king gave written orders that Haman’s bad intentions that he had devised against the Jews should fall on his own head. He and his sons were hanged on the gallows. 26 For this reason these days are known as Purim, after the name of pur. 27 Therefore, because of the account found in this letter and what they had faced in this regard and what had happened to them, the Jews established as binding on themselves, their descendants, and all who joined their company that they should observe these two days without fail, just as written and at the appropriate time on an annual basis. 28 These days were to be remembered and to be celebrated in every generation and in every family, every province, and every city. The Jews were not to fail to observe these days of Purim; the remembrance of them was not to cease among their descendants. 29 So Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. 30 Letters were sent to all the Jews in the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the empire of Ahasuerus – words of true peace – 31 to establish these days of Purim in their proper times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established, and just as they had established both for themselves and their descendants, matters pertaining to fasting and lamentation. 32 Esther’s instruct established these matters of Purim, and the matter was officially recorded.

Esther 10

1 King Ahasuerus then imposed forced labor on the land and on the coastlands of the sea. 2 Now all the actions carried out under his authority and his great achievements, along with an exact statement concerning the greatness of Mordecai, whom the king promoted, are they not written in the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia? 3 Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus. He was the highest-ranking Jew, and he was admired by his numerous relatives. He worked enthusiastically for the good of his people and was an advocate for the welfare of all his descendants.

JOB

Job 1

1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. And that man was pure and upright, one who feared Supermights and turned away from evil. 2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 His possessions included 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys; in addition he had a very great household. Thus he was the greatest of all the people in the east. 4 Now his sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one in turn, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 5 When the days of their feasting were finished, Job would send for them and sanctify them; he would get up early in the morning and offer sacrifices according to the number of them all. For Job thought, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed Supermights in their hearts.” This was Job’s customary practice. 6 Now the day came when the sons of Supermights came to present themselves before Lifegiver – and Satan also arrived among them. 7 Lifegiver said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” And Satan answered Lifegiver, “From roving about on the Earth , and from walking back and forth across it.” 8 So Lifegiver said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the Earth , a pure and upright man, one who fears Supermights and turns away from evil.” 9 Then Satan answered Lifegiver, “Is it for nothing that Job fears Supermights ? 10 Have you not made a hedge around him and his household and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock have increased in the land. 11 But extend your hand and strike everything he has, and he’ll no doubt curse you to your face!” 12 So Lifegiver said to Satan, “All right then, everything he has is in your power. Only do not extend your hand against the man himself!” So Satan went out from the presence of Lifegiver. 13 Now the day came when Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, 14 and a messenger came to Job, saying, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing beside them, 15 and the Sabeans swooped down and carried them all away, and they killed the servants with the sword! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!” 16 While this one was still speaking, another messenger arrived and said, “The fire of Supermights has fallen from the sky and has burned up the sheep and the servants – it has consumed them! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!” 17 While this one was still speaking another messenger arrived and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and carried them all away, and they killed the servants with the sword! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!” 18 While this one was still speaking another messenger arrived and said, “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, 19 and suddenly a great wind swept across the desert and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they died! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!” 20 Then Job got up and tore his robe. He shaved his head, and then he threw himself down with his face to the ground. 21 He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I’ll return there. Lifegiver gives, and Lifegiver takes away. May the name of Lifegiver be blessed!” 22 In all this Job did not sin, nor did he charge Supermights with moral impropriety.

Job 2

1 Again the day came when the sons of Supermights came to present themselves before Lifegiver, and Satan also arrived among them to present himself before Lifegiver. 2 And Lifegiver said to Satan, “Where do you come from?” Satan answered Lifegiver, “From roving about on the Earth , and from walking back and forth across it.” 3 Then Lifegiver said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the Earth , a pure and upright man, one who fears Supermights and turns away from evil. And he still holds firmly to his integrity, so that you stirred me up to destroy him without reason.” 4 But Satan answered Lifegiver, “Skin for skin! Indeed, a man will give up all that he has to save his life! 5 But extend your hand and strike his bone and his flesh, and he’ll no doubt curse you to your face!” 6 So Lifegiver said to Satan, “All right, he is in your power; only preserve his life.” 7 So Satan went out from the presence of Lifegiver, and he afflicted Job with a malignant ulcer from the sole of his feet to the top of his head. 8 Job took a shard of broken pottery to scrape himself with while he was sitting among the ashes. 9 Then his wife said to him, “Are you still holding firmly to your integrity? Curse Supermights , and die!” 10 But he replied, “You’re talking like one of the Supermights less women would do! Should we receive what is good from Supermights , and not also receive what is evil?” In all this Job did not sin by what he said. 11 When Job’s three friends heard about all this calamity that had happened to him, each of them came from his own country – Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to come to show sympathy for him and to console him. 12 But when they gazed intently from a distance but did not recognize him, they began to weep loudly. Each of them tore his robes, and they threw dust into the air over their heads. 13 Then they sat down with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, yet no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

Job 3

1 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day he was born. 2 Job spoke up and said: 3 ​​​​​​​“Let the day on which I was born perish, and the night that said, ‘A man has been conceived!’ 4 ​​​​​​​That day – let it be darkness; let not Supermights on high regard it, nor let light shine on it! 5 ​​​​​​​Let darkness and the deepest shadow claim it; let a cloud settle on it; let whatever blackens the day terrify it! 6 ​​​​​​​That night – let darkness seize it; let it not be included among the days of the year; let it not enter among the number of the months! 7 ​​​​​​​Indeed, let that night be barren; let no shout of joy penetrate it! 8 ​​​​​​​Let those who curse the day curse it – those who are prepared to rouse Leviathan. 9 ​​​​​​​Let its morning stars be darkened; let it wait for daylight but find none, nor let it see the first rays of dawn, 10 ​​​​​​​because it did not shut the doors of my mother’s womb on me, nor did it hide trouble from my eyes! 11 ​​​​​​​“Why did I not die at birth, and why did I not expire as I came out of the womb? 12 ​​​​​​​Why did the knees welcome me, and why were there two breasts that I might nurse at them? 13 ​​​​​​​For now I would be lying down and would be quiet, I would be asleep and then at peace 14 ​​​​​​​with kings and counselors of the Earth who built for themselves places now desolate, 15 ​​​​​​​or with princes who possessed gold, who filled their palaces with silver. 16 ​​​​​​​Or why was I not buried like a stillborn infant, like infants who have never seen the light? 17 ​​​​​​​There the wicked cease from turmoil, and there the weary are at rest. 18 ​​​​​​​There the prisoners relax together; they do not hear the voice of the oppressor. 19 ​​​​​​​Small and great are there, and the slave is free from his master. 20 ​​​​​​​“Why does Supermights give light to one who is in misery, and life to those whose soul is bitter, 21 ​​​​​​​to those who wait for death that does not come, and search for it more than for hidden treasures, 22 ​​​​​​​who rejoice even to jubilation, and are exultant when they find the grave? 23 ​​​​​​​Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, and whom Supermights has hedged in? 24 ​​​​​​​For my sighing comes in place of my food, and my groanings flow forth like water. 25 ​​​​​​​For the very thing I dreaded has happened to me, and what I feared has come upon me. 26 ​​​​​​​I’ve no ease, I’ve no quietness; I cannot rest; turmoil has come upon me.”

Job 4

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“If someone should attempt a word with you, will you be impatient? But who can refrain from speaking? 3 ​​​​​​​Look, you have instructed many; you have strengthened feeble hands. 4 ​​​​​​​Your words have supported those who stumbled, and you have strengthened the knees that gave way. 5 ​​​​​​​But now the same thing comes to you, and you are discouraged; it strikes you, and you are terrified. 6 ​​​​​​​Is not your piety your confidence, and your blameless ways your hope? 7 ​​​​​​​Call to mind now: Who, being innocent, ever perished? And where were upright people ever destroyed? 8 ​​​​​​​Even as I’ve seen, those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble reap the same. 9 ​​​​​​​By the breath of Supermights they perish, and by the blast of his anger they are consumed. 10 ​​​​​​​There is the roaring of the lion and the growling of the young lion, but the teeth of the young lions are broken.

11 ​​​​​​​The mighty lion perishes for lack of prey, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered. 12 ​​​​​​​“Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear caught a whisper of it. 13 ​​​​​​​In the troubling thoughts of the dreams in the night when a deep sleep falls on men, 14 ​​​​​​​a trembling gripped me – and a terror! – and made all my bones shake. 15 ​​​​​​​Then a breath of air passes by my face; it makes the hair of my flesh stand up. 16 ​​​​​​​It stands still, but I cannot recognize its appearance; an image is before my eyes, and I hear a murmuring voice: 17 ​​​​​​​“Is a mortal man righteous before Supermights ? Or a man pure before his Creator? 18 ​​​​​​​If Supermights puts no trust in his servants and attributes folly to his messenger s, 19 ​​​​​​​how much more to those who live in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed like a moth? 20 ​​​​​​​They are destroyed between morning and evening; they perish forever without anyone regarding it. 21 ​​​​​​​Is not their excess wealth taken away from them? They die, yet without attaining wisdom.

Job 5

1 ​​​​​​​“Call now! Is there anyone who will answer you? To which of the sacred ones will you turn? 2 ​​​​​​​For wrath kills the foolish person, and anger slays the silly one. 3 ​​​​​​​I myself have seen the fool taking root, but suddenly I cursed his place of residence. 4 ​​​​​​​His children are far from safety, and they are crushed at the place where judgment is rendered, nor is there anyone to deliver them. 5 ​​​​​​​The hungry eat up his harvest, and take it even from behind the thorns, and the thirsty swallow up their fortune. 6 ​​​​​​​For bad does not come up from the dust, nor does trouble spring up from the ground, 7 ​​​​​​​but people are born to trouble, as surely as the sparks fly upward. 8 ​​​​​​​“But as for me, I would seek Supermights , and to Supermights I would set forth my case. 9 ​​​​​​​He does great and unsearchable things, marvelous things without number; 10 ​​​​​​​he gives rain on the Earth , and sends water on the fields; 11 ​​​​​​​he sets the lowly on high, that those who mourn are raised to safety. 12 ​​​​​​​He frustrates the plans of the crafty so that their hands cannot accomplish what they had planned! 13 ​​​​​​​He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the cunning is brought to a quick end. 14 ​​​​​​​They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope about in the noontime as if it were night. 15 ​​​​​​​So he saves from the sword that comes from their mouth, even the poor from the hand of the powerful. 16 ​​​​​​​Thus the poor have hope, and iniquity shuts its mouth. 17 ​​​​​​​“Therefore, blessed is the man whom Supermights corrects, so do not despise the discipline of the self-sufficient one. 18 ​​​​​​​For he wounds, but he also bandages; he strikes, but his hands also heal. 19 ​​​​​​​He will deliver you from six calamities; yes, in seven no bad will touch you. 20 ​​​​​​​In time of drought he’ll repurchase you from death, and in time of war from the power of the sword. 21 ​​​​​​​You’ll be protected from malicious gossip, and will not be afraid of the destruction when it comes. 22 ​​​​​​​You’ll laugh at destruction and drought and need not be afraid of the beasts of the Earth . 23 ​​​​​​​For you’ll have a pact with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you. 24 ​​​​​​​And you’ll know that your home will be secure, and when you inspect your domains, you’ll not be missing anything. 25 ​​​​​​​You’ll also know that your children will be numerous, and your descendants like the grass of the Earth . 26 ​​​​​​​You’ll come to your grave in a full age, As stacks of grain are harvested in their season. 27 ​​​​​​​Look, we’ve investigated this, so it is true. Hear it, and apply it for your own good.”

Job 6

1 Then Job responded: 2 ​​​​​​​“Oh, if only my grief could be weighed, and my misfortune laid on the scales too! 3 ​​​​​​​But because it is heavier than the sand of the sea, that is why my words have been wild. 4 ​​​​​​​For the arrows of the self-sufficient one are inside me; my spirit drinks their poison; Supermights ’s sudden terrors are arrayed against me. 5 ​​​​​​​“Does the wild donkey bray when it is near grass? Or does the ox low near its fodder? 6 ​​​​​​​Can food that is tasteless be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? 7 ​​​​​​​I’ve refused to touch such things; they are like loathsome food to me. 8 ​​​​​​​“Oh that my request would be realized, and that Supermights would grant me what I long for! 9 ​​​​​​​And that Supermights would be willing to crush me, that he would let loose his hand and kill me. 10 ​​​​​​​Then I would yet have my comfort, then I would rejoice, in spite of pitiless pain, for I’ve not concealed the words of the Holy One. 11 ​​​​​​​What is my strength, that I should wait? and what is my end, that I should prolong my life? 12 ​​​​​​​Is my strength like that of stones? or is my flesh made of bronze? 13 ​​​​​​​Is not my power to help myself nothing, and has not every resource been driven from me? 14 ​​​​​​​“To the one in despair, kindness should come from his friend even if he forsakes the fear of the self-sufficient one. 15 ​​​​​​​My brothers have been as treacherous as a seasonal stream, and as the riverbeds of the intermittent streams that flow away. 16 ​​​​​​​They are dark because of ice; snow is piled up over them. 17 ​​​​​​​When they are scorched, they dry up, when it is hot, they vanish from their place. 18 ​​​​​​​Caravans turn aside from their routes; they go into the wasteland and perish. 19 ​​​​​​​The caravans of Tema looked intently for these streams; the traveling merchants of Sheba hoped for them. 20 ​​​​​​​They were distressed, because each one had been so confident; they arrived there, but were disappointed. 21 ​​​​​​​For now you have become like these streams that are no help; you see a terror, and are afraid. 22 ​​​​​​​“Have I ever said, ‘Give me something, and from your fortune make gifts in my favor’? 23 ​​​​​​​Or ‘Deliver me from the enemy’s power, and from the hand of tyrants ransom me’? 24 ​​​​​​​“Teach me and I, for my part, will be silent; explain to me how I’ve been mistaken. 25 ​​​​​​​How painful are honest words! But what does your reproof prove? 26 ​​​​​​​Do you intend to criticize mere words, and treat the words of a despairing man as wind? 27 ​​​​​​​Yes, you would gamble for the fatherless, and auction off your friend. 28 ​​​​​​​“Now then, be good enough to look at me; and I’ll not lie to your face! 29 ​​​​​​​Relent, let there be no falsehood; reconsider, for my rightness is intact! 30 ​​​​​​​Is there any falsehood on my lips? Can my mouth not discern bad things?

Job 7

1 ​​​​​​​“Does not humanity have hard service on Earth ? Are not their days also like the days of a hired man? 2 ​​​​​​​Like a servant longing for the evening shadow, and like a hired man looking for his wages, 3 ​​​​​​​thus I’ve been made to inherit months of futility, and nights of sorrow have been appointed to me. 4 ​​​​​​​If I lie down, I say, ‘When will I arise?’, and the night stretches on and I toss and turn restlessly until the day dawns. 5 ​​​​​​​My body is clothed with worms and dirty scabs; my skin is broken and festering. 6 ​​​​​​​My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle and they come to an end without hope. 7 ​​​​​​​Remember that my life is but a breath, that my eyes will never again see happiness. 8 ​​​​​​​The eye of him who sees me now will see me no more; your eyes will look for me, but I’ll be gone. 9 ​​​​​​​As a cloud is dispersed and then disappears, so the one who goes down to the grave does not come up again. 10 ​​​​​​​He returns no more to his house, nor does his place of residence know him any more. 11 ​​​​​​​“Therefore, I’ll not refrain my mouth; I’ll speak in the anguish of my spirit; I’ll complain in the bitterness of my soul. 12 ​​​​​​​Am I the sea, or the creature of the deep, that you must put me under guard? 13 ​​​​​​​If I say, “My bed will comfort me, my couch will ease my complaint,” 14 ​​​​​​​then you scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions, 15 ​​​​​​​so that I would prefer strangling, and death more than life. 16 ​​​​​​​I loathe it; I do not want to live forever; leave me alone, for my days are a vapor! 17 ​​​​​​​“What is mankind that you make so much of them, and that you pay attention to them? 18 ​​​​​​​And that you visit them every morning, and try them every moment? 19 ​​​​​​​Will you never look away from me, will you not let me alone long enough to swallow my spittle? 20 ​​​​​​​If I’ve sinned – what have I done to you, O watcher of men? Why have you set me as your target? Have I become a burden to you? 21 ​​​​​​​And why do you not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity? For now I’ll lie down in the dust, and you’ll seek me diligently, but I’ll be gone.”

Job 8

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite spoke up and said: 2 ​​​​​​​“How long will you speak these things, seeing that the words of your mouth are like a great wind? 3 ​​​​​​​Does Supermights pervert justice? Or does the self-sufficient one pervert what is right? 4 ​​​​​​​If your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin. 5 ​​​​​​​But if you’ll look to Supermights , and make your supplication to the self-sufficient one, 6 ​​​​​​​if you become pure and upright, even now he’ll rouse himself for you, and will restore your righteous abode. 7 ​​​​​​​Your beginning will seem so small, since your future will flourish. 8 ​​​​​​​“For inquire now of the former generation, and pay attention to the findings of their ancestors; 9 ​​​​​​​For we were born yesterday and do not have knowledge, since our days on Earth are but a shadow. 10 ​​​​​​​Will they not instruct you and speak to you, and bring forth words from their understanding? 11 ​​​​​​​Can the papyrus plant grow tall where there is no marsh? Can reeds flourish without water? 12 ​​​​​​​While they are still beginning to flower and not ripe for cutting, they can wither away faster than any grass! 13 ​​​​​​​Such is the destiny of all who forget Supermights ; the hope of the Supermights less perishes, 14 ​​​​​​​whose trust is in something futile, whose security is a spider’s web. 15 ​​​​​​​He leans against his house but it does not hold up, he takes hold of it but it does not stand. 16 ​​​​​​​He is a well-watered plant in the sun, its shoots spread over its garden. 17 ​​​​​​​It wraps its roots around a heap of stones and it looks for a place among stones. 18 ​​​​​​​If he is uprooted from his place, then that place will disown him, saying, ‘I’ve never seen you!’ 19 ​​​​​​​Indeed, this is the joy of his way, and out of the Earth others spring up. 20 ​​​​​​​“Surely, Supermights does not reject a blameless man, nor does he grasp the hand of the evildoers. 21 ​​​​​​​He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with gladness. 22 ​​​​​​​Those who hate you’ll be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will be no more.”

Job 9

1 Then Job answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Truly, I know that this is so. But how can a human be just before Supermights ? 3 ​​​​​​​If someone wishes to contend with him, he cannot answer him one time in a thousand. 4 ​​​​​​​He is wise in heart and mighty in strength – who has resisted him and remained safe? 5 ​​​​​​​He who removes mountains suddenly, who overturns them in his anger; 6 ​​​​​​​he who shakes the Earth out of its place so that its pillars tremble; 7 ​​​​​​​he who instructions the sun and it does not shine and seals up the stars; 8 ​​​​​​​he alone spreads out the Celestial Bodies, and treads on the waves of the sea; 9 ​​​​​​​he makes the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the constellations of the southern sky; 10 ​​​​​​​he does great and unsearchable things, and wonderful things without number. 11 ​​​​​​​If he passes by me, I cannot see him, if he goes by, I cannot perceive him. 12 ​​​​​​​If he snatches away, who can turn him back? Who dares to say to him, ‘What are you doing?’ 13 ​​​​​​​Supermights does not restrain his anger; under him the helpers of Rahab lie crushed. 14 ​​​​​​​“How much less, then, can I answer him and choose my words to argue with him! 15 ​​​​​​​Although I’m innocent, I could not answer him; I could only plead with my judge for mercy. 16 ​​​​​​​If I summoned him, and he answered me, I would not believe that he would be listening to my voice – 17 ​​​​​​​he who crushes me with a tempest, and multiplies my wounds for no reason. 18 ​​​​​​​He does not allow me to recover my breath, for he fills me with bitterness. 19 ​​​​​​​If it is a matter of strength, most certainly he is the strong one! And if it is a matter of justice, he’ll say, ‘Who will summon me?’ 20 ​​​​​​​Although I’m innocent, my mouth would condemn me; although I’m blameless, it would declare me perverse. 21 ​​​​​​​I’m blameless. I do not know myself. I despise my life. 22 ​​​​​​​“It is all one! That is why I say, ‘He destroys the blameless and the guilty.’ 23 ​​​​​​​If a scourge brings sudden death, he mocks at the despair of the innocent. 24 ​​​​​​​If a land has been given into the hand of a wicked man, he covers the faces of its judges; if it is not he, then who is it? 25 ​​​​​​​“My days are swifter than a runner, they speed by without seeing happiness. 26 ​​​​​​​They glide by like reed boats, like an eagle that swoops down on its prey. 27 ​​​​​​​If I say, ‘I’ll forget my complaint, I’ll change my expression and be cheerful,’ 28 ​​​​​​​I dread all my sufferings, for I know that you do not hold me blameless. 29 ​​​​​​​If I’m guilty, why then weary myself in vain? 30 ​​​​​​​If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands clean with lye, 31 ​​​​​​​then you plunge me into a slimy pit and my own clothes abhor me. 32 ​​​​​​​For he is not a human being like I’m, that I might answer him, that we might come together in judgment. 33 ​​​​​​​Nor is there an arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both, 34 ​​​​​​​who would take his rod away from me so that his terror would not make me afraid. 35 ​​​​​​​Then would I speak and not fear him, but it is not so with me.

Job 10

1 ​​​​​​​“I’m weary of my life; I’ll complain without restraint; I’ll speak in the bitterness of my soul. 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll say to Supermights , ‘Do not condemn me; tell me why you are contending with me.’ 3 ​​​​​​​Is it good for you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands, while you smile on the schemes of the wicked? 4 ​​​​​​​“Do you have eyes of flesh, or do you see as a human being sees? 5 ​​​​​​​Are your days like the days of a mortal, or your years like the years of a mortal, 6 ​​​​​​​that you must search out my iniquity, and inquire about my sin, 7 ​​​​​​​although you know that I’m not guilty, and that there is no one who can deliver out of your hand? 8 ​​​​​​​“Your hands have shaped me and made me, but now you destroy me completely. 9 ​​​​​​​Remember that you have made me as with the clay; will you return me to dust? 10 ​​​​​​​Did you not pour me out like milk, and curdle me like cheese? 11 ​​​​​​​You clothed me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews. 12 ​​​​​​​You gave me life and favor, and your intervention watched over my spirit. 13 ​​​​​​​“But these things you have concealed in your heart; I know that this is with you: 14 ​​​​​​​If I sinned, then you would watch me and you would not acquit me of my iniquity. 15 ​​​​​​​If I’m guilty, woe to me, and if I’m innocent, I cannot lift my head; I’m full of shame, and satiated with my affliction. 16 ​​​​​​​If I lift myself up, you hunt me as a fierce lion, and again you display your power against me. 17 ​​​​​​​You bring new witnesses against me, and increase your anger against me; relief troops come against me. 18 ​​​​​​​“Why then did you bring me out from the womb? I should have died and no eye would have seen me! 19 ​​​​​​​I should have been as though I had never existed; I should have been carried right from the womb to the grave! 20 ​​​​​​​Are not my days few? Cease, then, and leave me alone, that I may find a little comfort, 21 ​​​​​​​before I depart, never to return, to the land of darkness and the deepest shadow, 22 ​​​​​​​to the land of utter darkness, like the deepest darkness, and the deepest shadow and disorder, where even the light is like darkness.”

Job 11

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite spoke up and said: 2 ​​​​​​​“Should not this abundance of words be answered, or should this talkative man be vindicated? 3 ​​​​​​​Will your idle talk reduce people to silence, and will no one rebuke you when you mock? 4 ​​​​​​​For you have said, ‘My teaching is flawless, and I’m pure in your sight.’ 5 ​​​​​​​But if only Supermights would speak, if only he would open his lips against you, 6 ​​​​​​​and reveal to you the secrets of wisdom – for true wisdom has two sides – so that you would know that Supermights has forgiven some of your sins. 7 ​​​​​​​“Can you discover the essence of Supermights ? Can you find out the perfection of the self-sufficient one? 8 ​​​​​​​It is higher than the skies – what can you do? It is deeper than Sheol – what can you know? 9 ​​​​​​​Its measure is longer than the Earth , and broader than the sea. 10 ​​​​​​​If he comes by and confines you and convenes a court, then who can prevent him? 11 ​​​​​​​For he knows deceitful men; when he sees evil, will he not consider it? 12 ​​​​​​​But an empty man will become wise, when a wild donkey’s colt is born a human being. 13 ​​​​​​​“As for you, if you prove faithful, and if you stretch out your hands toward him, 14 ​​​​​​​if iniquity is in your hand – put it far away, and do not let bad reside in your tents. 15 ​​​​​​​For then you’ll lift up your face without blemish; you’ll be securely established and will not fear. 16 ​​​​​​​For you’ll forget your trouble; you’ll remember it like water that has flowed away. 17 ​​​​​​​And life will be brighter than the noonday; though there be darkness, it will be like the morning. 18 ​​​​​​​And you’ll be secure, because there is hope; you’ll be protected and will take your rest in safety. 19 ​​​​​​​You’ll lie down with no one to make you afraid, and many will seek your favor. 20 ​​​​​​​But the eyes of the wicked fail, and escape eludes them; their one hope is to breathe their last.”

Job 12

1 Then Job answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Without a doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you. 3 ​​​​​​​I also have understanding as well as you; I’m not inferior to you. Who does not know such things as these? 4 ​​​​​​​I’m a laughingstock to my friends, I, who called on Supermights and whom he answered – a righteous and blameless man is a laughingstock! 5 ​​​​​​​For calamity, there is derision (according to the ideas of the fortunate) – a fate for those whose feet slip! 6 ​​​​​​​But the tents of robbers are peaceful, and those who provoke Supermights are confident – who carry their Supermights in their hands. 7 ​​​​​​​“But now, ask the animals and they’ll teach you, or the birds of the sky and they’ll tell you. 8 ​​​​​​​Or speak to the Earth and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea declare to you. 9 ​​​​​​​Which of all these does not know that the hand of Lifegiver has done this, 10 ​​​​​​​in whose hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all the human race. 11 ​​​​​​​Does not the ear test words, as the tongue tastes food? 12 ​​​​​​​Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?

13 ​​​​​​​“With Supermights are wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his. 14 ​​​​​​​If he tears down, it cannot be rebuilt; if he imprisons a person, there is no escape. 15 ​​​​​​​If he holds back the waters, then they dry up; if he releases them, they destroy the land. 16 ​​​​​​​With him are strength and prudence; both the one who goes astray and the one who misleads are his. 17 ​​​​​​​He leads counselors away stripped and makes judges into fools. 18 ​​​​​​​He loosens the bonds of kings and binds a loincloth around their waist. 19 ​​​​​​​He leads priests away stripped and overthrows the potentates. 20 ​​​​​​​He deprives the trusted advisers of speech and takes away the discernment of elders. 21 ​​​​​​​He pours contempt on noblemen and disarms the powerful. 22 ​​​​​​​He reveals the deep things of darkness, and brings deep shadows into the light. 23 ​​​​​​​He makes nationalities great, and destroys them; he extends the boundaries of nationalities and disperses them. 24 ​​​​​​​He deprives the leaders of the Earth of their understanding; he makes them wander in a trackless desert waste. 25 ​​​​​​​They grope about in darkness without light; he makes them stagger like drunkards.

Job 13

1 ​​​​​​​“Indeed, my eyes have seen all this, my ears have heard and understood it. 2 ​​​​​​​What you know, I know also; I’m not inferior to you! 3 ​​​​​​​But I wish to speak to the self-sufficient one, and I desire to argue my case with Supermights. 4 ​​​​​​​But you, however, are inventors of lies; all of you are worthless physicians! 5 ​​​​​​​If only you would keep completely silent! For you, that would be wisdom. 6 ​​​​​​​“Listen now to my argument, and be attentive to my lips’ contentions. 7 ​​​​​​​Will you speak wickedly on Supermights ’s behalf? Will you speak deceitfully for him? 8 ​​​​​​​Will you show him partiality? Will you argue the case for Supermights ? 9 ​​​​​​​Would it turn out well if he would examine you? Or as one deceives a man would you deceive him? 10 ​​​​​​​He would certainly rebuke you if you secretly showed partiality! 11 ​​​​​​​Would not his splendor terrify you and the fear he inspires fall on you? 12 ​​​​​​​Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay. 13 ​​​​​​​“Refrain from talking with me so that I may speak; then let come to me what may. 14 ​​​​​​​Why do I put myself in peril, and take my life in my hands? 15 ​​​​​​​Even if he slays me, I’ll hope in him; I’ll surely defend my ways to his face! 16 ​​​​​​​Moreover, this will become my deliverance, for no Supermights less person would come before him. 17 ​​​​​​​Listen carefully to my words; let your ears be attentive to my explanation. 18 ​​​​​​​See now, I’ve prepared my case; I know that I’m right. 19 ​​​​​​​Who will contend with me? If anyone can, I’ll be silent and die. 20 ​​​​​​​Only in two things spare me, O Supermights , and then I’ll not hide from your face: 21 ​​​​​​​Remove your hand far from me and stop making me afraid with your terror. 22 ​​​​​​​Then call, and I’ll answer, or I’ll speak, and you respond to me. 23 ​​​​​​​How many are my iniquities and sins? Show me my transgression and my sin. 24 ​​​​​​​Why do you hide your face and regard me as your enemy? 25 ​​​​​​​Do you wish to torment a windblown leaf and chase after dry chaff? 26 ​​​​​​​For you write down bitter things against me and cause me to inherit the sins of my youth. 27 ​​​​​​​And you put my feet in the stocks and you watch all my movements; you put marks on the soles of my feet. 28 ​​​​​​​So I waste away like something rotten, like a garment eaten by moths.

Job 14

1 ​​​​​​​“Man, born of woman, lives but a few days, and they are full of trouble. 2 ​​​​​​​He grows up like a flower and then withers away; he flees like a shadow, and does not remain. 3 ​​​​​​​Do you fix your eye on such a one? And do you bring me before you for judgment? 4 ​​​​​​​Who can make a clean thing come from an unclean? No one! 5 ​​​​​​​Since man’s days are determined, the number of his months is under your control; you have set his limit and he cannot pass it. 6 ​​​​​​​Look away from him and let him desist, until he fulfills his time like a hired man. 7 ​​​​​​​“But there is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. 8 ​​​​​​​Although its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump begins to die in the soil, 9 ​​​​​​​at the scent of water it will flourish and put forth shoots like a new plant. 10 ​​​​​​​But man dies and is powerless; he expires – and where is he? 11 ​​​​​​​As water disappears from the sea, or a river drains away and dries up, 12 ​​​​​​​so man lies down and does not rise; until the Celestial Bodies are no more, they’ll not awake nor arise from their sleep. 13 ​​​​​​​“O that you would hide me in Sheol, and conceal me till your anger has passed! O that you would set me a time and then remember me! 14 ​​​​​​​If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I’ll wait until my release comes. 15 ​​​​​​​You’ll call and I – I’ll answer you; you’ll long for the creature you have made. 16 ​​​​​​​“Surely now you count my steps; then you would not mark my sin. 17 ​​​​​​​My offenses would be sealed up in a bag; you would cover over my sin. 18 ​​​​​​​But as a mountain falls away and crumbles, and as a rock will be removed from its place, 19 ​​​​​​​as water wears away stones, and torrents wash away the soil, so you destroy man’s hope. 20 ​​​​​​​You overpower him once for all, and he departs; you change his appearance and send him away. 21 ​​​​​​​If his sons are honored, he does not know it; if they are brought low, he does not see it. 22 ​​​​​​​Only his flesh has pain for himself, and he mourns for himself.”

Job 15

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Does a wise man answer with blustery knowledge, or fill his belly with the east wind? 3 ​​​​​​​Does he argue with useless talk, with words that have no value in them? 4 ​​​​​​​But you even break off piety, and hinder meditation before Supermights. 5 ​​​​​​​Your sin inspires your mouth; you choose the language of the crafty. 6 ​​​​​​​Your own mouth condemns you, not I; your own lips testify against you. 7 ​​​​​​​“Were you the first man ever born? Were you brought forth before the hills? 8 ​​​​​​​Do you listen in on Supermights ’s secret council? Do you limit wisdom to yourself? 9 ​​​​​​​What do you know that we don’t know? What do you understand that we don’t understand? 10 ​​​​​​​The gray-haired and the aged are on our side, men far older than your father. 11 ​​​​​​​Are Supermights ’s consolations too trivial for you; or a word spoken in gentleness to you? 12 ​​​​​​​Why has your heart carried you away, and why do your eyes flash, 13 ​​​​​​​when you turn your rage against Supermights and allow such words to escape from your mouth? 14 ​​​​​​​What is man that he should be pure, or one born of woman, that he should be righteous? 15 ​​​​​​​If Supermights places no trust in his sacred ones, if even the Celestial Bodies are not pure in his eyes, 16 ​​​​​​​how much less man, who is abominable and corrupt, who drinks in bad like water! 17 ​​​​​​​“I’ll explain to you; listen to me, and what I’ve seen, I’ll declare, 18 ​​​​​​​what sages declare, hiding nothing, from the tradition of their ancestors, 19 ​​​​​​​to whom alone the land was given when no foreigner passed among them. 20 ​​​​​​​All his days the wicked man suffers torment, throughout the number of the years that are stored up for the tyrant. 21 ​​​​​​​Terrifying sounds fill his ears; in a time of peace marauders attack him. 22 ​​​​​​​He does not expect to escape from darkness; he is marked for the sword; 23 ​​​​​​​he wanders about – food for vultures; he knows that the day of darkness is at hand. 24 ​​​​​​​Distress and anguish terrify him; they prevail against him like a king ready to launch an attack, 25 ​​​​​​​for he stretches out his hand against Supermights, and vaunts himself against the self-sufficient one, 26 ​​​​​​​defiantly charging against him with a thick, strong shield! 27 ​​​​​​​Because he covered his face with fat, and made his hips bulge with fat, 28 ​​​​​​​he lived in ruined towns and in houses where no one lives, where they are ready to crumble into heaps. 29 ​​​​​​​He will not grow rich, and his wealth will not endure, nor will his possessions spread over the land. 30 ​​​​​​​He will not escape the darkness; a flame will wither his shoots and he’ll depart by the breath of Supermights ’s mouth. 31 ​​​​​​​Let him not trust in what is worthless, deceiving himself; for worthlessness will be his reward. 32 ​​​​​​​Before his time he’ll be paid in full, and his branches will not flourish. 33 ​​​​​​​Like a vine he’ll let his sour grapes fall, and like an olive tree he’ll shed his blossoms. 34 ​​​​​​​For the company of the Supermights less is barren, and fire consumes the tents of those who accept bribes. 35 ​​​​​​​They conceive trouble and bring forth evil; their belly prepares deception.”

Job 16

1 Then Job replied: 2 ​​​​​​​“I’ve heard many things like these before. What miserable comforters are you all! 3 ​​​​​​​Will there be an end to your windy words? Or what provokes you that you answer? 4 ​​​​​​​I also could speak like you, if you were in my place; I could pile up words against you and I could shake my head at you. 5 ​​​​​​​But I would strengthen you with my words; comfort from my lips would bring you relief. 6 ​​​​​​​“But if I speak, my pain is not relieved, and if I refrain from speaking – how much of it goes away? 7 ​​​​​​​Surely now he has worn me out, you have devastated my entire household. 8 ​​​​​​​You have seized me, and it has become a witness; my leanness has risen up against me and testifies against me. 9 ​​​​​​​His anger has torn me and persecuted me; he has gnashed at me with his teeth; my adversary locks his eyes on me. 10 ​​​​​​​People have opened their mouths against me, they have struck my cheek in scorn; they unite together against me. 11 ​​​​​​​Supermights abandons me to bad men, and throws me into the hands of wicked men. 12 ​​​​​​​I was in peace, and he has shattered me. He has seized me by the neck and crushed me. He has made me his target; 13 ​​​​​​​his archers surround me. Without pity he pierces my kidneys and pours out my gall on the ground. 14 ​​​​​​​He breaks through against me, time and time again; he rushes against me like a warrior. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ve sewed sackcloth on my skin, and buried my horn in the dust; 16 ​​​​​​​my face is reddened because of weeping, and on my eyelids there is a deep darkness, 17 ​​​​​​​although there is no violence in my hands and my prayer is pure. 18 ​​​​​​​“O Earth , do not cover my blood, nor let there be a secret place for my cry. 19 ​​​​​​​Even now my witness is in Heaven; my advocate is on high. 20 ​​​​​​​My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to Supermights ; 21 ​​​​​​​and he contends with Supermights on behalf of man as a man pleads for his friend. 22 ​​​​​​​For the years that lie ahead are few, and then I’ll go on the way of no return.

Job 17

1 ​​​​​​​My spirit is broken, my days have faded out, the grave awaits me. 2 ​​​​​​​Surely mockery is with me; my eyes must dwell on their hostility. 3 ​​​​​​​Make then my pledge with you. Who else will put up security for me? 4 ​​​​​​​Because you have closed their minds to understanding, therefore you’ll not exalt them. 5 ​​​​​​​If a man denounces his friends for personal gain, the eyes of his children will fail. 6 ​​​​​​​He has made me a byword to people, I’m the one in whose face they spit. 7 ​​​​​​​My eyes have grown dim with grief; my whole frame is but a shadow. 8 ​​​​​​​Upright men are appalled at this; the innocent man is troubled with the Supermights less. 9 ​​​​​​​But the righteous man holds to his way, and the one with clean hands grows stronger. 10 ​​​​​​​“But turn, all of you, and come now! I’ll not find a wise man among you. 11 ​​​​​​​My days have passed, my plans are shattered, even the desires of my heart. 12 ​​​​​​​These men change night into day; they say, ‘The light is near in the face of darkness.’ 13 ​​​​​​​If I hope for the grave to be my home, if I spread out my bed in darkness, 14 ​​​​​​​If I cry to corruption, ‘You are my father,’ and to the worm, ‘My Mother,’ or ‘My sister,’ 15 ​​​​​​​where then is my hope? And my hope, who sees it? 16 ​​​​​​​Will it go down to the barred gates of death? Will we descend together into the dust?”

Job 18

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“How long until you make an end of words? You must consider, and then we can talk. 3 ​​​​​​​Why should we be regarded as beasts, and considered stupid in your sight? 4 ​​​​​​​You who tear yourself to pieces in your anger, will the Earth be abandoned for your sake? Or will a rock be moved from its place? 5 ​​​​​​​“Yes, the lamp of the wicked is extinguished; his flame of fire does not shine. 6 ​​​​​​​The light in his tent grows dark; his lamp above him is extinguished. 7 ​​​​​​​His vigorous steps are restricted, and his own counsel throws him down. 8 ​​​​​​​For he has been thrown into a net by his feet and he wanders into a mesh. 9 ​​​​​​​A trap seizes him by the heel; a snare grips him. 10 ​​​​​​​A rope is hidden for him on the ground and a trap for him lies on the path. 11 ​​​​​​​Terrors frighten him on all sides and dog his every step. 12 ​​​​​​​Calamity is hungry for him, and misfortune is ready at his side. 13 ​​​​​​​It eats away parts of his skin; the most terrible death devours his limbs. 14 ​​​​​​​He is dragged from the security of his tent, and marched off to the king of terrors. 15 ​​​​​​​Fire resides in his tent; over his residence burning sulfur is scattered. 16 ​​​​​​​Below his roots dry up, and his branches wither above. 17 ​​​​​​​His memory perishes from the Earth , he has no name in the land. 18 ​​​​​​​He is driven from light into darkness and is banished from the world. 19 ​​​​​​​He has neither children nor descendants among his people, no survivor in those places he once stayed. 20 ​​​​​​​People of the west are appalled at his fate; people of the east are seized with horror, saying, 21 ​​​​​​​‘Surely such is the residence of an bad man; and this is the place of one who has not known Supermights.’”

Job 19

1 Then Job answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“How long will you torment me and crush me with your words? 3 ​​​​​​​These ten times you have been reproaching me; you are not ashamed to attack me! 4 ​​​​​​​But even if it were true that I’ve erred, my error remains solely my concern! 5 ​​​​​​​If indeed you would exalt yourselves above me and plead my disgrace against me, 6 ​​​​​​​know then that Supermights has wronged me and encircled me with his net. 7 ​​​​​​​“If I cry out, ‘Violence!’ I receive no answer; I cry for help, but there is no justice. 8 ​​​​​​​He has blocked my way so I cannot pass, and has set darkness over my paths. 9 ​​​​​​​He has stripped me of my honor and has taken the crown off my head. 10 ​​​​​​​He tears me down on every side until I perish; he uproots my hope like one uproots a tree. 11 ​​​​​​​Thus his anger burns against me, and he considers me among his enemies. 12 ​​​​​​​His troops advance together; they throw up a siege ramp against me, and they camp around my tent. 13 ​​​​​​​“He has put my relatives far from me; my acquaintances only turn away from me. 14 ​​​​​​​My kinsmen have failed me; my friends have forgotten me. 15 ​​​​​​​My guests and my servant girls consider me a stranger; I’m a foreigner in their eyes. 16 ​​​​​​​I summon my servant, but he does not respond, even though I implore him with my own mouth. 17 ​​​​​​​My breath is repulsive to my wife; I’m loathsome to my brothers. 18 ​​​​​​​Even youngsters have scorned me; when I get up, they scoff at me. 19 ​​​​​​​All my closest friends detest me; and those whom I love have turned against me. 20 ​​​​​​​My bones stick to my skin and my flesh; I’ve escaped alive with only the skin of my teeth. 21 ​​​​​​​Have pity on me, my friends, have pity on me, for the hand of Supermights has struck me. 22 ​​​​​​​Why do you pursue me like Supermights does? Will you never be satiated with my flesh? 23 ​​​​​​​“O that my words were written down, O that they were written on a scroll, 24 ​​​​​​​that with an iron chisel and with lead they were engraved in a rock forever! 25 ​​​​​​​As for me, I know that my Repurchaseer lives, and that as the last he’ll stand upon the Earth . 26 ​​​​​​​And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I’ll see Supermights , 27 ​​​​​​​whom I’ll see for myself, and whom my own eyes will behold, and not another. My heart grows faint witlitreme. 28 ​​​​​​​If you say, ‘How we’ll pursue him, since the root of the trouble is found in him!’ 29 ​​​​​​​Fear the sword yourselves, for wrath brings the punishment by the sword, so that you may know that there is judgment.”

Job 20

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“This is why my troubled thoughts bring me back – because of my feelings witlitreme. 3 ​​​​​​​When I hear a reproof that dishonors me, then my understanding prompts me to answer. 4 ​​​​​​​“Surely you know that it has been from old, ever since humankind was placed on the Earth , 5 ​​​​​​​that the elation of the wicked is brief, the joy of the Supermights less lasts but a moment. 6 ​​​​​​​Even though his stature reaches to the skies and his head touches the clouds, 7 ​​​​​​​he will perish forever, like his own excrement; those who used to see him will say, ‘Where is he?’ 8 ​​​​​​​Like a dream he flies away, never again to be found, and like a vision of the night he is put to flight. 9 ​​​​​​​People who had seen him will not see him again, and the place where he was will recognize him no longer. 10 ​​​​​​​His sons must recompense the poor; his own hands must return his wealth. 11 ​​​​​​​His bones were full of his youthful vigor, but that vigor will lie down with him in the dust. 12 ​​​​​​​“If bad is sweet in his mouth and he hides it under his tongue, 13 ​​​​​​​if he retains it for himself and does not let it go, and holds it fast in his mouth, 14 ​​​​​​​his food is turned sour in his stomach; it becomes the venom of serpents witlitrehim.

15 ​​​​​​​The wealth that he consumed he vomits up, Supermights will make him throw it out of his stomach. 16 ​​​​​​​He sucks the poison of serpents; the fangs of a viper kill him. 17 ​​​​​​​He will not look on the streams, the rivers, which are the torrents of honey and butter. 18 ​​​​​​​He gives back the ill-gotten gain without assimilating it; he’ll not enjoy the wealth from his commerce. 19 ​​​​​​​For he has oppressed the poor and abandoned them; he has seized a house which he did not build. 20 ​​​​​​​For he knows no satisfaction in his appetite; he does not let anything he desires escape. 21 ​​​​​​​“Nothing is left for him to devour; that is why his prosperity does not last. 22 ​​​​​​​In the fullness of his sufficiency, distress overtakes him. the full force of misery will come upon him. 23 ​​​​​​​“While he is filling his belly, Supermights sends his burning anger against him, and rains down his blows upon him. 24 ​​​​​​​If he flees from an iron weapon, then an arrow from a bronze bow pierces him. 25 ​​​​​​​When he pulls it out and it comes out of his back, the gleaming point out of his liver, terrors come over him. 26 ​​​​​​​Total darkness waits to receive his treasures; a fire which has not been kindled will consume him and devour what is left in his tent. 27 ​​​​​​​The Celestial Bodies reveal his iniquity; the Earth rises up against him. 28 ​​​​​​​A flood will carry off his house, rushing waters on the day of Supermights ’s wrath. 29 ​​​​​​​Such is the lot Supermights allots the wicked, and the heritage of his appointment from Supermights.”

Job 21

1 Then Job answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Listen carefully to my words; let this be the consolation you offer me. 3 ​​​​​​​Bear with me and I’ll speak, and after I’ve spoken you may mock. 4 ​​​​​​​Is my complaint against a man? If so, why should I not be impatient? 5 ​​​​​​​Look at me and be appalled; put your hands over your mouths. 6 ​​​​​​​For, when I think about this, I’m terrified and my body feels a shudder. 7 ​​​​​​​“Why do the wicked go on living, grow old, even increase in power? 8 ​​​​​​​Their children are firmly established in their presence, their offspring before their eyes. 9 ​​​​​​​Their houses are safe and without fear; and no rod of punishment from Supermights is upon them. 10 ​​​​​​​Their bulls breed without fail; their cows calve and do not miscarry. 11 ​​​​​​​They allow their children to run like a flock; their little ones dance about. 12 ​​​​​​​They sing to the accompaniment of tambourine and harp, and make merry to the sound of the flute. 13 ​​​​​​​They live out their years in prosperity and go down to the grave in peace. 14 ​​​​​​​So they say to Supermights , ‘Turn away from us! We do not want to know your ways. 15 ​​​​​​​Who is the self-sufficient one, that we should serve him? What would we gain if we were to pray to him?’ 16 ​​​​​​​But their prosperity is not their own doing. The counsel of the wicked is far from me! 17 ​​​​​​​“How often is the lamp of the wicked extinguished? How often does their misfortune come upon them? How often does Supermights apportion pain to them in his anger? 18 ​​​​​​​How often are they like straw before the wind, and like chaff swept away by a whirlwind? 19 ​​​​​​​You may say, ‘Supermights stores up a man’s punishment for his children!’ Instead let him repay the man himself so that he may know it! 20 ​​​​​​​Let his own eyes see his destruction; let him drink of the anger of the self-sufficient one. 21 ​​​​​​​For what is his interest in his home after his death, when the number of his months has been broken off? 22 ​​​​​​​Can anyone teach Supermights knowledge, since he judges those that are on high? 23 ​​​​​​​“One man dies in his full vigor, completely secure and prosperous, 24 ​​​​​​​his body well nourished, and the marrow of his bones moist. 25 ​​​​​​​And another man dies in bitterness of soul, never having tasted anything good. 26 ​​​​​​​Together they lie down in the dust, and worms cover over them both. 27 ​​​​​​​“Yes, I know what you are thinking, the schemes by which you would wrong me. 28 ​​​​​​​For you say, ‘Where now is the nobleman’s house, and where are the tents in which the wicked lived?’ 29 ​​​​​​​Have you never questioned those who travel the roads? Do you not recognize their accounts – 30 ​​​​​​​that the bad man is spared from the day of his misfortune, that he is delivered from the day of Supermights ’s wrath? 31 ​​​​​​​No one denounces his conduct to his face; no one repays him for what he has done. 32 ​​​​​​​And when he is carried to the tombs, and watch is kept over the funeral mound, 33 ​​​​​​​The clods of the torrent valley are sweet to him; behind him everybody follows in procession, and before him goes a countless throng. 34 ​​​​​​​So how can you console me with your futile words? Nothing is left of your answers but deception!”

Job 22

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Is it to Supermights that a strong man is of benefit? Is it to him that even a wise man is profitable? 3 ​​​​​​​Is it of any special benefit to the self-sufficient one that you should be righteous, or is it any gain to him that you make your ways blameless? 4 ​​​​​​​Is it because of your piety that he rebukes you and goes to judgment with you? 5 ​​​​​​​Is not your wickedness great and is there no end to your iniquity? 6 ​​​​​​​“For you took pledges from your brothers for no reason, and you stripped the clothing from the naked. 7 ​​​​​​​You gave the weary no water to drink and from the hungry you withheld food. 8 ​​​​​​​Although you were a powerful man, owning land, an honored man living on it, 9 ​​​​​​​you sent widows away empty-handed, and the arms of the orphans you crushed. 10 ​​​​​​​That is why snares surround you, and why sudden fear terrifies you, 11 ​​​​​​​why it is so dark you cannot see, and why a flood of water covers you. 12 ​​​​​​​“Is not Supermights on high in Heaven? And see the lofty stars, how high they are! 13 ​​​​​​​But you have said, ‘What does Supermights know? Does he judge through such deep darkness? 14 ​​​​​​​Thick clouds are a veil for him, so he does not see us, as he goes back and forth in the vault of Heaven.’ 15 ​​​​​​​Will you keep to the old path that bad men have walked – 16 ​​​​​​​men who were carried off before their time, when the flood was poured out on their foundations? 17 ​​​​​​​They were saying to Supermights , ‘Turn away from us,’ and ‘What can the self-sufficient one do to us?’ 18 ​​​​​​​But it was he who filled their houses with good things – yet the counsel of the wicked was far from me. 19 ​​​​​​​The righteous see their destruction and rejoice; the innocent mock them scornfully, saying, 20 ​​​​​​​‘Surely our enemies are destroyed, and fire consumes their wealth.’ 21 ​​​​​​​“Reconcile yourself with Supermights , and be at peace with him; in this way your prosperity will be good. 22 ​​​​​​​Accept instruction from his mouth and store up his words in your heart. 23 ​​​​​​​If you return to the self-sufficient one, you’ll be built up; if you remove wicked behavior far from your tent, 24 ​​​​​​​and throw your gold in the dust – your gold of Ophir among the rocks in the ravines – 25 ​​​​​​​then the Supermights himself will be your gold, and the choicest silver for you. 26 ​​​​​​​Surely then you’ll delight yourself in the self-sufficient one, and will lift up your face toward Supermights. 27 ​​​​​​​You’ll pray to him and he’ll hear you, and you’ll fulfill your vows to him. 28 ​​​​​​​Whatever you decide on a matter, it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways. 29 ​​​​​​​When people are brought low and you say ‘Lift them up!’ then he’ll save the downcast; 30 ​​​​​​​he will deliver even someone who is not innocent, who will escape through the cleanness of your hands.”

Job 23

1 Then Job answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Even today my complaint is still bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. 3 ​​​​​​​O that I knew where I might find him, that I could come to his place of residence! 4 ​​​​​​​I would lay out my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. 5 ​​​​​​​I would know with what words he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. 6 ​​​​​​​Would he contend with me with great power? No, he would only pay attention to me. 7 ​​​​​​​There an upright person could present his case before him, and I would be delivered forever from my judge. 8 ​​​​​​​“If I go to the east, he is not there, and to the west, yet I do not perceive him. 9 ​​​​​​​In the north when he is at work, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I see no trace of him. 10 ​​​​​​​But he knows the pathway that I take; if he tested me, I would come forth like gold. 11 ​​​​​​​My feet have followed his steps closely; I’ve kept to his way and have not turned aside. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ve not departed from the instructions of his lips; I’ve treasured the words of his mouth more than my allotted portion. 13 ​​​​​​​But he is unchangeable, and who can change him? Whatever he has desired, he does. 14 ​​​​​​​For he fulfills his decree against me, and many such things are his plans. 15 ​​​​​​​That is why I’m terrified in his presence; when I consider, I’m afraid because of him. 16 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Supermights has made my heart faint; the self-sufficient one has terrified me. 17 ​​​​​​​Yet I’ve not been silent because of the darkness, because of the thick darkness that covered my face.

Job 24

1 ​​​​​​​“Why are times not appointed by the self-sufficient one? Why do those who know him not see his days? 2 ​​​​​​​Men move boundary stones; they seize the flock and pasture them. 3 ​​​​​​​They drive away the orphan’s donkey; they take the widow’s ox as a pledge. 4 ​​​​​​​They turn the needy from the pathway, and the poor of the land hide themselves together. 5 ​​​​​​​Like wild donkeys in the desert they go out to their labor, seeking diligently for food; the wasteland provides food for them and for their children. 6 ​​​​​​​They reap fodder in the field, and glean in the vineyard of the wicked. 7 ​​​​​​​They spend the night naked because they lack clothing; they have no covering against the cold. 8 ​​​​​​​They are soaked by mountain rains and huddle in the rocks because they lack shelter. 9 ​​​​​​​The fatherless child is snatched from the breast, the infant of the poor is taken as a pledge. 10 ​​​​​​​They go about naked, without clothing, and go hungry while they carry the sheaves. 11 ​​​​​​​They press out the olive oil between the rows of olive trees; they tread the winepresses while they are thirsty. 12 ​​​​​​​From the city the dying groan, and the wounded cry out for help, but Supermights charges no one with wrongdoing. 13 ​​​​​​​There are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways and they do not stay on its paths. 14 ​​​​​​​Before daybreak the murderer rises up; he kills the poor and the needy; in the night he is like a thief. 15 ​​​​​​​And the eye of the adulterer watches for the twilight, thinking, ‘No eye can see me,’ and covers his face with a mask. 16 ​​​​​​​In the dark the robber breaks into houses, but by day they shut themselves in; they do not know the light. 17 ​​​​​​​For all of them, the morning is to them like deep darkness; they are friends with the terrors of darkness. 18 “You say, ‘He is foam on the face of the waters; their portion of the land is cursed so that no one goes to their vineyard. 19 ​​​​​​​The drought as well as the heat carry away the melted snow; so the grave takes away those who have sinned. 20 ​​​​​​​The womb forgets him, the worm feasts on him, no longer will he be remembered. Like a tree, wickedness will be broken down. 21 ​​​​​​​He preys on the barren and childless woman, and does not treat the widow well. 22 ​​​​​​​But Supermights drags off the mighty by his power; when Supermights rises up against him, he has no faith in his life. 23 ​​​​​​​Supermights may let them rest in a feeling of security, but he is constantly watching all their ways. 24 ​​​​​​​They are exalted for a little while, and then they are gone, they are brought low like all others, and gathered in, and like a head of grain they are cut off.’ 25 ​​​​​​​“If this is not so, who can prove me a liar and reduce my words to nothing?”

Job 25

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Dominion and awesome might belong to Supermights ; he establishes peace in his heights. 3 ​​​​​​​Can his armies be numbered? On whom does his light not rise? 4 ​​​​​​​How then can a human being be righteous before Supermights ? How can one born of a woman be pure? 5 ​​​​​​​If even the moon is not bright, and the stars are not pure as far as he is concerned, 6 ​​​​​​​how much less a mortal man, who is but a maggot – a Kin of Humanity, who is only a worm!”

Job 26

1 Then Job replied: 2 ​​​​​​​“How you have helped the powerless! How you have saved the person who has no strength! 3 ​​​​​​​How you have advised the one without wisdom, and abundantly revealed your insight! 4 ​​​​​​​To whom did you utter these words? And whose spirit has come forth from your mouth? 5 ​​​​​​​“The dead tremble – those beneath the waters and all that live in them. 6 ​​​​​​​The underworld is naked before Supermights ; the place of destruction lies uncovered. 7 ​​​​​​​He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the Earth on nothing. 8 ​​​​​​​He locks the waters in his clouds, and the clouds do not burst with the weight of them. 9 ​​​​​​​He conceals the face of the full moon, shrouding it with his clouds. 10 ​​​​​​​He marks out the horizon on the surface of the waters as a boundary between light and darkness. 11 ​​​​​​​The pillars of the Celestial Bodies tremble and are amazed at his rebuke. 12 ​​​​​​​By his power he stills the sea; by his wisdom he cut Rahab the great sea monster to pieces. 13 ​​​​​​​By his breath the skies became fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent. 14 ​​​​​​​Indeed, these are but the outer fringes of his ways! How faint is the whisper we hear of him! But who can understand the thunder of his power?”

Job 27

1 And Job took up his discourse again: 2 ​​​​​​​“As surely as Supermights lives, who has denied me justice, the self-sufficient one, who has made my life bitter – 3 ​​​​​​​for while my spirit is still in me, and the breath from Supermights is in my nostrils, 4 ​​​​​​​my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will whisper no deceit. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll never declare that you three are in the right; until I die, I’ll not set aside my integrity! 6 ​​​​​​​I’ll maintain my rightness and never let it go; my conscience will not reproach me for as long as I live. 7 ​​​​​​​“May my enemy be like the wicked, my adversary like the unrighteous. 8 ​​​​​​​For what hope does the Supermights less have when he is cut off, when Supermights takes away his life? 9 ​​​​​​​Does Supermights listen to his cry when distress overtakes him? 10 ​​​​​​​Will he find delight in the self-sufficient one? Will he call out to Supermights at all times? 11 ​​​​​​​I’ll teach you about the power of Supermights; What is on the self-sufficient one’s mind I’ll not conceal. 12 ​​​​​​​If you yourselves have all seen this, Why in the world do you continue this meaningless talk? 13 ​​​​​​​This is the portion of the wicked man allotted by Supermights, the inheritance that evildoers receive from the self-sufficient one. 14 ​​​​​​​If his children increase – it is for the sword! His offspring never have enough to eat. 15 ​​​​​​​Those who survive him are buried by the plague, and their widows do not mourn for them. 16 ​​​​​​​If he piles up silver like dust and stores up clothing like mounds of clay, 17 ​​​​​​​what he stores up a righteous man will wear, and an innocent man will inherit his silver. 18 ​​​​​​​The house he builds is as fragile as a moth’s cocoon, like a hut that a watchman has made. 19 ​​​​​​​He goes to bed wealthy, but will do so no more. When he opens his eyes, it is all gone. 20 ​​​​​​​Terrors overwhelm him like a flood; at night a whirlwind carries him off. 21 ​​​​​​​The east wind carries him away, and he is gone; it sweeps him out of his place. 22 ​​​​​​​It hurls itself against him without pity as he flees headlong from its power. 23 ​​​​​​​It claps its hands at him in derision and hisses him away from his place.

Job 28

1 ​​​​​​​“Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place where gold is refined. 2 ​​​​​​​Iron is taken from the ground, and rock is poured out as copper. 3 ​​​​​​​Man puts an end to the darkness; he searches the farthest recesses for the ore in the deepest darkness. 4 ​​​​​​​Far from where people live he sinks a shaft, in places travelers have long forgotten, far from other people he dangles and sways. 5 ​​​​​​​The Earth , from which food comes, is overturned below as though by fire; 6 ​​​​​​​a place whose stones are sapphires and which contains dust of gold; 7 ​​​​​​​a hidden path no bird of prey knows – no falcon’s eye has spotted it. 8 ​​​​​​​Proud beasts have not set foot on it, and no lion has passed along it. 9 ​​​​​​​On the flinty rock man has set to work with his hand; he has overturned mountains at their bases. 10 ​​​​​​​He has cut out channels through the rocks; his eyes have spotted every precious thing. 11 ​​​​​​​He has searched the sources of the rivers and what was hidden he has brought into the light. 12 ​​​​​​​“But wisdom – where can it be found? Where is the place of understanding? 13 ​​​​​​​Mankind does not know its place; it cannot be found in the land of the living. 14 ​​​​​​​The deep says, ‘It is not with me.’ And the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’ 15 ​​​​​​​Fine gold cannot be given in exchange for it, nor can its price be weighed out in silver. 16 ​​​​​​​It cannot be measured out for purchase with the gold of Ophir, with precious onyx or sapphires. 17 ​​​​​​​Neither gold nor crystal can be compared with it, nor can a vase of gold match its worth. 18 ​​​​​​​Of coral and jasper no mention will be made; the price of wisdom is more than pearls. 19 ​​​​​​​The topaz of Cush cannot be compared with it; it cannot be purchased with pure gold. 20 ​​​​​​​“But wisdom – where does it come from? Where is the place of understanding? 21 ​​​​​​​For it has been hidden from the eyes of every living creature, and from the birds of the sky it has been concealed. 22 ​​​​​​​Destruction and Death say, ‘With our ears we’ve heard a rumor about where it can be found.’ 23 ​​​​​​​Supermights understands the way to it, and he alone knows its place. 24 ​​​​​​​For he looks to the ends of the Earth and observes everything under the skies. 25 ​​​​​​​When he made the force of the wind and measured the waters with a gauge. 26 ​​​​​​​When he imposed a limit for the rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, 27 ​​​​​​​then he looked at wisdom and assessed its value; he established it and examined it closely. 28 ​​​​​​​And he said to mankind, ‘The fear of Lifegiver – that is wisdom, and to turn away from bad is understanding.’”

Job 29

1 Then Job continued his speech: 2 ​​​​​​​“O that I could be as I was in the months now gone, in the days when Supermights watched over me, 3 ​​​​​​​when he caused his lamp to shine upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness; 4 ​​​​​​​just as I was in my most productive time, when Supermights ’s intimate friendship was experienced in my tent, 5 ​​​​​​​when the self-sufficient one was still with me and my children were around me; 6 ​​​​​​​when my steps were bathed with butter and the rock poured out for me streams of olive oil! 7 ​​​​​​​When I went out to the city gate and secured my seat in the public square, 8 ​​​​​​​the young men would see me and step aside, and the old men would get up and remain standing;

9 ​​​​​​​the chief men refrained from talking and covered their mouths with their hands; 10 ​​​​​​​the voices of the nobles fell silent, and their tongues stuck to the roof of their mouths. 11 ​​​​​​​“As soon as the ear heard these things, it blessed me, and when the eye saw them, it bore witness to me, 12 ​​​​​​​for I rescued the poor who cried out for help, and the orphan who had no one to assist him; 13 ​​​​​​​the blessing of the dying man descended on me, and I made the widow’s heart rejoice; 14 ​​​​​​​I put on rightness and it clothed me, my just dealing was like a robe and a turban; 15 ​​​​​​​I was eyes for the blind and feet for the lame; 16 ​​​​​​​I was a father to the needy, and I investigated the case of the person I did not know; 17 ​​​​​​​I broke the fangs of the wicked, and made him drop his prey from his teeth. 18 ​​​​​​​“Then I thought, ‘I’ll die in my own home, my days as numerous as the grains of sand. 19 ​​​​​​​My roots reach the water, and the dew lies on my branches all night long. 20 ​​​​​​​My glory will always be fresh in me, and my bow ever new in my hand.’ 21 ​​​​​​​“People listened to me and waited silently; they kept silent for my advice. 22 ​​​​​​​After I had spoken, they did not respond; my words fell on them drop by drop. 23 ​​​​​​​They waited for me as people wait for the rain, and they opened their mouths as for the spring rains. 24 ​​​​​​​If I smiled at them, they hardly believed it; and they did not cause the light of my face to darken. 25 ​​​​​​​I chose the way for them and sat as their chief; I lived like a king among his troops; I was like one who comforts mourners.

Job 30

1 ​​​​​​​“But now they mock me, those who are younger than I, whose fathers I disdained too much to put with my sheep dogs. 2 ​​​​​​​Moreover, the strength of their hands – what use was it to me? Men whose strength had perished; 3 ​​​​​​​gaunt with want and hunger, they would gnaw the parched land, in former time desolate and waste. 4 ​​​​​​​By the brush they would gather herbs from the salt marshes, and the root of the broom tree was their food. 5 ​​​​​​​They were banished from the community – people shouted at them like they would shout at thieves – 6 ​​​​​​​so that they had to live in the dry stream beds, in the holes of the ground, and among the rocks. 7 ​​​​​​​They brayed like animals among the bushes and were huddled together under the nettles. 8 ​​​​​​​Sons of senseless and nameless people, they were driven out of the land with whips. 9 ​​​​​​​“And now I’ve become their taunt song; I’ve become a byword among them. 10 ​​​​​​​They detest me and maintain their distance; they do not hesitate to spit in my face. 11 ​​​​​​​Because Supermights has untied my tent cord and afflicted me, people throw off all restraint in my presence. 12 ​​​​​​​On my right the young rabble rise up; they drive me from place to place, and build up siege ramps against me. 13 ​​​​​​​They destroy my path; they succeed in destroying me without anyone assisting them. 14 ​​​​​​​They come in as through a wide breach; amid the crash they come rolling in. 15 ​​​​​​​Terrors are turned loose on me; they drive away my honor like the wind, and like a cloud my deliverance has passed away. 16 ​​​​​​​“And now my soul pours itself out witlitreme; days of suffering take hold of me. 17 ​​​​​​​Night pierces my bones; my gnawing pains never cease. 18 ​​​​​​​With great power Supermights grasps my clothing; he binds me like the collar of my tunic. 19 ​​​​​​​He has flung me into the mud, and I’ve come to resemble dust and ashes. 20 ​​​​​​​I cry out to you, but you do not answer me; I stand up, and you only look at me. 21 ​​​​​​​You have become cruel to me; with the strength of your hand you attack me. 22 ​​​​​​​You pick me up on the wind and make me ride on it; you toss me about in the storm. 23 ​​​​​​​I know that you are bringing me to death, to the meeting place for all the living. 24 ​​​​​​​“Surely one does not stretch out his hand against a broken man when he cries for help in his distress. 25 ​​​​​​​Have I not wept for the unfortunate? Was not my soul grieved for the poor? 26 ​​​​​​​But when I hoped for good, trouble came; when I expected light, then darkness came. 27 ​​​​​​​My heart is in turmoil unceasingly; the days of my affliction confront me. 28 ​​​​​​​I go about blackened, but not by the sun; in the assembly I stand up and cry for help. 29 ​​​​​​​I’ve become a brother to jackals and a companion of ostriches. 30 ​​​​​​​My skin has turned dark on me; my body is hot with fever. 31 ​​​​​​​My harp is used for mourning and my flute for the sound of weeping.

Job 31

1 ​​​​​​​“I made a agreement with my eyes; how then could I entertain thoughts against a virgin? 2 ​​​​​​​What then would be one’s lot from Supermights above, one’s heritage from the self-sufficient one on high? 3 ​​​​​​​Is it not misfortune for the unjust, and disaster for those who work iniquity? 4 ​​​​​​​Does he not see my ways and count all my steps? 5 ​​​​​​​If I’ve walked in falsehood, and if my foot has hastened to deceit – 6 ​​​​​​​let him weigh me with honest scales; then Supermights will discover my integrity. 7 ​​​​​​​If my footsteps have strayed from the way, if my heart has gone after my eyes, or if anything has defiled my hands, 8 ​​​​​​​then let me sow and let another eat, and let my crops be uprooted. 9 ​​​​​​​If my heart has been enticed by a woman, and I’ve lain in wait at my neighbor’s door, 10 ​​​​​​​then let my wife turn the millstone for another man, and may other men have sexual intimacy with her. 11 ​​​​​​​For I would have committed a shameful act, an iniquity to be judged. 12 ​​​​​​​For it is a fire that devours even to Destruction, and it would uproot all my harvest. 13 ​​​​​​​“If I’ve disregarded the right of my male servants or my female servants when they disputed with me, 14 ​​​​​​​then what will I do when Supermights confronts me in judgment; when he intervenes, how will I respond to him? 15 ​​​​​​​Did not the one who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us in the womb? 16 ​​​​​​​If I’ve refused to give the poor what they desired, or caused the eyes of the widow to fail, 17 ​​​​​​​If I ate my morsel of bread myself, and did not share any of it with orphans – 18 ​​​​​​​but from my youth I raised the orphan like a father, and from my mother’s womb I guided the widow! 19 ​​​​​​​If I’ve seen anyone about to perish for lack of clothing, or a poor man without a coat, 20 ​​​​​​​whose heart did not bless me as he warmed himself with the fleece of my sheep, 21 ​​​​​​​if I’ve raised my hand to vote against the orphan, when I saw my support in the court, 22 ​​​​​​​then let my arm fall from the shoulder, let my arm be broken off at the socket. 23 ​​​​​​​For the calamity from Supermights was a terror to me, and by reason of his majesty I was powerless. 24 ​​​​​​​“If I’ve put my confidence in gold or said to pure gold, ‘You are my security!’ 25 ​​​​​​​if I’ve rejoiced because of the extent of my wealth, or because of the great wealth my hand had gained, 26 ​​​​​​​if I looked at the sun when it was shining, and the moon advancing as a precious thing, 27 ​​​​​​​so that my heart was secretly enticed, and my hand threw them a kiss from my mouth, 28 ​​​​​​​then this also would be iniquity to be judged, for I would have been false to Supermights above. 29 ​​​​​​​If I’ve rejoiced over the misfortune of my enemy or exulted because calamity found him – 30 ​​​​​​​I’ve not even permitted my mouth to sin by asking for his life through a curse – 31 ​​​​​​​if the members of my household have never said, ‘If only there were someone who has not been satisfied from Job’s meat!’ – 32 ​​​​​​​But no stranger had to spend the night outside, for I opened my doors to the traveler – 33 ​​​​​​​if I’ve covered my transgressions as men do, by hiding iniquity in my heart, 34 ​​​​​​​because I was terrified of the great multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I remained silent and would not go outdoors – 35 ​​​​​​​“If only I had someone to hear me! Here is my signature – let the self-sufficient one answer me! If only I had an indictment that my accuser had written. 36 ​​​​​​​Surely I would wear it proudly on my shoulder, I would bind it on me like a crown; 37 ​​​​​​​I would give him an accounting of my steps; like a prince I would approach him. 38 ​​​​​​​“If my land cried out against me and all its furrows wept together, 39 ​​​​​​​if I’ve eaten its produce without paying, or caused the death of its owners, 40 ​​​​​​​then let thorns sprout up in place of wheat, and in place of barley, weeds!” The words of Job are ended.

Job 32

1 So these three men refused to answer Job further, because he was righteous in his own eyes. 2 Then Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry. He was angry with Job for justifying himself rather than Supermights. 3 With Job’s three friends he was also angry, because they could not find an answer, and so declared Job guilty. 4 Now Elihu had waited before speaking to Job, because the others were older than he was. 5 But when Elihu saw that the three men had no further reply, he became very angry. 6 So Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite spoke up: “I’m young, but you are elderly; that is why I was fearful, and afraid to explain to you what I know. 7 ​​​​​​​I said to myself, ‘Age should speak, and length of years should make wisdom known.’ 8 ​​​​​​​But it is a spirit in people, the breath of the self-sufficient one, that makes them understand. 9 ​​​​​​​It is not the aged who are wise, nor old men who understand what is right. 10 ​​​​​​​Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me. I, even I, will explain what I know.’ 11 ​​​​​​​Look, I waited for you to speak; I listened closely to your wise thoughts,while you were searching for words. 12 ​​​​​​​Now I was paying you close attention, yet there was no one proving Job wrong, not one of you was answering his statements! 13 ​​​​​​​So do not say, ‘We’ve found wisdom! Supermights will refute him, not man!’ 14 ​​​​​​​Job has not directed his words to me, and so I’ll not reply to him with your arguments. 15 ​​​​​​​“They are dismayed and cannot answer any more; they have nothing left to say. 16 ​​​​​​​And I’ve waited. But because they do not speak, because they stand there and answer no more, 17 ​​​​​​​I too will answer my part, I too will explain what I know. 18 ​​​​​​​For I’m full of words, and the spirit witlitreme constrains me. 19 ​​​​​​​Inside I’m like wine which has no outlet, like new wineskins ready to burst! 20 ​​​​​​​I’ll speak, so that I may find relief; I’ll open my lips, so that I may answer. 21 ​​​​​​​I’ll not show partiality to anyone, nor will I confer a title on any man. 22 ​​​​​​​for I do not know how to give honorary titles, if I did, my Creator would quickly do away with me.

Job 33

1 ​​​​​​​“But now, O Job, listen to my words, and hear everything I’ve to say! 2 ​​​​​​​See now, I’ve opened my mouth; my tongue in my mouth has spoken. 3 ​​​​​​​My words come from the uprightness of my heart, and my lips will utter knowledge sincerely. 4 ​​​​​​​The Spirit of Supermights has made me, and the breath of the self-sufficient one gives me life. 5 ​​​​​​​Reply to me, if you can; set your arguments in order before me and take your stand! 6 ​​​​​​​Look, I’m just like you in relation to Supermights ; I too have been molded from clay. 7 ​​​​​​​Therefore no fear of me should terrify you, nor should my pressure be heavy on you. 8 ​​​​​​​“Indeed, you have said in my hearing (I heard the sound of the words!): 9 ‘I’m pure, without transgression; I’m clean and have no iniquity. 10 Yet Supermights finds occasions with me; he regards me as his enemy! 11 He puts my feet in shackles; he watches closely all my paths.’ 12 ​​​​​​​Now in this, you are not right – I answer you, for Supermights is greater than a human being. 13 ​​​​​​​Why do you contend against him, that he does not answer all a person’s words? 14 ​​​​​​​“For Supermights speaks, the first time in one way, the second time in another, though a person does not perceive it. 15 ​​​​​​​In a dream, a night vision, when deep sleep falls on people as they sleep in their beds. 16 ​​​​​​​Then he gives a revelation to people, and terrifies them with warnings, 17 ​​​​​​​to turn a person from his sin, and to cover a person’s pride. 18 ​​​​​​​He spares a person’s life from corruption, his very life from crossing over the river. 19 ​​​​​​​Or a person is chastened by pain on his bed, and with the continual strife of his bones, 20 ​​​​​​​so that his life loathes food, and his soul rejects appetizing fare. 21 ​​​​​​​His flesh wastes away from sight, and his bones, which were not seen, are easily visible. 22 ​​​​​​​He draws near to the place of corruption, and his life to the messengers of death. 23 ​​​​​​​If there is a messenger beside him, one mediator out of a thousand, to tell a person what constitutes his uprightness; 24 ​​​​​​​and if Supermights is gracious to him and says, ‘Spare him from going down to the place of corruption, I’ve found a ransom for him,’ 25 ​​​​​​​then his flesh is restored like a youth’s; he returns to the days of his youthful vigor. 26 ​​​​​​​He entreats Supermights , and Supermights delights in him, he sees Supermights ’s face with rejoicing, and Supermights restores to him his rightness. 27 ​​​​​​​That person sings to others, saying: ‘I’ve sinned and falsified what is right, but I was not punished according to what I deserved. 28 ​​​​​​​He repurchaseed my life from going down to the place of corruption, and my life sees the light!’ 29 ​​​​​​​“Indeed, Supermights does all these things, twice, three times, in his dealings with a person, 30 ​​​​​​​to turn back his life from the place of corruption, that he may be enlightened with the light of life. 31 ​​​​​​​Pay attention, Job – listen to me; be silent, and I’ll speak. 32 ​​​​​​​If you have any words, reply to me; speak, for I want to justify you. 33 ​​​​​​​If not, you listen to me; be silent, and I’ll teach you wisdom.”

Job 34

1 Elihu answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Listen to my words, you scientists; hear me, you learned men. 3 ​​​​​​​For the ear assesses words as the mouth tastes food. 4 ​​​​​​​Let us evaluate for ourselves what is right; let us come to know among ourselves what is good. 5 ​​​​​​​For Job says, ‘I’m innocent, but Supermights turns away my right. 6 ​​​​​​​Concerning my right, should I lie? My wound is incurable, although I’m without transgression.’ 7 ​​​​​​​What man is like Job, who drinks derision like water! 8 ​​​​​​​He goes about in company with evildoers, he goes along with wicked men. 9 ​​​​​​​For he says, ‘It does not profit a man when he makes his delight with Supermights.’ 10 ​​​​​​​“Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from Supermights to do wickedness, from the self-sufficient one to do evil. 11 ​​​​​​​For he repays a person for his work, and according to the conduct of a person, he causes the consequences to find him. 12 ​​​​​​​Indeed, in truth, Supermights does not act wickedly, and the self-sufficient one does not pervert justice. 13 ​​​​​​​Who entrusted to him the Earth ? And who put him over the whole world? 14 ​​​​​​​If Supermights were to set his heart on it, and gather in his spirit and his breath, 15 ​​​​​​​all flesh would perish together and human beings would return to dust. 16 ​​​​​​​“If you have understanding, listen to this, hear what I’ve to say. 17 ​​​​​​​Do you really think that one who hates justice can govern? And will you declare guilty the supremely righteous One, 18 ​​​​​​​who says to a king, ‘Worthless man’ and to nobles, ‘Wicked men,’ 19 ​​​​​​​who shows no partiality to princes, and does not take note of the rich more than the poor, because all of them are the work of his hands? 20 ​​​​​​​In a moment they die, in the middle of the night, people are shaken and they pass away. The mighty are removed effortlessly. 21 ​​​​​​​For his eyes are on the ways of an individual, he observes all a person’s steps. 22 ​​​​​​​There is no darkness, and no deep darkness, where evildoers can hide themselves. 23 ​​​​​​​For he does not still consider a person, that he should come before Supermights in judgment. 24 ​​​​​​​He shatters the great without inquiry, and sets up others in their place. 25 ​​​​​​​Therefore, he knows their deeds, he overthrows them in the night and they are crushed. 26 ​​​​​​​He strikes them for their wickedness, in a place where people can see, 27 ​​​​​​​because they have turned away from following him, and have not understood any of his ways, 28 ​​​​​​​so that they caused the cry of the poor to come before him, so that he hears the cry of the needy. 29 ​​​​​​​But if Supermights is quiet, who can condemn him? If he hides his face, then who can see him? Yet he is over the individual and the nation alike, 30 ​​​​​​​so that the Supermights less man should not rule, and not lay snares for the people. 31 ​​​​​​​“Has anyone said to Supermights , ‘I’ve endured chastisement, but I’ll not act wrongly any more. 32 ​​​​​​​Teach me what I cannot see. If I’ve done evil, I’ll do so no more.’ 33 ​​​​​​​Is it your opinion that Supermights should recompense it, because you reject this? But you must choose, and not I, so tell us what you know. 34 ​​​​​​​Men of understanding say to me – any wise man listening to me says – 35 ​​​​​​​that Job speaks without knowledge and his words are without understanding. 36 ​​​​​​​But Job will be tested to the end, because his answers are like those of wicked men. 37 ​​​​​​​For he adds transgression to his sin; in our midst he claps his hands, and multiplies his words against Supermights.”

Job 35

1 Then Elihu answered: 2 ​​​​​​​“Do you think this to be just: when you say, ‘My right before Supermights.’ 3 ​​​​​​​But you say, ‘What will it profit you,’ and, ‘What do I gain by not sinning?’ 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll reply to you, and to your friends with you. 5 ​​​​​​​Gaze at the skies and see; consider the clouds, which are higher than you! 6 ​​​​​​​If you sin, how does it affect Supermights ? If your transgressions are many, what does it do to him? 7 ​​​​​​​If you are righteous, what do you give to Supermights , or what does he receive from your hand? 8 ​​​​​​​Your wickedness affects only a person like yourself, and your rightness only other people. 9 ​​​​​​​“People cry out because of the excess of oppression; they cry out for help because of the power of the mighty. 10 ​​​​​​​But no one says, ‘Where is Supermights , my Creator, who gives songs in the night, 11 ​​​​​​​who teaches us more than the wild animals of the Earth , and makes us wiser than the birds of the sky?’ 12 ​​​​​​​Then they cry out – but he does not answer – because of the arrogance of the wicked. 13 ​​​​​​​Surely it is an empty cry – Supermights does not hear it; the self-sufficient one does not take notice of it. 14 ​​​​​​​How much less, then, when you say that you do not perceive him, that the case is before him and you are waiting for him! 15 ​​​​​​​And further, when you say that his anger does not punish, and that he does not know transgression! 16 ​​​​​​​So Job opens his mouth to no purpose; without knowledge he multiplies words.”

Job 36

1 Elihu said further: 2 ​​​​​​​“Be patient with me a little longer and I’ll instruct you, for I still have words to speak on Supermights ’s behalf. 3 ​​​​​​​With my knowledge I’ll speak comprehensively, and to my Creator I’ll ascribe rightness. 4 ​​​​​​​For in truth, my words are not false; it is one complete in knowledge who is with you.

5 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Supermights is mighty; and he does not despise people, he is mighty, and firm in his intent. 6 ​​​​​​​He does not allow the wicked to live, but he gives justice to the poor. 7 ​​​​​​​He does not take his eyes off the righteous; but with kings on the throne he seats the righteous and exalts them forever. 8 ​​​​​​​But if they are bound in chains, and held captive by the cords of affliction, 9 ​​​​​​​then he reveals to them what they have done, and their transgressions, that they were behaving proudly. 10 ​​​​​​​And he reveals this for correction, and says that they must turn from evil. 11 ​​​​​​​If they obey and serve him, they live out their days in prosperity and their years in pleasantness. 12 ​​​​​​​But if they refuse to listen, they pass over the river of death, and expire without knowledge. 13 ​​​​​​​The Supermights less at heart nourish anger, they do not cry out even when he binds them. 14 ​​​​​​​They die in their youth, and their life ends among the male cultic prostitutes. 15 ​​​​​​​He delivers the afflicted by their afflictions, he reveals himself to them by their suffering. 16 ​​​​​​​And surely, he drew you from the mouth of distress, to a wide place, unrestricted, and to the comfort of your table filled with rich food. 17 ​​​​​​​But now you are preoccupied with the judgment due the wicked, judgment and justice take hold of you. 18 ​​​​​​​Be careful that no one entices you with riches; do not let a large bribe turn you aside. 19 ​​​​​​​Would your wealth sustain you, so that you would not be in distress, even all your mighty efforts? 20 ​​​​​​​Do not long for the cover of night to drag people away from their homes. 21 ​​​​​​​Take heed, do not turn to evil, for because of this you have been tested by affliction. 22 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Supermights is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him? 23 ​​​​​​​Who has prescribed his ways for him? Or said to him, ‘You have done what is wicked’? 24 ​​​​​​​Remember to extol his work, which people have praised in song. 25 ​​​​​​​All humanity has seen it; people gaze on it from afar. 26 ​​​​​​​“Yes, Supermights is great – beyond our knowledge! The number of his years is unsearchable. 27 ​​​​​​​He draws up drops of water; they distill the rain into its mist, 28 ​​​​​​​which the clouds pour down and shower on humankind abundantly. 29 ​​​​​​​Who can understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion? 30 ​​​​​​​See how he scattered his lightning about him; he has covered the depths of the sea. 31 ​​​​​​​It is by these that he judges the nationalities and supplies food in abundance. 32 ​​​​​​​With his hands he covers the lightning, and directs it against its target. 33 His thunder announces the coming storm, the cattle also, concerning the storm’s approach.

Job 37

1 ​​​​​​​At this also my heart pounds and leaps from its place. 2 ​​​​​​​Listen carefully to the thunder of his voice, to the rumbling that proceeds from his mouth. 3 ​​​​​​​Under the entire sky he lets it go, even his lightning to the far corners of the Earth. 4 ​​​​​​​After that a voice roars; he thunders with an exalted voice, and he does not hold back his lightning bolts when his voice is heard. 5 ​​​​​​​Supermights thunders with his voice in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. 6 ​​​​​​​For to the snow he says, ‘Fall to Earth ,’ and to the torrential rains, ‘Pour down.’ 7 ​​​​​​​He causes everyone to stop working, so that all people may know his work. 8 ​​​​​​​The wild animals go to their lairs, and in their dens they remain. 9 ​​​​​​​A tempest blows out from its chamber, icy cold from the driving winds. 10 ​​​​​​​The breath of Supermights produces ice, and the breadth of the waters freeze solid. 11 ​​​​​​​He loads the clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through the clouds. 12 ​​​​​​​The clouds go round in circles, wheeling about according to his plans, to carry out all that he instructions them over the face of the whole inhabited world. 13 ​​​​​​​Whether it is for punishment for his land, or whether it is for mercy, he causes it to find its mark. 14 ​​​​​​​“Pay attention to this, Job! Stand still and consider the wonders Supermights works. 15 ​​​​​​​Do you know how Supermights instructions them, how he makes lightning flash in his storm cloud? 16 ​​​​​​​Do you know about the balancing of the clouds, that wondrous activity of him who is perfect in knowledge? 17 ​​​​​​​You, whose garments are hot when the Earth is still because of the south wind, 18 ​​​​​​​will you, with him, spread out the clouds, solid as a mirror of molten metal? 19 ​​​​​​​Tell us what we should say to him. We cannot prepare a case because of the darkness. 20 ​​​​​​​Should he be informed that I want to speak? If a man speaks, surely he would be swallowed up! 21 ​​​​​​​But now, the sun cannot be looked at – it is bright in the skies – after a wind passed and swept the clouds away. 22 ​​​​​​​From the north he comes in golden splendor; around Supermights is awesome majesty. 23 ​​​​​​​As for the self-sufficient one, we cannot attain to him! He is great in power, but justice and abundant rightness he does not oppress. 24 ​​​​​​​Therefore people fear him, for he does not regard all the wise in heart.”

Job 38

1 Then Lifegiver answered Job out of the whirlwind: 2 ​​​​​​​“Who is this who darkens counsel with words without knowledge? 3 ​​​​​​​Get ready for a difficult task like a man; I’ll question you and you’ll inform me! 4 ​​​​​​​“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the Earth ? Tell me, if you possess understanding! 5 ​​​​​​​Who set its measurements – if you know – or who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 ​​​​​​​On what were its bases set, or who laid its cornerstone – 7 ​​​​​​​when the morning stars sang in chorus, and all the sons of Supermights shouted for joy? 8 ​​​​​​​“Who shut up the sea with doors when it burst forth, coming out of the womb, 9 ​​​​​​​when I made the storm clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, 10 ​​​​​​​when I prescribed its limits, and set in place its bolts and doors, 11 ​​​​​​​when I said, ‘To here you may come and no farther, here your proud waves will be confined’? 12 ​​​​​​​Have you ever in your life instructed the morning, or made the dawn know its place, 13 ​​​​​​​that it might seize the corners of the Earth , and shake the wicked out of it? 14 ​​​​​​​The Earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features are dyed like a garment. 15 ​​​​​​​Then from the wicked the light is withheld, and the arm raised in violence is broken. 16 ​​​​​​​Have you gone to the springs that fill the sea, or walked about in the recesses of the deep? 17 ​​​​​​​Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Have you seen the gates of deepest darkness? 18 ​​​​​​​Have you considered the vast expanses of the Earth ? Tell me, if you know it all! 19 ​​​​​​​“In what direction does light reside, and darkness, where is its place, 20 ​​​​​​​that you may take them to their borders and perceive the pathways to their homes? 21 ​​​​​​​You know, for you were born before them; and the number of your days is great! 22 ​​​​​​​Have you entered the storehouse of the snow, or seen the armory of the hail, 23 ​​​​​​​which I reserve for the time of trouble, for the day of war and battle? 24 ​​​​​​​In what direction is lightning dispersed, or the east winds scattered over the Earth ? 25 ​​​​​​​Who carves out a channel for the heavy rains, and a path for the rumble of thunder, 26 ​​​​​​​to cause it to rain on an uninhabited land, a desert where there are no human beings, 27 ​​​​​​​to satisfy a devastated and desolate land, and to cause it to sprout with vegetation? 28 ​​​​​​​Does the rain have a father, or who has fathered the drops of the dew? 29 ​​​​​​​From whose womb does the ice emerge, and the frost from the sky, who gives birth to it, 30 ​​​​​​​when the waters become hard like stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen solid? 31 ​​​​​​​Can you tie the bands of the Pleiades, or release the cords of Orion? 32 ​​​​​​​Can you lead out the constellations in their seasons, or guide the Bear with its cubs? 33 ​​​​​​​Do you know the laws of the Celestial Bodies, or can you set up their rule over the Earth ? 34 ​​​​​​​Can you raise your voice to the clouds so that a flood of water covers you? 35 ​​​​​​​Can you send out lightning bolts, and they go? Will they say to you, ‘Here we are’? 36 ​​​​​​​Who has put wisdom in the heart, or has imparted understanding to the mind? 37 ​​​​​​​Who by wisdom can count the clouds, and who can tip over the water jars of the skies, 38 ​​​​​​​when the dust hardens into a mass, and the clumps of Earth stick together? 39 ​​​​​​​“Do you hunt prey for the lioness, and satisfy the appetite of the lions, 40 ​​​​​​​when they crouch in their dens, when they wait in ambush in the thicket? 41 ​​​​​​​Who prepares prey for the raven, when its young cry out to Supermights and wander about for lack of food?

Job 39

1 ​​​​​​​“Are you acquainted with the way the mountain goats give birth? Do you watch as the wild deer give birth to their young? 2 ​​​​​​​Do you count the months they must fulfill, and do you know the time they give birth? 3 ​​​​​​​They crouch, they bear their young, they bring forth the offspring they have carried. 4 ​​​​​​​Their young grow strong, and grow up in the open; they go off, and do not return to them. 5 ​​​​​​​Who let the wild donkey go free? Who released the bonds of the donkey, 6 ​​​​​​​to whom I appointed the steppe for its home, the salt wastes as its dwelling place? 7 ​​​​​​​It scorns the tumult in the town; it does not hear the shouts of a driver. 8 ​​​​​​​It ranges the hills as its pasture, and searches after every green plant. 9 ​​​​​​​Is the wild ox willing to be your servant? Will it spend the night at your feeding trough? 10 ​​​​​​​Can you bind the wild ox to a furrow with its rope, will it till the valleys, following after you? 11 ​​​​​​​Will you rely on it because its strength is great? Will you commit your labor to it? 12 ​​​​​​​Can you count on it to bring in your grain, and gather the grain to your threshing floor? 13 “The wings of the ostrich flap with joy, but are they the pinions and plumage of a stork? 14 ​​​​​​​For she leaves her eggs on the ground, and lets them be warmed on the soil. 15 ​​​​​​​She forgets that a foot might crush them, or that a wild animal might trample them. 16 ​​​​​​​She is harsh with her young, as if they were not hers; she is unconcerned about the uselessness of her labor. 17 ​​​​​​​For Supermights deprived her of wisdom, and did not impart understanding to her. 18 ​​​​​​​But as soon as she springs up, she laughs at the horse and its rider. 19 ​​​​​​​“Do you give the horse its strength? Do you clothe its neck with a mane? 20 ​​​​​​​Do you make it leap like a locust? Its proud neighing is terrifying! 21 ​​​​​​​It paws the ground in the valley, exulting mightily, it goes out to meet the weapons. 22 ​​​​​​​It laughs at fear and is not dismayed; it does not shy away from the sword. 23 ​​​​​​​On it the quiver rattles; the lance and javelin flash. 24 ​​​​​​​In excitement and impatience it consumes the ground; it cannot stand still when the trumpet is blown. 25 ​​​​​​​At the sound of the trumpet, it says, ‘Aha!’ And from a distance it catches the scent of battle, the thunderous shouting of instruct ers, and the battle cries. 26 ​​​​​​​“Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south? 27 ​​​​​​​Is it at your instruct that the eagle soars, and builds its nest on high? 28 ​​​​​​​It lives on a rock and spends the night there, on a rocky crag and a fortress. 29 ​​​​​​​From there it spots its prey, its eyes gaze intently from a distance. 30 ​​​​​​​And its young ones devour the blood, and where the dead carcasses are, there it is.”

Job 40

1 Then Lifegiver answered Job: 2 ​​​​​​​“Will the one who contends with the self-sufficient one correct him? Let the person who accuses Supermights give him an answer!” 3 ​​​​​​​Then Job answered Lifegiver: 4 ​​​​​​​“Indeed, I’m completely unworthy – how could I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth to silence myself. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ve spoken once, but I cannot answer; twice, but I’ll say no more.” 6 Then Lifegiver answered Job from the whirlwind: 7 ​​​​​​​“Get ready for a difficult task like a man. I’ll question you and you’ll inform me! 8 ​​​​​​​Would you indeed annul my justice? Would you declare me guilty so that you might be right? 9 ​​​​​​​Do you have an arm as powerful as Supermights ’s, and can you thunder with a voice like his? 10 ​​​​​​​Adorn yourself, then, with majesty and excellency, and clothe yourself with glory and honor! 11 ​​​​​​​Scatter abroad the abundance of your anger. Look at every proud man and bring him low; 12 ​​​​​​​Look at every proud man and abase him; crush the wicked on the spot! 13 ​​​​​​​Hide them in the dust together, imprison them in the grave. 14 ​​​​​​​Then I myself will acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you. 15 ​​​​​​​“Look now at Behemoth, which I made as I made you; it eats grass like the ox. 16 ​​​​​​​Look at its strength in its hips, and its power in the muscles of its belly. 17 ​​​​​​​It makes its tail stiff like a cedar, the sinews of its thighs are tightly wound. 18 ​​​​​​​Its bones are tubes of bronze, its limbs like bars of iron. 19 ​​​​​​​It ranks first among the works of Supermights , the One who made it has furnished it with a sword. 20 ​​​​​​​For the hills bring it food, where all the wild animals play. 21 ​​​​​​​Under the lotus trees it lies, in the secrecy of the reeds and the marsh. 22 ​​​​​​​The lotus trees conceal it in their shadow; the poplars by the stream conceal it. 23 ​​​​​​​If the river rages, it is not disturbed, it is secure, though the Jordan should surge up to its mouth. 24 ​​​​​​​Can anyone catch it by its eyes, or pierce its nose with a snare?

Job 41

1 ​​​​​​​(40:25) “Can you pull in Leviathan with a hook, and tie down its tongue with a rope? 2 ​​​​​​​Can you put a cord through its nose, or pierce its jaw with a hook? 3 ​​​​​​​Will it make numerous supplications to you, will it speak to you with tender words? 4 ​​​​​​​Will it make a pact with you, so you could take it as your slave for life? 5 ​​​​​​​Can you play with it, like a bird, or tie it on a leash for your girls? 6 ​​​​​​​Will partners bargain for it? Will they divide it up among the merchants? 7 ​​​​​​​Can you fill its hide with harpoons or its head with fishing spears? 8 ​​​​​​​If you lay your hand on it, you’ll remember the fight, and you’ll never do it again! 9 ​​​​​​​(41:1) See, his expectation is wrong, he is laid low even at the sight of it. 10 ​​​​​​​Is it not fierce when it is awakened? Who is he, then, who can stand before it? 11 ​​​​​​​(Who has confronted me that I should repay? Everything below Heaven belongs to me!) 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll not keep silent about its limbs, and the extent of its might, and the grace of its arrangement. 13 ​​​​​​​Who can uncover its outer covering? Who can penetrate to the inside of its armor? 14 ​​​​​​​Who can open the doors of its mouth? Its teeth all around are fearsome. 15 ​​​​​​​Its back has rows of shields, shut up closely together as with a seal; 16 ​​​​​​​each one is so close to the next that no air can come between them. 17 ​​​​​​​They lock tightly together, one to the next; they cling together and cannot be separated. 18 ​​​​​​​Its snorting throws out flashes of light; its eyes are like the red glow of dawn. 19 ​​​​​​​Out of its mouth go flames, sparks of fire shoot forth! 20 ​​​​​​​Smoke streams from its nostrils as from a boiling pot over burning rushes. 21 ​​​​​​​Its breath sets coals ablaze and a flame shoots from its mouth. 22 ​​​​​​​Strength lodges in its neck, and despair runs before it. 23 ​​​​​​​The folds of its flesh are tightly joined; they are firm on it, immovable. 24 ​​​​​​​Its heart is hard as rock, hard as a lower millstone. 25 ​​​​​​​When it rises up, the mighty are terrified, at its thrashing about they withdraw. 26 ​​​​​​​Whoever strikes it with a sword will have no effect, nor with the spear, arrow, or dart. 27 ​​​​​​​It regards iron as straw and bronze as rotten wood. 28 ​​​​​​​Arrows do not make it flee; slingstones become like chaff to it. 29 ​​​​​​​A club is counted as a piece of straw; it laughs at the rattling of the lance. 30 ​​​​​​​Its underparts are the sharp points of potsherds, it leaves its mark in the mud like a threshing sledge. 31 ​​​​​​​It makes the deep boil like a cauldron and stirs up the sea like a pot of ointment, 32 ​​​​​​​It leaves a glistening wake behind it; one would think the deep had a head of white hair. 33 ​​​​​​​The likes of it is not on Earth , a creature without fear. 34 ​​​​​​​It looks on every haughty being; it is king over all that are proud.”

Job 42

1 Then Job answered Lifegiver: 2 ​​​​​​​“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted; 3 ​​​​​​​you asked, ‘Who is this who darkens counsel without knowledge?’ But I’ve declared without understanding things too wonderful for me to know. 4 ​​​​​​​You said, ‘Pay attention, and I’ll speak; I’ll question you, and you’ll answer me.’ 5 ​​​​​​​I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye has seen you. 6 ​​​​​​​Therefore I despise myself, and I repent in dust and ashes! 7 After Lifegiver had spoken these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My anger is stirred up against you and your two friends, because you have not spoken about me what is right, as my servant Job has. 8 So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer a sacrifice for yourselves. And my servant Job will intercede for you, and I’ll respect him, so that I do not deal with you according to your folly, because you have not spoken about me what is right, as my servant Job has.” 9 So they went, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, and did just as Lifegiver had told them; and Lifegiver had respect for Job. 10 So Lifegiver restored what Job had lost after he prayed for his friends, and Lifegiver doubled all that had belonged to Job. 11 So they came to him, all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they dined with him in his house. They comforted him and consoled him for all the trouble Lifegiver had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. 12 So Lifegiver blessed the second part of Job’s life more than the first. He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. 13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-Happuch. 15 Nowhere in all the land could women be found who were as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance alongside their brothers. 16 After this Job lived 140 years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. 17 And so Job died, old and full of days.

PSALMS

Psalms 1

1 ​​​​​​​So happy is the person

who does not follow the advice of the unspiritual,

or does not ever take a stand in sinners’ lifestyle

or join themselves with the group of ridiculers!

2 But they’d rather find delightful value in Lifegiver’s instructions,

and studies his teachings day and night.

3 ​​​​​​​They are like a tree transplanted by watery canals

that always produce its seasonal fruit,

and whose leaf never falls off.

In everything, whatever they do, they succeed.

4 ​​​​​​​The unscrupulous are not like this!

Instead they are like trash that the wind tosses off.

5 ​​​​​​​As a result the unscrupulous will not survive judgment,

and sinners will not be in the company of the exonerated.

6 In fact Lifegiver acknowledges the character of the exonerated,

but the lifestyle of the unspiritual will not survive.

Psalms 2

1 ​​​​​​​Why are nationalities in commotion? Why are the communities devising worthless plots? 2 ​​​​​​​The kings of the Earth position themselves, and the honourable consult together against Lifegiver and his anointed. 3 ​​​​​​​They’ll say, “Let us tear off their bands and cast their cords off!” 4 ​​​​​​​He that inhabits Heaven will laugh. My Lord will ridicule. 5 ​​​​​​​Then he’ll speak to them in anger, and terrify them in his rage: 6 ​​​​​​​“I myself have installed my king upon Holy Mount Zion.” 7 ​​​​​​​The king says, “I’ll announce with a decree Lifegiver said to me, ‘You are my Son, today I’ve birthed you. 8 ​​​​​​​Ask me and I’ll given you nationalities for inheritance, and the ends of the Earth for property. 9 ​​​With an iron rod you’ll crush them into pieces like a moulded jar!’” 10 ​​​​​​​Wisen up now you kings, be instructed you governors of the Earth! 11 ​​​​​​​Serve and worship Lifegiver with reverence. Repent with trembling. 12 ​​​​​​​Embrace the Son. Otherwise he’ll be enraged and you’ll not escape when his anger is kindled in a little while. Blessed is everyone who trusts in him.

Psalms 3

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David, written when he fled from his son Absalom. Lifegiver, how myriad are my troubles! Many stir up against me. 2 ​​​​​​​So many say about my life, “Supermights will not deliver him.” (Pause) 3 ​​​​​​​But you Lifegiver are my reputable buckler round about me, the one who lifts my head up. 4 ​​​​​​​To Lifegiver, I cried out with my voice, then he answered me from his holy mountain. (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​I relaxed and slept. I woke up because Lifegiver refreshed me. 6 ​​​​​​​I’m not afraid from the myriad people that have taken a stand all around me. 7 ​​​​​​​Rise up Lifegiver; deliver me my Supermights because you’ll strike and beat the jaw bones of all my adversaries, you’ll break the teeth of the unscrupulous. 8 ​​​​​​​Deliverance is Lifegiver’s; prosperity is upon your people. (Pause)

Psalms 4

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, to be accompanied by stringed instruments; a psalm of David. Pay attention to my call O Supermights of my rightness. Make room for me in my tightness. Have mercy on me and hear my prayer! 2 ​​​​​​​Children of humanity, how long will you disgrace my dignity, love vanity, and seek falsity? (Pause) 3 ​​​​​​​Realise that Lifegiver has marked out the justified for himself. Lifegiver hears when I call out to him. 4 ​​​​​​​In your excitement do not sin; Be quiet. Talk to your heart on your bed! (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​Sacrifice the right sacrifices, and put your trust in Lifegiver! 6 ​​​​​​​Many ask; “Who will show us kindness?” Lift the light of your face on us Lifegiver! 7 ​​​​​​​You have placed joy in my heart more than fortunes of grain and freshly pressed wine multiplied. 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll altogether relax and sleep peacefully because you alone Lifegiver make me live in security.

Psalms 5

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, on a flute; a psalm of David. Listen to my utterances, Lifegiver! Discern my murmuring! 2 ​​​​​​​Prick up your ears to the sound of my cry for help, my King and my Supermights , as I’m praying to you! 3 ​​​​​​​Hear my call in the morning, Lifegiver. At dawn I’ll present my case to you and then look out. 4 You are not a Supermights that delights in iniquity; bad people cannot temporarily dwell with you. 5 ​​​​​​​Arrogant people cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who behave wickedly. 6 ​​​​​​​You destroy liars; Lifegiver despises violent and deceitful people. 7 ​​​​​​​But as for me, because of your great faithfulness I’ll enter your house; I’ll bow down toward your sacred temple as I worship you. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, lead me in your rightness because of those who wait to ambush me, remove the obstacles in the way in which you are guiding me! 9 ​​​​​​​For they do not speak the truth; their stomachs are like the place of destruction, their throats like an open grave, their tongues like a steep slope leading into it. 10 ​​​​​​​Condemn them, O Supermights ! May their own schemes be their downfall! Drive them away because of their many acts of insurrection, for they have rebelled against you. 11 ​​​​​​​But may all who take shelter in you be happy! May they continually shout for joy! Shelter them so that those who are loyal to you may rejoice! 12 ​​​​​​​Certainly you reward the justified, Lifegiver. Like a shield you protect them in your good favor.

Psalms 6

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, to be accompanied by stringed instruments, according to the sheminith style; a psalm of David. Lifegiver, do not rebuke me in your anger! Do not discipline me in your raging fury! 2 ​​​​​​​Have mercy on me, Lifegiver, for I’m frail! Heal me, Lifegiver, for my bones are shaking! 3 ​​​​​​​I’m absolutely terrified, and you, Lifegiver – how long will this continue? 4 ​​​​​​​Relent, Lifegiver, rescue me! Deliver me because of your faithfulness! 5 ​​​​​​​For no one remembers you in the realm of death, In Sheol who gives you thanks? 6 ​​​​​​​I’m exhausted as I groan; all night long I drench my bed in tears; my tears saturate the cushion beneath me. 7 ​​​​​​​My eyes grow dim from suffering; they grow weak because of all my enemies. 8 ​​​​​​​Turn back from me, all you who behave wickedly, for Lifegiver has heard the sound of my weeping! 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver has heard my appeal for mercy; Lifegiver has accepted my prayer. 10 ​​​​​​​May all my enemies be humiliated and absolutely terrified! May they turn back and be suddenly humiliated!

Psalms 7

1 ​​​​​​​A musical composition by David, which he sang to Lifegiver concerning a Benjaminite named Cush. O Lifegiver my Supermights , in you I’ve taken shelter. Deliver me from all who chase me! Rescue me! 2 ​​​​​​​Otherwise they’ll rip me to shreds like a lion; they’ll tear me to bits and no one will be able to rescue me. 3 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver my Supermights , if I’ve done what they say, or am guilty of unjust actions, 4 ​​​​​​​or have wronged my ally, or helped his lawless enemy, 5 ​​​​​​​may an enemy relentlessly chase me and catch me; may he trample me to death and leave me lying dishonored in the dust. (Pause) 6 ​​​​​​​Stand up angrily, Lifegiver! Rise up with raging fury against my enemies! Wake up for my sake and execute the judgment you have decreed for them! 7 ​​​​​​​The countries are assembled all around you; take once more your rightful place over them! 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver judges the nationalities. Vindicate me, Lifegiver, because I’m innocent, because I’m blameless, O Exalted One! 9 ​​​​​​​May the bad deeds of the wicked come to an end! But make the innocent secure, O righteous Supermights , you who examine inner thoughts and motives! 10 ​​​​​​​The Exalted Supermights is my shield, the one who delivers the morally upright. 11 ​​​​​​​Supermights is a just judge; he is angry throughout the day. 12 ​​​​​​​If a person does not repent, Supermights sharpens his sword and prepares to shoot his bow. 13 ​​​​​​​He prepares to use deadly weapons against him; he gets ready to shoot flaming arrows. 14 ​​​​​​​See the one who is pregnant with wickedness, who conceives destructive plans, and gives birth to harmful lies – 15 ​​​​​​​he digs a pit and then falls into the hole he has made. 16 ​​​​​​​He becomes the victim of his own destructive plans and the violence he intended for others falls on his own head. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll thank Lifegiver for his justice; I’ll sing praises to the supreme Lifegiver!

Psalms 8

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, according to the gittith style; a psalm of David. O Lifegiver, our Lord, how magnificent is your reputation throughout the Earth ! You reveal your majesty in the skies above! 2 ​​​​​​​From the mouths of children and nursing babies you have ordained praise on account of your adversaries, so that you might put an end to the vindictive enemy. 3 ​​​​​​​When I look up at the skies, which your fingers made, and see the moon and the stars, which you set in place, 4 ​​​​​​​What is humanity that should be considerate of them or human children that you should pay attention to them 5 ​​​​​​​and make them a little less than the divine beings? You grant humanity honor and majesty; 6 ​​​​​​​you appoint them to rule over your creation; you have placed everything under their authority, 7 ​​​​​​​including all the sheep and cattle, as well as the wild animals, 8 ​​​​​​​the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea and everything that moves through the currents of the seas. 9 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, our Lord, how magnificent is your reputation throughout the Earth !

Psalm 9

A Davidic psalm for the choir director in charge of the death guild.

9:1 I’ll worship LIFEGIVER with my whole heart.

I’ll recount all your miracles.

9:2 I’ll brighten up and be joyful in you.

I’ll celebrate your Supreme name.

9:3 My enemies turn away,

they stumble and perish through your presence.

9:4 Yes, you have upheld my cause.

My plea remains in the throne defending my right.

9:5 You have rebuked the heathen.

You have destroyed the ungodly.

9:6 The enemy ruins are permanently gone,

and you have uprooted cities,

their memory is crushed with them.

9:7 But LIFEGIVER is ever perpetuated.

He has preserved his judgement throne.

9:8 he’ll govern the world justly.

He will rule the people fairly.

9:9 Lifegiver is a fortress for the injured,

a secure tower in times of adversity.

9:10 Those who know your reputation trust you.

Yes, Lifegiver, you have never disappointed your followers.

9:11 Praise sing to LIFEGIVER who lives in Zion.

Declare his deeds among the people.

9:12 The one who investigates bloodshed remembers them.

He does not forget the distress cry of the afflicted.

9:13 LIFEGIVER, please pay attention to my trouble.

On account of my haters, take me away from the gates of death,

9:14 so that I may showcase every praise in the gates.

Branch of Zion, I’ll rejoice in your deliverance!

9:15 Heathens are drowned in the ditch they dug.

In the net that they concealed, their feet are trapped.

9:16 LIFEGIVER is renowned for the justice he exercises.

The wicked are ensnared in things done by their hands. (Hum. Refrain.)

9:17 The wicked will be hauled into hell,

together with the nations that disregard God.

9:18 Indeed those who need deliverance will not always be forgotten.

The hope of the afflicted will not disappear forever.

9:19 Rise LIFEGIVER, let no stranger succeed -

May the heathen be punished in your presence.

9:20 LIFEGIVER, infuse terror

so that heathens realise

they are mere mortal. (Refrain)

Psalm 10

10:1 Why do you stand far away LIFEGIVER?

Do you hide yourself in seasons of adversity?

10:2 The wicked in their arrogance harass the humble.

Let them be captured in the devices they have created.

10:3 The wicked brag about their heart’s greed,

and they applaud the rapacious that LIFEGIVER despises.

10:4 With prideful outlook

the wicked does not worship God.

He is not in any of their plans.

10:5 Their lifestyle is perverse all the time.

Your laws are far from their sight.

They totally sneer at their counterparts.

10:6 They have said in their mind;

“I’ll not be moved. Calamity will never ever harm me.”

10:7 Their mouth is full of swearing, deceit and fraud.

Under their tongue is perversity and mischief.

10:8 They lurk in village ambushes

to murder the innocent in secret.

Their eyes secretly lurk against the unfortunate.

10:9 Secretly they lie in wait as a lion in its den,

lurking to catch the unfortunate;

catching the unsuspecting, dragging them to their trap.

10:10 The unfortunate are crushed,

brought in to be overthrown by the powerful.

10:11 They say in their heart;

“God has forgotten.

He conceals his face secret.

He will never realise it.”

10:12 Rise, LIFEGIVER. God, lift your hand.

Do not forget the humble needy.

10:13 Why must the wicked undermine God?

They think in their heart

you’ll never require an account.

10:14 You have observed it

to take it up with your hand

since you detect mischief and provocation.

The humble commit themselves to you.

You are the orphans’ helper.

10:15 Break the power of the wicked and evil person.

Ferret out their wickedness.

Do not fail to find it.

10:16 LIFEGIVER is king forever.

The ungodly are purged from this earth.

10:17 You have heard the longing of the humble.

You’ll restore their broken heart.

You’ll incline your ear

9:18 to vindicate the orphans and the crushed

so that bloodthirsty earthly mortals may no longer harass.

Psalm 11

A Davidic psalm for the choir director.

11:1 I trust LIFEGIVER.

How do you say to me,

flee to your mountain like a bird?

11:2 Look at the wicked.

Truly they string their bow,

ready their arrow on the string

so that they may privately shoot

the upright in the heart.

11:3 If the foundations be destroyed,

what can the just practise?

11:4 LIFEGIVER is in his sacred sanctuary.

LIFEGIVER’s throne is in heaven.

His eye scrutinise.

His eyelids investigate humanity’s children.

11:5 LIFEGIVER proves the just

but the ungodly and passionate lovers of violence, he dislikes.

11:6 On the ungodly he’ll rain snares, fiery sulphur,

and they’ll have a share of raging tempest in their cup.

11:7 Yes, righteous LIFEGIVER loves rightness,

his face discerns the upright.

Psalm 12

A Davidic psalm for the eight stringed instruments’ choir director.

12:1 Intervene LIFEGIVER.

as the godly person vanishes,

as the believers disappear among common people.

12:2 Everyone speak lies to their neighbour

with flattering lips and prating tongues,

They speak with double heart.

12:3 LIFEGIVER will silence all their flattering lips,

prating tongue that speak rude things -

12:4 those who say; “By our tongue we’ll prevail.

Our lips are ours. Who can be master over us?”

12:5 LIFEGIVER says;

“As a result of the robbing of the poor,

the groaning of the needy,

I’ll now rise up.

I’ll place them in safety

from those that sneer them.”

12:6 LIFEGIVER’s promises and instructions are as pure

as silver refined seven times in the world’s finest furnace.

12:7 You’ll guard them LIFEGIVER.

You’ll preserve them

from this generation to eternity.

12:8 The ungodly prowl around

as the worthless are promoted by the human race.

Psalm 13

A Davidic psalm for the choir director.

13:1 LIFEGIVER, how long will you continually forget me?

How long will you hide your face from me?

13:2 How long will I apply caution in my life,

grieving daily in my heart?

How long will my enemy brag triumphantly?

13:3 Look down and hear me LIFEGIVER, my God.

Revitalise my eyes in case I die sleeping.

13:4 Lest my troublers rejoice when I’ve fallen down.

13:5 I trusted your mercy.

My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

13:6 I’ll sing to LIFEGIVER

because he treated me generously.

Psalm 14

A Davidic psalm for the choir director.

14:1 The fool has told their heart:

God does not exist?

They are corrupt, disgusting, opportunistic.

No one does good.

14:2 LIFEGIVER looked at the human race from heaven

to see if there were any who understand,

seek and worship God ?

14:3 They have all revolted.

They have altogether become corrupt.

14:4 Do all the evil doers have no respect,

devouring my people as if they are eating bread,

and they never mention LIFEGIVER?

14:5 Yet there they are fearfully startled,

terrified because God is in the company of the righteous.

14:6 You shamefully plot for the humble,

yet LIFEGIVER is their asylum.

14:7 Grant that Israel’s deliverance be from Zion.

When LIFEGIVER returns his exiled people,

Jacob will rejoice,

Israel will be glad.

Psalm 15

A Davidic psalm for the choir director.

15:1 LIFEGIVER, who will stand in your habitat?

Who will stay in your sacred mountain?

14:2 The one that walks in integrity and does what is right

and speaks the truth in their heart,

15:2 the one who never scandalises with their tongue,

never unleashes harm to their fellow,

never heaps insults on their neighbour.

15:3 In their opinion, a rude person is disesteemed

but they honour those that revere LIFEGIVER.

This is the one that swears to their detriment,

and do not change.

15:4 This is the one who does not lend their money for interest

or accept a bribe against the innocent.

The one who does these things will never ever be shaken.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Psalm 16

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A Davidic autograph.

16:1 Keep me safe God

because in you I take my asylum.

16:2 I’ve said to Lifegiver; “You are my Lord.

In you my fortune does not fail. ”

16:3 Wonderful are the saints in the land,

and in all of them I delight.

16:4 Those that chase after them

will have their sorrow multiplied.

Their drink offering from bloodshed

I’ll never pour out.

I’ll not even mention and honour their names on my lips.

16:5 Lifegiver is my inheritance share,

and you are the one that sustains me as a cupholder.

16:6 Ropes were dropped for my pleasantness.

Yes, I’ve a glistened inheritance.

16:7 I’ll always thank and praise Lifegiver

who gives me advice.

Even at night my mind corrects me.

16:8 Daily I consistently put Lifegiver in front of me.

As long as he is on my side, I’ll not be shaken.

16:9 So my heart is gloriously glad as it rejoices.

Even my body will rest in anticipation,

16:10 and you’ll not leave my life in the grave,

nor will allow your godly to experience putrefaction.

16:11 You show me the way of life.

In your presence is satisfying joy.

On your side are pleasures interminable.

Psalm 17

David’s prayer.

17:1 Lifegiver hear the just.

Pay attention to my cry,

listen to my prayer -

not out of fraudulent lips.

17:2 Let my judgement come from your presence.

May your eyes discern what is fair.

17:3 You have scrutinised my heart.

You have confronted me at night.

You have tried me and you found nothing.

I’ve decided my mouth will not misbehave.

17:4 I’ve restrained myself from the tyrant’s methods

Though people’s eloquent efforts have persuaded me .

17:5 My steps have closely followed your tracks,

My feet have not slipped at all.

17:6 I call on you because you’ll respond.

God, incline your ear to me to hear my plea.

17:7 Demonstrate your extraordinary grace

that saves through your strongest hand

those who who trust you,

against those who rebel.

17:8 Preserve me as the precious apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings

17:9 away from the presence of the wicked that ravage me,

my deadly enemies who surround me.

17:10 They have hemmed their best tissue,

with their mouth they spit presumption.

17:11 They have now ambushed us in our steps.

Their eyes are intently fixed to the ground.

17:12 They are like a lion craving for its prey,

a coalition of lions lurking in secret places.

17:13 Arise Lifegiver, disappoint their faces flatly.

Rescue my life from the wicked with your sword.

17:14 By your hand save me from these people,

people of this world whose inheritance is in this life,

and satisfy their bellies with hoards.

May they have tumultuous children,

and bequeath their excess to their infants.

17:15 For me, just to have a glimpse of your presence,

I’ll be fulfilled to wake up to your manifestation.

Psalm 18

For the choir director from David Lifegiver’s servant who composed the lyrics of this song the day Lifegiver the Lord rescued him from the power of all his enemies, from the hand of Saul. This is what he published:

18:1 Lifegiver, I love you.

You are my strength.

18:2 Lifegiver is my fortress and my defence,

my deliverer,.

My God in whom I trust is my refuge.

He is my shield and the corner of my safety.

He is my high inaccessible tower.

18:3 I called on the renowned Lifegiver.

I was saved from my adversaries.

18:4 The ropes of death entangled me,

and the torrents of wicked people terrified me.

18:5 The cords of hell encompassed me.

The traps of death confronted me.

18:6 In my adversity I called on Lifegiver.

When I cried to my God

he heard me from the palace.

When my scream reached his audience

18:7 the earth quaked and surged,

even the understructure of the mountains quivered.

They were agitated because he was blazing up.

18:8 Smoke came out of his nose,

and flame lapped through his mouth.

Coals were ignited from it.

18:9 He stretched the skies

as he was coming down.

Darkness was under his feet.

18:10 He was riding on a cherub as he flew,

dashing on the wings of the whirlwind.

18:11 He made darkness his cover.

The laager around him was dark water sky clouds.

18:12 From the brightness in front of him

crisscrossed hailstone and fiery coals.

18:13 Lifegiver roared in the sky.

Through his voice the Supreme one thundered

hailstones and coals of fire.

18:14 He catapulted his bolts abroad

and he routed them with his lightning shots.

18:15 Lifegiver from your admonition,

at the blast of your angry breath,

water channels became visible,

bedrocks of the world were exposed.

18:16 From above he reached out.

He pulled me out of overwhelming water.

18:17 He rescued me from my powerful adversary,

and from my enemies because they were prevailing over me.

18:18 They intercepted me in my worse day

but Lifegiver was my sustainer.

18:19 He brought me up to a broad place.

He rescued me because he favoured me.

18:20 Lifegiver repaid my rightness.

He has rewarded my clean hands.

18:21 Truly, I’ve kept Lifegiver’s ways,

and have not deviated from my God.

18:22 Truly, all his rules were in front of me

and I did not discard his stipulations.

18:23 I had integrity before him

and I refrained from perversity.

18:24 Lifegiver rewarded my righteouness,

the purity of my hand was in his view.

18:25 With the merciful you prove yourself to be kind.

With a person of integrity, you prove yourself to be perfect.

18:26 With the pure you prove yourself to be pure,

and with the crooked you prove yourself to be unpleasant.

18:27 Truly, you’ll rescue the humble people.

But you’ll humiliate the proud eyes.

18:28 Truly, you’ll light up my lamp.

Lifegiver, my God, you’ll lighten my misery.

18:29 Truly, with my God, I can outrun a troop of soldiers.

I can jump over a wall.

18:30 This God’s ways are truthful.

Lifegiver’s word is tested.

He is a shield to all who trust him.

18:31 Truly, who is God besides Lifegiver?

Who is a rock except our God,

18:32 the God who fastens me with strength

and makes my way perfect?

18:33 He make my feet like a doe’s hind legs

and firms me up on high places.

18:34 He trains my hand for war

so that a steel arrow is broken by my arms.

18:35 You give me the shield of your salvation

Your dexterous hand sustains me.

Your lenience expands me.

18:36 You broaden my steps underneath.

My feet do not slip.

18:37 I chase and catch my enemies.

I do not ever turn until they are destroyed.

18:38 I’ve wounded them.

They were not able to stand up.

They fell under my feet.

18:39 You fastened my belt with battle strength.

You conquered those that rebelled against me.

18:40 You delivered to me my enemies’ napes

so that I finish my haters.

18:41 They cried but there was no one to rescue them.

Lifegiver did not respond to them.

18:42 I pulverised them as mud in the presence of wind.

I threw them out in the streets as mud.

18:43 You caused me to escape contentious troops.

You have made me a leader of heathen nations,

not sure how to serve me.

18:44 When the news come to their audience,

they’ll obey me.

Foreign people will submit themselves to me.

18:45 Foreign people will drop down,

jumping from their fortresses.

18:46 Lifegiver is alive.

Blessed is my safe haven.

May the God of my salvation be praised.

18:47 This is the God that avenges me,

and subdues people under me.

18:48 He delivers me from my enemies.

Yes, you lifted me up

above those that rise against me.

You rescued me from the violent people.

18:49 So I’ll give thanks to you Lifegiver.

I’ll praise sing your name among the people.

18:50 He gives his king excellent victories.

He shows grace to David his appointed,

and to his descendants until futurity.

Psalm 19

A Davidic psalm for the choir director.

19:1 The celestial bodies display Supermights’ splendour.

The outer space exhibits his handicraft

19:2 Day after day they broadcast oration.

Night after night they live stream knowledge.

19:3 There is no speech. There are no words.

Their voice is not heard.

19:4 Their line trends throughout the earth,

and their words to the global frontiers.

In them he has pitched the tent for the rising sun.

19:5 It is as a bridegroom emerging from his room,

excited as an athlete about to run a race,

19:6 sprinting from one side of the sky,

circuiting to its end

with nothing hidden from its heat.

19:7 Lifegiver’s law is sound,

transforming life.

Lifegiver’s testimony is truthful,

making the naive wise.

19:8 Lifegiver’s instructions are correct,

giving joy to the heart.

Lifegiver’s principles are clear,

illuminating views.

19:9 Reverence for Lifegiver is fair,

applicable forever.

God’s judgements are trustworthy,

altogether right -

19:10 more desirable than gold.

Yes, more than finest gold.

Sweeter than dripping gummy honeycomb.

19:11 Yes, by them your servant is enlightened.

Observing them is an excellent reward.

19:12 Who can discern their mistakes?

Cleanse me from secrets.

19:13 Restrain your servant from presumptions.

Let them not have power over me.

Then I’ll be upright and guiltless from multiple sin.

19:14 May the words of mouth,

the reflections of my mind

be pleasing to you,

Lifegiver my Refuge and Redeemer.

Psalm 20

May Lifegiver Respond

a psalm of David

1 May Lifegiver respond to you in the days of tightness;

may the greatness of Supermights of Jacob lift you on high.

2 May he send you assistance from his sacred place and support you from Zion!

3 he’ll be mindful of your gifts; and be satisfied by your sacrifice! (Pause)

4 he’ll grant your heart’s desire; and fulfil every purpose!

5 Then we’ll shout over your success. In the greatness of our God we’ll raise flags - Lifegiver satisfies every request!

6 Now know that Lifegiver succors his Designated; he responds from his heavenly sanctuary with his powerful saving skill.

7 Some rely on chariots and others on horses

but we memorialise the reputation of Lifegiver our Supermights.

8 Those collapse and fall down,

but we rise up and stand repeatedly.

9 Save O Lifegiver - let the King hear us the day we call!

Psalms 21

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a psalm of David. O Lifegiver, the king rejoices in the strength you give; he takes great delight in the deliverance you provide. 2 ​​​​​​​You grant him his heart’s desire; you do not refuse his request. (Pause) 3 ​​​​​​​For you bring him rich blessings; you place a golden crown on his head. 4 ​​​​​​​He asked you to sustain his life, and you have granted him long life and an enduring dynasty. 5 ​​​​​​​Your deliverance brings him great honor; you give him majestic splendor. 6 ​​​​​​​For you grant him lasting blessings; you give him great joy by allowing him into your presence. 7 ​​​​​​​For the king trusts in Lifegiver, and because of the supreme Lifegiver’s faithfulness he is not upended. 8 ​​​​​​​You prevail over all your enemies; your power is too great for those who hate you. 9 ​​​​​​​You burn them up like a fiery furnace when you appear; Lifegiver angrily devours them; the fire consumes them. 10 ​​​​​​​You destroy their offspring from the Earth , their descendants from among the human race. 11 ​​​​​​​Yes, they intend to do you harm; they dream up a scheme, but they do not succeed. 12 ​​​​​​​For you make them retreat when you shoot your arrows at them. 13 ​​​​​​​Rise up, O Lifegiver, in strength! We’ll sing and praise your power!

Psalms 22

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the tune “Morning Doe;” a psalm of David. My Supermights , my Supermights , why have you abandoned me? I groan in prayer, but help seems far away. 2 ​​​​​​​My Supermights , I cry out during the day, but you do not answer, and during the night my prayers do not let up. 3 ​​​​​​​You are holy; you sit as king receiving the praises of Israel. 4 ​​​​​​​In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted in you and you rescued them. 5 ​​​​​​​To you they cried out, and they were saved; in you they trusted and they were not disappointed. 6 ​​​​​​​But I’m a worm, not a man; people insult me and despise me. 7 ​​​​​​​All who see me taunt me; they mock me and shake their heads. 8 ​​​​​​​They say, “Commit yourself to Lifegiver! Let Lifegiver rescue him! Let Lifegiver deliver him, for he delights in him.” 9 ​​​​​​​Yes, you are the one who brought me out from the womb and made me feel secure on my mother’s breasts. 10 ​​​​​​​I’ve been dependent on you since birth; from the time I came out of my mother’s womb you have been my Supermights. 11 ​​​​​​​Do not remain far away from me, for trouble is near and I’ve no one to help me. 12 ​​​​​​​Many bulls surround me; powerful bulls of Bashan hem me in. 13 ​​​​​​​They open their mouths to devour me like a roaring lion that rips its prey. 14 ​​​​​​​My strength drains away like water; all my bones are dislocated; my heart is like wax; it melts away inside me. 15 ​​​​​​​The roof of my mouth is as dry as a piece of pottery; my tongue sticks to my gums. You set me in the dust of death. 16 ​​​​​​​Yes, wild dogs surround me – a gang of bad men crowd around me; like a lion they pin my hands and feet. 17 ​​​​​​​I can count all my bones; my enemies are gloating over me in triumph. 18 ​​​​​​​They are dividing up my clothes among themselves; they are rolling dice for my garments. 19 ​​​​​​​But you, O Lifegiver, do not remain far away! You are my source of strength! Hurry and help me! 20 ​​​​​​​Deliver me from the sword! Save my life from the claws of the wild dogs! 21 ​​​​​​​Rescue me from the mouth of the lion, and from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered me! 22 ​​​​​​​I’ll declare your name to my countrymen! In the middle of the assembly I’ll praise you! 23 ​​​​​​​You loyal followers of Lifegiver, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! All you descendants of Israel, stand in awe of him! 24 ​​​​​​​For he did not despise or detest the suffering of the oppressed; he did not ignore him; when he cried out to him, he responded. 25 ​​​​​​​You are the reason I offer praise in the great assembly; I’ll fulfill my promises before Lifegiver’s loyal followers. 26 ​​​​​​​Let the oppressed eat and be filled! Let those who seek his help praise Lifegiver! May you live forever! 27 ​​​​​​​Let all the people of the Earth acknowledge Lifegiver and turn to him! Let all the nationalities worship you! 28 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver is king and rules over the nationalities. 29 ​​​​​​​All of the thriving people of the Earth will join the celebration and worship; all those who are descending into the grave will bow before him, including those who cannot preserve their lives. 30 ​​​​​​​A whole generation will serve him; they’ll tell the next generation about the supreme Lord. 31 ​​​​​​​They’ll come and tell about his saving deeds; they’ll tell a future generation what he has accomplished.

Psalms 23

Lifegiver my Shepherd

A Davidic Psalm

1 Lifegiver is my limitless Shepherd:

2 He lets me sprawl out in lush pastures of fresh grass,

He escorts me to pacific watering places -

3 he revitalises my life.

He directs me in fairly straightforward ridges

because of his character.

4 Even when I’ve to trudge

through the darkest and deadliest ravine,

I dread no danger,

because you are with me.

Your club and your crook,

they both reassure me.

5 You prepare a table for me in advance,

in the panoramic view of my tormentors.

You massage my top with ointment;

my container is always dripping.

6 Evidently, your beneficent grace will pursue me

all the days of my life,

and I’ll remain in Lifegiver’s haven

the full length of my days.

Psalms 24

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David.

Lifegiver owns the Earth and all it contains, the world and all who live in it. 2 ​​​​​​​For he set its foundation upon the seas, and established it upon the ocean currents. 3 ​​​​​​​Who is allowed to ascend the mountain of Lifegiver? Who may go up to his sacred dwelling place? 4 ​​​​​​​The one whose deeds are blameless and whose motives are pure, who does not lie, or make promises with no intention of keeping them. 5 ​​​​​​​Such Supermights people are rewarded by Lifegiver, and vindicated by the Supermights who delivers them. 6 ​​​​​​​Such purity characterizes the people who seek his favor, Jacob’s descendants, who pray to him. (Pause) 7 ​​​​​​​Look up, you gates! Rise up, you eternal doors! Then the majestic king will enter! 8 ​​​​​​​Who is this majestic king? Lifegiver who is strong and mighty! Lifegiver who is mighty in battle! 9 ​​​​​​​Look up, you gates! Rise up, you eternal doors! Then the majestic king will enter! 10 ​​​​​​​Who is this majestic king? Lifegiver who instructions armies! He is the majestic king! (Pause)

Psalms 25

1 ​​​​​​​By David. O Lifegiver, I come before you in prayer. 2 ​​​​​​​My Supermights , I trust in you. Please do not let me be humiliated; do not let my enemies triumphantly rejoice over me! 3 ​​​​​​​Certainly none who rely on you’ll be humiliated. Those who deal in treachery will be thwarted and humiliated. 4 ​​​​​​​Make me understand your ways, O Lifegiver! Teach me your paths! 5 ​​​​​​​Guide me into your truth and teach me. For you are the Supermights who delivers me; on you I rely all day long. 6 ​​​​​​​Remember your compassionate and faithful deeds, O Lifegiver, for you have always acted in this manner. 7 ​​​​​​​Do not hold against me the sins of my youth or my rebellious acts! Because you are faithful to me, extend to me your favor, O Lifegiver! 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is both kind and fair; that is why he teaches sinners the right way to live. 9 ​​​​​​​May he show the humble what is right! May he teach the humble his way! 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver always proves faithful and reliable to those who follow the demands of his covenant. 11 ​​​​​​​For the sake of your reputation, O Lifegiver, forgive my sin, because it is great. 12 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver shows his faithful followers the way they should live. 13 ​​​​​​​They experience his favor; their descendants inherit the land. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s loyal followers receive his guidance, and he reveals his covenantal demands to them. 15 ​​​​​​​I continually look to Lifegiver for help, for he’ll free my feet from the enemy’s net. 16 ​​​​​​​Turn toward me and have mercy on me, for I’m alone and oppressed! 17 ​​​​​​​Deliver me from my distress; rescue me from my suffering! 18 ​​​​​​​See my pain and suffering! Forgive all my sins! 19 ​​​​​​​Watch my enemies, for they outnumber me; they hate me and want to harm me. 20 ​​​​​​​Protect me and deliver me! Please do not let me be humiliated, for I’ve taken shelter in you! 21 ​​​​​​​May integrity and spirituality protect me, for I rely on you! 22 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , rescue Israel from all their distress!

Psalms 26

1 ​​​​​​​By David. Vindicate me, O Lifegiver, for I’ve integrity, and I trust in Lifegiver without wavering. 2 ​​​​​​​Examine me, O Lifegiver, and test me! Evaluate my inner thoughts and motives! 3 ​​​​​​​For I’m ever aware of your faithfulness, and your loyalty continually motivates me. 4 ​​​​​​​I do not associate with deceitful men, or consort with those who are dishonest. 5 ​​​​​​​I hate the mob of bad men, and do not associate with the wicked. 6 ​​​​​​​I maintain a pure lifestyle, so I can appear before your altar, O Lifegiver, 7 ​​​​​​​to give you thanks, and to tell about all your amazing deeds. 8 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, I love the temple where you live, the place where your splendor is revealed. 9 ​​​​​​​Do not sweep me away with sinners, or execute me along with violent people, 10 ​​​​​​​who are always ready to do wrong or offer a bribe. 11 ​​​​​​​But I’ve integrity! Rescue me and have mercy on me! 12 ​​​​​​​I’m safe, and among the worshipers I’ll praise Lifegiver.

Psalms 27

1 ​​​​​​​By David. Lifegiver delivers and vindicates me! I fear no one! Lifegiver protects my life! I’m afraid of no one! 2 ​​​​​​​When bad men attack me to devour my flesh, when my adversaries and enemies attack me, they stumble and fall. 3 ​​​​​​​Even when an army is deployed against me, I do not fear. Even when war is imminent, I remain confident. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ve asked Lifegiver for one thing – this is what I desire! I want to live in Lifegiver’s house all the days of my life, so I can gaze at the splendor of Lifegiver and contemplate in his temple. 5 ​​​​​​​He will surely give me shelter in the day of danger; he’ll hide me in his home; he’ll place me on an inaccessible rocky summit. 6 ​​​​​​​Now I’ll triumph over my enemies who surround me! I’ll offer sacrifices in his dwelling place and shout for joy! I’ll sing praises to Lifegiver! 7 ​​​​​​​Hear me, O Lifegiver, when I cry out! Have mercy on me and answer me! 8 ​​​​​​​My heart tells me to pray to you, and I do pray to you, O Lifegiver. 9 ​​​​​​​Do not reject me! Do not push your servant away in anger! You are my deliverer! Do not forsake or abandon me, O Supermights who vindicates me! 10 ​​​​​​​Even if my father and mother abandoned me, Lifegiver would take me in. 11 ​​​​​​​Teach me how you want me to live; lead me along a level path because of those who wait to ambush me! 12 ​​​​​​​Do not turn me over to my enemies, for false witnesses who want to destroy me testify against me. 13 ​​​​​​​Where would I be if I did not believe I would experience Lifegiver’s favor in the land of the living? 14 ​​​​​​​Rely on Lifegiver! Be strong and confident! Rely on Lifegiver!

Psalms 28

1 ​​​​​​​By David. To you, O Lifegiver, I cry out! My protector, do not ignore me! If you do not respond to me, I’ll join those who are descending into the grave. 2 ​​​​​​​Hear my plea for mercy when I cry out to you for help, when I lift my hands toward your sacred temple! 3 ​​​​​​​Do not drag me away with bad men, with those who behave wickedly, who talk so friendly to their neighbors, while they plan to harm them! 4 ​​​​​​​Pay them back for their bad deeds! Pay them back for what they do! Punish them! 5 ​​​​​​​For they do not understand Lifegiver’s actions, or the way he carries out justice. Lifegiver will permanently demolish them. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver deserves praise, for he has heard my plea for mercy! 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver strengthens and protects me; I trust in him with all my heart. I’m rescued and my heart is full of joy; I’ll sing to him in gratitude. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver strengthens his people; he protects and delivers his Designated king. 9 ​​​​​​​Deliver your people! Empower the nation that belongs to you! Care for them like a shepherd and carry them in your arms at all times!

Psalms 29

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David. Acknowledge Lifegiver, you Heavenly beings, acknowledge Lifegiver’s majesty and power! 2 ​​​​​​​Acknowledge the majesty of Lifegiver’s reputation! Worship Lifegiver in sacred attire! 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s shout is heard over the water; the majestic Supermights thunders, Lifegiver appears over the surging water. 4 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s shout is powerful, Lifegiver’s shout is majestic. 5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s shout breaks the cedars, Lifegiver shatters the cedars of Lebanon. 6 ​​​​​​​He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young ox. 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s shout strikes with flaming fire. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s shout shakes the desert, Lifegiver shakes the desert of Kadesh. 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s shout bends the large trees and strips the leaves from the forests. Everyone in his temple says, “Majestic!” 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver sits enthroned over the engulfing waters, Lifegiver sits enthroned as the eternal king.

11 Lifegiver gives courage to his people.

Lifegiver blesses and fills his people with tranquility.

Psalms 30

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm – a song used at the dedication of the temple; by David. I’ll praise you, O Lifegiver, for you lifted me up, and did not allow my enemies to gloat over me. 2 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver my Supermights , I cried out to you and you healed me. 3 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, you pulled me up from Sheol; you rescued me from among those descending into the grave.

4 ​​​​​​​Saints, make music to Lifegiver.

Magnify the memory of his distinctiveness.

5 ​​​​​​​His anger is momentary.

His favour, a lifetime.

Weeping may last a night.

But there’s joy at dawn.

6 ​​​​​​​In my self-confidence I said, “I’ll never be upended.” 7 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, in your good favor you made me secure. Then you rejected me and I was terrified. 8 ​​​​​​​To you, O Lifegiver, I cried out; I begged Lifegiver for mercy: 9 ​​​​​​​“What profit is there in taking my life, in my descending into the Pit? Can the dust of the grave praise you? Can it declare your loyalty? 10 ​​​​​​​Hear, O Lifegiver, and have mercy on me! O Lifegiver, deliver me!” 11 ​​​​​​​Then you turned my lament into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and covered me with joy. 12 ​​​​​​​So now my heart will sing to you and not be silent; O Lifegiver my Supermights , I’ll always give thanks to you.

Psalms 31

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a psalm of David. In you, O Lifegiver, I’ve taken shelter! Never let me be humiliated! Vindicate me by rescuing me! 2 ​​​​​​​Listen to me! Quickly deliver me! Be my protector and refuge, a stronghold where I can be safe! 3 ​​​​​​​For you are my high ridge and my stronghold; for the sake of your own reputation you lead me and guide me. 4 ​​​​​​​You’ll free me from the net they hid for me, for you are my place of refuge. 5 ​​​​​​​Into your hand I entrust my life; you’ll rescue me, O Lifegiver, the faithful Supermights. 6 ​​​​​​​I hate those who serve worthless idols, but I trust in Lifegiver. 7 ​​​​​​​I’ll be happy and rejoice in your faithfulness, because you notice my pain and you are aware of how distressed I’m. 8 ​​​​​​​You do not deliver me over to the power of the enemy; you enable me to stand in a wide open place. 9 ​​​​​​​Have mercy on me, for I’m in distress! My eyes grow dim from suffering. I’ve lost my strength.

10 ​​​​​​​For my life nears its end in pain; my years draw to a close as I groan. My strength fails me because of my sin, and my bones become brittle. 11 ​​​​​​​Because of all my enemies, people disdain me; my neighbors are appalled by my suffering – those who know me are horrified by my condition; those who see me in the street run away from me. 12 ​​​​​​​I’m forgotten, like a dead man no one thinks about; I’m regarded as worthless, like a broken jar. 13 ​​​​​​​For I hear what so many are saying, the terrifying news that comes from every direction. When they plot together against me, they figure out how they can take my life. 14 ​​​​​​​But I trust in you, O Lifegiver! I declare, “You are my Supermights !” 15 ​​​​​​​You determine my destiny! Rescue me from the power of my enemies and those who chase me. 16 ​​​​​​​Smile on your servant! Deliver me because of your faithfulness! 17 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, do not let me be humiliated, for I call out to you! May bad men be humiliated! May they go wailing to the grave! 18 ​​​​​​​May lying lips be silenced – lips that speak defiantly against the innocent with arrogance and contempt! 19 ​​​​​​​How great is your favor, which you store up for your loyal followers! In plain sight of everyone you bestow it on those who take shelter in you. 20 ​​​​​​​You hide them with you, where they are safe from the attacks of men; you conceal them in a shelter, where they are safe from slanderous attacks. 21 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver deserves praise for he demonstrated his amazing faithfulness to me when I was besieged by enemies. 22 ​​​​​​​I jumped to conclusions and said, “I’m cut off from your presence!” But you heard my plea for mercy when I cried out to you for help. 23 ​​​​​​​Love Lifegiver, all you faithful followers of his! Lifegiver protects those who have integrity, but he pays back in full the one who acts arrogantly. 24 ​​​​​​​Be strong and confident, all you who wait on Lifegiver!

Psalms 32

1 ​​​​​​​By David; a well-written song. How blessed is the one whose rebellious acts are forgiven, whose sin is pardoned! 2 ​​​​​​​How blessed is the one whose wrongdoing Lifegiver does not punish, in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 ​​​​​​​When I refused to confess my sin, my whole body wasted away, while I groaned in pain all day long. 4 ​​​​​​​For day and night you tormented me; you tried to destroy me in the intense heat of summer. (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​Then I confessed my sin; I no longer covered up my wrongdoing. I said, “I’ll confess my rebellious acts to Lifegiver.” And then you forgave my sins. (Pause) 6 ​​​​​​​For this reason every one of your faithful followers should pray to you while there is a window of opportunity. Certainly when the surging water rises, it will not reach them. 7 ​​​​​​​You are my hiding place; you protect me from distress. You surround me with shouts of joy from those celebrating deliverance. (Pause) 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll instruct and teach you about how you should live. I’ll advise you as I look you in the eye. 9 ​​​​​​​Do not be like an unintelligent horse or mule, which will not obey you unless they are controlled by a bridle and bit. 10 ​​​​​​​An bad person suffers much pain, but Lifegiver’s faithfulness overwhelms the one who trusts in him. 11 ​​​​​​​Rejoice in Lifegiver and be happy, you who are Supermights ly! Shout for joy, all you who are morally upright!

Psalms 33

1 ​​​​​​​You Supermights ly ones, shout for joy because of Lifegiver! It is appropriate for the morally upright to offer him praise. 2 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver with the harp! Sing to him to the accompaniment of a ten-stringed instrument! 3 ​​​​​​​Sing to him a new song! Play skillfully as you shout out your praises to him! 4 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver’s decrees are just, and everything he does is fair. 5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver promotes equity and justice; Lifegiver’s faithfulness extends throughout the Earth . 6 ​​​​​​​By Lifegiver’s decree the Celestial Bodies were made; by a mere word from his mouth all the stars in the sky were created. 7 ​​​​​​​He piles up the water of the sea; he puts the oceans in storehouses. 8 ​​​​​​​Let the whole Earth fear Lifegiver! Let all who live in the world stand in awe of him! 9 ​​​​​​​For he spoke, and it came into existence, he issued the decree, and it stood firm.

10 ​​​​​​​ Lifegiver nullifies the plans of the nations.

He renders the people’s schemes futile.

11 ​​​​​​​ Lifegiver’s plan stands forever.

The designs of his heart span generations.

12 ​​​​​​​ Blessed are the people whose deity is Lifegiver.

The people he has Designated as his heritage.

13 ​​​​​​​ Lifegiver watches from Heaven.

He sees and observes the children of humanity.

14 ​​​​​​​ From the base of his residence

he watches all the inhabitants of the Earth.

15 ​​​​​​​ He presses their hearts together.

He distantly discerns all their activities.

16 ​​​​​​​No king is delivered by his vast army; a warrior is not saved by his great might. 17 ​​​​​​​A horse disappoints those who trust in it for victory; despite its great strength, it cannot deliver. 18 ​​​​​​​Look, Lifegiver takes notice of his loyal followers, those who wait for him to demonstrate his faithfulness 19 ​​​​​​​by saving their lives from death and sustaining them during times of drought. 20 ​​​​​​​We wait for Lifegiver; he is our deliverer and shield. 21 ​​​​​​​For our hearts rejoice in him, for we trust in his sacred name. 22 ​​​​​​​May we experience your faithfulness, O Lifegiver, for we wait for you.

Psalms 34

1 ​​​​​​​Written by David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, causing the king to send him away. I’ll praise Lifegiver at all times; my mouth will continually praise him. 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll boast in Lifegiver; let the oppressed hear and rejoice! 3 ​​​​​​​Magnify Lifegiver with me! Let’s praise his name together!

4 ​​​​​​​I sought Lifegiver’s help and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. 5 ​​​​​​​Those who look to him for help are happy; their faces are not ashamed. 6 ​​​​​​​This oppressed man cried out and Lifegiver heard; he saved him from all his troubles. 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s messenger camps around Lifegiver’s loyal followers and delivers them. 8 ​​​​​​​Taste and see that Lifegiver is good! How blessed is the one who takes shelter in him! 9 ​​​​​​​Remain loyal to Lifegiver, you Designated people of his, for his loyal followers lack nothing! 10 ​​​​​​​Even young lions sometimes lack food and are hungry, but those who seek Lifegiver lack no good thing. 11 ​​​​​​​Come children! Listen to me! I’ll teach you what it means to fear Lifegiver. 12 ​​​​​​​Do you want to really live? Would you love to live a long, happy life? 13 ​​​​​​​Then make sure you don’t speak bad words or use deceptive speech! 14 ​​​​​​​Turn away from bad and do what is right! Strive for peace and promote it! 15 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver pays attention to the Supermights ly and hears their cry for help. 16 ​​​​​​​But Lifegiver opposes evildoers and wipes out all memory of them from the Earth . 17 ​​​​​​​The Supermights ly cry out and Lifegiver hears; he saves them from all their troubles.

18 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is closest to the brokenhearted;

he delivers those who are spiritually crushed.

19 ​​​​​​​The Supermights ly face many dangers, but Lifegiver saves them from each one of them. 20 ​​​​​​​He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken. 21 ​​​​​​​Bad people self-destruct; those who hate the Supermights ly are punished. 22 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver rescues his servants; all who take shelter in him escape punishment.

Psalms 35

1 ​​​​​​​By David. O Lifegiver, fight those who fight with me! Attack those who attack me! 2 ​​​​​​​Grab your small shield and large shield, and rise up to help me! 3 ​​​​​​​Use your spear and lance against those who chase me! Assure me with these words: “I’m your deliverer!” 4 ​​​​​​​May those who seek my life be embarrassed and humiliated! May those who plan to harm me be turned back and ashamed! 5 ​​​​​​​May they be like wind-driven chaff, as Lifegiver’s messenger attacks them! 6 ​​​​​​​May their path be dark and slippery, as Lifegiver’s messenger chases them! 7 ​​​​​​​I did not harm them, but they hid a net to catch me and dug a pit to trap me. 8 ​​​​​​​Let destruction take them by surprise! Let the net they hid catch them! Let them fall into destruction! 9 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll rejoice in Lifegiver and be happy because of his deliverance. 10 ​​​​​​​With all my strength I’ll say, “O Lifegiver, who can compare to you? You rescue the oppressed from those who try to overpower them; the oppressed and needy from those who try to rob them.” 11 ​​​​​​​Violent men perjure themselves, and falsely accuse me. 12 ​​​​​​​They repay me bad for the good I’ve done; I’m overwhelmed with sorrow. 13 ​​​​​​​When they were sick, I wore sackcloth, and refrained from eating food. (If I’m lying, may my prayers go unanswered!) 14 ​​​​​​​I mourned for them as I would for a friend or my brother. I bowed down in sorrow as if I were mourning for my mother. 15 ​​​​​​​But when I stumbled, they rejoiced and gathered together; they gathered together to ambush me. They tore at me without stopping to rest. 16 ​​​​​​​When I tripped, they taunted me relentlessly, and tried to bite me. 17 ​​​​​​​O Lord, how long are you going to just stand there and watch this? Rescue me from their destructive attacks; guard my life from the young lions! 18 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll give you thanks in the great assembly; I’ll praise you before a large crowd of people! 19 ​​​​​​​Do not let those who are my enemies for no reason gloat over me! Do not let those who hate me without cause carry out their wicked schemes! 20 ​​​​​​​For they do not try to make peace with others, but plan ways to deceive those who are unsuspecting. 21 ​​​​​​​They are ready to devour me; they say, “Aha! Aha! We’ve got you!” 22 ​​​​​​​But you take notice, Lifegiver! O Lord, do not remain far away from me! 23 ​​​​​​​Rouse yourself, wake up and vindicate me! My Supermights and Lord, defend my just cause! 24 ​​​​​​​Vindicate me by your justice, O Lifegiver my Supermights ! Do not let them gloat over me! 25 ​​​​​​​Do not let them say to themselves, “Aha! We’ve what we wanted!” Do not let them say, “We’ve devoured him!” 26 ​​​​​​​May those who want to harm me be totally embarrassed and ashamed! May those who arrogantly taunt me be covered with shame and humiliation! 27 ​​​​​​​May those who desire my vindication shout for joy and rejoice! May they continually say, “May Lifegiver be praised, for he wants his servant to be secure.” 28 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll tell others about your justice, and praise you all day long.

Psalms 36

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; written by Lifegiver’s servant, David; an oracle. An bad man is rebellious to the core. He does not fear Supermights , 2 ​​​​​​​for he is too proud to recognize and give up his sin. 3 ​​​​​​​The words he speaks are sinful and deceitful; he does not care about doing what is wise and right. 4 ​​​​​​​He plans ways to sin while he lies in bed; he is committed to a sinful lifestyle; he does not reject what is evil.

5 ​​​​​​ Your gracious love, Lifegiver, is sky high.

Your faithfulness is beyond the atmosphere.

6 ​​​​​​​ Your justice is as robust as the highest mountains.

Your defence as sufficient as the deepest sea.

Lifegiver you shepherd humanity and animals.

7 ​​​​​​​ How impressive are your mercies, Supermights!

Children of the human race take refuge under your wings.

8 ​​​​​​​ They are fed from the excess of your house,

and you’ll make them drink torrents of your delicacies,

9 ​​​​​​​ because with you is the source of life.

In your light we discover light.

10 Spread your gracious love over those who confess you,

your rightness to the upright in heart!

11 ​​​​​​​Do not let arrogant men overtake me, or let bad men make me homeless! 12 ​​​​​​​I can see the evildoers! They have fallen! They have been knocked down and are unable to get up!

PSALM 37

1. Never fret because of good for nothings.

Never be envious of perpetrators of injustice

2. who will soon be clipped off like grass,

and shrunk as green sprouts.

3. Trust LIFEGIVER and go about doing good.

Live in the land and you’ll be fed faithfully.

4. Enjoy yourself in LIFEGIVER,

and he’ll grant your heart's desires.

5. Entrust your course of life to LIFEGIVER.

Trust in him, he’ll sustain it,

6. vindicating your prosperity in daylight,

and your just cause as noonday.

7. Rest in LIFEGIVER and wait patiently for him.

Do not fret over the one that pushes his way,

because of the one who executes wicked plans.

8. Refrain from anger and relinquish fury.

Do not be agitated. It only brings harm.

9. Certainly the perpetrators of wickedness will be wiped off.

But those who wait on LIFEGIVER will inherit the earth.

10. Still, the wicked will soon be gone.

You’ll check their spot,

and they’ll be not there.

11. But the humble will enjoy the land,

and will delight themselves in tons of peace.

12. The wicked plots against the just,

and grinds on them with their teeth.

13. The Lord laughs at them,

for they realise that their time is approaching.

14. The wicked have drawn out their swords,

and have aimed their arrows,

to shoot down the poor and destitute,

to destroy the straight walker.

15. Their swords will pierce their own hearts,

and their arrows will be broken.

16. The little bit the just have is better

over the plentiful wealth of the wicked.

17. Surely the strength of the wicked will be shuttered.

But LIFEGIVER sustains the just.

18. LIFEGIVER marks the days of the just,

and their inheritance will last forever.

19. They’ll not be embarrassed in time of adversity,

and in time of drought they’ll be satisfied.

20. But the wicked will perish,

and the enemies of LIFEGIVER,

as fat of lambs will be incinerated.

Into smoke they’ll be burnt up.

21. The wicked borrow and do not reciprocate,

but the just shows favour and gives.

22. Surely those blessed by him will inherit the earth.

Then those cursed by him will be cut off.

23. The steps of a hero are directed by LIFEGIVER,

and he is pleased in his way.

24. Although he falls, he’ll not be flipped over

for LIFEGIVER succours him with his hand.

25. I’ve been young, and am now old,

I’ve never seen the exonerated neglected,

or their children begging for food.

26. All the time he is gracious and lending,

because the fruit of his seed flourishes.

27. Turn away from evil and do good,

then you’ll live forever.

28. Surely LIFEGIVER loves justice,

and he never leaves his saints -

they are hedged forever.

But the posterity of the wicked -

they’ll be cut off.

29. The just will inherit the earth,

and live in it for ever

30. The mouth of the just speak wisdom,

and their tongues pronounce justice.

31. The law of his God is in his heart -

his steps will not slip.

32. The wicked watches the just,

and wants to kill him.

33. LIFEGIVER will not surrender him into his hands,

nor condemn him when he is judged.

34. Wait on LIFEGIVER and observe his way,

and he’ll lift you up to inherit the land.

When the wicked are cut off, you’ll watch it.

35. I’ve seen the wicked in tyrannical power,

spreading himself like a flourishing bay laurel,

36. yet while on his tracks, there he was - gone!

Yes, I’ve searched for him but he could not be found.

37. Note the upright and observe the straight,

for the reward of that person is peace.

38. But the transgressors will be destroyed together.

The posterity of the wicked will be cut off.

39. But the deliverance of the just is from LIFEGIVER -

their defence in the time of trouble.

40. LIFEGIVER will surround and deliver them.

He will cause them to escape from the wicked,

and rescue them because they trust in him.

Psalms 38

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David, written to get Supermights ’s attention. O Lifegiver, do not continue to rebuke me in your anger! Do not continue to punish me in your raging fury! 2 ​​​​​​​For your arrows pierce me, and your hand presses me down. 3 ​​​​​​​My whole body is sick because of your judgment; I’m deprived of health because of my sin. 4 ​​​​​​​For my sins overwhelm me; like a heavy load, they are too much for me to bear. 5 ​​​​​​​My wounds are infected and starting to smell, because of my foolish sins. 6 ​​​​​​​I’m dazed and completely humiliated; all day long I walk around mourning. 7 ​​​​​​​For I’m overcome with shame and my whole body is sick. 8 ​​​​​​​I’m numb with pain and severely battered; I groan loudly because of the anxiety I feel. 9 ​​​​​​​O Lord, you understand my heart’s desire; my groaning is not hidden from you. 10 ​​​​​​​My heart beats quickly; my strength leaves me; I can hardly see. 11 ​​​​​​​Because of my condition, even my friends and acquaintances keep their distance; my neighbors stand far away. 12 ​​​​​​​Those who seek my life try to entrap me; those who want to harm me speak destructive words; all day long they say deceitful things. 13 ​​​​​​​But I’m like a deaf man – I hear nothing; I’m like a mute who cannot speak. 14 ​​​​​​​I’m like a man who cannot hear and is incapable of arguing his defense. 15 ​​​​​​​Yet I wait for you, O Lifegiver! You’ll respond, O Lord, my Supermights ! 16 ​​​​​​​I’ve prayed for deliverance, because otherwise they’ll gloat over me; when my foot slips they’ll arrogantly taunt me. 17 ​​​​​​​For I’m about to stumble, and I’m in constant pain. 18 ​​​​​​​Yes, I confess my wrongdoing, and I’m concerned about my sins. 19 ​​​​​​​But those who are my enemies for no reason are numerous; those who hate me without cause outnumber me. 20 ​​​​​​​They repay me bad for the good I’ve done; though I’ve tried to do good to them, they hurl accusations at me. 21 ​​​​​​​Do not abandon me, O Lifegiver! My Supermights , do not remain far away from me! 22 ​​​​​​​Hurry and help me, O Lord, my deliverer!

Psalms 39

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, Jeduthun; a psalm of David. I decided, “I’ll watch what I say and make sure I do not sin with my tongue. I’ll put a muzzle over my mouth while in the presence of an bad man.” 2 ​​​​​​​I was stone silent; I held back the urge to speak. My frustration grew; 3 ​​​​​​​my anxiety intensified. As I thought about it, I became impatient. Finally I spoke these words: 4 ​​​​​​​“O Lifegiver, help me understand my mortality and the brevity of life! Let me realize how quickly my life will pass! 5 ​​​​​​​Look, you make my days short-lived, and my life span is nothing from your perspective. Surely all people, even those who seem secure, are nothing but vapor. 6 ​​​​​​​Surely people go through life as mere ghosts. Surely they accumulate worthless wealth without knowing who will eventually haul it away.” 7 ​​​​​​​But now, O Lord, upon what am I relying? You are my only hope! 8 ​​​​​​​Deliver me from all my sins of rebellion! Do not make me the object of fools’ insults! 9 ​​​​​​​I’m silent and cannot open my mouth because of what you have done. 10 ​​​​​​​Please stop wounding me! You have almost beaten me to death! 11 ​​​​​​​You severely discipline people for their sins; like a moth you slowly devour their strength. Surely all people are a mere vapor. (Pause) 12 ​​​​​​​Hear my prayer, O Lifegiver! Listen to my cry for help! Do not ignore my sobbing! For I’m dependent on you, like one residing outside his native land; I’m at your mercy, just as all my ancestors were. 13 ​​​​​​​Turn your angry gaze away from me, so I can be happy before I pass away.

Psalms 40

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; By David, a psalm. I relied completely on Lifegiver, and he turned toward me and heard my cry for help.

2 ​​​​​​​He lifted me out of the watery pit,

out of the slimy mud.

He placed my feet on a rock and gave me secure footing.

3 ​​​​​​​He gave me reason to sing a new song, praising our Supermights.

May many see what Supermights has done,

so that they might swear allegiance to him and trust in Lifegiver!

4 ​​​​​​​How blessed is the one who trusts in Lifegiver and does not seek help from the proud or from liars!

5 ​​​​​​​ Lifegiver, my deity, you have done so much.

Your extraordinary achievements and plans are for us.

No one is equatable and comparable to you.

If I were to explain and communicate them,

they are too numerous to accurately enumerate.

6 ​​​​​​​Receiving sacrifices and offerings are not your primary concern. You make that quite clear to me! You do not ask for incinerated sacrifices and sin offerings. 7 ​​​​​​​Then I say, “Look! I come! What is written in the scroll pertains to me. 8 ​​​​​​​I want to do what pleases you, my Supermights. Your law dominates my thoughts.” 9 ​​​​​​​I’ve told the great assembly about your justice. Look! I spare no words! O Lifegiver, you know this is true. 10 ​​​​​​​I’ve not failed to tell about your justice; I spoke about your reliability and deliverance; I’ve not neglected to tell the great assembly about your loyal love and faithfulness. 11 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, you do not withhold your compassion from me. May your loyal love and faithfulness continually protect me! 12 ​​​​​​​For innumerable dangers surround me. My sins overtake me so I’m unable to see; they outnumber the hairs of my head so my strength fails me. 13 ​​​​​​​Please be willing, O Lifegiver, to rescue me! O Lifegiver, hurry and help me! 14 ​​​​​​​May those who are trying to snatch away my life be totally embarrassed and ashamed! May those who want to harm me be turned back and ashamed! 15 ​​​​​​​May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be humiliated and disgraced!

16 ​​​​​​​May all those who seek you be happy and rejoice in you! May those who love to experience your deliverance say continually, “May Lifegiver be praised!” 17 ​​​​​​​I’m oppressed and needy! May Lifegiver pay attention to me! You are my helper and my deliverer! O my Supermights , do not delay!

Psalms 41

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a psalm of David. How blessed is the one who treats the poor properly! When trouble comes, Lifegiver delivers him. 2 ​​​​​​​May Lifegiver protect him and save his life! May he be blessed in the land! Do not turn him over to his enemies! 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver supports him on his sickbed; you completely heal him from his illness. 4 ​​​​​​​As for me, I said: “O Lifegiver, have mercy on me! Heal me, for I’ve sinned against you! 5 ​​​​​​​My enemies ask this cruel question about me, ‘When will he finally die and be forgotten?’ 6 ​​​​​​​When someone comes to visit, he pretends to be friendly; he thinks of ways to defame me, and when he leaves he slanders me. 7 ​​​​​​​All who hate me whisper insults about me to one another; they plan ways to harm me. 8 ​​​​​​​They say, ‘An awful disease overwhelms him, and now that he is bed-ridden he’ll never recover.’ 9 ​​​​​​​Even my close friend whom I trusted, he who shared meals with me, has turned against me. 10 ​​​​​​​As for you, O Lifegiver, have mercy on me and raise me up, so I can pay them back!” 11 ​​​​​​​By this I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me. 12 ​​​​​​​As for me, you uphold me because of my integrity; you allow me permanent access to your presence. 13 ​​​​​​​ Lifegiver, Israel’s Supermights is praiseworthy from ancient eternity until future eternity.

We confirm! We assert!

Psalms 42

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a well-written song by the Korahites.

As a deer craves for the refreshing streams,

so my core longs for you, Supermights.

2 ​​​​​​​My life thirsts for Supermights, the living deity.

When can I go and appear before Supermights?

3 ​​​​​​​I cannot eat, I weep day and night; all day long they say to me, “Where is your deity ?” 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll remember and weep! For I was once walking along with the great throng to the temple of Supermights , shouting and giving thanks along with the crowd as we celebrated the sacred festival. 5 ​​​​​​​Why are you depressed, O my soul? Why are you upset? Wait for Supermights ! For I’ll again give thanks to my Supermights for his saving intervention. 6 ​​​​​​​I’m depressed, so I’ll pray to you while I’m trapped here in the region of the upper Jordan, from Hermon, from Mount Mizar. 7 ​​​​​​​One deep stream calls out to another at the sound of your waterfalls; all your billows and waves overwhelm me. 8 ​​​​​​​By day Lifegiver decrees his loyal love, and by night he gives me a song, a prayer to the living Supermights. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll pray to Supermights , my high ridge: “Why do you ignore me? Why must I walk around mourning because my enemies oppress me?” 10 ​​​​​​​My enemies’ taunts cut into me to the bone, as they say to me all day long, “Where is your deity ?” 11 ​​​​​​​Why are you depressed, O my soul? Why are you upset? Wait for Supermights ! For I’ll again give thanks to my Supermights for his saving intervention.

Psalms 43

1 ​​​​​​​Vindicate me, O Supermights ! Fight for me against an unscrupulous nation! Deliver me from deceitful and bad men! 2 ​​​​​​​For you are the Supermights who shelters me. Why do you reject me? Why must I walk around mourning because my enemies oppress me?

3 Project your light and your truth

to escort me to your holy hill

and to your residence.

4 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll enter Supermights’ altar,

towards Supermights, my ecstatic joy.

On a stringed instrument I’ll praise you

Supermights, my deity.

5 ​​​​​​​Why are you depressed, O my soul? Why are you upset? Wait for Supermights ! For I’ll again give thanks to my Supermights for his saving intervention.

Psalms 44

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; by the Korahites, a well-written song.

Supermights, we’ve heard with our ears -

our forebears recounted the works you performed

in their days, in times past.

2 ​​​​​​​You, by your power, defeated nationalities and settled our fathers on their land; you crushed the people living there and enabled our ancestors to occupy it. 3 ​​​​​​​For they did not conquer the land by their swords, and they did not prevail by their strength, but rather by your power, strength and good favor, for you were partial to them. 4 ​​​​​​​You are my king, O Supermights ! Decree Jacob’s deliverance! 5 ​​​​​​​By your power we’ll drive back our enemies; by your strength we’ll trample down our foes! 6 ​​​​​​​For I do not trust in my bow, and I do not prevail by my sword. 7 ​​​​​​​For you deliver us from our enemies; you humiliate those who hate us. 8 ​​​​​​​In Supermights I boast all day long, and we’ll continually give thanks to your name. (Pause) 9 ​​​​​​​But you rejected and embarrassed us! You did not go into battle with our armies. 10 ​​​​​​​You made us retreat from the enemy. Those who hate us take whatever they want from us. 11 ​​​​​​​You handed us over like sheep to be eaten; you scattered us among the nationalities. 12 ​​​​​​​You sold your people for a pittance; you did not ask a high price for them. 13 ​​​​​​​You made us an object of disdain to our neighbors; those who live on our borders taunt and insult us. 14 ​​​​​​​You made us an object of ridicule among the nationalities; foreigners treat us with contempt. 15 ​​​​​​​All day long I feel humiliated and am overwhelmed with shame, 16 ​​​​​​​before the vindictive enemy who ridicules and insults me. 17 ​​​​​​​All this has happened to us, even though we’ve not rejected you or violated your agreement with us. 18 ​​​​​​​We’ve not been unfaithful, nor have we disobeyed your instructions. 19 ​​​​​​​Yet you have battered us, leaving us a heap of ruins overrun by wild dogs; you have covered us with darkness. 20 ​​​​​​​If we had rejected our Supermights , and spread out our hands in prayer to another Supermights , 21 ​​​​​​​would not Supermights discover it, for he knows one’s thoughts? 22 ​​​​​​​Yet because of you we are killed all day long; we are treated like sheep at the slaughtering block. 23 ​​​​​​​Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord? Wake up! Do not reject us forever! 24 ​​​​​​​Why do you look the other way, and ignore the way we are oppressed and mistreated? 25 ​​​​​​​For we lie in the dirt, with our bellies pressed to the ground.

26 Rise up to our assistance!

Rescue us because of your grace.

Psalms 45

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the tune of “Lilies;” by the Korahites, a well-written poem, a love song. My heart is stirred by a beautiful song. I say, “I’ve composed this special song for the king; my tongue is as skilled as the stylus of an experienced scribe.” 2 ​​​​​​​You are the most handsome of all men! You speak in an impressive and fitting manner! For this reason Supermights grants you continual blessings. 3 ​​​​​​​Strap your sword to your thigh, O warrior! Appear in your majestic splendor! 4 ​​​​​​​Appear in your majesty and be victorious! Ride forth for the sake of what is right, on behalf of justice! Then your right hand will accomplish mighty acts! 5 ​​​​​​​Your arrows are sharp and penetrate the hearts of the king’s enemies. nationalities fall at your feet.

6 ​​​​​​​Your throne, Supermights, is ancient and forever;

The trademark of your reign is a trademark of justice.

7 ​​​​​​​You love justice and hate evil.

For this reason Supermights,

your deity has anointed you with the oil of joy, elevating you above your companions. 8 ​​​​​​​All your garments are perfumed with myrrh, aloes, and cassia. From the luxurious palaces comes the music of stringed instruments that makes you happy. 9 ​​​​​​​Princesses are among your honored guests, your bride stands at your right hand, wearing jewelry made with gold from Ophir. 10 ​​​​​​​Listen, O princess! Observe and pay attention! Forget your homeland and your family! 11 ​​​​​​​Then the king will be attracted by your beauty. After all, he is your master! Submit to him! 12 ​​​​​​​Rich people from Tyre will seek your favor by bringing a gift. 13 ​​​​​​​The princess looks absolutely magnificent, decked out in pearls and clothed in a brocade trimmed with gold. 14 ​​​​​​​In embroidered robes she is escorted to the king. Her attendants, the maidens of honor who follow her, are led before you. 15 ​​​​​​​They are bubbling with joy as they walk in procession and enter the royal palace. 16 ​​​​​​​Your sons will carry on the dynasty of your ancestors; you’ll make them princes throughout the land. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll proclaim your greatness through the coming years, then the nationalities will praise you forever.

Psalms 46

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; by the Korahites; according to the alamoth style; a song. Supermights is our strong refuge; he is truly our helper in times of trouble. 2 ​​​​​​​For this reason we do not fear when the Earth shakes, and the mountains tumble into the depths of the sea, 3 ​​​​​​​when its waves crash and foam, and the mountains shake before the surging sea. (Pause) 4 ​​​​​​​The river’s channels bring joy to the city of Supermights , the special, sacred dwelling place of the supreme One. 5 ​​​​​​​Supermights lives witlitreit, it cannot be moved. Supermights rescues it at the break of dawn. 6 ​​​​​​​nationalities are in uproar, reigns are overthrown. Supermights gives a shout, the Earth dissolves. 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who instructions armies is on our side! The Supermights of Jacob is our protector! (Pause) 8 ​​​​​​​Come! Witness the exploits of Lifegiver, who brings devastation to the Earth ! 9 ​​​​​​​He brings an end to wars throughout the Earth ; he shatters the bow and breaks the spear; he burns the shields with fire. 10 ​​​​​​​He says, “Stop your striving and recognize that I’m Supermights ! I’ll be exalted over the nationalities! I’ll be exalted over the Earth !” 11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who instructions armies is on our side! The Supermights of Jacob is our protector! (Pause)

Psalms 47

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; by the Korahites; a psalm. All you nationalities, clap your hands! Shout out to Supermights in celebration! 2 ​​​​​​​For the supreme Lifegiver is awe-inspiring; he is the great king who rules the whole Earth ! 3 ​​​​​​​He subdued nationalities beneath us and countries under our feet. 4 ​​​​​​​He picked out for us a special land to be a source of pride for Jacob, whom he loves. (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​Supermights has ascended his throne amid loud shouts; Lifegiver has ascended his throne amid the blaring of ram’s horns. 6 ​​​​​​​Sing to Supermights ! Sing! Sing to our king! Sing! 7 ​​​​​​​For Supermights is king of the whole Earth ! Sing a well-written song! 8 ​​​​​​​Supermights reigns over the nationalities! Supermights sits on his sacred throne! 9 ​​​​​​​The nobles of the nationalities assemble, along with the people of the Supermights of Abraham, for Supermights has authority over the rulers of the Earth . He is highly exalted!

Psalms 48

1 ​​​​​​​A song, a psalm by the Korahites. Lifegiver is great and certainly worthy of praise in the city of our Supermights , his sacred hill. 2 ​​​​​​​It is lofty and pleasing to look at, a source of joy to the whole Earth . Mount Zion resembles the peaks of Zaphon; it is the city of the great king. 3 ​​​​​​​Supermights is in its fortresses; he reveals himself as its defender. 4 ​​​​​​​For look, the kings assemble; they advance together. 5 ​​​​​​​As soon as they see, they are shocked; they are terrified, they quickly retreat. 6 ​​​​​​​Look at them shake uncontrollably, like a woman writhing in childbirth. 7 ​​​​​​​With an east wind you shatter the large ships. 8 ​​​​​​​We heard about Supermights ’s mighty deeds, now we’ve seen them, in the city of Lifegiver, the invincible Warrior, in the city of our Supermights. Supermights makes it permanently secure. (Pause) 9 ​​​​​​​We reflect on your loyal love, O Supermights , witlitreyour temple. 10 ​​​​​​​The praise you receive as far away as the ends of the Earth is worthy of your reputation, O Supermights. You execute justice! 11 ​​​​​​​Mount Zion rejoices; the towns of Judah are happy, because of your acts of judgment. 12 ​​​​​​​Walk around Zion! Encircle it! Count its towers! 13 ​​​​​​​Consider its defenses! Walk through its fortresses, so you can tell the next generation about it! 14 ​​​​​​​For Supermights , our Supermights , is our defender forever! He guides us!

Psalms 49

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, a psalm by the Korahites. Listen to this, all you nationalities! Pay attention, all you inhabitants of the world! 2 ​​​​​​​Pay attention, all you people, both rich and poor! 3 ​​​​​​​I’ll declare a wise saying; I’ll share my profound thoughts. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll learn a song that imparts wisdom; I’ll then sing my insightful song to the accompaniment of a harp. 5 ​​​​​​​Why should I be afraid in times of trouble, when the sinful deeds of deceptive men threaten to overwhelm me? 6 ​​​​​​​They trust in their wealth and boast in their great riches. 7 ​​​​​​​Certainly a man cannot rescue his brother; he cannot pay Supermights an adequate ransom price 8 ​​​​​​​(the ransom price for a human life is too high, and people go to their final destiny), 9 ​​​​​​​so that he might continue to live forever and not experience death. 10 ​​​​​​​Surely one sees that even wise people die; fools and spiritually insensitive people all pass away and leave their wealth to others. 11 ​​​​​​​Their grave becomes their permanent residence, their eternal dwelling place. They name their lands after themselves, 12 ​​​​​​​but, despite their wealth, people do not last, they are like animals that perish. 13 ​​​​​​​This is the destiny of fools, and of those who approve of their philosophy. (Pause) 14 ​​​​​​​They’ll travel to Sheol like sheep, with death as their shepherd. The Supermights ly will rule over them when the day of vindication dawns; Sheol will consume their bodies and they’ll no longer live in impressive houses. 15 ​​​​​​​But Supermights will rescue my life from the power of Sheol; certainly he’ll pull me to safety. (Pause) 16 ​​​​​​​Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich and his wealth multiplies! 17 ​​​​​​​For he’ll take nothing with him when he dies; his wealth will not follow him down into the grave. 18 ​​​​​​​He pronounces this blessing on himself while he is alive: “May men praise you, for you have done well!” 19 ​​​​​​​But he’ll join his ancestors; they’ll never again see the light of day. 20 ​​​​​​​Wealthy people do not understand; they are like animals that perish.

Psalms 50

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm by Asaph. El, Supermights , Lifegiver speaks, and summons the Earth to come from the east and west. 2 ​​​​​​​From Zion, the most beautiful of all places, Supermights comes in splendor. 3 ​​​​​​​Our Supermights approaches and is not silent; consuming fire goes ahead of him and all around him a storm rages. 4 ​​​​​​​He summons the Celestial Bodies above, as well as the Earth , so that he might judge his people. 5 ​​​​​​​He says: “Assemble my agreement people before me, those who ratified a agreement with me by sacrifice!” 6 ​​​​​​​The Celestial Bodies declare his fairness, for Supermights is judge. (Pause) 7 ​​​​​​​He says: “Listen my people! I’m speaking! Listen Israel! I’m accusing you! I’m Supermights , your deity ! 8 ​​​​​​​I’m not condemning you because of your sacrifices, or because of your incinerated sacrifices that you continually offer me. 9 ​​​​​​​I do not need to take a bull from your household or goats from your sheepfolds. 10 ​​​​​​​For every wild animal in the forest belongs to me, as well as the cattle that graze on a thousand hills. 11 ​​​​​​​I keep track of every bird in the hills, and the insects of the field are mine. 12 ​​​​​​​Even if I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all it contains belong to me. 13 ​​​​​​​Do I eat the flesh of bulls? Do I drink the blood of goats? 14 ​​​​​​​Present to Supermights a thank-offering! Repay your vows to the supreme One! 15 ​​​​​​​Pray to me when you are in trouble! I’ll deliver you, and you’ll honor me!” 16 ​​​​​​​Supermights says this to the evildoer: “How can you declare my instructions, and talk about my covenant? 17 ​​​​​​​For you hate instruction and reject my words. 18 ​​​​​​​When you see a thief, you join him; you associate with men who are unfaithful to their wives. 19 ​​​​​​​You do damage with words, and use your tongue to deceive. 20 ​​​​​​​You plot against your brother; you slander your own brother. 21 ​​​​​​​When you did these things, I was silent, so you thought I was exactly like you. But now I’ll condemn you and state my case against you! 22 ​​​​​​​Carefully consider this, you who reject Supermights ! Otherwise I’ll rip you to shreds and no one will be able to rescue you. 23 ​​​​​​​Whoever presents a thank-offering honors me. To whoever obeys my instructions, I’ll reveal my power to deliver.”

Psalms 51

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a psalm of David, written when Nathan the prophet confronted him after David’s affair with Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O Supermights , because of your loyal love! Because of your great compassion, wipe away my rebellious acts! 2 ​​​​​​​Wash away my wrongdoing! Cleanse me of my sin! 3 ​​​​​​​For I’m aware of my rebellious acts; I’m forever conscious of my sin. 4 ​​​​​​​Against you – you above all – I’ve sinned; I’ve done what is bad in your sight. So you are just when you confront me; you are right when you condemn me. 5 ​​​​​​​Look, I was guilty of sin from birth, a sinner the moment my mother conceived me. 6 ​​​​​​​Look, you desire integrity in the inner man; you want me to possess wisdom. 7 ​​​​​​​Sprinkle me with water and I’ll be pure; wash me and I’ll be whiter than snow. 8 ​​​​​​​Grant me the ultimate joy of being forgiven! May the bones you crushed rejoice! 9 ​​​​​​​Hide your face from my sins! Wipe away all my guilt! 10 ​​​​​​​Create for me a pure heart, O Supermights ! Renew a resolute spirit witlitreme! 11 ​​​​​​​Do not reject me! Do not take your Holy Spirit away from me! 12 ​​​​​​​Let me again experience the joy of your deliverance! Sustain me by giving me the desire to obey! 13 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll teach rebels your merciful ways, and sinners will turn to you. 14 ​​​​​​​Rescue me from the guilt of murder, O Supermights , the Supermights who delivers me! Then my tongue will shout for joy because of your deliverance. 15 ​​​​​​​O Lord, give me the words! Then my mouth will praise you. 16 ​​​​​​​Certainly you do not want a sacrifice, or else I would offer it; you do not desire a incinerated sacrifice. 17 ​​​​​​​The sacrifices Supermights desires are a humble spirit – O Supermights , a humble and repentant heart you’ll not reject. 18 ​​​​​​​Because you favor Zion, do what is good for her! Fortify the walls of Jerusalem! 19 ​​​​​​​Then you’ll accept the proper sacrifices, incinerated sacrifices and whole offerings; then bulls will be sacrificed on your altar.

Psalms 52

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a well-written song by David. It was written when Doeg the Edomite went and informed Saul: “David has arrived at the home of Ahimelech.” Why do you boast about your bad plans, O powerful man? Supermights ’s loyal love protects me all day long! 2 ​​​​​​​Your tongue carries out your destructive plans; it is as effective as a sharp razor, O deceiver. 3 ​​​​​​​You love bad more than good, lies more than speaking the truth. (Pause) 4 ​​​​​​​You love to use all the words that destroy, and the tongue that deceives. 5 ​​​​​​​Yet Supermights will make you a permanent heap of ruins. he’ll scoop you up and remove you from your home; he’ll uproot you from the land of the living. (Pause) 6 ​​​​​​​When the Supermights ly see this, they’ll be filled with awe, and will mock the evildoer, saying: 7 ​​​​​​​“Look, here is the man who would not make Supermights his protector! He trusted in his great wealth and was confident about his plans to destroy others.” 8 ​​​​​​​But I’m like a flourishing olive tree in the house of Supermights ; I continually trust in Supermights ’s loyal love. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll continually thank you when you execute judgment; I’ll rely on you, for your loyal followers know you are good.

Psalms 53

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the machalath style; a well-written song by David. Fools say to themselves, “There is no Supermights.” They sin and commit bad deeds; none of them does what is right. 2 ​​​​​​​Supermights looks down from Heaven at humanity, to see if there is anyone who is wise and seeks Supermights. 3 ​​​​​​​Everyone rejects Supermights ; they are all morally corrupt. None of them does what is right, not even one! 4 ​​​​​​​All those who behave wickedly do not understand – those who devour my people as if they were eating bread, and do not call out to Supermights. 5 ​​​​​​​They are absolutely terrified, even by things that do not normally cause fear. For Supermights annihilates those who attack you. You are able to humiliate them because Supermights has rejected them. 6 ​​​​​​​I wish the deliverance of Israel would come from Zion! When Supermights restores the well-being of his people, may Jacob rejoice, may Israel be happy!

Psalms 54

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, to be accompanied by stringed instruments; a well-written song by David. It was written when the Ziphites came and informed Saul: “David is hiding with us.” O Supermights , deliver me by your name! Vindicate me by your power! 2 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , listen to my prayer! Pay attention to what I say! 3 ​​​​​​​For foreigners attack me; ruthless men, who do not respect Supermights , seek my life. (Pause) 4 ​​​​​​​Look, Supermights is my deliverer! Lifegiver is among those who support me. 5 ​​​​​​​May those who wait to ambush me be repaid for their evil! As a demonstration of your faithfulness, destroy them! 6 ​​​​​​​With a freewill offering I’ll sacrifice to you! I’ll give thanks to your name, O Lifegiver, for it is good! 7 ​​​​​​​Surely he rescues me from all trouble, and I triumph over my enemies.

Psalms 55

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, to be accompanied by stringed instruments; a well-written song by David. Listen, O Supermights , to my prayer! Do not ignore my appeal for mercy! 2 ​​​​​​​Pay attention to me and answer me! I’m so upset and distressed, I’m beside myself, 3 ​​​​​​​because of what the enemy says, and because of how the wicked pressure me, for they hurl trouble down upon me and angrily attack me. 4 ​​​​​​​My heart beats violently witlitreme; the horrors of death overcome me. 5 ​​​​​​​Fear and panic overpower me; terror overwhelms me. 6 ​​​​​​​I say, “I wish I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and settle in a safe place! 7 ​​​​​​​Look, I’ll escape to a distant place; I’ll stay in the desert. (Pause) 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll hurry off to a place that is safe from the strong wind and the gale.”

9 ​​​​​​​Confuse them, O Lord! Frustrate their plans! For I see violence and conflict in the city. 10 ​​​​​​​Day and night they walk around on its walls, while wickedness and destruction are witlitreit. 11 ​​​​​​​Disaster is witlitreit; violence and deceit do not depart from its public square. 12 ​​​​​​​Indeed, it is not an enemy who insults me, or else I could bear it; it is not one who hates me who arrogantly taunts me, or else I could hide from him. 13 ​​​​​​​But it is you, a man like me, my close friend in whom I confided. 14 ​​​​​​​We would share personal thoughts with each other; in Supermights ’s temple we would walk together among the crowd. 15 ​​​​​​​May death destroy them! May they go down alive into Sheol! For bad is in their dwelling place and in their midst. 16 ​​​​​​​As for me, I’ll call out to Supermights , and Lifegiver will deliver me. 17 ​​​​​​​During the evening, morning, and noontime I’ll lament and moan, and he’ll hear me. 18 ​​​​​​​He will rescue me and protect me from those who attack me, even though they greatly outnumber me. 19 ​​​​​​​Supermights , the one who has reigned as king from long ago, will hear and humiliate them. (Pause) They refuse to change, and do not fear Supermights. 20 ​​​​​​​He attacks his friends; he breaks his solemn promises to them. 21 ​​​​​​​His words are as smooth as butter, but he harbors animosity in his heart. His words seem softer than oil, but they are really like sharp swords. 22 ​​​​​​​Throw your burden upon Lifegiver, and he’ll sustain you. he’ll never allow the Supermights ly to be upended. 23 ​​​​​​​But you, O Supermights , will bring them down to the deep Pit. Violent and deceitful people will not live even half a normal lifespan. But as for me, I trust in you.

Psalms 56

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the yonath-elem-rechovim style; a prayer of David, written when the Philistines captured him in Gath. Have mercy on me, O Supermights , for men are attacking me! All day long hostile enemies are tormenting me. 2 ​​​​​​​Those who anticipate my defeat attack me all day long. Indeed, many are fighting against me, O Exalted One. 3 ​​​​​​​When I’m afraid, I trust in you. 4 ​​​​​​​In Supermights – I boast in his promise – in Supermights I trust, I’m not afraid. What can mere men do to me? 5 ​​​​​​​All day long they cause me trouble; they make a habit of plotting my demise. 6 ​​​​​​​They stalk and lurk; they watch my every step, as they prepare to take my life. 7 ​​​​​​​Because they are bent on violence, do not let them escape! In your anger bring down the nationalities, O Supermights ! 8 ​​​​​​​You keep track of my misery. Put my tears in your leather container! Are they not recorded in your scroll? 9 ​​​​​​​My enemies will turn back when I cry out to you for help; I know that Supermights is on my side. 10 ​​​​​​​In Supermights – I boast in his promise – in Lifegiver – I boast in his promise – 11 ​​​​​​​in Supermights I trust, I’m not afraid. What can mere men do to me? 12 ​​​​​​​I’m obligated to fulfill the vows I made to you, O Supermights ; I’ll give you the thank-offerings you deserve, 13 ​​​​​​​when you deliver my life from death. You keep my feet from stumbling, so that I might serve Supermights as I enjoy life.

Psalms 57

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the al-tashcheth style; a prayer of David, written when he fled from Saul into the cave. Have mercy on me, O Supermights ! Have mercy on me! For in you I’ve taken shelter. In the shadow of your wings I take shelter until trouble passes. 2 ​​​​​​​I cry out for help to the supreme Supermights , to the Supermights who vindicates me. 3 ​​​​​​​May he send help from Heaven and deliver me from my enemies who hurl insults! (Pause) May Supermights send his loyal love and faithfulness! 4 ​​​​​​​I’m surrounded by lions; I lie down among those who want to devour me; men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are a sharp sword. 5 ​​​​​​​Rise up above the sky, O Supermights ! May your splendor cover the whole Earth ! 6 ​​​​​​​They have prepared a net to trap me; I’m discouraged. They have dug a pit for me. They’ll fall into it! (Pause) 7 ​​​​​​​I’m determined, O Supermights ! I’m determined! I’ll sing and praise you! 8 ​​​​​​​Awake, my soul! Awake, O stringed instrument and harp! I’ll wake up at dawn! 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll give you thanks before the nationalities, O Master! I’ll sing praises to you before foreigners! 10 ​​​​​​​For your loyal love extends beyond the sky, and your faithfulness reaches the clouds. 11 ​​​​​​​Rise up above the sky, O Supermights ! May your splendor cover the whole Earth !

Psalms 58

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the al-tashcheth style; a prayer of David. Do you rulers really pronounce just decisions? Do you judge people fairly? 2 ​​​​​​​No! You plan how to do what is unjust; you deal out violence in the Earth . 3 ​​​​​​​The wicked turn aside from birth; liars go astray as soon as they are born. 4 ​​​​​​​Their venom is like that of a snake, like a deaf serpent that does not hear, 5 ​​​​​​​that does not respond to the magicians, or to a skilled snake-charmer. 6 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , break the teeth in their mouths! Smash the jawbones of the lions, O Lifegiver! 7 ​​​​​​​Let them disappear like water that flows away! Let them wither like grass! 8 ​​​​​​​Let them be like a snail that melts away as it moves along! Let them be like stillborn babies that never see the sun! 9 ​​​​​​​Before the kindling is even placed under your pots, he’ll sweep it away along with both the raw and cooked meat. 10 ​​​​​​​The Supermights ly will rejoice when they see vengeance carried out; they’ll bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked. 11 ​​​​​​​Then observers will say, “Yes indeed, the Supermights ly are rewarded! Yes indeed, there is a Supermights who judges in the Earth !”

Psalms 59

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the al-tashcheth style; a prayer of David, written when Saul sent men to surround his house and murder him. Deliver me from my enemies, my Supermights ! Protect me from those who attack me! 2 ​​​​​​​Deliver me from evildoers! Rescue me from violent men! 3 ​​​​​​​For look, they wait to ambush me; powerful men stalk me, but not because I’ve rebelled or sinned, O Lifegiver. 4 ​​​​​​​Though I’ve done nothing wrong, they are anxious to attack. Spring into action and help me! Take notice of me! 5 ​​​​​​​You, O Lifegiver Supermights , the invincible warrior, the Supermights of Israel, rouse yourself and punish all the nationalities! Have no mercy on any treacherous evildoers! (Pause) 6 ​​​​​​​They return in the evening; they growl like a dog and prowl around outside the city. 7 ​​​​​​​Look, they hurl insults at me and openly threaten to kill me, for they say, “Who hears?” 8 ​​​​​​​But you, O Lifegiver, laugh in disgust at them; you taunt all the nationalities. 9 ​​​​​​​You are my source of strength! I’ll wait for you! For Supermights is my refuge. 10 ​​​​​​​The Supermights who loves me will help me; Supermights will enable me to triumph over my enemies. 11 ​​​​​​​Do not strike them dead suddenly, because then my people might forget the lesson. Use your power to make them homeless vagabonds and then bring them down, O Lord who shields us! 12 ​​​​​​​They speak sinful words. So let them be trapped by their own pride and by the curses and lies they speak! 13 ​​​​​​​Angrily wipe them out! Wipe them out so they vanish! Let them know that Supermights rules in Jacob and to the ends of the Earth ! (Pause) 14 ​​​​​​​They return in the evening; they growl like a dog and prowl around outside the city. 15 ​​​​​​​They wander around looking for something to eat; they refuse to sleep until they are full. 16 ​​​​​​​As for me, I’ll sing about your strength; I’ll praise your loyal love in the morning. For you are my refuge and my place of shelter when I face trouble. 17 ​​​​​​​You are my source of strength! I’ll sing praises to you! For Supermights is my refuge, the Supermights who loves me.

Psalms 60

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the shushan-eduth style; a prayer of David written to instruct others. It was written when he fought against Aram Naharaim and Aram-Zobah. That was when Joab turned back and struck down 12,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. O Supermights , you have rejected us. You suddenly turned on us in your anger. Please restore us! 2 ​​​​​​​You made the Earth quake; you split it open. Repair its breaches, for it is ready to fall. 3 ​​​​​​​You have made your people experience hard times; you have made us drink intoxicating wine. 4 ​​​​​​​You have given your loyal followers a rallying flag, so that they might seek safety from the bow. (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​Deliver by your power and answer me, so that the ones you love may be safe. 6 ​​​​​​​Supermights has spoken in his sanctuary: “I’ll triumph! I’ll parcel out Shechem; the Valley of Succoth I’ll measure off. 7 ​​​​​​​Gilead belongs to me, as does Manasseh! Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my royal scepter. 8 ​​​​​​​Moab is my washbasin. I’ll make Edom serve me. I’ll shout in triumph over Philistia.” 9 ​​​​​​​Who will lead me into the fortified city? Who will bring me to Edom? 10 ​​​​​​​Have you not rejected us, O Supermights ? O Supermights , you do not go into battle with our armies. 11 ​​​​​​​Give us help against the enemy, for any help men might offer is futile. 12 ​​​​​​​By Supermights ’s power we’ll conquer; he’ll trample down our enemies.

Psalms 61

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; to be played on a stringed instrument; written by David. O Supermights , hear my cry for help! Pay attention to my prayer! 2 ​​​​​​​From the most remote place on Earth I call out to you in my despair. Lead me up to an inaccessible rocky summit! 3 ​​​​​​​Indeed, you are my shelter, a strong tower that protects me from the enemy. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll be a permanent guest in your home; I’ll find shelter in the protection of your wings. (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​For you, O Supermights , hear my vows; you grant me the reward that belongs to your loyal followers. 6 ​​​​​​​Give the king long life! Make his lifetime span several generations! 7 ​​​​​​​May he reign forever before Supermights ! Decree that your loyal love and faithfulness should protect him. 8 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll sing praises to your name continually, as I fulfill my vows day after day.

Psalms 62

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, Jeduthun; a psalm of David. For Supermights alone I patiently wait; he is the one who delivers me. 2 ​​​​​​​He alone is my protector and deliverer. He is my refuge; I’ll not be upended. 3 ​​​​​​​How long will you threaten a man? All of you are murderers, as dangerous as a leaning wall or an unstable fence. 4 ​​​​​​​They spend all their time planning how to bring him down. They love to use deceit; they pronounce blessings with their mouths, but inwardly they utter curses. (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​Patiently wait for Supermights alone, my soul! For he is the one who gives me confidence. 6 ​​​​​​​He alone is my protector and deliverer. He is my refuge; I’ll not be upended. 7 ​​​​​​​Supermights delivers me and exalts me; Supermights is my strong protector and my shelter. 8 ​​​​​​​Trust in him at all times, you people! Pour out your hearts before him! Supermights is our shelter! (Pause) 9 ​​​​​​​Men are nothing but a mere breath; human beings are unreliable. When they are weighed in the scales, all of them together are lighter than air. 10 ​​​​​​​Do not trust in what you can gain by oppression! Do not put false confidence in what you can gain by robbery! If wealth increases, do not become attached to it! 11 ​​​​​​​Supermights has declared one principle; two principles I’ve heard: Supermights is strong, 12 ​​​​​​​and you, O Lord, demonstrate loyal love. For you repay men for what they do.

Psalms 63

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David, written when he was in the Judean desert. O Supermights , you are my Supermights ! I long for you! My soul thirsts for you, my flesh yearns for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. 2 ​​​​​​​Yes, in the sanctuary I’ve seen you, and witnessed your power and splendor. 3 ​​​​​​​Because experiencing your loyal love is better than life itself, my lips will praise you. 4 ​​​​​​​For this reason I’ll praise you while I live; in your name I’ll lift up my hands. 5 ​​​​​​​As if with choice meat you satisfy my soul. My mouth joyfully praises you, 6 ​​​​​​​whenever I remember you on my bed, and think about you during the nighttime hours. 7 ​​​​​​​For you are my deliverer; under your wings I rejoice. 8 ​​​​​​​My soul pursues you; your right hand upholds me. 9 ​​​​​​​Enemies seek to destroy my life, but they’ll descend into the depths of the Earth . 10 ​​​​​​​Each one will be handed over to the sword; their corpses will be eaten by jackals. 11 ​​​​​​​But the king will rejoice in Supermights ; everyone who takes oaths in his name will boast, for the mouths of those who speak lies will be shut up.

Psalms 64

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a psalm of David. Listen to me, O Supermights , as I offer my lament! Protect my life from the enemy’s terrifying attacks. 2 ​​​​​​​Hide me from the plots of bad men, from the crowd of evildoers. 3 ​​​​​​​They sharpen their tongues like a sword; they aim their arrow, a slanderous charge, 4 ​​​​​​​in order to shoot down the innocent in secluded places. They shoot at him suddenly and are unafraid of retaliation. 5 ​​​​​​​They encourage one another to carry out their bad deed. They plan how to hide snares, and boast, “Who will see them?” 6 ​​​​​​​They devise unjust schemes; they disguise a well-conceived plot. Man’s inner thoughts cannot be discovered. 7 ​​​​​​​But Supermights will shoot at them; suddenly they’ll be wounded by an arrow. 8 ​​​​​​​Their slander will bring about their demise. All who see them will shudder, 9 ​​​​​​​and all people will fear. They’ll proclaim what Supermights has done, and reflect on his deeds. 10 ​​​​​​​The Supermights ly will rejoice in Lifegiver and take shelter in him. All the morally upright will boast.

Psalms 65

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a psalm of David, a song. Praise awaits you, O Supermights , in Zion. Vows made to you are fulfilled. 2 ​​​​​​​You hear prayers; all people approach you. 3 ​​​​​​​Our record of sins overwhelms me, but you forgive our acts of rebellion. 4 ​​​​​​​How blessed is the one whom you choose, and allow to live in your palace courts. May we be satisfied with the good things of your house – your sacred palace. 5 ​​​​​​​You answer our prayers by performing awesome acts of deliverance, O Supermights , our savior. All the ends of the Earth trust in you, as well as those living across the wide seas. 6 ​​​​​​​You created the mountains by your power, and demonstrated your strength. 7 ​​​​​​​You calm the raging seas and their roaring waves, as well as the commotion made by the nationalities. 8 ​​​​​​​Even those living in the most remote areas are awestruck by your acts; you cause those living in the east and west to praise you. 9 ​​​​​​​You visit the Earth and give it rain; you make it rich and fertile with overflowing streams full of water. You provide grain for them, for you prepare the Earth to yield its crops. 10 ​​​​​​​You saturate its furrows, and soak its plowed ground. With rain showers you soften its soil, and make its crops grow. 11 ​​​​​​​You crown the year with your good blessings, and you leave abundance in your wake. 12 ​​​​​​​The pastures in the desert glisten with moisture, and the hills are clothed with joy. 13 ​​​​​​​The meadows are clothed with sheep, and the valleys are covered with grain. They shout joyfully, yes, they sing.

Psalms 66

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a song, a psalm. Shout out praise to Supermights , all the Earth ! 2 ​​​​​​​Sing praises about the majesty of his reputation! Give him the honor he deserves! 3 ​​​​​​​Say to Supermights : “How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power your enemies cower in fear before you. 4 ​​​​​​​All the Earth worships you and sings praises to you! They sing praises to your name!” (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​Come and witness Supermights ’s exploits! His acts on behalf of people are awesome! 6 ​​​​​​​He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. Let us rejoice in him there! 7 ​​​​​​​He rules by his power forever; he watches the nationalities. Stubborn rebels should not exalt themselves. (Pause) 8 ​​​​​​​Praise our Supermights , you nationalities! Loudly proclaim his praise! 9 ​​​​​​​He preserves our lives and does not allow our feet to slip. 10 ​​​​​​​For you, O Supermights , tested us; you purified us like refined silver. 11 ​​​​​​​You led us into a trap; you caused us to suffer. 12 ​​​​​​​You allowed men to ride over our heads; we passed through fire and water, but you brought us out into a wide open place. 13 ​​​​​​​I’ll enter your temple with incinerated sacrifices; I’ll fulfill the vows I made to you, 14 ​​​​​​​which my lips uttered and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll offer up to you fattened animals as incinerated sacrifices, along with the smell of sacrificial rams. I’ll offer cattle and goats. (Pause) 16 ​​​​​​​Come! Listen, all you who are loyal to Supermights ! I’ll declare what he has done for me. 17 ​​​​​​​I cried out to him for help and praised him with my tongue. 18 ​​​​​​​If I had harbored sin in my heart, Lifegiver would not have listened. 19 ​​​​​​​However, Supermights heard; he listened to my prayer. 20 ​​​​​​​Supermights deserves praise, for he did not reject my prayer or abandon his love for me!

Psalms 67

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; to be accompanied by stringed instruments; a psalm, a song. May Supermights show us his favor and bless us! May he smile on us! (Pause) 2 ​​​​​​​Then those living on Earth will know what you are like; all nationalities will know how you deliver your people. 3 ​​​​​​​Let the nationalities thank you, O Supermights ! Let all the nationalities thank you! 4 ​​​​​​​Let foreigners rejoice and celebrate! For you execute justice among the nationalities, and govern the people living on Earth . (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​Let the nationalities thank you, O Supermights ! Let all the nationalities thank you! 6 ​​​​​​​The Earth yields its crops. May Supermights , our Supermights , bless us! 7 ​​​​​​​May Supermights bless us! Then all the ends of the Earth will give him the honor he deserves.

Psalms 68

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; by David, a psalm, a song. Supermights springs into action! His enemies scatter; his adversaries run from him. 2 ​​​​​​​As smoke is driven away by the wind, so you drive them away. As wax melts before fire, so the wicked are destroyed before Supermights. 3 ​​​​​​​But the Supermights ly are happy; they rejoice before Supermights and are overcome with joy. 4 ​​​​​​​Sing to Supermights ! Sing praises to his name! Exalt the one who rides on the clouds! For Lifegiver is his name! Rejoice before him! 5 ​​​​​​​He is a father to the fatherless and an advocate for widows. Supermights rules from his sacred palace. 6 ​​​​​​​Supermights settles those who have been deserted in their own homes; he frees prisoners and grants them prosperity. But sinful rebels live in the desert. 7 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , when you lead your people into battle, when you march through the desert, (Pause) 8 ​​​​​​​the Earth shakes, yes, the skies pour down rain before Supermights , the Supermights of Sinai, before Supermights , the Supermights of Israel. 9 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , you cause abundant showers to fall on your Designated people. When they are tired, you sustain them, 10 ​​​​​​​for you live among them. You sustain the oppressed with your good blessings, O Supermights. 11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver speaks; many, many women spread the good news. 12 ​​​​​​​Kings leading armies run away – they run away! The lovely lady of the house divides up the loot. 13 ​​​​​​​When you lie down among the sheepfolds, the wings of the dove are covered with silver and with glittering gold. 14 ​​​​​​​When the supreme judge scatters kings, let it snow on Zalmon! 15 ​​​​​​​The mountain of Bashan is a towering mountain; the mountain of Bashan is a mountain with many peaks. 16 ​​​​​​​Why do you look with envy, O mountains with many peaks, at the mountain where self-sufficient one has decided to live? Indeed Lifegiver will live there permanently! 17 ​​​​​​​Supermights has countless chariots; they number in the thousands. Lifegiver comes from Sinai in sacred splendor. 18 ​​​​​​​You ascend on high, you have taken many captives. You receive tribute from men, including even sinful rebels. Indeed Lifegiver the Supermights lives there! 19 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver deserves praise! Day after day he carries our burden, the Supermights who delivers us. (Pause) 20 ​​​​​​​Our Supermights is a Supermights who delivers; Lifegiver, the supreme Lord, can rescue from death. 21 ​​​​​​​Indeed Supermights strikes the heads of his enemies, the hairy foreheads of those who persist in rebellion. 22 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “I’ll retrieve them from Bashan, I’ll bring them back from the depths of the sea, 23 ​​​​​​​so that your feet may stomp in their blood, and your dogs may eat their portion of the enemies’ corpses.” 24 ​​​​​​​They see your processions, O Supermights – the processions of my Supermights , my king, who marches along in sacred splendor. 25 ​​​​​​​Singers walk in front; musicians follow playing their stringed instruments, in the midst of young women playing tambourines. 26 ​​​​​​​In your large assemblies praise Supermights , Lifegiver, in the assemblies of Israel! 27 ​​​​​​​There is little Benjamin, their ruler, and the princes of Judah in their robes, along with the princes of Zebulun and the princes of Naphtali. 28 ​​​​​​​Supermights has decreed that you’ll be powerful. O Supermights , you who have acted on our behalf, demonstrate your power, 29 ​​​​​​​as you come out of your temple in Jerusalem! Kings bring tribute to you. 30 ​​​​​​​Sound your battle cry against the wild beast of the reeds, and the nationalities that assemble like a herd of calves led by bulls! They humble themselves and offer gold and silver as tribute. Supermights scatters the nationalities that like to do battle. 31 ​​​​​​​They come with red cloth from Egypt, Ethiopia voluntarily offers tribute to Supermights. 32 ​​​​​​​O reigns of the Earth , sing to Supermights ! Sing praises to Lifegiver, (Pause) 33 ​​​​​​​to the one who rides through the sky from ancient times! Look! He thunders loudly. 34 ​​​​​​​Acknowledge Supermights ’s power, his sovereignty over Israel, and the power he reveals in the skies! 35 ​​​​​​​You are awe-inspiring, O Supermights , as you emerge from your sacred temple! It is the Supermights of Israel who gives the people power and strength. Supermights deserves praise!

Psalms 69

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the tune of “Lilies;” by David. Deliver me, O Supermights , for the water has reached my neck. 2 ​​​​​​​I sink into the deep mire where there is no solid ground; I’m in deep water, and the current overpowers me. 3 ​​​​​​​I’m exhausted from shouting for help; my throat is sore; my eyes grow tired of looking for my Supermights. 4 ​​​​​​​Those who hate me without cause are more numerous than the hairs of my head. Those who want to destroy me, my enemies for no reason, outnumber me. They make me repay what I did not steal! 5 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , you are aware of my foolish sins; my guilt is not hidden from you.

6 ​​​​​​​Let none who rely on you be disgraced because of me, O supreme Lifegiver and king! Let none who seek you be ashamed because of me, O Supermights of Israel! 7 ​​​​​​​For I suffer humiliation for your sake and am thoroughly disgraced. 8 ​​​​​​​My own brothers treat me like a stranger; they act as if I were a foreigner. 9 ​​​​​​​Certainly zeal for your house consumes me; I endure the insults of those who insult you. 10 ​​​​​​​I weep and refrain from eating food, which causes others to insult me. 11 ​​​​​​​I wear sackcloth and they ridicule me. 12 ​​​​​​​Those who sit at the city gate gossip about me; drunkards mock me in their songs. 13 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, may you hear my prayer and be favorably disposed to me! O Supermights , because of your great loyal love, answer me with your faithful deliverance! 14 ​​​​​​​Rescue me from the mud! Don’t let me sink! Deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep water! 15 ​​​​​​​Don’t let the current overpower me! Don’t let the deep swallow me up! Don’t let the pit devour me! 16 ​​​​​​​Answer me, O Lifegiver, for your loyal love is good! Because of your great compassion, turn toward me! 17 ​​​​​​​Do not ignore your servant, for I’m in trouble! Answer me right away! 18 ​​​​​​​Come near me and repurchase me! Because of my enemies, rescue me! 19 ​​​​​​​You know how I’m insulted, humiliated and disgraced; you can see all my enemies. 20 ​​​​​​​Their insults are painful and make me lose heart; I look for sympathy, but receive none, for comforters, but find none. 21 ​​​​​​​They put bitter poison into my food, and to quench my thirst they give me vinegar to drink. 22 ​​​​​​​May their dining table become a trap before them! May it be a snare for that group of friends! 23 ​​​​​​​May their eyes be blinded! Make them shake violently! 24 ​​​​​​​Pour out your judgment on them! May your raging anger overtake them! 25 ​​​​​​​May their camp become desolate, their tents uninhabited! 26 ​​​​​​​For they harass the one whom you discipline; they spread the news about the suffering of those whom you punish. 27 ​​​​​​​Hold them accountable for all their sins! Do not vindicate them! 28 ​​​​​​​May their names be deleted from the scroll of the living! Do not let their names be listed with the Supermights ly! 29 ​​​​​​​I’m oppressed and suffering! O Supermights , deliver and protect me! 30 ​​​​​​​I’ll sing praises to Supermights ’s name! I’ll magnify him as I give him thanks! 31 ​​​​​​​That will please Lifegiver more than an ox or a bull with horns and hooves. 32 ​​​​​​​The oppressed look on – let them rejoice! You who seek Supermights , may you be encouraged! 33 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver listens to the needy; he does not despise his captive people. 34 ​​​​​​​Let the Celestial Bodies and the Earth praise him, along with the seas and everything that swims in them! 35 ​​​​​​​For Supermights will deliver Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah, and his people will again live in them and possess Zion. 36 ​​​​​​​The descendants of his servants will inherit it, and those who are loyal to him will live in it.

Psalms 70

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; by David; written to get Supermights ’s attention. O Supermights , please be willing to rescue me! O Lifegiver, hurry and help me! 2 ​​​​​​​May those who are trying to take my life be embarrassed and ashamed! May those who want to harm me be turned back and ashamed! 3 ​​​​​​​May those who say, “Aha! Aha!” be driven back and disgraced! 4 ​​​​​​​May all those who seek you be happy and rejoice in you! May those who love to experience your deliverance say continually, “May Supermights be praised!” 5 ​​​​​​​I’m oppressed and needy! O Supermights , hurry to me! You are my helper and my deliverer! O Lifegiver, do not delay!

Psalms 71

1 ​​​​​​​In you, O Lifegiver, I’ve taken shelter! Never let me be humiliated! 2 ​​​​​​​Vindicate me by rescuing me! Listen to me! Deliver me! 3 ​​​​​​​Be my protector and refuge, a stronghold where I can be safe! For you are my high ridge and my stronghold. 4 ​​​​​​​My Supermights , rescue me from the power of the wicked, from the hand of the cruel oppressor! 5 ​​​​​​​For you give me confidence, O Lord; O Lifegiver, I’ve trusted in you since I was young. 6 ​​​​​​​I’ve leaned on you since birth; you pulled me from my mother’s womb. I praise you continually. 7 ​​​​​​​Many are appalled when they see me, but you are my secure shelter. 8 ​​​​​​​I praise you constantly and speak of your splendor all day long. 9 ​​​​​​​Do not reject me in my old age! When my strength fails, do not abandon me! 10 ​​​​​​​For my enemies talk about me; those waiting for a chance to kill me plot my demise. 11 ​​​​​​​They say, “Supermights has abandoned him. Run and seize him, for there is no one who will rescue him!” 12 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , do not remain far away from me! My Supermights , hurry and help me! 13 ​​​​​​​May my accusers be humiliated and defeated! May those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace! 14 ​​​​​​​As for me, I’ll wait continually, and will continue to praise you. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll tell about your justice, and all day long proclaim your salvation, though I cannot fathom its full extent. 16 ​​​​​​​I’ll come and tell about the mighty acts of the supreme Lifegiver. I’ll proclaim your justice – yours alone. 17 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , you have taught me since I was young, and I’m still declaring your amazing deeds. 18 ​​​​​​​Even when I’m old and gray, O Supermights , do not abandon me, until I tell the next generation about your strength, and those coming after me about your power. 19 ​​​​​​​Your justice, O Supermights , extends to the skies above; you have done great things. O Supermights , who can compare to you? 20 ​​​​​​​Though you have allowed me to experience much trouble and distress, revive me once again! Bring me up once again from the depths of the Earth ! 21 ​​​​​​​Raise me to a position of great honor! Turn and comfort me! 22 ​​​​​​​I’ll express my thanks to you with a stringed instrument, praising your faithfulness, O my Supermights ! I’ll sing praises to you accompanied by a harp, O Holy One of Israel! 23 ​​​​​​​My lips will shout for joy! Yes, I’ll sing your praises! I’ll praise you when you rescue me! 24 ​​​​​​​All day long my tongue will also tell about your justice, for those who want to harm me will be embarrassed and ashamed.

Psalms 72

1 ​​​​​​​For Solomon. O Supermights , grant the king the ability to make just decisions! Grant the king’s son the ability to make fair decisions! 2 ​​​​​​​Then he’ll judge your people fairly, and your oppressed ones equitably. 3 ​​​​​​​The mountains will bring news of peace to the people, and the hills will announce justice. 4 ​​​​​​​He will defend the oppressed among the people; he’ll deliver the children of the poor and crush the oppressor. 5 ​​​​​​​People will fear you as long as the sun and moon remain in the sky, for generation after generation. 6 ​​​​​​​He will descend like rain on the mown grass, like showers that drench the Earth . 7 ​​​​​​​During his days the Supermights ly will flourish; peace will prevail as long as the moon remains in the sky. 8 ​​​​​​​May he rule from sea to sea, and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the Earth ! 9 ​​​​​​​Before him the coastlands will bow down, and his enemies will lick the dust. 10 ​​​​​​​The kings of Tarshish and the coastlands will offer gifts; the kings of Sheba and Seba will bring tribute. 11 ​​​​​​​All kings will bow down to him; all nationalities will serve him. 12 ​​​​​​​For he’ll rescue the needy when they cry out for help, and the oppressed who have no defender. 13 ​​​​​​​He will take pity on the poor and needy; the lives of the needy he’ll save. 14 ​​​​​​​From harm and violence he’ll defend them; he’ll value their lives. 15 ​​​​​​​May he live! May they offer him gold from Sheba! May they continually pray for him! May they pronounce blessings on him all day long! 16 ​​​​​​​May there be an abundance of grain in the Earth ; on the tops of the mountains may it sway! May its fruit trees flourish like the forests of Lebanon! May its crops be as abundant as the grass of the Earth ! 17 ​​​​​​​May his fame endure! May his dynasty last as long as the sun remains in the sky! May they use his name when they formulate their blessings! May all nationalities consider him to be favored by Supermights ! 18 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver the Supermights , the Supermights of Israel, deserves praise! He alone accomplishes amazing things! 19 ​​​​​​​His glorious name deserves praise forevermore! May his majestic splendor fill the whole Earth ! We agree! We agree! 20 ​​​​​​​This collection of the prayers of David son of Jesse ends here.

Psalms 73

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm by Asaph. Certainly Supermights is good to Israel, and to those whose motives are pure! 2 ​​​​​​​But as for me, my feet almost slipped; my feet almost slid out from under me. 3 ​​​​​​​For I envied those who are proud, as I observed the prosperity of the wicked. 4 ​​​​​​​For they suffer no pain; their bodies are strong and well-fed. 5 ​​​​​​​They are immune to the trouble common to men; they do not suffer as other men do. 6 ​​​​​​​Arrogance is their necklace, and violence their clothing. 7 ​​​​​​​Their prosperity causes them to do wrong; their thoughts are sinful. 8 ​​​​​​​They mock and say bad things; they proudly threaten violence. 9 ​​​​​​​They speak as if they rule in Celestial Bodies, and lay claim to the Earth . 10 ​​​​​​​Therefore they have more than enough food to eat, and even suck up the water of the sea. 11 ​​​​​​​They say, “How does Supermights know what we do? Is the supreme one aware of what goes on?” 12 ​​​​​​​Take a good look! This is what the wicked are like, those who always have it so easy and get richer and richer. 13 ​​​​​​​I concluded, “Surely in vain I’ve kept my motives pure and maintained a pure lifestyle. 14 ​​​​​​​I suffer all day long, and am punished every morning.” 15 ​​​​​​​If I had publicized these thoughts, I would have betrayed your loyal followers. 16 ​​​​​​​When I tried to make sense of this, it was troubling to me. 17 ​​​​​​​Then I entered the precincts of Supermights ’s temple, and understood the destiny of the wicked. 18 ​​​​​​​Surely you put them in slippery places; you bring them down to ruin. 19 ​​​​​​​How desolate they become in a mere moment! Terrifying judgments make their demise complete! 20 ​​​​​​​They are like a dream after one wakes up. O Lord, when you awake you’ll despise them. 21 ​​​​​​​Yes, my spirit was bitter, and my insides felt sharp pain. 22 ​​​​​​​I was ignorant and lacked insight; I was as senseless as an animal before you. 23 ​​​​​​​But I’m continually with you; you hold my right hand. 24 ​​​​​​​You guide me by your wise advice, and then you’ll lead me to a position of honor. 25 ​​​​​​​Whom do I’ve in Heaven but you? I desire no one but you on Earth . 26 ​​​​​​​My flesh and my heart may grow weak, but Supermights always protects my heart and gives me stability. 27 ​​​​​​​Yes, look! Those far from you die; you destroy everyone who is unfaithful to you. 28 ​​​​​​​But as for me, Supermights ’s presence is all I need. I’ve made the supreme Lifegiver my shelter, as I declare all the things you have done.

Psalms 74

1 ​​​​​​​A well-written song by Asaph. Why, O Supermights , have you permanently rejected us? Why does your anger burn against the sheep of your pasture? 2 ​​​​​​​Remember your people whom you acquired in ancient times, whom you rescued so they could be your very own nation, as well as Mount Zion, where you dwell! 3 ​​​​​​​Hurry and look at the permanent ruins, and all the damage the enemy has done to the temple! 4 ​​​​​​​Your enemies roar in the middle of your sanctuary; they set up their battle flags. 5 ​​​​​​​They invade like lumberjacks swinging their axes in a thick forest. 6 ​​​​​​​And now they are tearing down all its engravings with axes and crowbars. 7 ​​​​​​​They set your sanctuary on fire; they desecrate your dwelling place by knocking it to the ground. 8 ​​​​​​​They say to themselves, “We’ll oppress all of them.” They burn down all the places where people worship Supermights in the land. 9 ​​​​​​​We do not see any signs of Supermights ’s presence; there are no longer any prophets and we’ve no one to tell us how long this will last. 10 ​​​​​​​How long, O Supermights , will the adversary hurl insults? Will the enemy blaspheme your name forever? 11 ​​​​​​​Why do you remain inactive? Intervene and destroy him! 12 ​​​​​​​But Supermights has been my king from ancient times, performing acts of deliverance on the Earth . 13 ​​​​​​​You destroyed the sea by your strength; you shattered the heads of the sea monster in the water. 14 ​​​​​​​You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you fed him to the people who live along the coast. 15 ​​​​​​​You broke open the spring and the stream; you dried up perpetually flowing rivers. 16 ​​​​​​​You established the cycle of day and night; you put the moon and sun in place. 17 ​​​​​​​You set up all the boundaries of the Earth ; you created the cycle of summer and winter. 18 ​​​​​​​Remember how the enemy hurls insults, O Lifegiver, and how a foolish nation blasphemes your name! 19 ​​​​​​​Do not hand the life of your dove over to a wild animal! Do not continue to disregard the lives of your oppressed people! 20 ​​​​​​​Remember your agreement promises, for the dark regions of the Earth are full of places where violence rules. 21 ​​​​​​​Do not let the afflicted be turned back in shame! Let the oppressed and poor praise your name! 22 ​​​​​​​Rise up, O Supermights ! Defend your honor! Remember how fools insult you all day long! 23 ​​​​​​​Do not disregard what your enemies say, or the unceasing shouts of those who defy you.

Psalms 75

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the al-tashcheth style; a psalm of Asaph; a song. We give thanks to you, O Supermights ! We give thanks! You reveal your presence; people tell about your amazing deeds. 2 ​​​​​​​Supermights says, “At the appointed times, I judge fairly. 3 ​​​​​​​When the Earth and all its inhabitants dissolve in fear, I make its pillars secure.” (Pause) 4 I say to the proud, “Do not be proud,” and to the wicked, “Do not be so confident of victory! 5 ​​​​​​​Do not be so certain you have won! Do not speak with your head held so high! 6 ​​​​​​​For victory does not come from the east or west, or from the desert. 7 ​​​​​​​For Supermights is the judge! He brings one down and exalts another. 8 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver holds in his hand a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices, and pours it out. Surely all the wicked of the Earth will slurp it up and drink it to its very last drop.” 9 ​​​​​​​As for me, I’ll continually tell what you have done; I’ll sing praises to the Supermights of Jacob! 10 ​​​​​​​Supermights says, “I’ll bring down all the power of the wicked; the Supermights ly will be victorious.”

Psalms 76

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; to be accompanied by stringed instruments; a psalm of Asaph, a song. Supermights has revealed himself in Judah; in Israel his reputation is great. 2 ​​​​​​​He lives in Salem; he dwells in Zion. 3 ​​​​​​​There he shattered the arrows, the shield, the sword, and the rest of the weapons of war. (Pause) 4 ​​​​​​​You shine brightly and reveal your majesty, as you descend from the hills where you killed your prey. 5 ​​​​​​​The bravehearted were plundered; they “fell asleep.” All the warriors were helpless. 6 ​​​​​​​At the sound of your battle cry, O Supermights of Jacob, both rider and horse “fell asleep.” 7 ​​​​​​​You are awesome! Yes, you! Who can withstand your intense anger? 8 ​​​​​​​From Heaven you announced what their punishment would be. The Earth was afraid and silent 9 ​​​​​​​when Supermights arose to execute judgment, and to deliver all the oppressed of the Earth . (Pause) 10 ​​​​​​​Certainly your angry judgment upon men will bring you praise; you reveal your anger in full measure. 11 ​​​​​​​Make vows to Lifegiver your deity and repay them! Let all those who surround him bring tribute to the awesome one! 12 ​​​​​​​He humbles princes; the kings of the Earth regard him as awesome.

Psalms 77

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, Jeduthun; a psalm of Asaph. I’ll cry out to Supermights and call for help! I’ll cry out to Supermights and he’ll pay attention to me. 2 ​​​​​​​In my time of trouble I sought Lifegiver. I kept my hand raised in prayer throughout the night. I refused to be comforted. 3 ​​​​​​​I said, “I’ll remember Supermights while I groan; I’ll think about him while my strength leaves me.” (Pause) 4 ​​​​​​​You held my eyelids open; I was troubled and could not speak. 5 ​​​​​​​I thought about the days of old, about ancient times. 6 ​​​​​​​I said, “During the night I’ll remember the song I once sang; I’ll think very carefully.” I tried to make sense of what was happening. 7 ​​​​​​​I asked, “Will Lifegiver reject me forever? Will he never again show me his favor? 8 ​​​​​​​Has his loyal love disappeared forever? Has his promise failed forever? 9 ​​​​​​​Has Supermights forgotten to be merciful? Has his anger stifled his compassion?” 10 ​​​​​​​Then I said, “I’m sickened by the thought that the supreme One might become inactive. 11 ​​​​​​​I’ll remember the works of Lifegiver. Yes, I’ll remember the amazing things you did long ago! 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll think about all you have done; I’ll reflect upon your deeds!” 13 O Supermights , your deeds are extraordinary! What Supermights can compare to our great Supermights ? 14 ​​​​​​​You are the Supermights who does amazing things; you have revealed your strength among the nationalities. 15 ​​​​​​​You delivered your people by your strength – the children of Jacob and Joseph. (Pause) 16 ​​​​​​​The waters saw you, O Supermights , the waters saw you and trembled. Yes, the depths of the sea shook with fear. 17 ​​​​​​​The clouds poured down rain; the skies thundered. Yes, your arrows flashed about. 18 ​​​​​​​Your thunderous voice was heard in the wind; the lightning bolts lit up the world; the Earth trembled and shook. 19 ​​​​​​​You walked through the sea; you passed through the surging waters, but left no footprints. 20 ​​​​​​​You led your people like a flock of sheep, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalms 78

1 ​​​​​​​A well-written song by Asaph. Pay attention, my people, to my instruction! Listen to the words I speak! 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll sing a song that imparts wisdom; I’ll make insightful observations about the past. 3 ​​​​​​​What we’ve heard and learned – that which our ancestors have told us – 4 ​​​​​​​we’ll not hide from their descendants. We’ll tell the next generation about Lifegiver’s praiseworthy acts, about his strength and the amazing things he has done. 5 ​​​​​​​He established a rule in Jacob; he set up a law in Israel. He instructed our ancestors to make his deeds known to their descendants, 6 ​​​​​​​so that the next generation, children yet to be born, might know about them. They’ll grow up and tell their descendants about them. 7 ​​​​​​​Then they’ll place their confidence in Supermights. They’ll not forget the works of Supermights , and they’ll obey his instructions. 8 ​​​​​​​Then they’ll not be like their ancestors, who were a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that was not committed and faithful to Supermights. 9 ​​​​​​​The Ephraimites were armed with bows, but they retreated in the day of battle. 10 ​​​​​​​They did not keep their agreement with Supermights , and they refused to obey his law. 11 ​​​​​​​They forgot what he had done, the amazing things he had shown them. 12 ​​​​​​​He did amazing things in the sight of their ancestors, in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. 13 ​​​​​​​He divided the sea and led them across it; he made the water stand in a heap. 14 ​​​​​​​He led them with a cloud by day, and with the light of a fire all night long. 15 ​​​​​​​He broke open rocks in the desert, and gave them enough water to fill the depths of the sea. 16 ​​​​​​​He caused streams to flow from the rock, and made the water flow like rivers. 17 ​​​​​​​Yet they continued to sin against him, and rebelled against the supreme One in the desert. 18 ​​​​​​​They’llfully challenged Supermights by asking for food to satisfy their appetite. 19 ​​​​​​​They insulted Supermights , saying, “Is Supermights really able to give us food in the desert? 20 ​​​​​​​Yes, he struck a rock and water flowed out, streams gushed forth. But can he also give us food? Will he provide meat for his people?” 21 ​​​​​​​When Lifegiver heard this, he was furious. A fire broke out against Jacob, and his anger flared up against Israel, 22 ​​​​​​​because they did not have faith in Supermights , and did not trust his ability to deliver them. 23 ​​​​​​​He gave a instruct to the clouds above, and opened the doors in the sky. 24 ​​​​​​​He rained down manna for them to eat; he gave them the Heavenly cereal. 25 Humanity ate messengeric food. He supplied them more than enough to eat. 26 ​​​​​​​He brought the east wind through the sky, and by his strength led forth the south wind. 27 ​​​​​​​He rained down meat on them like dust, birds as numerous as the sand on the seashores. 28 ​​​​​​​He caused them to fall right in the middle of their camp, all around their homes. 29 ​​​​​​​They ate until they were stuffed; he gave them what they desired. 30 ​​​​​​​They were not yet filled up, their food was still in their mouths, 31 ​​​​​​​when the anger of Supermights flared up against them. He killed some of the strongest of them; he brought the young men of Israel to their knees. 32 ​​​​​​​Despite all this, they continued to sin, and did not trust him to do amazing things. 33 ​​​​​​​So he caused them to die unsatisfied and filled with terror. 34 ​​​​​​​When he struck them down, they sought his favor; they turned back and longed for Supermights. 35 ​​​​​​​They remembered that Supermights was their protector, and that the supreme Supermights was their deliverer. 36 ​​​​​​​But they deceived him with their words, and lied to him. 37 ​​​​​​​They were not really committed to him, and they were unfaithful to his covenant. 38 ​​​​​​​Yet he is compassionate. He forgives sin and does not destroy. He often holds back his anger, and does not stir up his fury. 39 ​​​​​​​He remembered that they were made of flesh, and were like a wind that blows past and does not return. 40 ​​​​​​​How often they rebelled against him in the desert, and insulted him in the desert! 41 ​​​​​​​They again challenged Supermights , and offended the Holy One of Israel. 42 ​​​​​​​They did not remember what he had done, how he delivered them from the enemy, 43 ​​​​​​​when he performed his awesome deeds in Egypt, and his acts of judgment in the region of Zoan. 44 ​​​​​​​He turned their rivers into blood, and they could not drink from their streams. 45 ​​​​​​​He sent swarms of biting insects against them, as well as frogs that overran their land. 46 ​​​​​​​He gave their crops to the grasshopper, the fruit of their labor to the locust. 47 ​​​​​​​He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore-fig trees with driving rain. 48 ​​​​​​​He rained hail down on their cattle, and hurled lightning bolts down on their livestock. 49 ​​​​​​​His raging anger lashed out against them, He sent fury, rage, and trouble as messengers who bring disaster. 50 ​​​​​​​He sent his anger in full force; he did not spare them from death; he handed their lives over to destruction. 51 ​​​​​​​He struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their reproductive power in the tents of Ham. 52 ​​​​​​​Yet he brought out his people like sheep; he led them through the desert like a flock. 53 ​​​​​​​He guided them safely along, while the sea covered their enemies. 54 ​​​​​​​He brought them to the border of his sacred land, to this mountainous land which his right hand acquired. 55 ​​​​​​​He drove the nationalities out from before them; he assigned them their tribal allotments and allowed the tribes of Israel to settle down. 56 ​​​​​​​Yet they challenged and defied the supreme Supermights , and did not obey his instructions. 57 ​​​​​​​They were unfaithful and acted as treacherously as their ancestors; they were as unreliable as a malfunctioning bow. 58 ​​​​​​​They made him angry with their pagan shrines, and made him jealous with their idols. 59 ​​​​​​​Supermights heard and was angry; he completely rejected Israel. 60 ​​​​​​​He abandoned the sanctuary at Shiloh, the tent where he lived among men. 61 ​​​​​​​He allowed the symbol of his strong presence to be captured; he gave the symbol of his splendor into the hand of the enemy. 62 ​​​​​​​He delivered his people over to the sword, and was angry with his Designated nation. 63 ​​​​​​​Fire consumed their young men, and their virgins remained unmarried. 64 ​​​​​​​Their priests fell by the sword, but their widows did not weep. 65 ​​​​​​​But then Lifegiver awoke from his sleep; he was like a warrior in a drunken rage. 66 ​​​​​​​He drove his enemies back; he made them a permanent target for insults. 67 ​​​​​​​He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim. 68 ​​​​​​​He chose the tribe of Judah, and Mount Zion, which he loves. 69 ​​​​​​​He made his sanctuary as enduring as the Celestial Bodies above; as secure as the Earth , which he established permanently. 70 ​​​​​​​He chose David, his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds. 71 ​​​​​​​He took him away from following the mother sheep, and made him the shepherd of Jacob, his people, and of Israel, his Designated nation. 72 ​​​​​​​David cared for them with pure motives; he led them with skill.

Psalms 79

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of Asaph. O Supermights , foreigners have invaded your Designated land; they have polluted your sacred temple and turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins. 2 ​​​​​​​They have given the corpses of your servants to the birds of the sky; the flesh of your loyal followers to the beasts of the Earth . 3 ​​​​​​​They have made their blood flow like water all around Jerusalem, and there is no one to bury them. 4 ​​​​​​​We’ve become an object of disdain to our neighbors; those who live on our borders taunt and insult us. 5 ​​​​​​​How long will this go on, O Lifegiver? Will you stay angry forever? How long will your rage burn like fire? 6 ​​​​​​​Pour out your anger on the nationalities that do not acknowledge you, on the reigns that do not pray to you! 7 ​​​​​​​For they have devoured Jacob and destroyed his home. 8 ​​​​​​​Do not hold us accountable for the sins of earlier generations! Quickly send your compassion our way, for we are in serious trouble! 9 ​​​​​​​Help us, O Supermights , our deliverer! For the sake of your glorious reputation, rescue us! Forgive our sins for the sake of your reputation! 10 ​​​​​​​Why should the nationalities say, “Where is their Supermights ?” Before our very eyes may the shed blood of your servants be avenged among the nationalities! 11 ​​​​​​​Listen to the painful cries of the prisoners! Use your great strength to set free those condemned to die! 12 ​​​​​​​Pay back our neighbors in full! May they be insulted the same way they insulted you, O Lord! 13 ​​​​​​​Then we, your people, the sheep of your pasture, will continually thank you. We’ll tell coming generations of your praiseworthy acts.

Psalms 80

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the shushan-eduth style; a psalm of Asaph. O shepherd of Israel, pay attention, you who lead Joseph like a flock of sheep! You who sit enthroned above the winged messenger s, reveal your splendor! 2 ​​​​​​​In the sight of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh reveal your power! Come and deliver us! 3 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , restore us! Smile on us! Then we’ll be delivered! 4 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver Supermights , invincible warrior! How long will you remain angry at your people while they pray to you? 5 ​​​​​​​You have given them tears as food; you have made them drink tears by the measure. 6 ​​​​​​​You have made our neighbors dislike us, and our enemies insult us. 7 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , invincible warrior, restore us! Smile on us! Then we’ll be delivered! 8 ​​​​​​​You uprooted a vine from Egypt; you drove out nationalities and transplanted it. 9 ​​​​​​​You cleared the ground for it; it took root, and filled the land. 10 ​​​​​​​The mountains were covered by its shadow, the highest cedars by its branches. 11 ​​​​​​​Its branches reached the Mediterranean Sea, and its shoots the Euphrates River. 12 ​​​​​​​Why did you break down its walls, so that all who pass by pluck its fruit? 13 ​​​​​​​The wild boars of the forest ruin it; the insects of the field feed on it. 14 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , invincible warrior, come back! Look down from Heaven and take notice! Take care of this vine, 15 ​​​​​​​the root your right hand planted, the shoot you made to grow! 16 ​​​​​​​It is burned and cut down. They die because you are displeased with them. 17 ​​​​​​​May you give support to the one you have Designated, to the one whom you raised up for yourself! 18 ​​​​​​​Then we’ll not turn away from you. Revive us and we’ll pray to you! 19 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver Supermights , invincible warrior, restore us! Smile on us! Then we’ll be delivered!

Psalms 81

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the gittith style; by Asaph. Shout for joy to Supermights , our source of strength! Shout out to the Supermights of Jacob! 2 ​​​​​​​Sing a song and play the tambourine, the pleasant sounding harp, and the ten-stringed instrument! 3 ​​​​​​​Sound the ram’s horn on the day of the new moon, and on the day of the full moon when our festival begins. 4 ​​​​​​​For observing the festival is a requirement for Israel; it is an ordinance given by the Supermights of Jacob. 5 ​​​​​​​He decreed it as a regulation in Joseph, when he attacked the land of Egypt. I heard a voice I did not recognize. 6 ​​​​​​​It said: “I removed the burden from his shoulder; his hands were released from holding the basket. 7 ​​​​​​​In your distress you called out and I rescued you. I answered you from a dark thundercloud. I tested you at the waters of Meribah. (Pause) 8 ​​​​​​​I said, ‘Listen, my people! I’ll warn you! O Israel, if only you would obey me! 9 ​​​​​​​There must be no other Supermights among you. You must not worship a foreign Supermights. 10 ​​​​​​​I’m Lifegiver, your deity, the one who brought you out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I’ll fill it!’ 11 ​​​​​​​But my people did not obey me; Israel did not submit to me. 12 ​​​​​​​I gave them over to their stubborn desires; they did what seemed right to them. 13 ​​​​​​​If only my people would obey me! If only Israel would keep my instructions! 14 ​​​​​​​Then I would quickly subdue their enemies, and attack their adversaries.” 15 ​​​​​​​(May those who hate Lifegiver cower in fear before him! May they be permanently humiliated!) 16 ​​​​​​​“I would feed Israel the best wheat, and would satisfy your appetite with honey from the rocky cliffs.”

Psalms 82

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of Asaph. Supermights stands in the assembly of El; in the midst of the deities he renders judgment. 2 ​​​​​​​He says, “How long will you make unjust legal decisions and show favoritism to the wicked? (Pause) 3 ​​​​​​​Defend the cause of the poor and the fatherless! Vindicate the oppressed and suffering! 4 ​​​​​​​Rescue the poor and needy! Deliver them from the power of the wicked! 5 ​​​​​​​They neither know nor understand. They stumble around in the dark, while all the foundations of the Earth crumble. 6 ​​​​​​​I thought, ‘You are Deities; all of you are sons of the Most High.’ 7 ​​​​​​​Yet you’ll die like mortals; you’ll fall like all the other rulers.” 8 ​​​​​​​Rise up, O Supermights , and execute judgment on the Earth ! For you own all the nationalities.

Psalms 83

1 ​​​​​​​A song, a psalm of Asaph. O Supermights , do not be silent! Do not ignore us! Do not be inactive, O Supermights ! 2 ​​​​​​​For look, your enemies are making a commotion; those who hate you are hostile. 3 ​​​​​​​They carefully plot against your people, and make plans to harm the ones you cherish. 4 ​​​​​​​They say, “Come on, let’s annihilate them so they are no longer a nation! Then the name of Israel will be remembered no more.” 5 ​​​​​​​Yes, they devise a unified strategy; they form an alliance against you. 6 ​​​​​​​It includes the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, 7 ​​​​​​​Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia and the inhabitants of Tyre. 8 ​​​​​​​Even Assyria has allied with them, lending its strength to the descendants of Lot. (Pause) 9 ​​​​​​​Do to them as you did to Midian – as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the Kishon River! 10 ​​​​​​​They were destroyed at Endor; their corpses were like manure on the ground. 11 ​​​​​​​Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, and all their rulers like Zebah and Zalmunna, 12 ​​​​​​​who said, “Let’s take over the pastures of Supermights !” 13 ​​​​​​​O my Supermights , make them like dead thistles, like dead weeds blown away by the wind! 14 ​​​​​​​Like the fire that burns down the forest, or the flames that consume the mountainsides, 15 ​​​​​​​chase them with your gale winds, and terrify them with your windstorm. 16 ​​​​​​​Cover their faces with shame, so they might seek you, O Lifegiver. 17 ​​​​​​​May they be humiliated and continually terrified! May they die in shame! 18 ​​​​​​​Then they’ll know that you alone are Lifegiver, the supreme king over all the Earth .

Psalms 84

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; according to the gittith style; written by the Korahites, a psalm. How lovely is the place where you live, O Lifegiver WHO RULES OVER ALL! 2 ​​​​​​​I desperately want to be in the courts of Lifegiver’s temple. My heart and my entire being shout for joy to the living Supermights. 3 ​​​​​​​Even the birds find a home there, and the swallow builds a nest, where she can protect her young near your altars, O Lifegiver WHO RULES OVER ALL, my king and my Supermights. 4 ​​​​​​​How blessed are those who live in your temple and praise you continually! (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​How blessed are those who find their strength in you, and long to travel the roads that lead to your temple! 6 ​​​​​​​As they pass through the Baca Valley, he provides a spring for them. The rain even covers it with pools of water. 7 ​​​​​​​They are sustained as they travel along; each one appears before Supermights in Zion. 8 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, supreme Supermights , hear my prayer! Listen, O Supermights of Jacob! (Pause) 9 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , take notice of our shield! Show concern for your Designated king! 10 ​​​​​​​Certainly spending just one day in your temple courts is better than spending a thousand elsewhere. I would rather stand at the entrance to the temple of my Supermights than live in the tents of the wicked. 11 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver the Supermights is our supreme protector. Lifegiver bestows favor and honor; he withholds no good thing from those who have integrity. 12 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver WHO RULES OVER ALL, how blessed are those who trust in you!

Psalms 85

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; written by the Korahites, a psalm. O Lifegiver, you showed favor to your land; you restored the well-being of Jacob. 2 ​​​​​​​You pardoned the wrongdoing of your people; you forgave all their sin. (Pause) 3 ​​​​​​​You withdrew all your fury; you turned back from your raging anger. 4 ​​​​​​​Restore us, O Supermights our deliverer! Do not be displeased with us! 5 ​​​​​​​Will you stay mad at us forever? Will you remain angry throughout future generations? 6 ​​​​​​​Will you not revive us once more? Then your people will rejoice in you! 7 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, show us your loyal love! Bestow on us your deliverance! 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll listen to what Supermights Lifegiver says. For he’ll make peace with his people, his faithful followers. Yet they must not return to their foolish ways. 9 ​​​​​​​Certainly his loyal followers will soon experience his deliverance; then his splendor will again appear in our land. 10 ​​​​​​​Loyal love and faithfulness meet; deliverance and peace greet each other with a kiss. 11 ​​​​​​​Faithfulness grows from the ground, and deliverance looks down from the sky. 12 ​​​​​​​Yes, Lifegiver will bestow his good blessings, and our land will yield its crops. 13 ​​​​​​​Deliverance goes before him, and prepares a pathway for him.

Psalms 86

1 ​​​​​​​A prayer of David. Listen O Lifegiver! Answer me! For I’m oppressed and needy. 2 ​​​​​​​Protect me, for I’m loyal! O my Supermights , deliver your servant, who trusts in you! 3 ​​​​​​​Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry out to you all day long! 4 ​​​​​​​Make your servant glad, for to you, O Lord, I pray! 5 ​​​​​​​Certainly O Lord, you are kind and forgiving, and show great faithfulness to all who cry out to you. 6 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, hear my prayer! Pay attention to my plea for mercy! 7 ​​​​​​​In my time of trouble I cry out to you, for you’ll answer me. 8 ​​​​​​​None can compare to you among the Deities, O Lord! Your exploits are incomparable! 9 ​​​​​​​All the nationalities, whom you created, will come and worship you, O Lord. They’ll honor your name. 10 ​​​​​​​For you are great and do amazing things. You alone are Supermights. 11 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, teach me how you want me to live! Then I’ll obey your instructions. Make me wholeheartedly committed to you! 12 ​​​​​​​O Lord, my Supermights , I’ll give you thanks with my whole heart! I’ll honor your name continually! 13 ​​​​​​​For you’ll extend your great loyal love to me, and will deliver my life from the depths of Sheol. 14 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , arrogant men attack me; a gang of ruthless men, who do not respect you, seek my life. 15 ​​​​​​​But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and merciful Supermights. You are patient and demonstrate great loyal love and faithfulness. 16 ​​​​​​​Turn toward me and have mercy on me! Give your servant your strength! Deliver your slave! 17 ​​​​​​​Show me evidence of your favor! Then those who hate me will see it and be ashamed, for you, O Lifegiver, will help me and comfort me.

Psalms 87

1 ​​​​​​​Written by the Korahites; a psalm, a song. Lifegiver’s city is in the sacred hills. 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob. 3 ​​​​​​​People say wonderful things about you, O city of Supermights. (Pause) 4 ​​​​​​​I mention Rahab and Babylon to my followers. Here are Philistia and Tyre, along with Ethiopia. It is said of them, “This one was born there.” 5 ​​​​​​​But it is said of Zion’s residents, “Each one of these was born in her, and the supreme One makes her secure.” 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver writes in the census book of the nationalities, “This one was born there.” (Pause) 7 ​​​​​​​As for the singers, as well as the pipers – all of them sing witlitreyour walls.

Psalms 88

1 ​​​​​​​A song, a psalm written by the Korahites; for the music director; according to the machalath-leannoth style; a well-written song by Heman the Ezrachite. O Lifegiver Supermights who delivers me! By day I cry out and at night I pray before you. 2 ​​​​​​​Listen to my prayer! Pay attention to my cry for help! 3 ​​​​​​​For my life is filled with troubles and I’m ready to enter Sheol. 4 ​​​​​​​They treat me like those who descend into the grave. I’m like a helpless man, 5 ​​​​​​​adrift among the dead, like corpses lying in the grave, whom you remember no more, and who are cut off from your power. 6 ​​​​​​​You place me in the lowest regions of the pit, in the dark places, in the watery depths. 7 ​​​​​​​Your anger bears down on me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. (Pause) 8 ​​​​​​​You cause those who know me to keep their distance; you make me an appalling sight to them. I’m trapped and cannot get free. 9 ​​​​​​​My eyes grow weak because of oppression. I call out to you, O Lifegiver, all day long; I spread out my hands in prayer to you. 10 ​​​​​​​Do you accomplish amazing things for the dead? Do the departed spirits rise up and give you thanks? (Pause) 11 ​​​​​​​Is your loyal love proclaimed in the grave, or your faithfulness in the place of the dead? 12 ​​​​​​​Are your amazing deeds experienced in the dark region, or your deliverance in the land of oblivion? 13 ​​​​​​​As for me, I cry out to you, O Lifegiver; in the morning my prayer confronts you. 14 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, why do you reject me, and pay no attention to me? 15 ​​​​​​​I’m oppressed and have been on the verge of death since my youth. I’ve been subjected to your horrors and am numb with pain. 16 ​​​​​​​Your anger overwhelms me; your terrors destroy me. 17 ​​​​​​​They surround me like water all day long; they join forces and encircle me. 18 ​​​​​​​You cause my friends and neighbors to keep their distance; those who know me leave me alone in the darkness.

Psalms 89

1 ​​​​​​​A well-written song by Ethan the Ezrachite. I’ll sing continually about Lifegiver’s faithful deeds; to future generations I’ll proclaim your faithfulness. 2 ​​​​​​​For I say, “Loyal love is permanently established; in the skies you set up your faithfulness.” 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver said, “I’ve made a agreement with my Designated one; I’ve made a promise on oath to David, my servant: 4 ​​​​​​​‘I’ll give you an eternal dynasty and establish your throne throughout future generations.’” (Pause) 5 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, the Celestial Bodies praise your amazing deeds, as well as your faithfulness in the messenger ic assembly. 6 ​​​​​​​For who in dust can compare to Lifegiver? Who is like Lifegiver among the supreme beings, 7 a deity that is greatly held in awe in the convocation of holy ones, and is held in reverence by all around him? 8 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, supreme Supermights ! Who is powerful like you, O Lifegiver? Your faithfulness surrounds you. 9 ​​​​​​​You rule over the proud sea. When its waves surge, you calm them. 10 ​​​​​​​You crushed the Proud One and killed it; with your strong arm you scattered your enemies. 11 ​​​​​​​The Celestial Bodies belong to you, as does the Earth . You made the world and all it contains. 12 ​​​​​​​You created the north and the south. Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your name. 13 ​​​​​​​Your arm is powerful, your hand strong, your right hand victorious. 14 ​​​​​​​Equity and justice are the foundation of your throne. Loyal love and faithfulness characterize your rule. 15 ​​​​​​​How blessed are the people who worship you! O Lifegiver, they experience your favor. 16 ​​​​​​​They rejoice in your name all day long, and are vindicated by your justice. 17 ​​​​​​​For you give them splendor and strength. By your favor we are victorious. 18 ​​​​​​​For our shield belongs to Lifegiver, our king to the Holy One of Israel. 19 ​​​​​​​Then you spoke through a vision to your faithful followers and said: “I’ve energized a warrior; I’ve raised up a young man from the people. 20 ​​​​​​​I’ve discovered David, my servant. With my sacred oil I’ve anointed him as king. 21 ​​​​​​​My hand will support him, and my arm will strengthen him. 22 ​​​​​​​No enemy will be able to exact tribute from him; a violent oppressor will not be able to humiliate him. 23 ​​​​​​​I’ll crush his enemies before him; I’ll strike down those who hate him. 24 ​​​​​​​He will experience my faithfulness and loyal love, and by my name he’ll win victories. 25 ​​​​​​​I’ll place his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. 26 ​​​​​​​He will call out to me, ‘You are my father, my Supermights , and the protector who delivers me.’ 27 ​​​​​​​I’ll appoint him to be my firstborn son, the most exalted of the Earth ’s kings. 28 ​​​​​​​I’ll always extend my loyal love to him, and my agreement with him is secure. 29 ​​​​​​​I’ll give him an eternal dynasty, and make his throne as enduring as the skies above. 30 ​​​​​​​If his sons reject my law and disobey my regulations, 31 ​​​​​​​if they break my rules and do not keep my commandments, 32 ​​​​​​​I’ll punish their rebellion by beating them with a club, their sin by inflicting them with bruises. 33 ​​​​​​​But I’ll not remove my loyal love from him, nor be unfaithful to my promise. 34 ​​​​​​​I’ll not break my agreement or go back on what I promised. 35 ​​​​​​​Once and for all I’ve vowed by my own holiness, I’ll never deceive David. 36 ​​​​​​​His dynasty will last forever. His throne will endure before me, like the sun, 37 ​​​​​​​it will remain stable, like the moon, his throne will endure like the skies.” (Pause) 38 ​​​​​​​But you have spurned and rejected him; you are angry with your Designated king. 39 ​​​​​​​You have repudiated your agreement with your servant; you have thrown his crown to the ground. 40 ​​​​​​​You have broken down all his walls; you have made his strongholds a heap of ruins. 41 ​​​​​​​All who pass by have robbed him; he has become an object of disdain to his neighbors. 42 ​​​​​​​You have allowed his adversaries to be victorious, and all his enemies to rejoice. 43 ​​​​​​​You turn back his sword from the adversary, and have not sustained him in battle. 44 ​​​​​​​You have brought to an end his splendor, and have knocked his throne to the ground. 45 ​​​​​​​You have cut short his youth, and have covered him with shame. (Pause) 46 ​​​​​​​How long, O Lifegiver, will this last? Will you remain hidden forever? Will your anger continue to burn like fire? 47 ​​​​​​​Take note of my brief lifespan! Why do you make all people so mortal? 48 ​​​​​​​No man can live on without experiencing death, or deliver his life from the power of Sheol. (Pause) 49 ​​​​​​​Where are your earlier faithful deeds, O Lord, the ones performed in accordance with your reliable oath to David? 50 ​​​​​​​Take note, O Lord, of the way your servants are taunted, and of how I must bear so many insults from people! 51 ​​​​​​​Your enemies, O Lifegiver, hurl insults; they insult your Designated king as they dog his footsteps. 52 Lifegiver deserves praise forevermore! We agree! We agree!

Psalms 90

1 ​​​​​​​An appeal of Moses, the man of Supermights. My Lord, you have been our shelter through all the generations and ages. 2 ​​​​​​​Before the mountains were hatched or you shaped the Earth and its inhabitants. From perpetuity to perpetuity, you are Supermights.

3 ​​​​​​​You are able to bring humanity to pulverised dust and require the children of Adam to be restored. 4 Since thousand years in your eyes are like yesterday that just quickly passed the night watch, 5 you spurt them out in the morning as though they had fallen asleep. They are like growing grass which sprouts up; 6 ​​​​​​​in the morning glistens and grows up; cut down and and dried up in the evening. 7 Indeed, we are consumed by your anger and terrified by your rage.

8 ​​​​​​​You have placed our pervesity in your view, our secrets in the illumination of your face. 9 ​​​​​​​Indeed, all our lives face your outburst. This way we spend our years mourning.

10 The length of our lives are seventy years, or eighty, if one is strong. But even one’s prime years wear off in sorrow until we quickly pass flying. 11 ​​​​​​​Who can comprehend the intensity of your anger? Dreadful is your rage. 12 So teach us to calculate our days so that we may apply our minds wisely.

13 ​​​​Turn back Lifegiver against this long avengance against your servants? 14 ​​​​​​​At dawn fill us with your grace that we may joyously brighten up all our days. 15 ​​​​​​​Make us rejoice proportionate to the days you have afflicted us, proportionate to the years we’ve experienced misery. 16 ​​​​​​​May your work be evident to your servants and your excellency to their children.

17 ​​​​​​​May the grace of Lifegiver, our Supermights be upon us to prosper the labour of our hands on our behalf. Yes, prosper the possession of our hands.

Psalms 91

1 ​​​​​​​As for you, the one who lives in the shelter of the Supreme One, and resides in the protective shadow of the self-sufficient one – 2 ​​​​​​​I say this about Lifegiver, my shelter and my stronghold, my Supermights in whom I trust – 3 ​​​​​​​he will certainly rescue you from the snare of the hunter and from the destructive plague. 4 ​​​​​​​He will shelter you with his wings; you’ll find safety under his wings. His faithfulness is like a shield or a protective wall. 5 ​​​​​​​You need not fear the terrors of the night, the arrow that flies by day, 6 ​​​​​​​the plague that comes in the darkness, or the disease that comes at noon. 7 ​​​​​​​Though a thousand may fall beside you, and a multitude on your right side, it will not reach you. 8 ​​​​​​​Certainly you’ll see it with your very own eyes – you’ll see the wicked paid back. 9 ​​​​​​​For you have taken refuge in Lifegiver, my shelter, the supreme One. 10 ​​​​​​​No harm will overtake you; no illness will come near your home. 11 ​​​​​​​For he’ll order his messenger s to protect you in all you do. 12 ​​​​​​​They’ll lift you up in their hands, so you’ll not slip and fall on a stone. 13 ​​​​​​​You’ll subdue a lion and a snake; you’ll trample underfoot a young lion and a serpent. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “Because he is devoted to me, I’ll deliver him; I’ll protect him because he is loyal to me. 15 ​​​​​​​When he calls out to me, I’ll answer him. I’ll be with him when he is in trouble; I’ll rescue him and bring him honor. 16 ​​​​​​​I’ll satisfy him with long life, and will let him see my salvation.

Psalms 92

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm; a song for the Sabbath day. It is fitting to thank Lifegiver, and to sing praises to your name, O supreme One! 2 ​​​​​​​It is fitting to proclaim your loyal love in the morning, and your faithfulness during the night, 3 ​​​​​​​to the accompaniment of a ten-stringed instrument and a lyre, to the accompaniment of the meditative tone of the harp. 4 ​​​​​​​For you, O Lifegiver, have made me happy by your work. I’ll sing for joy because of what you have done. 5 ​​​​​​​How great are your works, O Lifegiver! Your plans are very intricate! 6 ​​​​​​​The spiritually insensitive do not recognize this; the fool does not understand this. 7 ​​​​​​​When the wicked sprout up like grass, and all the evildoers glisten, it is so that they may be annihilated. 8 ​​​​​​​But you, O Lifegiver, reign forever! 9 ​​​​​​​Indeed, look at your enemies, O Lifegiver! Indeed, look at how your enemies perish! All the evildoers are scattered! 10 ​​​​​​​You exalt my horn like that of a wild ox. I’m covered with fresh oil. 11 ​​​​​​​I gloat in triumph over those who tried to ambush me; I hear the defeated cries of the bad foes who attacked me. 12 ​​​​​​​The Supermights ly grow like a palm tree; they grow high like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 ​​​​​​​Planted in Lifegiver’s house, they grow in the courts of our Supermights. 14 ​​​​​​​They bear fruit even when they are old; they are filled with vitality and have many leaves. 15 ​​​​​​​So they proclaim that Lifegiver, my protector, is just and never unfair.

Psalms 93

1 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver reigns! He is robed in majesty, Lifegiver is robed, he wears strength around his waist. Indeed, the world is established, it cannot be moved. 2 ​​​​​​​Your throne has been secure from ancient times; you have always been king. 3 ​​​​​​​The waves roar, O Lifegiver, the waves roar, the waves roar and crash. 4 ​​​​​​​Above the sound of the surging water, and the mighty waves of the sea, Lifegiver sits enthroned in majesty. 5 ​​​​​​​The rules you set down are completely reliable. Holiness aptly adorns your house, O Lifegiver, forever.

Psalms 94

1 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, the Supermights who avenges! O Supermights who avenges, reveal your splendor! 2 ​​​​​​​Rise up, O judge of the Earth ! Pay back the proud! 3 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked celebrate? 4 ​​​​​​​They spew out threats and speak defiantly; all the evildoers boast. 5 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, they crush your people; they oppress the nation that belongs to you. 6 ​​​​​​​They kill the widow and the one residing outside his native land, and they murder the fatherless. 7 ​​​​​​​Then they say, “Lifegiver does not see this; the Supermights of Jacob does not take notice of it.” 8 ​​​​​​​Take notice of this, you ignorant people! You fools, when will you ever understand? 9 ​​​​​​​Does the one who makes the human ear not hear? Does the one who forms the human eye not see? 10 ​​​​​​​Does the one who disciplines the nationalities not punish? He is the one who imparts knowledge to human beings! 11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver knows that peoples’ thoughts are morally bankrupt. 12 ​​​​​​​How blessed is the one whom you instruct, O Lifegiver, the one whom you teach from your law, 13 ​​​​​​​in order to protect him from times of trouble, until the wicked are destroyed. 14 ​​​​​​​Certainly Lifegiver does not forsake his people; he does not abandon the nation that belongs to him. 15 ​​​​​​​For justice will prevail, and all the morally upright will be vindicated. 16 ​​​​​​​Who will rise up to defend me against the wicked? Who will stand up for me against the evildoers? 17 ​​​​​​​If Lifegiver had not helped me, I would have laid down in the silence of death. 18 ​​​​​​​If I say, “My foot is slipping,” your loyal love, O Lifegiver, supports me. 19 ​​​​​​​When worries threaten to overwhelm me, your soothing touch makes me happy. 20 ​​​​​​​Cruel rulers are not your allies, those who make oppressive laws. 21 ​​​​​​​They conspire against the blameless, and condemn to death the innocent. 22 ​​​​​​​But Lifegiver will protect me, and my Supermights will shelter me. 23 ​​​​​​​He will pay them back for their sin. he’ll destroy them because of their evil; Lifegiver our Supermights will destroy them.

Psalms 95

1 ​​​​​​​Come! Let’s sing for joy to Lifegiver! Let’s shout out praises to our protector who delivers us! 2 ​​​​​​​Let’s enter his presence with thanksgiving! Let’s shout out to him in celebration! 3 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver is a great Supermights , a great king who is superior to all Deities. 4 ​​​​​​​The depths of the Earth are in his hand, and the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 ​​​​​​​The sea is his, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land. 6 ​​​​​​​Come! Let’s bow down and worship! Let’s kneel before Lifegiver, our creator! 7 ​​​​​​​For he is our Supermights ; we are the people of his pasture, the sheep he owns. Today, if only you would obey him! 8 ​​​​​​​He says, “Do not be stubborn like they were at Meribah, like they were that day at Massah in the desert, 9 ​​​​​​​where your ancestors challenged my authority, and tried my patience, even though they had seen my work. 10 ​​​​​​​For fourty years I was continually disgusted with that generation, and I said, ‘These people desire to go astray; they do not obey my instructions.’ 11 ​​​​​​​So I made a vow in my anger, ‘They’ll never enter into the resting place I had set aside for them.’”

Psalms 96

1 ​​​​​​​Sing to Lifegiver a new song! Sing to Lifegiver, all the Earth ! 2 ​​​​​​​Sing to Lifegiver! Praise his name! Announce every day how he delivers! 3 ​​​​​​​Tell the nationalities about his splendor! Tell all the nationalities about his amazing deeds! 4 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver is great and certainly worthy of praise; he is more awesome than all Deities. 5 ​​​​​​​For all the deities of the nationalities are worthless, but Lifegiver made the sky. 6 ​​​​​​​Majestic splendor emanates from him; his sanctuary is firmly established and beautiful. 7 ​​​​​​​Ascribe to Lifegiver, O families of the nationalities, ascribe to Lifegiver splendor and strength! 8 ​​​​​​​Ascribe to Lifegiver the splendor he deserves! Bring an offering and enter his courts! 9 ​​​​​​​Worship Lifegiver in sacred attire! Tremble before him, all the Earth ! 10 ​​​​​​​Say among the nationalities, “Lifegiver reigns! The world is established, it cannot be moved. He judges the nationalities fairly.” 11 ​​​​​​​Let the sky rejoice, and the Earth be happy! Let the sea and everything in it shout! 12 ​​​​​​​Let the fields and everything in them celebrate! Then let the trees of the forest shout with joy 13 ​​​​​​​before Lifegiver, for he comes! For he comes to judge the Earth ! He judges the world fairly, and the nationalities in accordance with his justice.

Psalms 97

1 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver reigns! Let the Earth be happy! Let the many coastlands rejoice! 2 ​​​​​​​Dark clouds surround him; equity and justice are the foundation of his throne. 3 ​​​​​​​Fire goes before him; on every side it burns up his enemies. 4 ​​​​​​​His lightning bolts light up the world; the Earth sees and trembles. 5 ​​​​​​​The mountains melt like wax before Lifegiver, before Lifegiver of the whole Earth . 6 ​​​​​​​The sky declares his justice, and all the nationalities see his splendor. 7 ​​​​​​​All who worship idols are ashamed, those who boast about worthless idols. All the deities bow down before him. 8 ​​​​​​​Zion hears and rejoices, the towns of Judah are happy, because of your judgments, O Lifegiver. 9 ​​​​​​​For you, O Lifegiver, are the supreme king over the whole Earth ; you are elevated high above all Deities. 10 ​​​​​​​You who love Lifegiver, hate evil! He protects the lives of his faithful followers; he delivers them from the power of the wicked. 11 ​​​​​​​The Supermights ly bask in the light; the morally upright experience joy. 12 ​​​​​​​You Supermights ly ones, rejoice in Lifegiver! Give thanks to his sacred name.

Psalms 98

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm. Sing to Lifegiver a new song, for he performs amazing deeds! His right hand and his mighty arm accomplish deliverance. 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver demonstrates his power to deliver; in the sight of the nationalities he reveals his justice. 3 ​​​​​​​He remains loyal and faithful to the family of Israel. All the ends of the Earth see our Supermights deliver us. 4 ​​​​​​​Shout out praises to Lifegiver, all the Earth ! Break out in a joyful shout and sing! 5 ​​​​​​​Sing to Lifegiver accompanied by a harp, accompanied by a harp and the sound of music! 6 ​​​​​​​With trumpets and the blaring of the ram’s horn, shout out praises before the king, Lifegiver! 7 ​​​​​​​Let the sea and everything in it shout, along with the world and those who live in it! 8 ​​​​​​​Let the rivers clap their hands! Let the mountains sing in unison 9 ​​​​​​​before Lifegiver! For he comes to judge the Earth ! He judges the world fairly, and the nationalities in a just manner.

Psalms 99

1 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver reigns! The nationalities tremble. He sits enthroned above the winged messenger s; the Earth shakes. 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is elevated in Zion; he is exalted over all the nationalities. 3 ​​​​​​​Let them praise your great and awesome name! He is holy! 4 ​​​​​​​The king is strong; he loves justice. You ensure that legal decisions will be made fairly; you promote justice and equity in Jacob. 5 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver our Supermights ! Worship before his footstool! He is holy! 6 ​​​​​​​Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel was one of those who prayed to him. They prayed to Lifegiver and he answered them. 7 ​​​​​​​He spoke to them from a pillar of cloud; they obeyed his regulations and the ordinance he gave them. 8 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver our Supermights , you answered them. They found you to be a forgiving Supermights , but also one who punished their sinful deeds. 9 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver our Supermights ! Worship on his sacred hill, for Lifegiver our Supermights is holy!

Psalms 100

1 ​​​​​​​A thanksgiving psalm. Shout out praises to Lifegiver, all the Earth ! 2 ​​​​​​​Worship Lifegiver with joy! Enter his presence with joyful singing! 3 ​​​​​​​Acknowledge that Lifegiver is Supermights ! He made us and we belong to him; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 ​​​​​​​Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give him thanks! Praise his name! 5 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver is good. His loyal love endures, and he is faithful through all generations.

Psalms 101

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David. I’ll sing about loyalty and justice! To you, O Lifegiver, I’ll sing praises! 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll walk in the way of integrity. When will you come to me? I’ll conduct my business with integrity in the midst of my palace. 3 ​​​​​​​I’ll not even consider doing what is dishonest. I hate doing evil; I’ll have no part of it. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll have nothing to do with a perverse person; I’ll not permit evil. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy anyone who slanders his neighbor in secret. I’ll not tolerate anyone who has a cocky demeanor and an arrogant attitude. 6 ​​​​​​​I’ll favor the honest people of the land, and allow them to live with me. Those who walk in the way of integrity will attend me. 7 ​​​​​​​Deceitful people will not live in my palace. Liars will not be welcome in my presence. 8 ​​​​​​​Each morning I’ll destroy all the wicked people in the land, and remove all evildoers from the city of Lifegiver.

Psalms 102

1 ​​​​​​​The prayer of an oppressed man, as he grows faint and pours out his lament before Lifegiver. O Lifegiver, hear my prayer! Pay attention to my cry for help! 2 ​​​​​​​Do not ignore me in my time of trouble! Listen to me! When I call out to you, quickly answer me! 3 ​​​​​​​For my days go up in smoke, and my bones are charred like a fireplace. 4 ​​​​​​​My heart is parched and withered like grass, for I’m unable to eat food. 5 ​​​​​​​Because of the anxiety that makes me groan, my bones protrude from my skin. 6 ​​​​​​​I’m like an owl in the desert; I’m like a screech owl among the ruins. 7 ​​​​​​​I stay awake; I’m like a solitary bird on a roof. 8 ​​​​​​​All day long my enemies taunt me; those who mock me use my name in their curses. 9 ​​​​​​​For I eat ashes as if they were bread, and mix my drink with my tears, 10 ​​​​​​​because of your anger and raging fury. Indeed, you pick me up and throw me away. 11 ​​​​​​​My days are coming to an end, and I’m withered like grass. 12 ​​​​​​​But you, O Lifegiver, rule forever, and your reputation endures. 13 ​​​​​​​You’ll rise up and have compassion on Zion. For it is time to have mercy on her, for the appointed time has come. 14 ​​​​​​​Indeed, your servants take delight in her stones, and feel compassion for the dust of her ruins. 15 ​​​​​​​The nationalities will respect the reputation of Lifegiver, and all the kings of the Earth will respect his splendor, 16 ​​​​​​​when Lifegiver rebuilds Zion, and reveals his splendor, 17 ​​​​​​​when he responds to the prayer of the destitute, and does not reject their request. 18 ​​​​​​​The account of his intervention will be recorded for future generations; people yet to be born will praise Lifegiver.

19 ​​​​​​​For he’ll look down from his sanctuary above; from Heaven Lifegiver will look toward Earth , 20 ​​​​​​​in order to hear the painful cries of the prisoners, and to set free those condemned to die, 21 ​​​​​​​so they may proclaim the name of Lifegiver in Zion, and praise him in Jerusalem, 22 ​​​​​​​when the nationalities gather together, and the reigns pay tribute to Lifegiver. 23 ​​​​​​​He has taken away my strength in the middle of life; he has cut short my days. 24 ​​​​​​​I say, “O my Supermights , please do not take me away in the middle of my life! You endure through all generations. 25 ​​​​​​​In earlier times you established the Earth ; the skies are your handiwork. 26 ​​​​​​​They’ll perish, but you’ll endure. They’ll wear out like a garment; like clothes you’ll remove them and they’ll disappear. 27 ​​​​​​​But you remain; your years do not come to an end. 28 ​​​​​​​The children of your servants will settle down here, and their descendants will live securely in your presence.”

Psalms 103

1 ​​​​​​​By David. Praise Lifegiver, O my soul! With all that is witlitreme, praise his sacred name! 2 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, O my soul! Do not forget all his kind deeds! 3 ​​​​​​​He is the one who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases, 4 ​​​​​​​who delivers your life from the Pit, who crowns you with his loyal love and compassion, 5 ​​​​​​​who satisfies your life with good things, so your youth is renewed like an eagle’s. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver does what is fair, and executes justice for all the oppressed. 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver revealed his faithful acts to Moses, his deeds to the Israelites. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is compassionate and merciful; he is patient and demonstrates great loyal love. 9 ​​​​​​​He does not always accuse, and does not stay angry. 10 ​​​​​​​He does not deal with us as our sins deserve; he does not repay us as our misdeeds deserve. 11 ​​​​​​​For as the skies are high above the Earth , so his loyal love towers over his faithful followers. 12 ​​​​​​​As far as the eastern horizon is from the west, so he removes the guilt of our rebellious actions from us. 13 ​​​​​​​As a father has compassion on his children, so Lifegiver has compassion on his faithful followers. 14 ​​​​​​​For he knows what we are made of; he realizes we are made of clay. 15 ​​​​​​​A person’s life is like grass. Like a flower in the field it flourishes, 16 ​​​​​​​but when the hot wind blows by, it disappears, and one can no longer even spot the place where it once grew. 17 ​​​​​​​But Lifegiver continually shows loyal love to his faithful followers, and is faithful to their descendants, 18 ​​​​​​​to those who keep his covenant, who are careful to obey his instructions. 19 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver has established his throne in Heaven; his reign extends over everything. 20 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, you messenger s of his, you powerful warriors who carry out his decrees and obey his orders! 21 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, all you warriors of his, you servants of his who carry out his desires! 22 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, all that he has made, in all the regions of his reign! Praise Lifegiver, O my soul!

Psalms 104

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, O my soul! O Lifegiver my Supermights , you are magnificent. You are robed in splendor and majesty. 2 ​​​​​​​He covers himself with light as if it were a garment. He stretches out the skies like a tent curtain, 3 ​​​​​​​and lays the beams of the upper rooms of his palace on the rain clouds. He makes the clouds his chariot, and travels along on the wings of the wind. 4 ​​​​​​​He makes the winds his messengers, and the flaming fire his attendant. 5 ​​​​​​​He established the Earth on its foundations; it will never be upended. 6 ​​​​​​​The watery deep covered it like a garment; the waters reached above the mountains. 7 ​​​​​​​Your shout made the waters retreat; at the sound of your thunderous voice they hurried off – 8 ​​​​​​​as the mountains rose up, and the valleys went down – to the place you appointed for them. 9 ​​​​​​​You set up a boundary for them that they could not cross, so that they would not cover the Earth again. 10 ​​​​​​​He turns springs into streams; they flow between the mountains. 11 ​​​​​​​They provide water for all the animals in the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12 ​​​​​​​The birds of the sky live beside them; they chirp among the bushes. 13 ​​​​​​​He waters the mountains from the upper rooms of his palace; the Earth is full of the fruit you cause to grow. 14 ​​​​​​​He provides grass for the cattle, and crops for people to cultivate, so they can produce food from the ground, 15 ​​​​​​​as well as wine that makes people feel so good, and so they can have oil to make their faces shine, as well as food that sustains people’s lives. 16 ​​​​​​​The trees of Lifegiver receive all the rain they need, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted, 17 ​​​​​​​where the birds make nests, near the evergreens in which the herons live. 18 ​​​​​​​The wild goats live in the high mountains; the rock badgers find safety in the cliffs. 19 ​​​​​​​He made the moon to mark the months, and the sun sets according to a regular schedule. 20 ​​​​​​​You make it dark and night comes, during which all the beasts of the forest prowl around. 21 ​​​​​​​The lions roar for prey, seeking their food from Supermights. 22 ​​​​​​​When the sun rises, they withdraw and sleep in their dens. 23 ​​​​​​​Men then go out to do their work, and labor away until evening. 24 ​​​​​​​How many living things you have made, O Lifegiver! You have exhibited great skill in making all of them; the Earth is full of the living things you have made. 25 ​​​​​​​Over here is the deep, wide sea, which teems with innumerable swimming creatures, living things both small and large. 26 ​​​​​​​The ships travel there, and over here swims the whale you made to play in it. 27 ​​​​​​​All of your creatures wait for you to provide them with food on a regular basis. 28 ​​​​​​​You give food to them and they receive it; you open your hand and they are filled with food. 29 ​​​​​​​When you ignore them, they panic. When you take away their life’s breath, they die and return to dust. 30 ​​​​​​​When you send your life-giving breath, they are created, and you replenish the surface of the ground. 31 ​​​​​​​May the splendor of Lifegiver endure! May Lifegiver find pleasure in the living things he has made! 32 ​​​​​​​He looks down on the Earth and it shakes; he touches the mountains and they start to smolder. 33 ​​​​​​​I’ll sing to Lifegiver as long as I live; I’ll sing praise to my Supermights as long as I exist! 34 ​​​​​​​May my thoughts be pleasing to him! I’ll rejoice in Lifegiver. 35 ​​​​​​​May sinners disappear from the Earth , and the wicked vanish! Praise Lifegiver, O my soul! Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 105

1 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver! Call on his name! Make known his accomplishments among the nationalities! 2 ​​​​​​​Sing to him! Make music to him! Tell about all his miraculous deeds! 3 ​​​​​​​Boast about his sacred name! Let the hearts of those who seek Lifegiver rejoice! 4 ​​​​​​​Seek Lifegiver and the strength he gives! Seek his presence continually! 5 ​​​​​​​Recall the miraculous deeds he performed, his mighty acts and the judgments he decreed, 6 ​​​​​​​O children of Abraham, Supermights ’s servant, you descendants of Jacob, Supermights ’s Designated ones! 7 ​​​​​​​He is Lifegiver our Supermights ; he carries out judgment throughout the Earth . 8 ​​​​​​​He always remembers his covenantal decree, the promise he made to a thousand generations – 9 ​​​​​​​the promise he made to Abraham, the promise he made by oath to Isaac! 10 ​​​​​​​He gave it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as a lasting promise, 11 ​​​​​​​saying, “To you I’ll give the land of Canaan as the portion of your inheritance.” 12 ​​​​​​​When they were few in number, just a very few, and resident aliens witlitreit, 13 ​​​​​​​they wandered from nation to nation, and from one reign to another. 14 ​​​​​​​He let no one oppress them; he disciplined kings for their sake, 15 ​​​​​​​saying, “Don’t touch my Designated ones! Don’t harm my prophets!” 16 ​​​​​​​He called down a drought upon the Earth ; he cut off all the food supply. 17 ​​​​​​​He sent a man ahead of them – Joseph was sold as a servant. 18 ​​​​​​​The shackles hurt his feet; his neck was placed in an iron collar, 19 ​​​​​​​until the time when his prediction came true. Lifegiver’s word proved him right. 20 ​​​​​​​The king authorized his release; the ruler of nationalities set him free. 21 ​​​​​​​He put him in charge of his palace, and made him manager of all his property, 22 ​​​​​​​giving him authority to imprison his officials and to teach his advisers. 23 ​​​​​​​Israel moved to Egypt; Jacob lived for a time in the land of Ham. 24 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver made his people very fruitful, and made them more numerous than their enemies. 25 ​​​​​​​He caused them to hate his people, and to mistreat his servants. 26 ​​​​​​​He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron, whom he had Designated. 27 ​​​​​​​They executed his miraculous signs among them, and his amazing deeds in the land of Ham. 28 ​​​​​​​He made it dark; they did not disobey his orders. 29 ​​​​​​​He turned their water into blood, and killed their fish. 30 ​​​​​​​Their land was overrun by frogs, which even got into the rooms of their kings. 31 ​​​​​​​He ordered flies to come; gnats invaded their whole territory. 32 ​​​​​​​He sent hail along with the rain; there was lightning in their land. 33 ​​​​​​​He destroyed their vines and fig trees, and broke the trees throughout their territory. 34 ​​​​​​​He ordered locusts to come, innumerable grasshoppers. 35 ​​​​​​​They ate all the vegetation in their land, and devoured the crops of their fields. 36 ​​​​​​​He struck down all the firstborn in their land, the firstfruits of their reproductive power. 37 ​​​​​​​He brought his people out enriched with silver and gold; none of his tribes stumbled. 38 ​​​​​​​Egypt was happy when they left, for they were afraid of them. 39 ​​​​​​​He spread out a cloud for a cover, and provided a fire to light up the night. 40 ​​​​​​​They asked for food, and he sent quails; he satisfied them with food from the sky. 41 ​​​​​​​He opened up a rock and water flowed out; a river ran through dry regions. 42 ​​​​​​​Yes, he remembered the sacred promise he made to Abraham his servant. 43 ​​​​​​​When he led his people out, they rejoiced; his Designated ones shouted with joy. 44 ​​​​​​​He handed the territory of nationalities over to them, and they took possession of what other peoples had produced, 45 ​​​​​​​so that they might keep his instructions and obey his laws. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 106

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! Give thanks to Lifegiver, for he is good, and his loyal love endures! 2 ​​​​​​​Who can adequately recount Lifegiver’s mighty acts, or relate all his praiseworthy deeds? 3 ​​​​​​​How blessed are those who promote justice, and do what is right all the time! 4 ​​​​​​​Remember me, O Lifegiver, when you show favor to your people! Pay attention to me, when you deliver, 5 ​​​​​​​so I may see the prosperity of your Designated ones, rejoice along with your nation, and boast along with the people who belong to you. 6 ​​​​​​​We’ve sinned like our ancestors; we’ve done wrong, we’ve done evil. 7 ​​​​​​​Our ancestors in Egypt failed to appreciate your miraculous deeds, they failed to remember your many acts of loyal love, and they rebelled at the sea, by the Red Sea. 8 ​​​​​​​Yet he delivered them for the sake of his reputation, that he might reveal his power. 9 ​​​​​​​He shouted at the Red Sea and it dried up; he led them through the deep water as if it were a desert. 10 ​​​​​​​He delivered them from the power of the one who hated them, and rescued them from the power of the enemy. 11 ​​​​​​​The water covered their enemies; not even one of them survived. 12 ​​​​​​​They believed his promises; they sang praises to him. 13 ​​​​​​​They quickly forgot what he had done; they did not wait for his instructions. 14 ​​​​​​​In the desert they had an insatiable craving for meat; they challenged Supermights in the desert. 15 ​​​​​​​He granted their request, then struck them with a disease. 16 ​​​​​​​In the camp they resented Moses, and Aaron, Lifegiver’s sacred priest. 17 ​​​​​​​The Earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it engulfed the group led by Abiram. 18 ​​​​​​​Fire burned their group; the flames scorched the wicked. 19 ​​​​​​​They made an image of a calf at Horeb, and worshiped a metal idol. 20 ​​​​​​​They traded their majestic Supermights for the image of an ox that eats grass. 21 ​​​​​​​They rejected the Supermights who delivered them, the one who performed great deeds in Egypt, 22 ​​​​​​​amazing feats in the land of Ham, mighty acts by the Red Sea. 23 ​​​​​​​He threatened to destroy them, but Moses, his Designated one, interceded with him and turned back his destructive anger. 24 ​​​​​​​They rejected the fruitful land; they did not believe his promise. 25 ​​​​​​​They grumbled in their tents; they did not obey Lifegiver. 26 ​​​​​​​So he made a solemn vow that he would make them die in the desert, 27 ​​​​​​​make their descendants die among the nationalities, and scatter them among foreign lands. 28 ​​​​​​​They worshiped Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices offered to the dead. 29 ​​​​​​​They made Lifegiver angry by their actions, and a plague broke out among them. 30 ​​​​​​​Phinehas took a stand and intervened, and the plague subsided. 31 ​​​​​​​This brought him a reward, an eternal gift. 32 ​​​​​​​They made him angry by the waters of Meribah, and Moses suffered because of them, 33 ​​​​​​​for they aroused his temper, and he spoke rashly. 34 ​​​​​​​They did not destroy the nationalities, as Lifegiver had instructed them to do. 35 ​​​​​​​They mixed in with the nationalities and learned their ways. 36 ​​​​​​​They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. 37 ​​​​​​​They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons. 38 ​​​​​​​They shed innocent blood – the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan. The land was polluted by bloodshed. 39 ​​​​​​​They were defiled by their deeds, and unfaithful in their actions. 40 ​​​​​​​So Lifegiver was angry with his people and despised the people who belong to him. 41 ​​​​​​​He handed them over to the nationalities, and those who hated them ruled over them. 42 ​​​​​​​Their enemies oppressed them; they were subject to their authority. 43 ​​​​​​​Many times he delivered them, but they had a rebellious attitude, and degraded themselves by their sin. 44 ​​​​​​​Yet he took notice of their distress, when he heard their cry for help. 45 ​​​​​​​He remembered his agreement with them, and relented because of his great loyal love. 46 ​​​​​​​He caused all their conquerors to have pity on them. 47 ​​​​​​​Deliver us, O Lifegiver, our Supermights ! Gather us from among the nationalities! Then we’ll give thanks to your sacred name, and boast about your praiseworthy deeds. 48 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel deserves praise, in the future and forevermore. Let all the people say, “We agree! Praise Lifegiver!”

Psalms 107

1 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver, for he is good, and his loyal love endures! 2 ​​​​​​​Let those delivered by Lifegiver speak out, those whom he delivered from the power of the enemy, 3 ​​​​​​​and gathered from foreign lands, from east and west, from north and south. 4 ​​​​​​​They wandered through the desert on a desert road; they found no city in which to live. 5 ​​​​​​​They were hungry and thirsty; they fainted from exhaustion. 6 ​​​​​​​They cried out to Lifegiver in their distress; he delivered them from their troubles. 7 ​​​​​​​He led them on a level road, that they might find a city in which to live. 8 ​​​​​​​Let them give thanks to Lifegiver for his loyal love, and for the amazing things he has done for people! 9 ​​​​​​​For he has satisfied those who thirst, and those who hunger he has filled with food. 10 ​​​​​​​They sat in utter darkness, bound in painful iron chains, 11 ​​​​​​​because they had rebelled against Supermights ’s instructions, and rejected the instructions of the supreme king. 12 ​​​​​​​So he used suffering to humble them; they stumbled and no one helped them up. 13 ​​​​​​​They cried out to Lifegiver in their distress; he delivered them from their troubles. 14 ​​​​​​​He brought them out of the utter darkness, and tore off their shackles. 15 ​​​​​​​Let them give thanks to Lifegiver for his loyal love, and for the amazing things he has done for people! 16 ​​​​​​​For he shattered the bronze gates, and hacked through the iron bars. 17 ​​​​​​​They acted like fools in their rebellious ways, and suffered because of their sins. 18 ​​​​​​​They lost their appetite for all food, and they drew near the gates of death. 19 ​​​​​​​They cried out to Lifegiver in their distress; he delivered them from their troubles. 20 ​​​​​​​He sent them an assuring word and healed them; he rescued them from the pits where they were trapped. 21 ​​​​​​​Let them give thanks to Lifegiver for his loyal love, and for the amazing things he has done for people! 22 ​​​​​​​Let them present thank offerings, and loudly proclaim what he has done! 23 Some traveled on the sea in ships, and carried cargo over the vast waters. 24 ​​​​​​​They witnessed the acts of Lifegiver, his amazing feats on the deep water. 25 ​​​​​​​He gave the order for a windstorm, and it stirred up the waves of the sea. 26 ​​​​​​​They reached up to the sky, then dropped into the depths. The sailors’ strength left them because the danger was so great. 27 ​​​​​​​They swayed and staggered like a drunk, and all their skill proved ineffective. 28 ​​​​​​​They cried out to Lifegiver in their distress; he delivered them from their troubles. 29 ​​​​​​​He calmed the storm, and the waves grew silent. 30 ​​​​​​​The sailors rejoiced because the waves grew quiet, and he led them to the harbor they desired. 31 ​​​​​​​Let them give thanks to Lifegiver for his loyal love, and for the amazing things he has done for people! 32 ​​​​​​​Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people! Let them praise him in the place where the leaders preside! 33 ​​​​​​​He turned streams into a desert, springs of water into arid land, 34 ​​​​​​​and a fruitful land into a barren place, because of the sin of its inhabitants. 35 ​​​​​​​As for his people, he turned a desert into a pool of water, and a dry land into springs of water. 36 ​​​​​​​He allowed the hungry to settle there, and they established a city in which to live. 37 ​​​​​​​They cultivated fields, and planted vineyards, which yielded a harvest of fruit. 38 ​​​​​​​He blessed them so that they became very numerous. He would not allow their cattle to decrease in number. 39 ​​​​​​​As for their enemies, they decreased in number and were beaten down, because of painful distress and suffering. 40 ​​​​​​​He would pour contempt upon princes, and he made them wander in a wasteland with no road.

41 ​​​​​​​Yet he protected the needy from oppression, and cared for his families like a flock of sheep. 42 ​​​​​​​When the Supermights ly see this, they rejoice, and every sinner shuts his mouth. 43 ​​​​​​​Whoever is wise, let him take note of these things! Let them consider Lifegiver’s acts of loyal love!

Psalms 108

1 ​​​​​​​A song, a psalm of David. I’m determined, O Supermights ! I’ll sing and praise you with my whole heart. 2 ​​​​​​​Awake, O stringed instrument and harp! I’ll wake up at dawn! 3 ​​​​​​​I’ll give you thanks before the nationalities, O Lifegiver! I’ll sing praises to you before foreigners! 4 ​​​​​​​For your loyal love extends beyond the sky, and your faithfulness reaches the clouds. 5 ​​​​​​​Rise up above the sky, O Supermights ! May your splendor cover the whole Earth ! 6 ​​​​​​​Deliver by your power and answer me, so that the ones you love may be safe. 7 ​​​​​​​Supermights has spoken in his sanctuary: “I’ll triumph! I’ll parcel out Shechem, the valley of Succoth I’ll measure off. 8 ​​​​​​​Gilead belongs to me, as does Manasseh! Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my royal scepter. 9 ​​​​​​​Moab is my wash basin. I’ll make Edom serve me. I’ll shout in triumph over Philistia.” 10 ​​​​​​​Who will lead me into the fortified city? Who will bring me to Edom? 11 ​​​​​​​Have you not rejected us, O Supermights ? O Supermights , you do not go into battle with our armies. 12 ​​​​​​​Give us help against the enemy, for any help men might offer is futile. 13 ​​​​​​​By Supermights ’s power we’ll conquer; he’ll trample down our enemies.

Psalms 109

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, a psalm of David. O Supermights whom I praise, do not ignore me! 2 ​​​​​​​For they say cruel and deceptive things to me; they lie to me. 3 ​​​​​​​They surround me and say hateful things; they attack me for no reason. 4 ​​​​​​​They repay my love with accusations, but I continue to pray. 5 ​​​​​​​They repay me bad for good, and hate for love. 6 Appoint an bad man to testify against him! May an accuser stand at his right side! 7 ​​​​​​​When he is judged, he’ll be found guilty! Then his prayer will be regarded as sinful. 8 ​​​​​​​May his days be few! May another take his job! 9 ​​​​​​​May his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow! 10 ​​​​​​​May his children roam around begging, asking for handouts as they leave their ruined home! 11 ​​​​​​​May the creditor seize all he owns! May strangers loot his property! 12 ​​​​​​​May no one show him kindness! May no one have compassion on his fatherless children! 13 ​​​​​​​May his descendants be cut off! May the memory of them be wiped out by the time the next generation arrives! 14 ​​​​​​​May his ancestors’ sins be remembered by Lifegiver! May his mother’s sin not be forgotten! 15 ​​​​​​​May Lifegiver be constantly aware of them, and cut off the memory of his children from the Earth ! 16 ​​​​​​​For he never bothered to show kindness; he harassed the oppressed and needy, and killed the disheartened. 17 ​​​​​​​He loved to curse others, so those curses have come upon him. He had no desire to bless anyone, so he has experienced no blessings. 18 ​​​​​​​He made cursing a way of life, so curses poured into his stomach like water and seeped into his bones like oil. 19 ​​​​​​​May a curse attach itself to him, like a garment one puts on, or a belt one wears continually! 20 ​​​​​​​May Lifegiver repay my accusers in this way, those who say bad things about me! 21 ​​​​​​​O supreme Lifegiver, intervene on my behalf for the sake of your reputation! Because your loyal love is good, deliver me! 22 ​​​​​​​For I’m oppressed and needy, and my heart beats violently witlitreme. 23 ​​​​​​​I’m fading away like a shadow at the end of the day; I’m shaken off like a locust. 24 ​​​​​​​I’m so starved my knees shake; I’ve turned into skin and bones. 25 ​​​​​​​I’m disdained by them. When they see me, they shake their heads. 26 ​​​​​​​Help me, O Lifegiver my Supermights ! Because you are faithful to me, deliver me! 27 ​​​​​​​Then they’ll realize this is your work, and that you, Lifegiver, have accomplished it. 28 ​​​​​​​They curse, but you’ll bless. When they attack, they’ll be humiliated, but your servant will rejoice. 29 ​​​​​​​My accusers will be covered with shame, and draped in humiliation as if it were a robe. 30 ​​​​​​​I’ll thank Lifegiver profusely, in the middle of a crowd I’ll praise him, 31 ​​​​​​​because he stands at the right hand of the needy, to deliver him from those who threaten his life.

Psalms 110

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David. Lifegiver said to my master, “Sit at my right hand until I bring your adversaries as your footrest!” 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver extends your dominion from Zion. Rule in the midst of your enemies! 3 ​​​​​​​Your people willingly follow you when you go into battle. On the sacred hills at sunrise the dew of your youth belongs to you. 4 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver makes this promise on oath and will not revoke it: “You are an eternal priest after the pattern of Melchizedek.” 5 ​​​​​​​O supreme Lifegiver, at your right hand he strikes down kings in the day he unleashes his anger. 6 ​​​​​​​He executes judgment against the nationalities; he fills the valleys with corpses; he shatters their heads over the vast battlefield. 7 ​​​​​​​From the stream along the road he drinks; then he lifts up his head.

Psalms 111

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! I’ll give thanks to Lifegiver with my whole heart, in the assembly of the Supermights ly and the congregation. 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s deeds are great, eagerly awaited by all who desire them. 3 ​​​​​​​His work is majestic and glorious, and his faithfulness endures forever. 4 ​​​​​​​He does amazing things that will be remembered; Lifegiver is merciful and compassionate. 5 ​​​​​​​He gives food to his faithful followers; he always remembers his covenant. 6 ​​​​​​​He announced that he would do mighty deeds for his people, giving them a land that belonged to other nationalities. 7 ​​​​​​​His acts are characterized by faithfulness and justice; all his precepts are reliable. 8 ​​​​​​​They are forever firm, and should be faithfully and properly carried out. 9 ​​​​​​​He delivered his people; he ordained that his agreement be observed forever. His name is sacred and awesome. 10 ​​​​​​​To obey Lifegiver is the fundamental principle for wise living; all who carry out his precepts acquire good moral insight. he’ll receive praise forever.

Psalms 112

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! How blessed is the one who obeys Lifegiver, who takes great delight in keeping his instructions. 2 ​​​​​​​His descendants will be powerful on the Earth ; the Supermights ly will be blessed. 3 ​​​​​​​His house contains wealth and riches; his integrity endures. 4 ​​​​​​​In the darkness a light shines for the Supermights ly, for each one who is merciful, compassionate, and just. 5 ​​​​​​​It goes well for the one who generously lends money, and conducts his business honestly. 6 ​​​​​​​For he’ll never be upended; others will always remember one who is just. 7 ​​​​​​​He does not fear bad news. He is confident; he trusts in Lifegiver. 8 ​​​​​​​His resolve is firm; he’ll not succumb to fear before he looks in triumph on his enemies. 9 ​​​​​​​He generously gives to the needy; his integrity endures. he’ll be vindicated and honored. 10 ​​​​​​​When the wicked see this, they’ll worry; they’ll grind their teeth in frustration and melt away; the desire of the wicked will perish.

Psalms 113

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! Praise, you servants of Lifegiver, praise the name of Lifegiver! 2 ​​​​​​​May Lifegiver’s name be praised now and forevermore! 3 ​​​​​​​From east to west Lifegiver’s name is deserving of praise. 4 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is exalted over all the nationalities; his splendor reaches beyond the sky. 5 ​​​​​​​Who can compare to Lifegiver our Supermights , who sits on a high throne? 6 ​​​​​​​He bends down to look at the sky and the Earth . 7 ​​​​​​​He raises the poor from the dirt, and lifts up the needy from the garbage pile, 8 ​​​​​​​that he might seat him with princes, with the princes of his people. 9 ​​​​​​​He makes the barren woman of the family a happy mother of children. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 114

1 ​​​​​​​When Israel left Egypt, when the family of Jacob left a foreign nation behind, 2 ​​​​​​​Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his reign. 3 ​​​​​​​The sea looked and fled; the Jordan River turned back. 4 ​​​​​​​The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. 5 ​​​​​​​Why do you flee, O sea? Why do you turn back, O Jordan River? 6 ​​​​​​​Why do you skip like rams, O mountains, like lambs, O hills? 7 ​​​​​​​Tremble, O Earth , before Lifegiver – before the Supermights of Jacob, 8 ​​​​​​​who turned a rock into a pool of water, a hard rock into springs of water!

Psalms 115

1 ​​​​​​​Not to us, O Lifegiver, not to us! But to your name bring honor, for the sake of your loyal love and faithfulness. 2 ​​​​​​​Why should the nationalities say, “Where is their Supermights ?” 3 ​​​​​​​Our Supermights is in Heaven! He does whatever he pleases! 4 ​​​​​​​Their idols are made of silver and gold – they are man-made. 5 ​​​​​​​They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see, 6 ​​​​​​​ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell, 7 ​​​​​​​hands, but cannot touch, feet, but cannot walk. They cannot even clear their throats. 8 ​​​​​​​Those who make them will end up like them, as will everyone who trusts in them. 9 ​​​​​​​O Israel, trust in Lifegiver! He is their deliverer and protector. 10 ​​​​​​​O family of Aaron, trust in Lifegiver! He is their deliverer and protector. 11 ​​​​​​​You loyal followers of Lifegiver, trust in Lifegiver! He is their deliverer and protector. 12 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver takes notice of us, he’ll bless – he’ll bless the family of Israel, he’ll bless the family of Aaron. 13 ​​​​​​​He will bless his loyal followers, both young and old. 14 ​​​​​​​May he increase your numbers, yours and your children’s! 15 ​​​​​​​May you be blessed by Lifegiver, the creator of Celestial Bodies and Earth! 16 ​​​​​​​The Celestial Bodies belong to Lifegiver, but the Earth he has given to mankind. 17 ​​​​​​​The dead do not praise Lifegiver, nor do any of those who descend into the silence of death. 18 ​​​​​​​But we’ll praise Lifegiver now and forevermore. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 116

1 ​​​​​​​I love Lifegiver because he intently heard my cry, my earnest payer, 2 ​​​​​​​Because he inclined his ear to me, I’ll call on him daily. 3 ​​​​​​​The ropes of death surrounded me, the snares of Sheol confronted me. I was confronted with trouble and sorrow. 4 ​​​​​​​I called on the name of Lifegiver, “Please Lifegiver, rescue my life!” 5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is merciful and fair; our Supermights is compassionate. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver protects the untrained; I was in serious trouble and he delivered me. 7 ​​​​​​​Rest once more, my soul, for Lifegiver has vindicated you. 8 ​​​​​​​Yes, Lifegiver, you rescued my life from death, and kept my feet from stumbling. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll serve Lifegiver in the land of the living. 10 ​​​​​​​I had faith when I said, “I’m severely oppressed.” 11 ​​​​​​​I rashly declared, “All men are liars.” 12 ​​​​​​​What can I give back to Lifegiver for all his benefits to me? 13 ​​​​​​​I’ll celebrate my deliverance, and call on the name of Lifegiver. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll fulfill my vows to Lifegiver before all his people. 15 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver values the lives of his faithful followers. 16 ​​​​​​​Yes, Lifegiver! I’m indeed your servant; I’m your lowest slave. You saved me from death. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll present a thank offering to you, and call on the name of Lifegiver. 18 ​​​​​​​I’ll fulfill my vows to Lifegiver before all his people, 19 ​​​​​​​in the courts of Lifegiver’s temple, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 117

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, all you nationalities! Applaud him, all you foreigners! 2 ​​​​​​​For his loyal love towers over us, and Lifegiver’s faithfulness endures. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 118

1 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver, for he is good and his loyal love endures! 2 ​​​​​​​Let Israel say, “Yes, his loyal love endures!” 3 ​​​​​​​Let the family of Aaron say, “Yes, his loyal love endures!” 4 ​​​​​​​Let the loyal followers of Lifegiver say, “Yes, his loyal love endures!” 5 ​​​​​​​In my distress I cried out to Lifegiver. Lifegiver answered me and put me in a wide open place. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is on my side, I’m not afraid! What can people do to me? 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is on my side as my helper. I look in triumph on those who hate me. 8 ​​​​​​​It is better to take shelter in Lifegiver than to trust in people. 9 ​​​​​​​It is better to take shelter in Lifegiver than to trust in princes. 10 ​​​​​​​All the nationalities surrounded me. Indeed, in the name of Lifegiver I pushed them away. 11 ​​​​​​​They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me. Indeed, in the name of Lifegiver I pushed them away. 12 ​​​​​​​They surrounded me like bees. But they disappeared as quickly as a fire among thorns. Indeed, in the name of Lifegiver I pushed them away. 13 ​​​​​​​“You aggressively attacked me and tried to knock me down, but Lifegiver helped me. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver gives me strength and protects me; he has become my deliverer.” 15 ​​​​​​​They celebrate deliverance in the tents of the Supermights ly. Lifegiver’s right hand conquers, 16 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s right hand gives victory, Lifegiver’s right hand conquers. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll not die, but live, and I’ll proclaim what Lifegiver has done. 18 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver severely punished me, but he did not hand me over to death. 19 ​​​​​​​Open for me the gates of the just king’s temple! I’ll enter through them and give thanks to Lifegiver. 20 ​​​​​​​This is Lifegiver’s gate – the Supermights ly enter through it. 21 ​​​​​​​I’ll give you thanks, for you answered me, and have become my deliverer. 22 ​​​​​​​The stone which the builders discarded has become the cornerstone. 23 ​​​​​​​This is Lifegiver’s work. We consider it amazing! 24 ​​​​​​​This is the day Lifegiver has brought about. We’ll be happy and rejoice in it. 25 ​​​​​​​Please Lifegiver, deliver! Please Lifegiver, grant us success! 26 ​​​​​​​May the one who comes in the name of Lifegiver be blessed! We’ll pronounce blessings on you in Lifegiver’s temple. 27 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is Supermights and he has delivered us. Tie the offering with ropes to the horns of the altar! 28 ​​​​​​​You are my Supermights and I’ll give you thanks! You are my Supermights and I’ll praise you! 29 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver, for he is good and his loyal love endures!

Psalms 119

1 ​​​​​​​א (Alef) How blessed are those whose actions are blameless, who obey the law of Lifegiver. 2 ​​​​​​​How blessed are those who observe his rules, and seek him with all their heart, 3 ​​​​​​​who, moreover, do no wrong, but follow in his footsteps. 4 ​​​​​​​You demand that your precepts be carefully kept. 5 ​​​​​​​If only I were predisposed to keep your principles! 6 ​​​​​​​Then I would not be ashamed, if I were focused on all your instructions. 7 ​​​​​​​I’ll give you sincere thanks, when I learn your just regulations. 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll keep your principles. Do not completely abandon me! 9 ​​​​​​​ב (Bet) How can a young person maintain a pure life? By guarding it according to your instructions! 10 ​​​​​​​With all my heart I seek you. Do not allow me to stray from your instructions! 11 ​​​​​​​In my heart I store up your words, so I might not sin against you. 12 ​​​​​​​You deserve praise, O Lifegiver! Teach me your principles! 13 ​​​​​​​With my lips I proclaim all the regulations you have revealed. 14 ​​​​​​​I rejoice in the lifestyle prescribed by your rules as if they were riches of all kinds. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll meditate on your precepts and focus on your behavior. 16 ​​​​​​​I find delight in your principles; I do not forget your instructions. 17 ​​​​​​​ג (Gimel) Be kind to your servant! Then I’ll live and keep your instructions. 18 ​​​​​​​Open my eyes so I can truly see the marvelous things in your law! 19 ​​​​​​​I’m like a foreigner in this land. Do not hide your instructions from me! 20 ​​​​​​​I desperately long to know your regulations at all times. 21 ​​​​​​​You reprimand arrogant people. Those who stray from your instructions are doomed. 22 ​​​​​​​Spare me shame and humiliation, for I observe your rules. 23 ​​​​​​​Though rulers plot and slander me, your servant meditates on your principles. 24 ​​​​​​​Yes, I find delight in your rules; they give me guidance. 25 ​​​​​​​ד (Dalet) I collapse in the dirt. Revive me with your word! 26 ​​​​​​​I told you about my ways and you answered me. Teach me your principles! 27 ​​​​​​​Help me to understand what your precepts mean! Then I can meditate on your marvelous teachings. 28 ​​​​​​​I collapse from grief. Sustain me by your word! 29 ​​​​​​​Remove me from the path of deceit! Graciously give me your law! 30 ​​​​​​​I choose the path of faithfulness; I’m committed to your regulations. 31 ​​​​​​​I hold fast to your rules. O Lifegiver, do not let me be ashamed! 32 ​​​​​​​I run along the path of your instructions, for you enable me to do so. 33 ​​​​​​​ה (He) Teach me, O Lifegiver, the lifestyle prescribed by your principles, so that I might observe it continually. 34 ​​​​​​​Give me understanding so that I might observe your law, and keep it with all my heart. 35 ​​​​​​​Guide me in the path of your instructions, for I delight to walk in it. 36 ​​​​​​​Give me a desire for your rules, rather than for wealth gained unjustly. 37 ​​​​​​​Turn my eyes away from what is worthless! Revive me with your word! 38 ​​​​​​​Confirm to your servant your promise, which you made to the one who honors you. 39 ​​​​​​​Take away the insults that I dread! Indeed, your regulations are good. 40 ​​​​​​​Look, I long for your precepts. Revive me with your deliverance! 41 ​​​​​​​ו (Vav) May I experience your loyal love, O Lifegiver, and your deliverance, as you promised.

42 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll have a reply for the one who insults me, for I trust in your word. 43 ​​​​​​​Do not completely deprive me of a truthful testimony, for I await your justice. 44 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll keep your law continually now and for all time. 45 ​​​​​​​I’ll be secure, for I seek your precepts. 46 ​​​​​​​I’ll speak about your regulations before kings and not be ashamed. 47 ​​​​​​​I’ll find delight in your instructions, which I love. 48 ​​​​​​​I’ll lift my hands to your instructions, which I love, and I’ll meditate on your principles. 49 ​​​​​​​ז (Zayin) Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. 50 ​​​​​​​This is what comforts me in my trouble, for your promise revives me. 51 ​​​​​​​Arrogant people do nothing but scoff at me. Yet I do not turn aside from your law. 52 ​​​​​​​I remember your ancient regulations, O Lifegiver, and console myself. 53 ​​​​​​​Rage takes hold of me because of the wicked, those who reject your law. 54 ​​​​​​​Your principles have been my songs in the house where I live. 55 ​​​​​​​I remember your name during the night, O Lifegiver, and I’ll keep your law. 56 ​​​​​​​This has been my practice, for I observe your precepts. 57 ​​​​​​​ח (Khet) Lifegiver is my source of security. I’ve determined to follow your instructions. 58 ​​​​​​​I seek your favor with all my heart. Have mercy on me as you promised! 59 ​​​​​​​I consider my actions and follow your rules. 60 ​​​​​​​I keep your instructions eagerly and without delay. 61 ​​​​​​​The ropes of the wicked tighten around me, but I do not forget your law. 62 ​​​​​​​In the middle of the night I arise to thank you for your just regulations. 63 ​​​​​​​I’m a friend to all your loyal followers, and to those who keep your precepts. 64 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, your loyal love fills the Earth . Teach me your principles! 65 ​​​​​​​ט (Tet) You are good to your servant, O Lifegiver, just as you promised. 66 ​​​​​​​Teach me proper discernment and understanding! For I consider your instructions to be reliable. 67 ​​​​​​​Before I was afflicted I used to stray off, but now I keep your instructions. 68 ​​​​​​​You are good and you do good. Teach me your principles! 69 ​​​​​​​Arrogant people smear my reputation with lies, but I observe your precepts with all my heart. 70 ​​​​​​​Their hearts are calloused, but I find delight in your law. 71 ​​​​​​​It was good for me to suffer, so that I might learn your principles. 72 ​​​​​​​The law you have revealed is more important to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver. 73 ​​​​​​​י (Yod) Your hands made me and formed me. Give me understanding so that I might learn your instructions. 74 ​​​​​​​Your loyal followers will be glad when they see me, for I find hope in your word. 75 ​​​​​​​I know, Lifegiver, that your regulations are just. You disciplined me because of your faithful devotion to me. 76 ​​​​​​​May your loyal love console me, as you promised your servant. 77 ​​​​​​​May I experience your compassion, so I might live! For I find delight in your law. 78 ​​​​​​​May the arrogant be humiliated, for they have slandered me! But I meditate on your precepts. 79 ​​​​​​​May your loyal followers turn to me, those who know your rules. 80 ​​​​​​​May I be fully committed to your principles, so that I might not be ashamed. 81 (Kaf) I desperately long for your deliverance. I find hope in your word. 82 ​​​​​​​My eyes grow tired as I wait for your promise to be fulfilled. I say, “When will you comfort me?” 83 ​​​​​​​For I’m like a wineskin dried up in smoke. I do not forget your principles. 84 ​​​​​​​How long must your servant endure this? When will you judge those who pursue me? 85 ​​​​​​​The arrogant dig pits to trap me, which violates your law. 86 ​​​​​​​All your instructions are reliable. I’m pursued without reason. Help me! 87 ​​​​​​​They have almost destroyed me here on the Earth , but I do not reject your precepts. 88 ​​​​​​​Revive me with your loyal love, that I might keep the rules you have revealed. 89 (Lamed) O Lifegiver, your instructions endure; they stand secure in Heaven. 90 ​​​​​​​You demonstrate your faithfulness to all generations. You established the Earth and it stood firm. 91 ​​​​​​​Today they stand firm by your decrees, for all things are your servants. 92 ​​​​​​​If I had not found encouragement in your law, I would have died in my sorrow. 93 ​​​​​​​I’ll never forget your precepts, for by them you have revived me. 94 ​​​​​​​I belong to you. Deliver me! For I seek your precepts. 95 ​​​​​​​The wicked prepare to kill me, yet I concentrate on your rules. 96 ​​​​​​​I realize that everything has its limits, but your instructions are beyond full comprehension. 97 (Mem) O how I love your law! All day long I meditate on it. 98 ​​​​​​​Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for I’m always aware of them. 99 ​​​​​​​I’ve more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your rules. 100 ​​​​​​​I’m more discerning than those older than I, for I observe your precepts. 101 ​​​​​​​I stay away from the bad path, so that I might keep your instructions. 102 ​​​​​​​I do not turn aside from your regulations, for you teach me. 103 ​​​​​​​Your words are sweeter in my mouth than honey! 104 ​​​​​​​Your precepts give me discernment. Therefore I hate all deceitful actions. 105 ​​​​​​​נ (Nun) Your word is a lamp to walk by, and a light to illumine my path. 106 ​​​​​​​I’ve vowed and solemnly sworn to keep your just regulations. 107 ​​​​​​​I’m suffering terribly. O Lifegiver, revive me with your word! 108 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, please accept the freewill offerings of my praise! Teach me your regulations! 109 ​​​​​​​My life is in continual danger, but I do not forget your law. 110 ​​​​​​​The wicked lay a trap for me, but I do not wander from your precepts. 111 ​​​​​​​I claim your rules as my permanent possession, for they give me joy. 112 ​​​​​​​I’m determined to obey your principles at all times, to the very end. 113 ​​​​​​​ס (Samek) I hate people with divided loyalties, but I love your law. 114 ​​​​​​​You are my hiding place and my shield. I find hope in your word. 115 ​​​​​​​Turn away from me, you bad men, so that I can observe the instructions of my Supermights. 116 ​​​​​​​Sustain me as you promised, so that I’ll live. Do not disappoint me! 117 ​​​​​​​Support me, so that I’ll be delivered. Then I’ll focus on your principles continually. 118 ​​​​​​​You despise all who stray from your principles, for they are deceptive and unreliable. 119 ​​​​​​​You remove all the wicked of the Earth like slag. Therefore I love your rules. 120 ​​​​​​​My body trembles because I fear you; I’m afraid of your judgments. 121 ​​​​​​​ע (Ayin) I do what is fair and right. Do not abandon me to my oppressors! 122 ​​​​​​​Guarantee the welfare of your servant! Do not let the arrogant oppress me! 123 ​​​​​​​My eyes grow tired as I wait for your deliverance, for your reliable promise to be fulfilled. 124 ​​​​​​​Show your servant your loyal love! Teach me your principles! 125 ​​​​​​​I’m your servant. Give me insight, so that I can understand your rules. 126 ​​​​​​​It is time for Lifegiver to act – they break your law! 127 ​​​​​​​For this reason I love your instructions more than gold, even purest gold. 128 ​​​​​​​For this reason I carefully follow all your precepts. I hate all deceitful actions. 129 ​​​​​​​פ (Pe) Your rules are marvelous. Therefore I observe them. 130 ​​​​​​​Your instructions are a doorway through which light shines. They give insight to the untrained. 131 ​​​​​​​I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your instructions. 132 ​​​​​​​Turn toward me and extend mercy to me, as you typically do to your loyal followers. 133 ​​​​​​​Direct my steps by your word! Do not let any sin dominate me! 134 ​​​​​​​Deliver me from oppressive men, so that I can keep your precepts. 135 ​​​​​​​Smile on your servant! Teach me your principles! 136 ​​​​​​​Tears stream down from my eyes, because people do not keep your law. 137 ​​​​​​​צ (Tsade) You are just, O Lifegiver, and your judgments are fair. 138 ​​​​​​​The rules you impose are just, and absolutely reliable. 139 ​​​​​​​My zeal consumes me, for my enemies forget your instructions. 140 ​​​​​​​Your word is absolutely pure, and your servant loves it! 141 ​​​​​​​I’m insignificant and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. 142 ​​​​​​​Your justice endures, and your law is reliable. 143 ​​​​​​​Distress and hardship confront me, yet I find delight in your instructions. 144 ​​​​​​​Your rules remain just. Give me insight so that I can live. 145 ​​​​​​​ק (Qof) I cried out with all my heart, “Answer me, O Lifegiver! I’ll observe your principles.” 146 ​​​​​​​I cried out to you, “Deliver me, so that I can keep your rules.” 147 ​​​​​​​I’m up before dawn crying for help. I find hope in your word. 148 ​​​​​​​My eyes anticipate the nighttime hours, so that I can meditate on your word. 149 ​​​​​​​Listen to me because of your loyal love! O Lifegiver, revive me, as you typically do! 150 ​​​​​​​Those who are eager to do wrong draw near; they are far from your law. 151 ​​​​​​​You are near, O Lifegiver, and all your instructions are reliable. 152 ​​​​​​​I learned long ago that you ordained your rules to last. 153 ​​​​​​​ר (Resh) See my pain and rescue me! For I do not forget your law. 154 ​​​​​​​Fight for me and defend me! Revive me with your word! 155 ​​​​​​​The wicked have no chance for deliverance, for they do not seek your principles. 156 ​​​​​​​Your compassion is great, O Lifegiver. Revive me, as you typically do! 157 ​​​​​​​The enemies who chase me are numerous. Yet I do not turn aside from your rules. 158 ​​​​​​​I take note of the treacherous and despise them, because they do not keep your instructions. 159 ​​​​​​​See how I love your precepts! O Lifegiver, revive me with your loyal love! 160

​​​​​​​Your instructions are totally reliable; all your just regulations endure. 161 ​​​​​​​שׂ/שׁ (Sin/Shin) Rulers pursue me for no reason, yet I’m more afraid of disobeying your instructions. 162 ​​​​​​​I rejoice in your instructions, like one who finds much plunder. 163 ​​​​​​​I hate and despise deceit; I love your law. 164 ​​​​​​​Seven times a day I praise you because of your just regulations. 165 ​​​​​​​Those who love your law are completely secure; nothing causes them to stumble. 166 ​​​​​​​I hope for your deliverance, O Lifegiver, and I obey your instructions. 167 ​​​​​​​I keep your rules; I love them greatly. 168 ​​​​​​​I keep your precepts and rules, for you are aware of everything I do. 169 ​​​​​​​ת (Tav) Listen to my cry for help, O Lifegiver! Give me insight by your word! 170 ​​​​​​​Listen to my appeal for mercy! Deliver me, as you promised. 171 ​​​​​​​May praise flow freely from my lips, for you teach me your principles. 172 ​​​​​​​May my tongue sing about your instructions, for all your instructions are just. 173 ​​​​​​​May your hand help me, for I choose to obey your precepts. 174 ​​​​​​​I long for your deliverance, O Lifegiver; I find delight in your law. 175 ​​​​​​​May I live and praise you! May your regulations help me! 176 ​​​​​​​I’ve wandered off like a lost sheep. Come looking for your servant, for I do not forget your instructions.

Psalms 120

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. In my distress I cried out to Lifegiver and he answered me. 2 ​​​​​​​I said, “O Lifegiver, rescue me from those who lie with their lips and those who deceive with their tongue. 3 ​​​​​​​How will he severely punish you, you deceptive talker? 4 ​​​​​​​Here’s how! With the sharp arrows of warriors, with arrowheads forged over the hot coals. 5 ​​​​​​​How miserable I’m! For I’ve lived temporarily in Meshech; I’ve resided among the tents of Kedar. 6 ​​​​​​​For too long I’ve had to reside with those who hate peace. 7 ​​​​​​​I’m committed to peace, but when I speak, they want to make war.

Psalms 121

1 ​​​​​​​Do I lift my eyes to the mountains,

from where my help fountains?

2 ​​​​​​​My help huddles from besides Lifegiver,

the Architect of Celestial Bodies and the Earth !

3 ​​​​​​​He does not let your foot slip.

Your Guardian does not sleep.

4 ​​​​​​​Look, Israel’s Protector does not drowse off.

He never goes to sleep.

5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is your Protector.

Lifegiver is your shade above.

He is your right hand.

6 ​​​​​​​The sun by day and the moon by night

will not harm you.

7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will preserve you from all adversity

He will protect and guard your life.

8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will protect your movements

from now on until futurity.

Psalms 122

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents, by David. I was glad because they said to me, “We’ll go to Lifegiver’s temple.” 2 ​​​​​​​Our feet are standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem. 3 ​​​​​​​Jerusalem is a city designed to accommodate an assembly. 4 ​​​​​​​The tribes go up there, the tribes of Lifegiver, where it is required that Israel give thanks to the name of Lifegiver. 5 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the leaders sit there on thrones and make legal decisions, on the thrones of the house of David. 6 ​​​​​​​Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love her prosper! 7 ​​​​​​​May there be peace inside your defenses, and prosperity inside your fortresses! 8 ​​​​​​​For the sake of my brothers and my neighbors I’ll say, “May there be peace in you!” 9 ​​​​​​​For the sake of the temple of Lifegiver our Supermights I’ll pray for you to prosper.

Psalms 123

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. I look up toward you, the one enthroned in Heaven. 2 ​​​​​​​Look, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a female servant look to the hand of her mistress, so my eyes will look to Lifegiver, our Supermights , until he shows us favor. 3 ​​​​​​​Show us favor, O Lifegiver, show us favor! For we’ve had our fill of humiliation, and then some. 4 ​​​​​​​We’ve had our fill of the taunts of the self-assured, of the contempt of the proud.

Psalms 124

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents, by David. “If Lifegiver had not been on our side” – let Israel say this! – 2 ​​​​​​​if Lifegiver had not been on our side, when men attacked us, 3 ​​​​​​​they would have swallowed us alive, when their anger raged against us. 4 ​​​​​​​The water would have overpowered us; the current would have overwhelmed us. 5 ​​​​​​​The raging water would have overwhelmed us. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver deserves praise, for he did not hand us over as prey to their teeth. 7 ​​​​​​​We escaped with our lives, like a bird from a hunter’s snare. The snare broke, and we escaped. 8 ​​​​​​​Our deliverer is Lifegiver, the Creator of Celestial Bodies and Earth.

Psalms 125

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. Those who trust in Lifegiver are like Mount Zion; it cannot be upended and will endure forever. 2 ​​​​​​​As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so Lifegiver surrounds his people, now and forevermore. 3 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the scepter of a wicked king will not settle upon the allotted land of the Supermights ly. Otherwise the Supermights ly might do what is wrong. 4 ​​​​​​​Do good, O Lifegiver, to those who are good, to the morally upright! 5 ​​​​​​​As for those who are bent on traveling a sinful path, may Lifegiver remove them, along with those who behave wickedly! May Israel experience peace!

Psalms 126

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. When Lifegiver restored the well-being of Zion, we thought we were dreaming. 2 ​​​​​​​At that time we laughed loudly and shouted for joy. At that time the nationalities said, “Lifegiver has accomplished great things for these people.” 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver did indeed accomplish great things for us. We were happy. 4 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, restore our well-being, just as the streams in the arid south are replenished. 5 ​​​​​​​Those who shed tears as they plant will shout for joy when they reap the harvest. 6 ​​​​​​​The one who weeps as he walks along, carrying his bag of seed, will certainly come in with a shout of joy, carrying his sheaves of grain.

Psalms 127

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents, by Solomon. If Lifegiver does not build a house, then those who build it work in vain. If Lifegiver does not guard a city, then the watchman stands guard in vain. 2 ​​​​​​​It is vain for you to rise early, come home late, and work so hard for your food. Yes, he can provide for those whom he loves even when they sleep. 3 ​​​​​​​Yes, sons are a gift from Lifegiver, the fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 ​​​​​​​Sons born during one’s youth are like arrows in a warrior’s hand. 5 ​​​​​​​How blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! They’ll not be put to shame when they confront enemies at the city gate.

Psalms 128

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. How blessed is every one of Lifegiver’s loyal followers, each one who keeps his instructions! 2 ​​​​​​​You’ll eat what you worked so hard to grow. You’ll be blessed and secure. 3 ​​​​​​​Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the inner rooms of your house; your children will be like olive branches, as they sit all around your table. 4 ​​​​​​​Yes indeed, the man who fears Lifegiver will be blessed in this way. 5 ​​​​​​​May Lifegiver bless you from Zion, that you might see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life, 6 ​​​​​​​and that you might see your grandchildren. May Israel experience peace!

Psalms 129

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. “Since my youth they have often attacked me,” let Israel say. 2 ​​​​​​​“Since my youth they have often attacked me, but they have not defeated me. 3 ​​​​​​​The plowers plowed my back; they made their furrows long. 4 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is just; he cut the ropes of the wicked.” 5 ​​​​​​​May all who hate Zion be humiliated and turned back! 6 ​​​​​​​May they be like the grass on the rooftops which withers before one can even pull it up, 7 ​​​​​​​which cannot fill the reaper’s hand, or the lap of the one who gathers the grain!

8 ​​​​​​​Those who pass by will not say, “May you experience Lifegiver’s blessing! We pronounce a blessing on you in the name of Lifegiver.”

Psalms 130

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. From the deep water I cry out to you, O Lifegiver. 2 ​​​​​​​O Lord, listen to me! Pay attention to my plea for mercy! 3 ​​​​​​​If you, O Lifegiver, were to keep track of sins, O Lord, who could stand before you? 4 ​​​​​​​But you are willing to forgive, so that you might be honored. 5 ​​​​​​​I rely on Lifegiver, I rely on him with my whole being; I wait for his assuring word. 6 ​​​​​​​I yearn for Lifegiver, more than watchmen do for the morning, yes, more than watchmen do for the morning. 7 ​​​​​​​O Israel, hope in Lifegiver, for Lifegiver exhibits loyal love, and is more than willing to deliver. 8 ​​​​​​​He will deliver Israel from all the consequences of their sins.

Psalms 131

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents, by David. O Lifegiver, my heart is not proud, nor do I’ve a haughty look. I do not have great aspirations, or concern myself with things that are beyond me. 2 ​​​​​​​Indeed I’m composed and quiet, like a young child carried by its mother; I’m content like the young child I carry. 3 ​​​​​​​O Israel, hope in Lifegiver now and forevermore!

Psalms 132

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. O Lifegiver, for David’s sake remember all his strenuous effort, 2 ​​​​​​​and how he made a vow to Lifegiver, and swore an oath to the powerful ruler of Jacob. 3 ​​​​​​​He said, “I’ll not enter my own home, or get into my bed. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll not allow my eyes to sleep, or my eyelids to slumber, 5 ​​​​​​​until I find a place for Lifegiver, a fine dwelling place for the powerful ruler of Jacob.” 6 ​​​​​​​Look, we heard about it in Ephrathah, we found it in the territory of Jaar. 7 ​​​​​​​Let us go to his dwelling place! Let us worship before his footstool! 8 ​​​​​​​Ascend, O Lifegiver, to your resting place, you and theCabinet of your strength! 9 ​​​​​​​May your priests be clothed with integrity! May your loyal followers shout for joy! 10 ​​​​​​​For the sake of David, your servant, do not reject your Designated king! 11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver made a reliable promise to David; he’ll not go back on his word. He said, “I’ll place one of your descendants on your throne. 12 ​​​​​​​If your sons keep my agreement and the rules I teach them, their sons will also sit on your throne forever.” 13 ​​​​​​​Certainly Lifegiver has Designated Zion; he decided to make it his home. 14 ​​​​​​​He said, “This will be my resting place forever; I’ll live here, for I’ve Designated it. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll abundantly supply what she needs; I’ll give her poor all the food they need. 16 ​​​​​​​I’ll protect her priests, and her Supermights ly people will shout exuberantly. 17 ​​​​​​​There I’ll make David strong; I’ve determined that my Designated king’s dynasty will continue. 18 ​​​​​​​I’ll humiliate his enemies, and his crown will shine.

Psalms 133

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents, by David. Look! How good and how pleasant it is when brothers live together! 2 ​​​​​​​It is like fine oil poured on the head which flows down the beard – Aaron’s beard, and then flows down his garments. 3 ​​​​​​​It is like the dew of Hermon, which flows down upon the hills of Zion. Indeed that is where Lifegiver has decreed a blessing will be available – eternal life.

Psalms 134

1 ​​​​​​​A song of ascents. Attention! Praise Lifegiver, all you servants of Lifegiver, who serve in Lifegiver’s temple during the night. 2 ​​​​​​​Lift your hands toward the sanctuary and praise Lifegiver! 3 ​​​​​​​May Lifegiver, the Creator of Celestial Bodies and Earth , bless you from Zion!

Psalms 135

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! Praise the name of Lifegiver! Offer praise, you servants of Lifegiver, 2 ​​​​​​​who serve in Lifegiver’s temple, in the courts of the temple of our Supermights. 3 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, for Lifegiver is good! Sing praises to his name, for it is pleasant! 4 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Lifegiver has Designated Jacob for himself, Israel to be his special possession. 5 ​​​​​​​Yes, I know Lifegiver is great, and our Lord is superior to all Deities. 6 ​​​​​​​He does whatever he pleases in Celestial Bodies and on Earth, in the seas and all the ocean depths. 7 ​​​​​​​He causes the clouds to arise from the end of the Earth , makes lightning bolts accompany the rain, and brings the wind out of his storehouses. 8 ​​​​​​​He struck down the firstborn of Egypt, including both men and animals. 9 ​​​​​​​He performed awesome deeds and acts of judgment in your midst, O Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants. 10 ​​​​​​​He defeated many nationalities, and killed mighty kings – 11 ​​​​​​​Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the reigns of Canaan. 12 ​​​​​​​He gave their land as an inheritance, as an inheritance to Israel his people. 13 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, your name endures, your reputation, O Lifegiver, lasts. 14 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver vindicates his people, and has compassion on his servants. 15 ​​​​​​​The nationalities’ idols are made of silver and gold, they are man-made. 16 ​​​​​​​They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see, 17 ​​​​​​​and ears, but cannot hear. Indeed, they cannot breathe. 18 ​​​​​​​Those who make them will end up like them, as will everyone who trusts in them. 19 ​​​​​​​O family of Israel, praise Lifegiver! O family of Aaron, praise Lifegiver! 20 ​​​​​​​O family of Levi, praise Lifegiver! You loyal followers of Lifegiver, praise Lifegiver! 21 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver deserves praise in Zion – he who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 136

1 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver, for he is good, for his loyal love endures. 2 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to the Supermights of Deities, for his loyal love endures. 3 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to Lifegiver of lords, for his loyal love endures, 4 ​​​​​​​to the one who performs magnificent, amazing deeds all by himself, for his loyal love endures, 5 ​​​​​​​to the one who used wisdom to make the Celestial Bodies, for his loyal love endures, 6 ​​​​​​​to the one who spread out the Earth over the water, for his loyal love endures, 7 ​​​​​​​to the one who made the great lights, for his loyal love endures, 8 ​​​​​​​the sun to rule by day, for his loyal love endures, 9 ​​​​​​​the moon and stars to rule by night, for his loyal love endures, 10 ​​​​​​​to the one who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his loyal love endures, 11 ​​​​​​​and led Israel out from their midst, for his loyal love endures, 12 ​​​​​​​with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his loyal love endures, 13 ​​​​​​​to the one who divided the Red Sea in two, for his loyal love endures, 14 ​​​​​​​and led Israel through its midst, for his loyal love endures, 15 ​​​​​​​and tossed Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea, for his loyal love endures, 16 ​​​​​​​to the one who led his people through the desert, for his loyal love endures, 17 ​​​​​​​to the one who struck down great kings, for his loyal love endures, 18 ​​​​​​​and killed powerful kings, for his loyal love endures, 19 ​​​​​​​Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his loyal love endures, 20 ​​​​​​​Og, king of Bashan, for his loyal love endures, 21 ​​​​​​​and gave their land as an inheritance, for his loyal love endures, 22 ​​​​​​​as an inheritance to Israel his servant, for his loyal love endures, 23 ​​​​​​​to the one who remembered us when we were down, for his loyal love endures, 24 ​​​​​​​and snatched us away from our enemies, for his loyal love endures, 25 ​​​​​​​to the one who gives food to all living things, for his loyal love endures. 26 ​​​​​​​Give thanks to the Supermights of Heaven, for his loyal love endures!

Psalms 137

1 ​​​​​​​By the rivers of Babylon we sit down and weep when we remember Zion. 2 ​​​​​​​On the poplars in her midst we hang our harps, 3 ​​​​​​​for there our captors ask us to compose songs; those who mock us demand that we be happy, saying: “Sing for us a song about Zion!” 4 ​​​​​​​How can we sing a song to Lifegiver in a foreign land? 5 ​​​​​​​If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand be crippled! 6 ​​​​​​​May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, and do not give Jerusalem priority over whatever gives me the most joy. 7 ​​​​​​​Remember, O Lifegiver, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. They said, “Tear it down, tear it down, right to its very foundation!” 8 ​​​​​​​O daughter Babylon, soon to be devastated! How blessed will be the one who repays you for what you dished out to us! 9 ​​​​​​​How blessed will be the one who grabs your babies and smashes them on a rock!

Psalms 138

1 ​​​​​​​By David. I’ll give you thanks with all my heart; before the Heavenly assembly I’ll sing praises to you. 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll bow down toward your sacred temple, and give thanks to your name, because of your loyal love and faithfulness, for you have exalted your promise above the entire sky. 3 ​​​​​​​When I cried out for help, you answered me. You made me bold and energized me. 4 ​​​​​​​Let all the kings of the Earth give thanks to you, O Lifegiver, when they hear the words you speak. 5 ​​​​​​​Let them sing about Lifegiver’s deeds, for Lifegiver’s splendor is magnificent. 6 ​​​​​​​Though Lifegiver is exalted, he takes note of the lowly, and recognizes the proud from far away. 7 ​​​​​​​Even when I must walk in the midst of danger, you revive me. You oppose my angry enemies, and your right hand delivers me. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver avenges me. O Lifegiver, your loyal love endures. Do not abandon those whom you have made!

Psalms 139

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director, a psalm of David. O Lifegiver, you examine me and know. 2 ​​​​​​​You know when I sit down and when I get up; even from far away you understand my motives. 3 ​​​​​​​You carefully observe me when I travel or when I lie down to rest; you are aware of everything I do. 4 ​​​​​​​Certainly my tongue does not frame a word without you, O Lifegiver, being thoroughly aware of it. 5 ​​​​​​​You squeeze me in from behind and in front; you place your hand on me. 6 ​​​​​​​Your knowledge is beyond my comprehension; it is so far beyond me, I’m unable to fathom it. 7 ​​​​​​​Where can I go to escape your spirit? Where can I flee to escape your presence? 8 ​​​​​​​If I were to ascend to Heaven, you would be there. If I were to sprawl out in Sheol, there you would be. 9 ​​​​​​​If I were to fly away on the wings of the dawn, and settle down on the other side of the sea, 10 ​​​​​​​even there your hand would guide me, your right hand would grab hold of me. 11 ​​​​​​​If I were to say, “Certainly the darkness will cover me, and the light will turn to night all around me,” 12 ​​​​​​​even the darkness is not too dark for you to see, and the night is as bright as day; darkness and light are the same to you. 13 ​​​​​​​Certainly you made my mind and heart; you wove me together in my mother’s womb. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll give you thanks because I’m awesomely, distinctly and extraordinarily made. You knew me thoroughly; 15 ​​​​​​​my bones were not hidden from you, when I was made in secret and sewed together in the depths of the Earth . 16 ​​​​​​​Your eyes saw me when I was inside the womb. All the days ordained for me were recorded in your scroll before one of them came into existence. 17 ​​​​​​​How difficult it is for me to fathom your thoughts about me, O Supermights ! How vast is their sum total! 18 ​​​​​​​If I tried to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. Even if I finished counting them, I would still have to contend with you. 19 ​​​​​​​If only you would kill the wicked, O Supermights ! Get away from me, you violent men! 20 ​​​​​​​They rebel against you and act deceitfully; your enemies lie. 21 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, do I not hate those who hate you, and despise those who oppose you? 22 ​​​​​​​I absolutely hate them, they have become my enemies! 23 ​​​​​​​Examine me, and probe my thoughts! Test me, and know my concerns! 24 ​​​​​​​See if there is any idolatrous tendency in me, and lead me in the reliable ancient path!

Psalms 140

1 ​​​​​​​For the music director; a psalm of David. O Lifegiver, rescue me from wicked men! Protect me from violent men, 2 ​​​​​​​who plan ways to harm me. All day long they stir up conflict. 3 ​​​​​​​Their tongues wound like a serpent; a viper’s venom is behind their lips. (Pause) 4 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, shelter me from the power of the wicked! Protect me from violent men, who plan to knock me over. 5 ​​​​​​​Proud men hide a snare for me; bad men spread a net by the path; they set traps for me. (Pause) 6 ​​​​​​​I say to Lifegiver, “You are my Supermights.” O Lifegiver, pay attention to my plea for mercy! 7 ​​​​​​​O supreme Lifegiver, my strong deliverer, you shield my head in the day of battle. 8 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, do not let the wicked have their way! Do not allow their plan to succeed when they attack! (Pause) 9 ​​​​​​​As for the heads of those who surround me – may the harm done by their lips overwhelm them! 10 ​​​​​​​May he rain down fiery coals upon them! May he throw them into the fire! From bottomless pits they’ll not escape. 11 ​​​​​​​A slanderer will not endure on the Earth ; calamity will hunt down a violent man and strike him down. 12 ​​​​​​​I know that Lifegiver defends the cause of the oppressed and vindicates the poor. 13 ​​​​​​​Certainly the Supermights ly will give thanks to your name; the morally upright will live in your presence.

Psalms 141

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David. O Lifegiver, I cry out to you. Come quickly to me! Pay attention to me when I cry out to you! 2 ​​​​​​​May you accept my prayer like incense, my uplifted hands like the evening offering! 3 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, place a guard on my mouth! Protect the opening of my lips! 4 ​​​​​​​Do not let me have bad desires, or participate in sinful activities with men who behave wickedly. I’ll not eat their delicacies. 5 ​​​​​​​May the Supermights ly strike me in love and correct me! May my head not refuse choice oil! Indeed, my prayer is a witness against their bad deeds. 6 ​​​​​​​They’ll be thrown down the side of a cliff by their judges. They’ll listen to my words, for they are pleasant. 7 ​​​​​​​As when one plows and breaks up the soil, so our bones are scattered at the mouth of Sheol. 8 ​​​​​​​Surely I’m looking to you, O supreme Lifegiver. In you I take shelter. Do not expose me to danger! 9 ​​​​​​​Protect me from the snare they have laid for me, and the traps the evildoers have set. 10 ​​​​​​​Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape.

Psalms 142

1 ​​​​​​​A well-written song by David, when he was in the cave; a prayer. To Lifegiver I cry out; to Lifegiver I plead for mercy. 2 ​​​​​​​I pour out my lament before him; I tell him about my troubles. 3 ​​​​​​​Even when my strength leaves me, you watch my footsteps. In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. 4 ​​​​​​​Look to the right and see! No one cares about me. I’ve nowhere to run; no one is concerned about my life. 5 ​​​​​​​I cry out to you, O Lifegiver; I say, “You are my shelter, my security in the land of the living.” 6 ​​​​​​​Listen to my cry for help, for I’m in serious trouble! Rescue me from those who chase me, for they are stronger than I’m. 7 ​​​​​​​Free me from prison, that I may give thanks to your name. Because of me the Supermights ly will assemble, for you’ll vindicate me.

Psalms 143

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of David. O Lifegiver, hear my prayer! Pay attention to my plea for help! Because of your faithfulness and justice, answer me! 2 ​​​​​​​Do not sit in judgment on your servant, for no one alive is innocent before you. 3 ​​​​​​​Certainly my enemies chase me. They smash me into the ground. They force me to live in dark regions, like those who have been dead for ages. 4 ​​​​​​​My strength leaves me; I’m absolutely shocked. 5 ​​​​​​​I recall the old days; I meditate on all you have done; I reflect on your accomplishments. 6 ​​​​​​​I spread my hands out to you in prayer; my soul thirsts for you in a parched land. 7 ​​​​​​​Answer me quickly, Lifegiver! My strength is fading. Do not reject me, or I’ll join those descending into the grave. 8 ​​​​​​​May I hear about your loyal love in the morning, for I trust in you. Show me the way I should go, because I long for you. 9 ​​​​​​​Rescue me from my enemies, O Lifegiver! I run to you for protection. 10 ​​​​​​​Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my Supermights. May your kind presence lead me into a level land. 11 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, for the sake of your reputation, revive me! Because of your justice, rescue me from trouble! 12 ​​​​​​​As a demonstration of your loyal love, destroy my enemies! Annihilate all who threaten my life, for I’m your servant.

Psalms 144

1 ​​​​​​​By David. Lifegiver, my protector, deserves praise – the one who trains my hands for battle, and my fingers for war, 2 ​​​​​​​who loves me and is my stronghold, my refuge and my deliverer, my shield and the one in whom I take shelter, who makes nationalities submit to me. 3 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, of what importance is the human race, that you should notice them? Of what importance is mankind, that you should be concerned about them? 4 ​​​​​​​People are like a vapor, their days like a shadow that disappears. 5 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, make the sky sink and come down! Touch the mountains and make them smolder! 6 ​​​​​​​Hurl lightning bolts and scatter them! Shoot your arrows and rout them! 7 ​​​​​​​Reach down from above! Grab me and rescue me from the surging water, from the power of foreigners, 8 ​​​​​​​who speak lies, and make false promises. 9 ​​​​​​​O Supermights , I’ll sing a new song to you! Accompanied by a ten-stringed instrument, I’ll sing praises to you, 10 ​​​​​​​the one who delivers kings, and rescued David his servant from a deadly sword. 11 ​​​​​​​Grab me and rescue me from the power of foreigners, who speak lies, and make false promises. 12 ​​​​​​​Then our sons will be like plants, that quickly grow to full size. Our daughters will be like corner pillars, carved like those in a palace. 13 ​​​​​​​Our storehouses will be full, providing all kinds of food. Our sheep will multiply by the thousands and fill our pastures. 14 ​​​​​​​Our cattle will be weighted down with produce. No one will break through our walls, no one will be taken captive, and there will be no terrified cries in our city squares. 15 ​​​​​​​How blessed are the people who experience these things! How blessed are the people whose Supermights is Lifegiver!

Psalms 145

1 ​​​​​​​A psalm of praise, by David. I’ll extol you, my Supermights , O king! I’ll praise your name continually! 2 ​​​​​​​Every day I’ll praise you! I’ll praise your name continually! 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is great and certainly worthy of praise! No one can fathom his greatness! 4 ​​​​​​​One generation will praise your deeds to another, and tell about your mighty acts! 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll focus on your honor and majestic splendor, and your amazing deeds! 6 ​​​​​​​They’ll proclaim the power of your awesome acts! I’ll declare your great deeds! 7 ​​​​​​​They’ll talk about the fame of your great kindness, and sing about your justice. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is merciful and compassionate; he is patient and demonstrates great loyal love. 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is good to all, and has compassion on all he has made. 10 ​​​​​​​All he has made will give thanks to Lifegiver. Your loyal followers will praise you. 11 ​​​​​​​They’ll proclaim the splendor of your reign; they’ll tell about your power, 12 ​​​​​​​so that mankind might acknowledge your mighty acts, and the majestic splendor of your reign. 13 ​​​​​​​Your reign is an eternal reign, and your dominion endures through all generations. 14 Lifegiver supports all who fall, and lifts up all who are bent over. 15 ​​​​​​​Everything looks to you in anticipation, and you provide them with food on a regular basis. 16 ​​​​​​​You open your hand, and fill every living thing with the food they desire. 17 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is just in all his actions, and exhibits love in all he does. 18 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is near all who cry out to him, all who cry out to him sincerely. 19 ​​​​​​​He satisfies the desire of his loyal followers; he hears their cry for help and delivers them.

20 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver protects those who love him, but he destroys all the wicked. 21 ​​​​​​​My mouth will praise Lifegiver. Let all who live praise his sacred name forever!

Psalms 146

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! Praise Lifegiver, O my soul! 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll praise Lifegiver as long as I live! I’ll sing praises to my Supermights as long as I exist! 3 ​​​​​​​Do not trust in princes, or in human beings, who cannot deliver! 4 ​​​​​​​Their life’s breath departs, they return to the ground; on that day their plans die. 5 ​​​​​​​How blessed is the one whose helper is the Supermights of Jacob, whose hope is in Lifegiver his Supermights, 6 ​​​​​​​the one who made Celestial Bodies and Earth , the sea, and all that is in them, who remains forever faithful, 7 ​​​​​​​vindicates the oppressed, and gives food to the hungry. Lifegiver releases the imprisoned. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver gives sight to the blind. Lifegiver lifts up all who are bent over. Lifegiver loves the Supermights ly. 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver protects those residing outside their native land; he lifts up the fatherless and the widow, but he opposes the wicked. 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver rules forever, your deity, O Zion, throughout the generations to come! Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 147

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver, for it is good to sing praises to our Supermights ! Yes, praise is pleasant and appropriate! 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel. 3 ​​​​​​​He heals the heart shattered, and bandages their wounds. 4 ​​​​​​​He counts the number of the stars; he names all of them. 5 ​​​​​​​Our Lord is great and has awesome power; there is no limit to his wisdom. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver lifts up the oppressed, but knocks the wicked to the ground. 7 ​​​​​​​Offer to Lifegiver a song of thanks! Sing praises to our Supermights to the accompaniment of a harp! 8 ​​​​​​​He covers the sky with clouds, provides the Earth with rain, and causes grass to grow on the hillsides. 9 ​​​​​​​He gives food to the animals, and to the young ravens when they chirp. 10 ​​​​​​​He is not enamored with the strength of a horse, nor is he impressed by the warrior’s strong legs. 11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver takes delight in his faithful followers, and in those who wait for his loyal love. 12 ​​​​​​​Extol Lifegiver, O Jerusalem! Praise your deity, O Zion! 13 ​​​​​​​For he makes the bars of your gates strong. He blesses your children witlitreyou. 14 ​​​​​​​He brings peace to your territory. He abundantly provides for you the best grain. 15 ​​​​​​​He sends his instruct through the Earth ; swiftly his order reaches its destination. 16 ​​​​​​​He sends the snow that is white like wool; he spreads the frost that is white like ashes. 17 ​​​​​​​He throws his hailstones like crumbs. Who can withstand the cold wind he sends? 18 ​​​​​​​He then orders it all to melt; he breathes on it, and the water flows. 19 ​​​​​​​He proclaims his word to Jacob, his principles and regulations to Israel. 20 ​​​​​​​He has not done so with any other nation; they are not aware of his regulations. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 148

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! Praise Lifegiver from the sky! Praise him in the Celestial Bodies! 2 ​​​​​​​Praise him, all his messengers! Praise him, all his Heavenly assembly! 3 ​​​​​​​Praise him, O sun and moon! Praise him, all you shiny stars! 4 ​​​​​​​Praise him, O highest sky, and you waters above the sky! 5 ​​​​​​​Let them praise the name of Lifegiver, for he gave the instruct and they came into existence. 6 ​​​​​​​He established them so they would endure; he issued a decree that will not be revoked. 7 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver from the Earth , you sea creatures and all you ocean depths, 8 ​​​​​​​O fire and hail, snow and clouds, O stormy wind that carries out his orders, 9 ​​​​​​​you mountains and all you hills, you fruit trees and all you cedars, 10 ​​​​​​​you animals and all you cattle, you creeping things and birds, 11 ​​​​​​​you kings of the Earth and all you nationalities, you princes and all you leaders on the Earth , 12 ​​​​​​​you young men and young women, you elderly, along with you children! 13 ​​​​​​​Let them praise the name of Lifegiver, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty extends over the Earth and sky. 14 ​​​​​​​He has made his people victorious, and given all his loyal followers reason to praise – the Israelites, the people who are close to him. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 149

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! Sing to Lifegiver a new song! Praise him in the assembly of the Supermights ly! 2 ​​​​​​​Let Israel rejoice in their Creator! Let the people of Zion delight in their king! 3 ​​​​​​​Let them praise his name with dancing! Let them sing praises to him to the accompaniment of the tambourine and harp! 4 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver takes delight in his people; he exalts the oppressed by delivering them. 5 ​​​​​​​Let the Supermights ly rejoice because of their vindication! Let them shout for joy upon their beds! 6 ​​​​​​​May they praise Supermights while they hold a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 ​​​​​​​in order to take revenge on the nationalities, and punish foreigners. 8 ​​​​​​​They bind their kings in chains, and their nobles in iron shackles, 9 ​​​​​​​and execute the judgment to which their enemies have been sentenced. All his loyal followers will be vindicated. Praise Lifegiver!

Psalms 150

1 ​​​​​​​Praise Lifegiver! Praise Supermights in his sanctuary! Praise him in the sky, which testifies to his strength! 2 ​​​​​​​Praise him for his mighty acts! Praise him for his surpassing greatness! 3 ​​​​​​​Praise him with the blast of the horn! Praise him with the lyre and the harp! 4 ​​​​​​​Praise him with the tambourine and with dancing! Praise him with stringed instruments and the flute! 5 ​​​​​​​Praise him with loud cymbals! Praise him with clanging cymbals! 6 ​​​​​​​Let everything that has breath praise Lifegiver! Praise Lifegiver!

PROVERBS

Proverbs 1

1 ​​​​​​​The Proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: 2 ​​​​​​​To learn wisdom and moral instruction, and to discern wise counsel. 3 ​​​​​​​To receive moral instruction in skillful living, in rightness, justice, and equity. 4 ​​​​​​​To impart shrewdness to the morally naive, and a discerning plan to the young person. 5 ​​​​​​​(Let the wise also hear and gain instruction, and let the discerning acquire guidance!) 6 ​​​​​​​To discern the meaning of a proverb and a parable, the sayings of the wise and their riddles. 7 ​​​​​​​Fearing Lifegiver is the beginning of moral knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 ​​​​​​​Listen, my child, to the instruction from your father, and do not forsake the teaching from your mother. 9 ​​​​​​​For they’ll be like an elegant garland on your head, and like pendants around your neck. 10 ​​​​​​​My child, if sinners try to entice you, do not consent! 11 ​​​​​​​If they say, “Come with us! We’ll lie in wait to shed blood; we’ll ambush an innocent person capriciously. 12 ​​​​​​​We’ll swallow them alive like Sheol, those full of vigor like those going down to the Pit. 13 ​​​​​​​We’ll seize all kinds of precious wealth; we’ll fill our houses with plunder. 14 ​​​​​​​Join with us! We’ll all share equally in what we steal.” 15 ​​​​​​​My child, do not go down their way, withhold yourself from their path; 16 ​​​​​​​for they are eager to inflict harm, and they hasten to shed blood. 17 ​​​​​​​Surely it is futile to spread a net in plain sight of any bird, 18 ​​​​​​​but these men lie in wait for their own blood, they ambush their own lives! 19 ​​​​​​​Such are the ways of all who gain profit unjustly; it takes away the life of those who obtain it! 20 ​​​​​​​Wisdom calls out in the street, she shouts loudly in the plazas; 21 ​​​​​​​at the head of the noisy streets she calls, in the entrances of the gates in the city she utters her words: 22 ​​​​​​​“How long will you simpletons love naiveté? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? 23 ​​​​​​​If only you’ll respond to my rebuke, then I’ll pour out my thoughts to you and I’ll make my words known to you. 24 ​​​​​​​However, because I called but you refused to listen, because I stretched out my hand but no one paid attention, 25 ​​​​​​​because you neglected all my advice, and did not comply with my rebuke, 26 ​​​​​​​so I myself will laugh when disaster strikes you, I’ll mock when what you dread comes, 27 ​​​​​​​when what you dread comes like a whirlwind, and disaster strikes you like a devastating storm, when distressing trouble comes on you. 28 ​​​​​​​Then they’ll call to me, but I’ll not answer; they’ll diligently seek me, but they’ll not find me. 29 ​​​​​​​Because they hated moral knowledge, and did not choose to fear Lifegiver, 30 ​​​​​​​they did not comply with my advice, they spurned all my rebuke. 31 ​​​​​​​Therefore they’ll eat from the fruit of their way, and they’ll be stuffed full of their own counsel. 32 ​​​​​​​For the waywardness of the simpletons will kill them, and the careless ease of fools will destroy them. 33 ​​​​​​​But the one who listens to me will live in security, and will be at ease from the dread of harm.

Proverbs 2

1 ​​​​​​​My child, if you receive my words, and store up my instructions witlitreyou, 2 ​​​​​​​by making your ear attentive to wisdom, and by turning your heart to understanding, 3 ​​​​​​​indeed, if you call out for discernment – raise your voice for understanding – 4 ​​​​​​​if you seek it like silver, and search for it like hidden treasure, 5 ​​​​​​​then you’ll understand how to fear Lifegiver, and you’ll discover knowledge about Supermights. 6 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. 7 ​​​​​​​He stores up effective counsel for the upright, and is like a shield for those who live with integrity, 8 ​​​​​​​to guard the paths of the righteous and to protect the way of his pious ones. 9 ​​​​​​​Then you’ll understand rightness and justice and equity – every good way. 10 ​​​​​​​For wisdom will enter your heart, and moral knowledge will be attractive to you. 11 ​​​​​​​Discretion will protect you, understanding will guard you, 12 ​​​​​​​to deliver you from the way of the wicked, from those speaking perversity, 13 ​​​​​​​who leave the upright paths to walk on the dark ways, 14 ​​​​​​​who delight in doing evil, they rejoice in perverse evil; 15 ​​​​​​​whose paths are morally crooked, and who are devious in their ways; 16 ​​​​​​​to deliver you from the adulteress, from the sexually loose woman who speaks flattering words; 17 ​​​​​​​who leaves the husband from her younger days, and forgets her marriage agreement made before Supermights. 18 ​​​​​​​For her house sinks down to death, and her paths lead to the place of the departed spirits. 19 ​​​​​​​None who go in to her will return, nor will they reach the paths of life. 20 ​​​​​​​So you’ll walk in the way of good people, and will keep on the paths of the righteous. 21 ​​​​​​​For the upright will reside in the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, 22 ​​​​​​​but the wicked will be removed from the land, and the treacherous will be torn away from it.

Proverbs 3

1 ​​​​​​​My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 ​​​​​​​for they’ll provide a long and full life, and they’ll add well-being to you. 3 ​​​​​​​Do not let truth and mercy leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 ​​​​​​​Then you’ll find favor and good understanding, in the sight of Supermights and people. 5 ​​​​​​​Trust in Lifegiver with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. 6 ​​​​​​​Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he’ll make your paths straight. 7 ​​​​​​​Do not be wise in your own estimation; fear Lifegiver and turn away from evil. 8 ​​​​​​​This will bring healing to your body, and refreshment to your inner self. 9 ​​​​​​​Honor Lifegiver from your wealth and from the first fruits of all your crops; 10 ​​​​​​​then your barns will be filled completely, and your vats will overflow with new wine. 11 ​​​​​​​My child, do not despise discipline from Lifegiver, and do not loathe his rebuke. 12 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver disciplines those he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights. 13 ​​​​​​​Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who obtains understanding. 14 ​​​​​​​For her benefit is more profitable than silver, and her gain is better than gold. 15 ​​​​​​​She is more precious than rubies, and none of the things you desire can compare with her. 16 ​​​​​​​Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 17 ​​​​​​​Her ways are very pleasant, and all her paths are peaceful. 18 ​​​​​​​She is like a tree of life to those who obtain her, and everyone who grasps hold of her will be blessed. 19 ​​​​​​​By wisdom Lifegiver laid the foundation of the Earth ; he established the Celestial Bodies by understanding. 20 ​​​​​​​By his knowledge the primordial sea was broken open, and the clouds drip down dew. 21 ​​​​​​​My child, do not let them escape from your sight; safeguard sound wisdom and discretion. 22 ​​​​​​​So they’ll give life to you, and grace to adorn your neck. 23 ​​​​​​​Then you’ll walk on your way with security, and you’ll not stumble. 24 ​​​​​​​When you lie down you’ll not be filled with fear; when you lie down your sleep will be pleasant. 25 ​​​​​​​You’ll not be afraid of sudden disaster, or when destruction overtakes the wicked; 26 ​​​​​​​for Lifegiver will be the source of your confidence, and he’ll guard your foot from being caught in a trap. 27 ​​​​​​​Do not withhold good from those who need it, when you have the ability to help. 28 ​​​​​​​Do not say to your neighbor, “Go! Return tomorrow and I’ll give it,” when you have it with you at the time. 29 ​​​​​​​Do not plot bad against your neighbor when he dwells by you unsuspectingly. 30 ​​​​​​​Do not accuse anyone without legitimate cause, if he has not treated you wrongly. 31 ​​​​​​​Do not envy a violent man, and do not choose to imitate any of his ways; 32 ​​​​​​​for one who goes astray is an abomination to Lifegiver, but he reveals his intimate counsel to the upright. 33 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s curse is on the household of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. 34 ​​​​​​​Although he is scornful to arrogant scoffers, yet he shows favor to the humble. 35 ​​​​​​​The wise inherit honor, but he holds fools up to public contempt.

Proverbs 4

1 ​​​​​​​Listen, children, to a father’s instruction, and pay attention so that you may gain discernment. 2 ​​​​​​​Because I give you good instruction, do not forsake my teaching. 3 ​​​​​​​When I was a son to my father, a tender only child before my mother, 4 ​​​​​​​he taught me, and he said to me: “Let your heart lay hold of my words; keep my instructions so that you’ll live. 5 ​​​​​​​Acquire wisdom, acquire understanding; do not forget and do not turn aside from the words I speak. 6 ​​​​​​​Do not forsake wisdom, and she’ll protect you; love her, and she’ll guard you. 7 ​​​​​​​Wisdom is supreme – so acquire wisdom, and whatever you acquire, acquire understanding! 8 ​​​​​​​Esteem her highly and she’ll exalt you; she’ll honor you if you embrace her. 9 ​​​​​​​She’ll place a fair garland on your head; she’ll bestow a beautiful crown on you.” 10 ​​​​​​​Listen, my child, and accept my words, so that the years of your life will be many. 11 ​​​​​​​I’ll guide you in the way of wisdom and I’ll lead you in upright paths. 12 ​​​​​​​When you walk, your steps will not be hampered, and when you run, you’ll not stumble. 13 ​​​​​​​Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; protect it, because it is your life. 14 ​​​​​​​Do not enter the path of the wicked or walk in the way of those who are evil. 15 ​​​​​​​Avoid it, do not go on it; turn away from it, and go on. 16 ​​​​​​​For they cannot sleep unless they cause harm; they are robbed of sleep until they make someone stumble. 17 ​​​​​​​For they eat bread gained from wickedness and drink wine obtained from violence. 18 ​​​​​​​But the path of the righteous is like the bright morning light, growing brighter and brighter until full day. 19 ​​​​​​​The way of the wicked is like gloomy darkness; they do not know what causes them to stumble. 20 ​​​​​​​My child, pay attention to my words; listen attentively to my sayings. 21 ​​​​​​​Do not let them depart from your sight, guard them witlitreyour heart; 22 ​​​​​​​for they are life to those who find them and healing to one’s entire body. 23 ​​​​​​​Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the sources of life. 24 ​​​​​​​Remove perverse speech from your mouth; keep devious talk far from your lips. 25 ​​​​​​​Let your eyes look directly in front of you and let your gaze look straight before you. 26 ​​​​​​​Make the path for your feet level, so that all your ways may be established. 27 ​​​​​​​Do not turn to the right or to the left; turn yourself away from evil.

Proverbs 5

1 ​​​​​​​My child, be attentive to my wisdom, pay close attention to my understanding, 2 ​​​​​​​in order to safeguard discretion, and that your lips may guard knowledge. 3 ​​​​​​​For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her seductive words are smoother than olive oil, 4 ​​​​​​​but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 ​​​​​​​Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. 6 ​​​​​​​Lest she should make level the path leading to life, her paths are unstable but she does not know it. 7 ​​​​​​​So now, children, listen to me; do not turn aside from the words I speak. 8 ​​​​​​​Keep yourself far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, 9 ​​​​​​​lest you give your vigor to others and your years to a cruel person, 10 ​​​​​​​lest strangers devour your strength, and your labor benefit another man’s house. 11 ​​​​​​​And at the end of your life you’ll groan when your flesh and your body are wasted away. 12 ​​​​​​​And you’ll say, “How I hated discipline! My heart spurned reproof! 13 ​​​​​​​For I did not obey my teachers and I did not heed my instructors. 14 ​​​​​​​I almost came to complete ruin in the midst of the whole congregation!” 15 ​​​​​​​Drink water from your own cistern and running water from your own well. 16 ​​​​​​​Should your springs be dispersed outside, your streams of water in the wide plazas? 17 ​​​​​​​Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. 18 ​​​​​​​May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in your young wife – 19 ​​​​​​​a loving doe, a graceful deer; may her breasts satisfy you at all times, may you be captivated by her love always. 20 ​​​​​​​But why should you be captivated, my son, by an adulteress, and embrace the bosom of a different woman? 21 ​​​​​​​For the ways of a person are in front of Lifegiver’s eyes, and Lifegiver weighs all that person’s paths. 22 ​​​​​​​The wicked will be captured by his own iniquities, and he’ll be held by the cords of his own sin. 23 ​​​​​​​He will die because there was no discipline; because of the greatness of his folly he’ll reel.

Proverbs 6

1 ​​​​​​​My child, if you have made a pledge for your neighbor, and have become a guarantor for a stranger, 2 ​​​​​​​if you have been ensnared by the words you have uttered, and have been caught by the words you have spoken, 3 ​​​​​​​then, my child, do this in order to deliver yourself, because you have fallen into your neighbor’s power: go, humble yourself, and appeal firmly to your neighbor. 4 ​​​​​​​Permit no sleep to your eyes or slumber to your eyelids. 5 ​​​​​​​Deliver yourself like a gazelle from a snare, and like a bird from the trap of the fowler. 6 ​​​​​​​Go to the ant, you sluggard; observe its ways and be wise! 7 ​​​​​​​It has no instruct er, overseer, or ruler, 8 ​​​​​​​yet it prepares its food in the summer; it gathers at the harvest what it will eat. 9 ​​​​​​​How long, you sluggard, will you lie there? When will you rise from your sleep? 10 ​​​​​​​A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to relax, 11 ​​​​​​​and your poverty will come like a robber, and your need like an armed man. 12 ​​​​​​​A worthless and wicked person walks around saying perverse things; 13 ​​​​​​​he winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, and points with his fingers; 14 ​​​​​​​he plots bad with perverse thoughts in his heart, he spreads contention at all times. 15 ​​​​​​​Therefore, his disaster will come suddenly; in an instant he’ll be broken, and there will be no remedy. 16 ​​​​​​​There are six things that Lifegiver hates, even seven things that are an abomination to him: 17 ​​​​​​​haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 ​​​​​​​a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift to run to evil, 19 ​​​​​​​a false witness who pours out lies, and a person who spreads discord among family members. 20 ​​​​​​​My child, guard the instructions of your father and do not forsake the instruction of your mother. 21 ​​​​​​​Bind them on your heart continually; fasten them around your neck. 22 ​​​​​​​When you walk about, they’ll guide you; when you lie down, they’ll watch over you; when you wake up, they’ll talk to you. 23 ​​​​​​​For the commandments are like a lamp, instruction is like a light, and rebukes of discipline are like the road leading to life, 24 ​​​​​​​by keeping you from the bad woman, from the smooth tongue of the loose woman. 25 ​​​​​​​Do not lust in your heart for her beauty, and do not let her captivate you with her alluring eyes; 26 ​​​​​​​for on account of a prostitute one is brought down to a loaf of bread, but the wife of another man preys on your precious life. 27 ​​​​​​​Can a man hold fire against his chest without burning his clothes? 28 ​​​​​​​Can a man walk on hot coals without scorching his feet? 29 ​​​​​​​So it is with the one who has sex with his neighbor’s wife; no one who touches her will escape punishment. 30 ​​​​​​​People do not despise a thief when he steals to fulfill his need when he is hungry. 31 ​​​​​​​Yet if he is caught he must repay seven times over, he might even have to give all the wealth of his house. 32 ​​​​​​​A man who commits adultery with a woman lacks wisdom, whoever does it destroys his own life. 33 ​​​​​​​He will be beaten and despised, and his reproach will not be wiped away; 34 ​​​​​​​for jealousy kindles a husband’s rage, and he’ll not show mercy when he takes revenge. 35 ​​​​​​​He will not consider any compensation; he’ll not be willing, even if you multiply the compensation.

Proverbs 7

1 ​​​​​​​My child, keep my words and treasure up my instructions in your own keeping. 2 ​​​​​​​Keep my instructions so that you may live, and obey my instruction as your most prized possession. 3 ​​​​​​​Bind them on your forearm; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 ​​​​​​​Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call understanding a close relative, 5 ​​​​​​​so that they may keep you from the adulterous woman, from the loose woman who flatters you with her words. 6 ​​​​​​​For at the window of my house through my window lattice I looked out 7 ​​​​​​​and I saw among the naive – I discerned among the youths – a young man who lacked wisdom. 8 ​​​​​​​He was passing by the street near her corner, making his way along the road to her house 9 ​​​​​​​in the twilight, the evening, in the dark of the night. 10 ​​​​​​​Suddenly a woman came out to meet him! She was dressed like a prostitute and with secret intent. 11 ​​​​​​​(She is loud and rebellious, she does not remain at home – 12 ​​​​​​​at one time outside, at another in the wide plazas, and by every corner she lies in wait.) 13 ​​​​​​​So she grabbed him and kissed him, and with a bold expression she said to him, 14 ​​​​​​​“I’ve fresh meat at home; today I’ve fulfilled my vows! 15 ​​​​​​​That is why I came out to meet you, to look for you, and I found you! 16 ​​​​​​​I’ve spread my bed with elegant coverings, with richly colored fabric from Egypt. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ve perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 ​​​​​​​Come, let’s drink deeply of lovemaking until morning, let’s delight ourselves with sexual intercourse. 19 ​​​​​​​For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a journey of some distance. 20 ​​​​​​​He has taken a bag of money with him; he’ll not return until the end of the month.” 21 ​​​​​​​She persuaded him with persuasive words; with her smooth talk she compelled him. 22 ​​​​​​​Suddenly he went after her like an ox that goes to the slaughter, like a stag prancing into a trapper’s snare 23 ​​​​​​​till an arrow pierces his liver – like a bird hurrying into a trap, and he does not know that it will cost him his life. 24 ​​​​​​​So now, sons, listen to me, and pay attention to the words I speak. 25 ​​​​​​​Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways – do not wander into her pathways; 26 ​​​​​​​for she has brought down many fatally wounded, and all those she has slain are many. 27 ​​​​​​​Her house is the way to the grave, going down to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 8

1 ​​​​​​​Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? 2 ​​​​​​​At the top of the elevated places along the way, at the intersection of the paths she takes her stand; 3 ​​​​​​​beside the gates opening into the city, at the entrance of the doorways she cries out: 4 ​​​​​​​“To you, O people, I call out, and my voice calls to all mankind. 5 ​​​​​​​You who are naive, discern wisdom! And you fools, understand discernment! 6 ​​​​​​​Listen, for I’ll speak excellent things, and my lips will utter what is right. 7 ​​​​​​​For my mouth speaks truth, and my lips hate wickedness. 8 ​​​​​​​All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing in them twisted or crooked. 9 ​​​​​​​All of them are clear to the discerning and upright to those who find knowledge. 10 ​​​​​​​Receive my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. 11 ​​​​​​​For wisdom is better than rubies, and desirable things cannot be compared to her. 12 ​​​​​​​“I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. 13 ​​​​​​​The fear of Lifegiver is to hate evil; I hate arrogant pride and the bad way and perverse utterances. 14 ​​​​​​​Counsel and sound wisdom belong to me; I possess understanding and might. 15 ​​​​​​​Kings reign by means of me, and potentates decree rightness; 16 ​​​​​​​by me princes rule, as well as nobles and all righteous judges. 17 ​​​​​​​I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. 18 ​​​​​​​Riches and honor are with me, long-lasting wealth and rightness. 19 ​​​​​​​My fruit is better than the purest gold, and what I produce is better than choice silver. 20 ​​​​​​​I walk in the path of rightness, in the pathway of justice, 21 ​​​​​​​that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, and that I may fill their treasuries. 22 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver created me as the beginning of his works, before his deeds of long ago. 23 ​​​​​​​From eternity I was appointed, from the beginning, from before the world existed. 24 ​​​​​​​When there were no deep oceans I was born, when there were no springs overflowing with water; 25 ​​​​​​​before the mountains were set in place – before the hills – I was born, 26 ​​​​​​​before he made the Earth and its fields, or the beginning of the dust of the world. 27 ​​​​​​​When he established the Celestial Bodies, I was there; when he marked out the horizon over the face of the deep, 28 ​​​​​​​when he established the clouds above, when the fountains of the deep grew strong, 29 ​​​​​​​when he gave the sea his decree that the waters should not pass over his instruct , when he marked out the foundations of the Earth , 30 ​​​​​​​then I was beside him as a master craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, rejoicing before him at all times, 31 ​​​​​​​rejoicing in the habitable part of his Earth , and delighting in its people. 32 ​​​​​​​“So now, children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. 33 ​​​​​​​Listen to my instruction so that you may be wise, and do not neglect it. 34 ​​​​​​​Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching at my doors day by day, waiting beside my doorway. 35 ​​​​​​​For the one who finds me finds life and receives favor from Lifegiver. 36 ​​​​​​​But the one who does not find me brings harm to himself; all who hate me love death.”

Proverbs 9

1 ​​​​​​​Wisdom has built her house; she has carved out its seven pillars. 2 ​​​​​​​She has prepared her meat, she has mixed her wine; she also has arranged her table. 3 ​​​​​​​She has sent out her female servants; she calls out on the highest places of the city. 4 ​​​​​​​“Whoever is naive, let him turn in here,” she says to those who lack understanding. 5 ​​​​​​​“Come, eat some of my food, and drink some of the wine I’ve mixed. 6 ​​​​​​​Abandon your foolish ways so that you may live, and proceed in the way of understanding.” 7 ​​​​​​​Whoever corrects a mocker is asking for insult; whoever reproves a wicked person receives abuse. 8 ​​​​​​​Do not reprove a mocker or he’ll hate you; reprove a wise person and he’ll love you. 9 ​​​​​​​Give instruction to a wise person, and he’ll become wiser still; teach a righteous person and he’ll add to his learning. 10 ​​​​​​​The beginning of wisdom is to fear Lifegiver, and acknowledging the Holy One is understanding. 11 ​​​​​​​For because of me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. 12 ​​​​​​​If you are wise, you are wise to your own advantage, but if you are a mocker, you alone must bear it. 13 ​​​​​​​The woman called Folly is brash, she is naive and does not know anything. 14 ​​​​​​​So she sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, 15 ​​​​​​​calling out to those who are passing by her in the way, who go straight on their way. 16 ​​​​​​​“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here,” she says to those who lack understanding. 17 ​​​​​​​“Stolen waters are sweet, and food obtained in secret is pleasant!” 18 ​​​​​​​But they do not realize that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of the grave.

Proverbs 10

1 ​​​​​​​The Proverbs of Solomon: A wise child makes a father rejoice, but a foolish child is a grief to his mother. 2 ​​​​​​​Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but rightness delivers from mortal danger. 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver satisfies the appetite of the righteous, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. 4 ​​​​​​​The one who is lazy becomes poor, but the one who works diligently becomes wealthy. 5 ​​​​​​​The one who gathers crops in the summer is a wise son, but the one who sleeps during the harvest is a son who brings shame to himself. 6 ​​​​​​​Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the speech of the wicked conceals violence. 7 ​​​​​​​The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the reputation of the wicked will rot. 8 ​​​​​​​The wise person accepts instructions, but the one who speaks foolishness will come to ruin. 9 ​​​​​​​The one who conducts himself in integrity will live securely, but the one who behaves perversely will be found out. 10 ​​​​​​​The one who winks his eye causes trouble, and the one who speaks foolishness will come to ruin. 11 ​​​​​​​The teaching of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the speech of the wicked conceals violence. 12 ​​​​​​​Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers all transgressions. 13 ​​​​​​​Wisdom is found in the words of the discerning person, but the one who lacks wisdom will be disciplined. 14 ​​​​​​​Those who are wise store up knowledge, but foolish speech leads to imminent destruction. 15 ​​​​​​​The wealth of a rich person is like a fortified city, but the poor are brought to ruin by their poverty. 16 ​​​​​​​The reward which the righteous receive is life; the recompense which the wicked receive is judgment. 17 ​​​​​​​The one who heeds instruction is on the way to life, but the one who rejects rebuke goes astray. 18 ​​​​​​​The one who conceals hatred utters lies, and the one who spreads slander is certainly a fool. 19 ​​​​​​​When words abound, transgression is inevitable, but the one who restrains his words is wise. 20 ​​​​​​​What the righteous say is like the best silver, but what the wicked think is of little value. 21 ​​​​​​​The teaching of the righteous feeds many, but fools die for lack of wisdom. 22 ​​​​​​​The blessing from Lifegiver makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow to it. 23 ​​​​​​​Carrying out a wicked scheme is enjoyable to a fool, and so is wisdom for the one who has discernment. 24 ​​​​​​​What the wicked fears will come on him; what the righteous desire will be granted. 25 ​​​​​​​When the storm passes through, the wicked are swept away, but the righteous are an everlasting foundation. 26 ​​​​​​​Like vinegar to the teeth and like smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him. 27 ​​​​​​​Fearing Lifegiver prolongs life, but the life span of the wicked will be shortened. 28 ​​​​​​​The hope of the righteous is joy, but the expectation of the wicked will remain unfulfilled. 29 ​​​​​​​The way of Lifegiver is like a stronghold for the upright, but it is destruction to evildoers. 30 ​​​​​​​The righteous will never be moved, but the wicked will not inhabit the land. 31 ​​​​​​​The speech of the righteous bears the fruit of wisdom, but the one who speaks perversion will be destroyed. 32 ​​​​​​​The lips of the righteous know what is pleasing, but the speech of the wicked is perverse.

Proverbs 11

1 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors dishonest scales, but an accurate weight is his delight. 2 ​​​​​​​When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. 3 ​​​​​​​The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the unfaithful destroys them. 4 ​​​​​​​Wealth does not profit in the day of wrath, but rightness delivers from mortal danger. 5 ​​​​​​​The rightness of the blameless will make straight their way, but the wicked person will fall by his own wickedness. 6 ​​​​​​​The rightness of the upright will deliver them, but the faithless will be captured by their own desires. 7 ​​​​​​​When a wicked person dies, his expectation perishes, and the hope of his strength perishes. 8 ​​​​​​​The righteous person is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked turns up in his stead. 9 ​​​​​​​With his speech the Supermights less person destroys his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous will be delivered. 10 ​​​​​​​When the righteous do well, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there is joy. 11 ​​​​​​​A city is exalted by the blessing provided from the upright, but it is destroyed by the counsel of the wicked. 12 ​​​​​​​The one who denounces his neighbor lacks wisdom, but the one who has discernment keeps silent. 13 ​​​​​​​The one who goes about slandering others reveals secrets, but the one who is trustworthy conceals a matter. 14 ​​​​​​​When there is no guidance a nation falls, but there is success in the abundance of counselors. 15 ​​​​​​​The one who puts up security for a stranger will surely have trouble, but whoever avoids shaking hands will be secure. 16 ​​​​​​​A generous woman gains honor, and ruthless men seize wealth. 17 ​​​​​​​A kind person benefits himself, but a cruel person brings himself trouble. 18 ​​​​​​​The wicked person earns deceitful wages, but the one who sows rightness reaps a genuine reward. 19 ​​​​​​​True rightness leads to life, but the one who pursues bad pursues it to his own death. 20 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors those who are perverse in heart, but those who are blameless in their ways are his delight. 21 ​​​​​​​Be assured that the bad person will certainly be punished, but the descendants of the righteous will not suffer unjust judgment. 22 ​​​​​​​Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who rejects discretion. 23 ​​​​​​​What the righteous desire leads only to good, but what the wicked hope for leads to wrath. 24 ​​​​​​​One person is generous and yet grows more wealthy, but another withholds more than he should and comes to poverty. 25 ​​​​​​​A generous person will be enriched, and the one who provides water for others will himself be satisfied. 26 ​​​​​​​People will curse the one who withholds grain, but they’ll praise the one who sells it. 27 ​​​​​​​The one who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but the one who searches for bad – it will come to him. 28 ​​​​​​​The one who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf. 29 ​​​​​​​The one who troubles his family will inherit nothing, and the fool will be a servant to the wise person. 30 ​​​​​​​The fruit of the righteous is like a tree producing life, and the one who wins souls is wise. 31 ​​​​​​​If the righteous are recompensed on Earth , how much more the wicked sinner!

Proverbs 12

1 ​​​​​​​The one who loves discipline loves knowledge, but the one who hates reproof is stupid. 2 ​​​​​​​A good person obtains favor from Lifegiver, but Lifegiver condemns a person with wicked schemes. 3 ​​​​​​​No one can be established through wickedness, but a righteous root cannot be moved. 4 ​​​​​​​A noble wife is the crown of her husband, but the wife who acts shamefully is like rottenness in his bones. 5 ​​​​​​​The plans of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful. 6 ​​​​​​​The words of the wicked lie in wait to shed innocent blood, but the words of the upright will deliver them. 7 ​​​​​​​The wicked are overthrown and perish, but the righteous household will stand. 8 ​​​​​​​A person is praised in accordance with his wisdom, but the one who has a twisted mind is despised. 9 ​​​​​​​Better is a person of humble standing who nevertheless has a servant, than one who pretends to be somebody important yet has no food. 10 ​​​​​​​A righteous person cares for the life of his animal, but even the most compassionate acts of the wicked are cruel. 11 ​​​​​​​The one who works his field will have plenty of food, but whoever chases daydreams lacks wisdom. 12 ​​​​​​​The wicked person desires a stronghold, but the righteous root endures. 13 ​​​​​​​The bad person is ensnared by the transgression of his speech, but the righteous person escapes out of trouble. 14 ​​​​​​​A person will be satisfied with good from the fruit of his words, and the work of his hands will be rendered to him. 15 ​​​​​​​The way of a fool is right in his own opinion, but the one who listens to advice is wise. 16 ​​​​​​​A fool’s annoyance is known at once, but the prudent overlooks an insult. 17 ​​​​​​​The faithful witness tells what is right, but a false witness speaks deceit. 18 ​​​​​​​Speaking recklessly is like the thrusts of a sword, but the words of the wise bring healing. 19 ​​​​​​​The one who tells the truth will endure forever, but the one who lies will last only for a moment.

20 ​​​​​​​Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy. 21 ​​​​​​​The righteous do not encounter any harm, but the wicked are filled with calamity. 22 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors a person who lies, but those who deal truthfully are his delight. 23 ​​​​​​​The shrewd person conceals knowledge, but foolish people publicize folly. 24 ​​​​​​​The diligent person will rule, but the slothful will become a slave. 25 ​​​​​​​Anxiety in a person’s heart weighs him down, but an encouraging word brings him joy. 26 ​​​​​​​The righteous person is cautious in his friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. 27 ​​​​​​​The lazy person does not roast his prey, but personal possessions are precious to the diligent. 28 ​​​​​​​In the path of rightness there is life, but another path leads to death.

Proverbs 13

1 ​​​​​​​A wise son accepts his father’s discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. 2 ​​​​​​​From the fruit of his speech a person eats good things, but the faithless desire the fruit of violence. 3 ​​​​​​​The one who guards his words guards his life, but whoever is talkative will come to ruin. 4 ​​​​​​​The appetite of the sluggard craves but gets nothing, but the desire of the diligent will be abundantly satisfied. 5 ​​​​​​​The righteous person hates anything false, but the wicked person acts in shameful disgrace. 6 ​​​​​​​Rightness guards the one who lives with integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner. 7 ​​​​​​​There is one who pretends to be rich and yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor and yet possesses great wealth. 8 ​​​​​​​The ransom of a person’s life is his wealth, but the poor person hears no threat. 9 ​​​​​​​The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked goes out. 10 ​​​​​​​With pride comes only contention, but wisdom is with the well-advised. 11 ​​​​​​​Wealth gained quickly will dwindle away, but the one who gathers it little by little will become rich. 12 ​​​​​​​Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is like a tree of life. 13 ​​​​​​​The one who despises instruction will pay the penalty, but whoever esteems instruction will be rewarded. 14 ​​​​​​​Instruction from the wise is like a life-giving fountain, to turn a person from deadly snares. 15 ​​​​​​​Keen insight wins favor, but the conduct of the unfaithful is harsh. 16 ​​​​​​​Every shrewd person acts with knowledge, but a fool displays his folly. 17 ​​​​​​​An unreliable messenger falls into trouble, but a faithful envoy brings healing. 18 ​​​​​​​The one who neglects discipline ends up in poverty and shame, but the one who accepts reproof is honored. 19 ​​​​​​​A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools abhor turning away from evil. 20 ​​​​​​​The one who associates with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. 21 ​​​​​​​Calamity pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous. 22 ​​​​​​​A benevolent person leaves an inheritance for his grandchildren, but the wealth of a sinner is stored up for the righteous. 23 ​​​​​​​There is abundant food in the field of the poor, but it is swept away by injustice. 24 ​​​​​​​The one who spares his rod hates his child, but the one who loves his child is diligent in disciplining him. 25 ​​​​​​​The righteous has enough food to satisfy his appetite, but the belly of the wicked lacks food.

Proverbs 14

1 ​​​​​​​Every wise woman builds her household, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands. 2 ​​​​​​​The one who walks in his uprightness fears Lifegiver, but the one who is perverted in his ways despises him. 3 ​​​​​​​In the speech of a fool is a rod for his back, but the words of the wise protect them. 4 ​​​​​​​Where there are no oxen, the feeding trough is clean, but an abundant harvest is produced by strong oxen. 5 ​​​​​​​A truthful witness does not lie, but a false witness breathes out lies. 6 ​​​​​​​The scorner seeks wisdom but finds none, but understanding is easy for a discerning person. 7 ​​​​​​​Leave the presence of a foolish person, or you’ll not understand wise counsel. 8 ​​​​​​​The wisdom of the shrewd person is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deception. 9 ​​​​​​​Fools mock at reparation, but among the upright there is favor. 10 ​​​​​​​The heart knows its own bitterness, and with its joy no one else can share. 11 ​​​​​​​The household of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish. 12 ​​​​​​​There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way that leads to death. 13 ​​​​​​​Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief. 14 ​​​​​​​The backslider will be paid back from his own ways, but a good person will be rewarded for his. 15 ​​​​​​​A naive person believes everything, but the shrewd person discerns his steps. 16 ​​​​​​​A wise person is cautious and turns from evil, but a fool throws off restraint and is overconfident. 17 ​​​​​​​A person who has a quick temper does foolish things, and a person with crafty schemes is hated. 18 ​​​​​​​The naive inherit folly, but the shrewd are crowned with knowledge. 19 ​​​​​​​Those who are bad will bow before those who are good, and the wicked will bow at the gates of the righteous. 20 ​​​​​​​A poor person is disliked even by his neighbors, but those who love the rich are many. 21 ​​​​​​​The one who despises his neighbor sins, but whoever is kind to the needy is blessed. 22 ​​​​​​​Do not those who devise bad go astray? But those who plan good exhibit faithful agreement love. 23 ​​​​​​​In all hard work there is profit, but merely talking about it only brings poverty. 24 ​​​​​​​The crown of the wise is their riches, but the folly of fools is folly. 25 ​​​​​​​A truthful witness rescues lives, but the one who breathes lies brings deception. 26 ​​​​​​​In the fear of Lifegiver one has strong confidence, and it will be a refuge for his children. 27 ​​​​​​​The fear of Lifegiver is like a life-giving fountain, to turn people from deadly snares. 28 ​​​​​​​A king’s glory is the abundance of people, but the lack of subjects is the ruin of a ruler. 29 ​​​​​​​The one who is slow to anger has great understanding, but the one who has a quick temper exalts folly. 30 ​​​​​​​A tranquil spirit revives the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones. 31 ​​​​​​​The one who oppresses the poor insults his Creator, but whoever shows favor to the needy honors him. 32 ​​​​​​​The wicked will be thrown down in his trouble, but the righteous have refuge even in the threat of death. 33 ​​​​​​​Wisdom rests in the heart of the discerning; it is known even in the heart of fools. 34 ​​​​​​​Rightness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. 35 ​​​​​​​The king shows favor to a wise servant, but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.

Proverbs 15

1 ​​​​​​​A gentle response turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath. 2 ​​​​​​​The tongue of the wise treats knowledge correctly, but the mouth of the fool spouts out folly. 3 ​​​​​​​The eyes of Lifegiver are in every place, keeping watch on those who are bad and those who are good. 4 ​​​​​​​Speech that heals is like a life-giving tree, but a perverse tongue breaks the spirit. 5 ​​​​​​​A fool rejects his father’s discipline, but whoever heeds reproof shows good sense. 6 ​​​​​​​In the house of the righteous is abundant wealth, but the income of the wicked brings trouble. 7 ​​​​​​​The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but not so the heart of fools. 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors the sacrifices of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him. 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue rightness. 10 ​​​​​​​Severe discipline is for the one who abandons the way; the one who hates reproof will die. 11 ​​​​​​​Death and Destruction are before Lifegiver – how much more the hearts of humans! 12 ​​​​​​​The scorner does not love one who corrects him; he’ll not go to the wise. 13 ​​​​​​​A joyful heart makes the face cheerful, but by a painful heart the spirit is broken. 14 ​​​​​​​The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on folly. 15 ​​​​​​​All the days of the afflicted are bad, but one with a cheerful heart has a continual feast. 16 ​​​​​​​Better is little with the fear of Lifegiver than great wealth and turmoil with it. 17 ​​​​​​​Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened ox where there is hatred. 18 ​​​​​​​A quick-tempered person stirs up dissension, but one who is slow to anger calms a quarrel. 19 ​​​​​​​The way of the sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is like a highway. 20 ​​​​​​​A wise child brings joy to his father, but a foolish person despises his mother. 21 ​​​​​​​Folly is a joy to one who lacks sense, but one who has understanding follows an upright course. 22 ​​​​​​​Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with abundant advisers they are established. 23 ​​​​​​​A person has joy in giving an appropriate answer, and a word at the right time – how good it is! 24 ​​​​​​​The path of life is upward for the wise person, to keep him from going downward to Sheol. 25 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver tears down the house of the proud, but he maintains the boundaries of the widow. 26 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors the plans of the wicked, but pleasant words are pure. 27 ​​​​​​​The one who is greedy for gain troubles his household, but whoever hates bribes will live. 28 ​​​​​​​The heart of the righteous considers how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out bad things. 29 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. 30 ​​​​​​​A bright look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the body. 31 ​​​​​​​The person who hears the reproof that leads to life is at home among the wise. 32 ​​​​​​​The one who refuses correction despises himself, but whoever hears reproof acquires understanding. 33 ​​​​​​​The fear of Lifegiver provides wise instruction, and before honor comes humility.

Proverbs 16

1 ​​​​​​​The intentions of the heart belong to a man, but the answer of the tongue comes from Lifegiver. 2 ​​​​​​​All a person’s ways seem right in his own opinion, but Lifegiver evaluates the motives. 3 ​​​​​​​Commit your works to Lifegiver, and your plans will be established. 4 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver works everything for its own ends – even the wicked for the day of disaster. 5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors every arrogant person; rest assured that they’ll not go unpunished. 6 ​​​​​​​Through loyal love and truth iniquity is appeased; through fearing Lifegiver one avoids evil. 7 ​​​​​​​When a person’s ways are pleasing to Lifegiver, he even reconciles his enemies to himself. 8 ​​​​​​​Better to have a little with rightness than to have abundant income without justice. 9 ​​​​​​​A person plans his course, but Lifegiver directs his steps. 10 ​​​​​​​The divine verdict is in the words of the king, his pronouncements must not act treacherously against justice. 11 ​​​​​​​Honest scales and balances are from Lifegiver; all the weights in the bag are his handiwork. 12 ​​​​​​​Doing wickedness is an abomination to kings, because a throne is established in rightness. 13 ​​​​​​​The delight of kings is righteous counsel, and they love the one who speaks uprightly. 14 ​​​​​​​A king’s wrath is like a messenger of death, but a wise person appeases it. 15 ​​​​​​​In the light of the king’s face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds of the spring rain. 16 ​​​​​​​How much better it is to acquire wisdom than gold; to acquire understanding is more desirable than silver. 17 ​​​​​​​The highway of the upright is to turn away from evil; the one who guards his way safeguards his life. 18 ​​​​​​​Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 ​​​​​​​It is better to be lowly in spirit with the afflicted than to share the spoils with the proud. 20 ​​​​​​​The one who deals wisely in a matter will find success, and blessed is the one who trusts in Lifegiver. 21 ​​​​​​​The one who is wise in heart is called discerning, and kind speech increases persuasiveness. 22 ​​​​​​​Insight is like a life-giving fountain to the one who possesses it, but folly leads to the discipline of fools. 23 ​​​​​​​A wise person’s heart makes his speech wise and it adds persuasiveness to his words. 24 ​​​​​​​Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. 25 ​​​​​​​There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way that leads to death. 26 ​​​​​​​A laborer’s appetite works on his behalf, for his hunger urges him to work. 27 ​​​​​​​A wicked scoundrel digs up evil, and his slander is like a scorching fire. 28 ​​​​​​​A perverse person spreads dissension, and a gossip separates the closest friends. 29 ​​​​​​​A violent person entices his neighbor, and leads him down a path that is terrible. 30 ​​​​​​​The one who winks his eyes devises perverse things, and one who compresses his lips brings about evil. 31 ​​​​​​​Gray hair is like a crown of glory; it is attained in the path of rightness. 32 ​​​​​​​Better to be slow to anger than to be a mighty warrior, and one who controls his temper is better than one who captures a city. 33 ​​​​​​​The dice are thrown into the lap, but their every decision is from Lifegiver.

Proverbs 17

1 ​​​​​​​Better is a dry crust of bread where there is quietness than a house full of feasting with strife. 2 ​​​​​​​A servant who acts wisely will rule over an heir who behaves shamefully, and will share the inheritance along with the relatives. 3 ​​​​​​​The crucible is for refining silver and the furnace is for gold, likewise Lifegiver tests hearts. 4 ​​​​​​​One who acts wickedly pays attention to bad counsel; a liar listens to a malicious tongue. 5 ​​​​​​​The one who mocks the poor insults his Creator; whoever rejoices over disaster will not go unpunished. 6 ​​​​​​​Grandchildren are like a crown to the elderly, and the glory of children is their parents. 7 ​​​​​​​Excessive speech is not becoming for a fool; how much less are lies for a ruler! 8 ​​​​​​​A bribe works like a charm for the one who offers it; in whatever he does he succeeds. 9 ​​​​​​​The one who forgives an offense seeks love, but whoever repeats a matter separates close friends. 10 ​​​​​​​A rebuke makes a greater impression on a discerning person than a hundred blows on a fool. 11 ​​​​​​​An bad person seeks only rebellion, and so a cruel messenger will be sent against him. 12 ​​​​​​​It is better for a person to meet a mother bear being robbed of her cubs, than to encounter a fool in his folly. 13 ​​​​​​​As for the one who repays bad for good, bad will not leave his house. 14 ​​​​​​​Starting a quarrel is like letting out water; stop it before strife breaks out! 15 ​​​​​​​The one who acquits the guilty and the one who condemns the innocent – both of them are an abomination to Lifegiver. 16 ​​​​​​​Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no intention of acquiring wisdom? 17 ​​​​​​​A friend loves at all times, and a relative is born to help in adversity. 18 ​​​​​​​The one who lacks wisdom strikes hands in pledge, and puts up financial security for his neighbor. 19 ​​​​​​​The one who loves a quarrel loves transgression; whoever builds his gate high seeks destruction. 20 ​​​​​​​The one who has a perverse heart does not find good, and the one who is deceitful in speech falls into trouble. 21 ​​​​​​​Whoever brings a fool into the world does so to his grief, and the father of a fool has no joy. 22 ​​​​​​​A cheerful heart brings good healing, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. 23 ​​​​​​​A wicked person receives a bribe secretly to pervert the ways of justice. 24 ​​​​​​​Wisdom is directly in front of the discerning person, but the eyes of a fool run to the ends of the Earth . 25 ​​​​​​​A foolish child is a grief to his father, and bitterness to the mother who bore him. 26 ​​​​​​​It is terrible to punish a righteous person, and to flog honorable men is wrong. 27 ​​​​​​​The truly wise person restrains his words, and the one who stays calm is discerning. 28 ​​​​​​​Even a fool who remains silent is considered wise, and the one who holds his tongue is deemed discerning.

Proverbs 18

1 ​​​​​​​One who has isolated himself seeks his own desires; he rejects all sound judgment. 2 ​​​​​​​A fool takes no pleasure in understanding but only in disclosing what is on his mind. 3 ​​​​​​​When a wicked person arrives, contempt shows up with him, and with shame comes a reproach. 4 ​​​​​​​The words of a person’s mouth are like deep waters, and the fountain of wisdom is like a flowing brook. 5 ​​​​​​​It is terrible to show partiality to the wicked, by depriving a righteous man of justice. 6 ​​​​​​​The lips of a fool enter into strife, and his mouth invites a flogging. 7 ​​​​​​​The mouth of a fool is his ruin, and his lips are a snare for his life. 8 ​​​​​​​The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down into the person’s innermost being. 9 ​​​​​​​The one who is slack in his work is a brother to one who destroys. 10 ​​​​​​​The name of Lifegiver is like a strong tower; the righteous person runs to it and is set safely on high. 11 ​​​​​​​The wealth of a rich person is like a strong city, and it is like a high wall in his imagination. 12 ​​​​​​​Before destruction the heart of a person is proud, but humility comes before honor. 13 ​​​​​​​The one who gives an answer before he listens – that is his folly and his shame. 14 ​​​​​​​A person’s spirit sustains him through sickness – but who can bear a crushed spirit? 15 ​​​​​​​The discerning person acquires knowledge, and the wise person seeks knowledge. 16 ​​​​​​​A person’s gift makes room for him, and leads him before important people. 17 ​​​​​​​The first to state his case seems right, until his opponent begins to cross-examine him. 18 ​​​​​​​A toss of a coin ends disputes, and settles the issue between strong opponents. 19 ​​​​​​​A relative offended is harder to reach than a strong city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a fortified citadel. 20 ​​​​​​​From the fruit of a person’s mouth his stomach is satisfied, with the product of his lips is he satisfied. 21 ​​​​​​​Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love its use will eat its fruit. 22 ​​​​​​​The one who finds a wife finds what is enjoyable, and receives a pleasurable gift from Lifegiver. 23 ​​​​​​​A poor person makes supplications, but a rich man answers harshly. 24 ​​​​​​​A person who has friends may be harmed by them, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 19

1 ​​​​​​​Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is perverse in his speech and is a fool. 2 ​​​​​​​It is dangerous to have zeal without knowledge, and the one who acts hastily makes poor choices. 3 ​​​​​​​A person’s folly subverts his way, and his heart rages against Lifegiver. 4 ​​​​​​​Wealth adds many friends, but a poor person is separated from his friend. 5 ​​​​​​​A false witness will not go unpunished, and the one who spouts out lies will not escape punishment. 6 ​​​​​​​Many people entreat the favor of a generous person, and everyone is the friend of the person who gives gifts. 7 ​​​​​​​All the relatives of a poor person hate him; how much more do his friends avoid him – he pursues them with words, but they do not respond. 8 ​​​​​​​The one who acquires wisdom loves himself; the one who preserves understanding will prosper. 9 ​​​​​​​A false witness will not go unpunished, and the one who spouts out lies will perish. 10 ​​​​​​​Luxury is not appropriate for a fool; how much less for a servant to rule over princes! 11 ​​​​​​​A person’s wisdom makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. 12 ​​​​​​​A king’s wrath is like the roar of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass. 13 ​​​​​​​A foolish child is the ruin of his father, and a contentious wife is like a constant dripping.

14 ​​​​​​​A house and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from Lifegiver. 15 ​​​​​​​Laziness brings on a deep sleep, and the idle person will go hungry. 16 ​​​​​​​The one who obeys commandments guards his life; the one who despises his ways will die. 17 ​​​​​​​The one who is gracious to the poor lends to Lifegiver, and Lifegiver will repay him for his good deed. 18 ​​​​​​​Discipline your child, for there is hope, but do not set your heart on causing his death. 19 ​​​​​​​A person with great anger bears the penalty, but if you deliver him from it once, you’ll have to do it again. 20 ​​​​​​​Listen to advice and receive discipline, that you may become wise by the end of your life. 21 ​​​​​​​There are many plans in a person’s mind, but it is the counsel of Lifegiver which will stand. 22 ​​​​​​​What is desirable for a person is to show loyal love, and a poor person is better than a liar. 23 ​​​​​​​Fearing Lifegiver leads to life, and one who does so will live satisfied; he’ll not be afflicted by calamity. 24 ​​​​​​​The sluggard plunges his hand in the dish, and he’ll not even bring it back to his mouth! 25 ​​​​​​​Flog a scorner, and as a result the simpleton will learn prudence; correct a discerning person, and as a result he’ll understand knowledge. 26 ​​​​​​​The one who robs his father and chases away his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace. 27 ​​​​​​​If you stop listening to instruction, my child, you’ll stray from the words of knowledge. 28 ​​​​​​​A crooked witness scorns justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity. 29 ​​​​​​​Judgments are prepared for scorners, and floggings for the backs of fools.

Proverbs 20

1 ​​​​​​​Wine is a mocker and strong drink is a brawler; whoever goes astray by them is not wise. 2 ​​​​​​​The king’s terrifying anger is like the roar of a lion; whoever provokes him sins against himself. 3 ​​​​​​​It is an honor for a person to cease from strife, but every fool quarrels. 4 ​​​​​​​The sluggard will not plow during the planting season, so at harvest time he looks for the crop but has nothing. 5 ​​​​​​​Counsel in a person’s heart is like deep water, but an understanding person draws it out. 6 ​​​​​​​Many people profess their loyalty, but a faithful person – who can find? 7 ​​​​​​​The righteous person behaves in integrity; blessed are his children after him. 8 ​​​​​​​A king sitting on the throne to judge separates out all bad with his eyes. 9 ​​​​​​​Who can say, “I’ve kept my heart clean; I’m pure from my sin”? 10 ​​​​​​​Diverse weights and diverse measures – Lifegiver abhors both of them. 11 ​​​​​​​Even a young man is known by his actions, whether his activity is pure and whether it is right. 12 ​​​​​​​The ear that hears and the eye that sees – Lifegiver has made them both. 13 ​​​​​​​Do not love sleep, lest you become impoverished; open your eyes so that you might be satisfied with food. 14 ​​​​​​​“It’s worthless! It’s worthless!” says the buyer, but when he goes on his way, he boasts. 15 ​​​​​​​There is gold, and an abundance of rubies, but words of knowledge are like a precious jewel. 16 ​​​​​​​Take a man’s garment when he has given security for a stranger, and when he gives surety for strangers, hold him in pledge. 17 ​​​​​​​Bread gained by deceit tastes sweet to a person, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel. 18 ​​​​​​​Plans are established by counsel, so make war with guidance. 19 ​​​​​​​The one who goes about gossiping reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with someone who is always opening his mouth. 20 ​​​​​​​The one who curses his father and his mother, his lamp will be extinguished in the blackest darkness. 21 ​​​​​​​An inheritance gained easily in the beginning will not be blessed in the end. 22 ​​​​​​​Do not say, “I’ll pay back evil!” Wait for Lifegiver, so that he may vindicate you. 23 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver abhors differing weights, and dishonest scales are wicked. 24 ​​​​​​​The steps of a person are ordained by Lifegiver – so how can anyone understand his own way? 25 ​​​​​​​It is a snare for a person to rashly cry, “Holy!” and only afterward to consider what he has vowed. 26 ​​​​​​​A wise king separates out the wicked; he turns the threshing wheel over them. 27 ​​​​​​​The human spirit is like the lamp of Lifegiver, searching all his innermost parts. 28 ​​​​​​​Loyal love and truth preserve a king, and his throne is upheld by loyal love. 29 ​​​​​​​The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is gray hair. 30 ​​​​​​​Beatings and wounds cleanse away evil, and floggings cleanse the innermost being.

Proverbs 21

1 ​​​​​​​The king’s heart is in the hand of Lifegiver like channels of water; he turns it wherever he wants. 2 ​​​​​​​All of a person’s ways seem right in his own opinion, but Lifegiver evaluates the motives. 3 ​​​​​​​To do rightness and justice is more acceptable to Lifegiver than sacrifice. 4 ​​​​​​​Haughty eyes and a proud heart – the agricultural product of the wicked is sin. 5 ​​​​​​​The plans of the diligent lead only to plenty, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. 6 ​​​​​​​Making a fortune by a lying tongue is like a vapor driven back and forth; they seek death. 7 ​​​​​​​The violence done by the wicked will drag them away because they refuse to do what is right. 8 ​​​​​​​The way of the guilty person is devious, but as for the pure, his way is upright. 9 ​​​​​​​It is better to live on a corner of the housetop than in a house in company with a quarrelsome wife. 10 ​​​​​​​The appetite of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor is shown no favor in his eyes. 11 ​​​​​​​When a scorner is punished, the naive becomes wise; when a wise person is instructed, he gains knowledge. 12 ​​​​​​​The Righteous One considers the house of the wicked; he overthrows the wicked to their ruin. 13 ​​​​​​​The one who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and will not be answered. 14 ​​​​​​​A gift given in secret subdues anger, and a bribe given secretly subdues strong wrath. 15 ​​​​​​​Doing justice brings joy to the righteous and terror to those who do evil. 16 ​​​​​​​The one who wanders from the way of wisdom will end up in the company of the departed. 17 ​​​​​​​The one who loves pleasure will be a poor person; whoever loves wine and anointing oil will not be rich. 18 ​​​​​​​The wicked become a ransom for the righteous, and the faithless are taken in the place of the upright. 19 ​​​​​​​It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and easily-provoked woman. 20 ​​​​​​​There is desirable treasure and olive oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish person devours all he has. 21 ​​​​​​​The one who pursues rightness and love finds life, bounty, and honor. 22 ​​​​​​​The wise person can scale the city of the mighty and bring down the stronghold in which they trust. 23 ​​​​​​​The one who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his life from troubles. 24 ​​​​​​​A proud and arrogant person, whose name is “Scoffer,” acts with overbearing pride. 25 ​​​​​​​What the sluggard desires will kill him, for his hands refuse to work. 26 ​​​​​​​All day long he craves greedily, but the righteous gives and does not hold back. 27 ​​​​​​​The wicked person’s sacrifice is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with bad intent! 28 ​​​​​​​A lying witness will perish, but the one who reports accurately speaks forever. 29 ​​​​​​​A wicked person shows boldness with his face, but as for the upright, he discerns his ways. 30 ​​​​​​​There is no wisdom and there is no understanding, and there is no counsel against Lifegiver. 31 ​​​​​​​A horse is prepared for the day of battle, but the victory is from Lifegiver.

Proverbs 22

1 ​​​​​​​A good name is to be Designated rather than great wealth, good favor more than silver or gold. 2 ​​​​​​​The rich and the poor meet together; Lifegiver is the creator of them both. 3 ​​​​​​​A shrewd person sees danger and hides himself, but the naive keep right on going and suffer for it. 4 ​​​​​​​The reward for humility and fearing Lifegiver is riches and honor and life. 5 ​​​​​​​Thorns and snares are in the path of the perverse, but the one who guards himself keeps far from them. 6 ​​​​​​​Train a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he’ll not turn from it. 7 ​​​​​​​The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. 8 ​​​​​​​The one who sows iniquity will reap trouble, and the rod of his fury will end. 9 ​​​​​​​A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. 10 ​​​​​​​Drive out the scorner and contention will leave; strife and insults will cease. 11 ​​​​​​​The one who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious – the king will be his friend. 12 ​​​​​​​The eyes of Lifegiver guard knowledge, but he overthrows the words of the faithless person. 13 ​​​​​​​The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside! I’ll be killed in the middle of the streets!” 14 ​​​​​​​The mouth of an adulteress is like a deep pit; the one against whom Lifegiver is angry will fall into it. 15 ​​​​​​​Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him. 16 ​​​​​​​The one who oppresses the poor to increase his own gain and the one who gives to the rich – both end up only in poverty. 17 ​​​​​​​Incline your ear and listen to the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my instruction. 18 ​​​​​​​For it is pleasing if you keep these sayings witlitreyou, and they are ready on your lips. 19 ​​​​​​​So that your confidence may be in Lifegiver, I’m making them known to you today – even you. 20 ​​​​​​​Have I not written thirty sayings for you, sayings of counsel and knowledge, 21 ​​​​​​​to show you true and reliable words, so that you may give accurate answers to those who sent you? 22 ​​​​​​​Do not exploit a poor person because he is poor and do not crush the needy in court, 23 ​​​​​​​for Lifegiver will plead their case and will rob those who are robbing them. 24 ​​​​​​​Do not make friends with an angry person, and do not associate with a wrathful person, 25 ​​​​​​​lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare. 26 ​​​​​​​Do not be one who strikes hands in pledge or who puts up security for debts. 27 ​​​​​​​If you do not have enough to pay, your bed will be taken right out from under you! 28 ​​​​​​​Do not move an ancient boundary stone which was put in place by your ancestors. 29 ​​​​​​​Do you see a person skilled in his work? he’ll take his position before kings; he’ll not take his position before obscure people.

Proverbs 23

1 ​​​​​​​When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you, 2 ​​​​​​​and put a knife to your throat if you possess a large appetite. 3 ​​​​​​​Do not crave that ruler’s delicacies, for that food is deceptive. 4 ​​​​​​​Do not wear yourself out to become rich; be wise enough to restrain yourself. 5 ​​​​​​​When you gaze upon riches, they are gone, for they surely make wings for themselves, and fly off into the sky like an eagle! 6 ​​​​​​​Do not eat the food of a stingy person, do not crave his delicacies; 7 ​​​​​​​for he is like someone calculating the cost in his mind. “Eat and drink,” he says to you, but his heart is not with you; 8 ​​​​​​​you’ll vomit up the little bit you have eaten, and will have wasted your pleasant words. 9 ​​​​​​​Do not speak in the ears of a fool, for he’ll despise the wisdom of your words. 10 ​​​​​​​Do not move an ancient boundary stone, or take over the fields of the fatherless, 11 ​​​​​​​for their Protector is strong; he’ll plead their case against you. 12 ​​​​​​​Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to the words of knowledge. 13 ​​​​​​​Do not withhold discipline from a child; even if you strike him with the rod, he’ll not die. 14 ​​​​​​​If you strike him with the rod, you’ll deliver him from death. 15 ​​​​​​​My child, if your heart is wise, then my heart also will be glad; 16 ​​​​​​​my soul will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. 17 ​​​​​​​Do not let your heart envy sinners, but rather be zealous in fearing Lifegiver all the time. 18 ​​​​​​​For surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off. 19 ​​​​​​​Listen, my child, and be wise, and guide your heart on the right way. 20 ​​​​​​​Do not spend time among drunkards, among those who eat too much meat, 21 ​​​​​​​because drunkards and gluttons become impoverished, and drowsiness clothes them with rags. 22 ​​​​​​​Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 ​​​​​​​Acquire truth and do not sell it – wisdom, and discipline, and understanding. 24 ​​​​​​​The father of a righteous person will rejoice greatly; whoever fathers a wise child will have joy in him. 25 ​​​​​​​May your father and your mother have joy; may she who bore you rejoice. 26 ​​​​​​​Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes observe my ways; 27 ​​​​​​​for a prostitute is like a deep pit; a harlot is like a narrow well. 28 ​​​​​​​Indeed, she lies in wait like a robber, and increases the unfaithful among men. 29 ​​​​​​​Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has dullness of the eyes? 30 ​​​​​​​Those who linger over wine, those who go looking for mixed wine. 31 ​​​​​​​Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly. 32 ​​​​​​​Afterward it bites like a snake, and stings like a viper. 33 ​​​​​​​Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind will speak perverse things. 34 ​​​​​​​And you’ll be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, and like one who lies down on the top of the rigging. 35 ​​​​​​​You’ll say, “They have struck me, but I’m not harmed! They beat me, but I did not know it! When will I awake? I’ll look for another drink.”

Proverbs 24

1 ​​​​​​​Do not envy bad people, do not desire to be with them; 2 ​​​​​​​for their hearts contemplate violence, and their lips speak harm. 3 ​​​​​​​By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; 4 ​​​​​​​by knowledge its rooms are filled with all kinds of precious and pleasing treasures. 5 ​​​​​​​A wise warrior is strong, and a man of knowledge makes his strength stronger; 6 ​​​​​​​for with guidance you wage your war, and with numerous advisers there is victory. 7 ​​​​​​​Wisdom is unattainable for a fool; in court he does not open his mouth. 8 ​​​​​​​The one who plans to do bad will be called a scheming person. 9 ​​​​​​​A foolish scheme is sin, and the scorner is an abomination to people. 10 ​​​​​​​If you faint in the day of trouble, your strength is small! 11 ​​​​​​​Deliver those being taken away to death, and hold back those slipping to the slaughter. 12 ​​​​​​​If you say, “But we did not know about this,” does not the one who evaluates hearts consider? Does not the one who guards your life know? Will he not repay each person according to his deeds? 13 ​​​​​​​Eat honey, my child, for it is good, and honey from the honeycomb is sweet to your taste. 14 ​​​​​​​Likewise, know that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, you’ll have a future, and your hope will not be cut off. 15 ​​​​​​​Do not lie in wait like the wicked against the place where the righteous live; do not assault his home. 16 ​​​​​​​Although a righteous person may fall seven times, he gets up again, but the wicked will be brought down by calamity. 17 ​​​​​​​Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and when he stumbles do not let your heart rejoice, 18 ​​​​​​​lest Lifegiver see it, and be displeased, and turn his wrath away from him. 19 ​​​​​​​Do not fret because of bad people or be envious of wicked people, 20 ​​​​​​​for the bad person has no future, and the lamp of the wicked will be extinguished. 21 ​​​​​​​Fear Lifegiver, my child, as well as the king, and do not associate with rebels, 22 ​​​​​​​for suddenly their destruction will overtake them, and who knows the ruinous judgment both Lifegiver and the king can bring? 23 ​​​​​​​These sayings also are from the wise: To show partiality in judgment is terrible: 24 ​​​​​​​The one who says to the guilty, “You are innocent,” peoples will curse him, and nationalities will denounce him. 25 ​​​​​​​But there will be delight for those who convict the guilty, and a pleasing blessing will come on them. 26 ​​​​​​​Like a kiss on the lips is the one who gives an honest answer. 27 ​​​​​​​Establish your work outside and get your fields ready; afterward build your house. 28 ​​​​​​​Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your words. 29 ​​​​​​​Do not say, “I’ll do to him just as he has done to me; I’ll pay him back according to what he has done.” 30 ​​​​​​​I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of one who lacks wisdom. 31 ​​​​​​​I saw that thorns had grown up all over it, the ground was covered with weeds, and its stone wall was broken down. 32 ​​​​​​​When I saw this, I gave careful consideration to it; I received instruction from what I saw: 33 ​​​​​​​“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to relax, 34 ​​​​​​​and your poverty will come like a gangster, and your need like an armed robber.”

Proverbs 25

1 ​​​​​​​These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of King Hezekiah of Judah copied: 2 ​​​​​​​It is the glory of Supermights to conceal a matter, and it is the glory of a king to search out a matter. 3 ​​​​​​​As the Heaven is high and the Earth is deep so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. 4 ​​​​​​​Remove the dross from the silver, and material for the silversmith will emerge; 5 ​​​​​​​remove the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in rightness. 6 ​​​​​​​Do not honor yourself before the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; 7 ​​​​​​​for it is better for him to say to you, “Come up here,” than to put you lower before a prince, whom your eyes have seen. 8 ​​​​​​​Do not go out hastily to litigation, or what will you do afterward when your neighbor puts you to shame? 9 ​​​​​​​When you argue a case with your neighbor, do not reveal the secret of another person, 10 ​​​​​​​lest the one who hears it put you to shame and your infamy will never go away. 11 ​​​​​​​Like apples of gold in settings of silver, so is a word skillfully spoken. 12 ​​​​​​​Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover to the ear of the one who listens. 13 ​​​​​​​Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the heart of his masters. 14 ​​​​​​​Like cloudy skies and wind that produce no rain, so is the one who boasts of a gift not given. 15 ​​​​​​​Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a soft tongue can break a bone. 16 ​​​​​​​When you find honey, eat only what is sufficient for you, lest you become stuffed with it and vomit it up. 17 ​​​​​​​Don’t set foot too frequently in your neighbor’s house, lest he become weary of you and hate you. 18 ​​​​​​​Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow, so is the one who testifies against his neighbor as a false witness. 19 ​​​​​​​Like a bad tooth or a foot out of joint, so is confidence in an unfaithful person at the time of trouble. 20 ​​​​​​​Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, so is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. 21 ​​​​​​​If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, 22 ​​​​​​​for you’ll heap coals of fire on his head, and Lifegiver will reward you. 23 ​​​​​​​The north wind brings forth rain, and a gossiping tongue brings forth an angry look. 24 ​​​​​​​It is better to live on a corner of the housetop than in a house in company with a quarrelsome wife. 25 ​​​​​​​Like cold water to a weary person, so is good news from a distant land.

26 ​​​​​​​Like a muddied spring and a polluted well, so is a righteous person who gives way before the wicked. 27 ​​​​​​​It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable for people to seek their own glory. 28 ​​​​​​​Like a city that is broken down and without a wall, so is a person who cannot control his temper.

Proverbs 26

1 ​​​​​​​Like snow in summer or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool. 2 ​​​​​​​Like a fluttering bird or like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause does not come to rest. 3 ​​​​​​​A whip for the horse and a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the backs of fools! 4 ​​​​​​​Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you yourself also be like him. 5 ​​​​​​​Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own estimation. 6 ​​​​​​​Like cutting off the feet or drinking violence, so is sending a message by the hand of a fool. 7 ​​​​​​​Like legs that hang limp from the lame, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools. 8 ​​​​​​​Like tying a stone in a sling, so is giving honor to a fool. 9 ​​​​​​​Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the mouth of a fool. 10 ​​​​​​​Like an archer who wounds at random, so is the one who hires a fool or hires any passer-by. 11 ​​​​​​​Like a dog that returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. 12 ​​​​​​​Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. 13 ​​​​​​​The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! A lion in the streets!” 14 ​​​​​​​Like a door that turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed. 15 ​​​​​​​The sluggard plunges his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth. 16 ​​​​​​​The sluggard is wiser in his own estimation than seven people who respond with good sense. 17 ​​​​​​​Like one who grabs a wild dog by the ears, so is the person passing by who becomes furious over a quarrel not his own. 18 ​​​​​​​Like a madman who shoots firebrands and deadly arrows, 19 ​​​​​​​so is a person who deceives his neighbor, and says, “Was I not only joking?” 20 ​​​​​​​Where there is no wood, a fire goes out, and where there is no gossip, contention ceases. 21 ​​​​​​​Like charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious person to kindle strife. 22 ​​​​​​​The words of a gossip are like delicious morsels; they go down into a person’s innermost being. 23 ​​​​​​​Like a coating of glaze over Earth enware are fervent lips with an bad heart. 24 ​​​​​​​The one who hates others disguises it with his lips, but he stores up deceit witlitrehim. 25 ​​​​​​​When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, for there are seven disgusting things witlitrehim. 26 ​​​​​​​Though his hatred may be concealed by deceit, his bad will be uncovered in the assembly. 27 ​​​​​​​The one who digs a pit will fall into it; the one who rolls a stone – it will come back on him. 28 ​​​​​​​A lying tongue hates those crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 27

1 ​​​​​​​Do not boast about tomorrow; for you do not know what a day may bring forth. 2 ​​​​​​​Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips. 3 ​​​​​​​A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but vexation by a fool is more burdensome than the two of them. 4 ​​​​​​​Wrath is cruel and anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy? 5 ​​​​​​​Better is open rebuke than hidden love. 6 ​​​​​​​Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are excessive. 7 ​​​​​​​The one whose appetite is satisfied loathes honey, but to the hungry mouth every bitter thing is sweet. 8 ​​​​​​​Like a bird that wanders from its nest, so is a person who wanders from his home. 9 ​​​​​​​Ointment and incense make the heart rejoice, likewise the sweetness of one’s friend from sincere counsel. 10 ​​​​​​​Do not forsake your friend and your father’s friend, and do not enter your brother’s house in the day of your disaster; a neighbor nearby is better than a brother far away. 11 ​​​​​​​Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, so that I may answer anyone who taunts me. 12 ​​​​​​​A shrewd person sees danger and hides himself, but the naive keep right on going and suffer for it. 13 ​​​​​​​Take a man’s garment when he has given security for a stranger, and when he gives surety for a stranger, hold him in pledge. 14 ​​​​​​​If someone blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be counted as a curse to him. 15 ​​​​​​​A continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike. 16 ​​​​​​​Whoever hides her hides the wind or grasps oil with his right hand. 17 ​​​​​​​As iron sharpens iron, so a person sharpens his friend. 18 ​​​​​​​The one who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever takes care of his master will be honored. 19 ​​​​​​​As in water the face is reflected as a face, so a person’s heart reflects the person. 20 ​​​​​​​As Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so the eyes of a person are never satisfied. 21 ​​​​​​​As the crucible is for silver and the furnace is for gold, so a person is proved by the praise he receives. 22 ​​​​​​​If you should pound the fool in the mortar among the grain with the pestle, his foolishness would not depart from him. 23 ​​​​​​​Pay careful attention to the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds, 24 ​​​​​​​for riches do not last forever, nor does a crown last from generation to generation. 25 ​​​​​​​When the hay is removed and new grass appears, and the grass from the hills is gathered in, 26 ​​​​​​​the lambs will be for your clothing, and the goats will be for the price of a field. 27 ​​​​​​​And there will be enough goat’s milk for your food, for the food of your household, and for the sustenance of your servant girls.

Proverbs 28

1 ​​​​​​​The wicked person flees when there is no one pursuing, but the righteous person is as confident as a lion. 2 ​​​​​​​When a country is rebellious it has many princes, but by someone who is discerning and knowledgeable order is maintained. 3 ​​​​​​​A poor person who oppresses the weak is like a driving rain without food. 4 ​​​​​​​Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law contend with them. 5 ​​​​​​​Bad people do not understand justice, but those who seek Lifegiver understand it all. 6 ​​​​​​​A poor person who walks in his integrity is better than one who is perverse in his ways even though he is rich. 7 ​​​​​​​The one who keeps the law is a discerning child, but a companion of gluttons brings shame to his parents. 8 ​​​​​​​The one who increases his wealth by increasing interest gathers it for someone who is gracious to the needy. 9 ​​​​​​​The one who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. 10 ​​​​​​​The one who leads the upright astray in an bad way will himself fall into his own pit, but the blameless will inherit what is good. 11 ​​​​​​​A rich person is wise in his own eyes, but a discerning poor person can evaluate him properly. 12 ​​​​​​​When the righteous rejoice, great is the glory, but when the wicked rise to power, people are sought out. 13 ​​​​​​​The one who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses them and forsakes them will find mercy. 14 ​​​​​​​Blessed is the one who is always cautious, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into evil. 15 ​​​​​​​Like a roaring lion or a roving bear, so is a wicked ruler over a poor people. 16 ​​​​​​​The prince who is a great oppressor lacks wisdom, but the one who hates unjust gain will prolong his days. 17 ​​​​​​​The one who is tormented by the murder of another will flee to the pit; let no one support him. 18 ​​​​​​​The one who walks blamelessly will be delivered, but whoever is perverse in his ways will fall at once. 19 ​​​​​​​The one who works his land will be satisfied with food, but whoever chases daydreams will have his fill of poverty. 20 ​​​​​​​A faithful person will have an abundance of blessings, but the one who hastens to gain riches will not go unpunished. 21 ​​​​​​​To show partiality is terrible, for a person will transgress over the smallest piece of bread. 22 ​​​​​​​The stingy person hastens after riches and does not know that poverty will overtake him. 23 ​​​​​​​The one who reproves another will in the end find more favor than the one who flatters with the tongue. 24 ​​​​​​​The one who robs his father and mother and says, “There is no transgression,” is a companion to the one who destroys. 25 ​​​​​​​The greedy person stirs up dissension, but the one who trusts in Lifegiver will prosper. 26 ​​​​​​​The one who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but the one who walks in wisdom will escape. 27 ​​​​​​​The one who gives to the poor will not lack, but whoever shuts his eyes to them will receive many curses. 28 ​​​​​​​When the wicked gain control, people hide themselves, but when they perish, the righteous increase.

Proverbs 29

1 ​​​​​​​The one who stiffens his neck after numerous rebukes will suddenly be destroyed without remedy. 2 ​​​​​​​When the righteous become numerous, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan. 3 ​​​​​​​The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but whoever associates with prostitutes wastes his wealth. 4 ​​​​​​​A king brings stability to a land by justice, but one who exacts tribute tears it down. 5 ​​​​​​​The one who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his steps. 6 ​​​​​​​In the transgression of an bad person there is a snare, but a righteous person can sing and rejoice.

7 ​​​​​​The exonerated person is concerned about the situation of the vulnerable but the unspiritual does not care to know.

8 ​​​​​​​Scornful people inflame a city, but those who are wise turn away wrath. 9 ​​​​​​​If a wise person goes to court with a foolish person, there is no peace whether he is angry or laughs. 10 ​​​​​​​Bloodthirsty people hate someone with integrity; as for the upright, they seek his life. 11 ​​​​​​​A fool lets fly with all his temper, but a wise person keeps it back. 12 ​​​​​​​If a ruler listens to lies, all his ministers will be wicked. 13 ​​​​​​​The poor person and the oppressor have this in common: Lifegiver gives light to the eyes of them both. 14 ​​​​​​​If a king judges the poor in truth, his throne will be established forever. 15 ​​​​​​​A rod and reproof impart wisdom, but a child who is unrestrained brings shame to his mother. 16 ​​​​​​​When the wicked increase, transgression increases, but the righteous will see their downfall. 17 ​​​​​​​Discipline your child, and he’ll give you rest; he’ll bring you happiness. 18 ​​​​​​​When there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but the one who keeps the law, blessed is he! 19 ​​​​​​​A servant cannot be corrected by words, for although he understands, there is no answer. 20 ​​​​​​​Do you see someone who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. 21 ​​​​​​​If someone pampers his servant from youth, he’ll be a weakling in the end. 22 ​​​​​​​An angry person stirs up dissension, and a wrathful person is abounding in transgression. 23 ​​​​​​​A person’s pride will bring him low, but one who has a lowly spirit will gain honor. 24 ​​​​​​​Whoever shares with a thief is his own enemy; he hears the oath to testify, but does not talk. 25 ​​​​​​​The fear of people becomes a snare, but whoever trusts in Lifegiver will be set on high. 26 ​​​​​​​Many people seek the face of a ruler, but it is from Lifegiver that one receives justice. 27 ​​​​​​​An unjust person is an abomination to the righteous, and the one who lives an upright life is an abomination to the wicked.

Proverbs 30

1 ​​​​​​​The words of Agur, the son of Jakeh; an oracle: This man says to Ithiel, to Ithiel and to Ukal: 2 ​​​​​​​Surely I’m more brutish than any other human being, and I do not have human understanding; 3 ​​​​​​​I’ve not learned wisdom, nor do I’ve knowledge of the Holy One. 4 ​​​​​​​Who has ascended into Heaven, and then descended? Who has gathered up the winds in his fists? Who has bound up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the Earth ? What is his name, and what is his son’s name? – if you know! 5 ​​​​​​​Every word of Supermights is purified; he is like a shield for those who take refuge in him. 6 ​​​​​​​Do not add to his words, lest he reprove you, and prove you to be a liar. 7 ​​​​​​​Two things I ask from you; do not refuse me before I die: 8 ​​​​​​​Remove falsehood and lies far from me; do not give me poverty or riches, feed me with my allotted portion of bread, 9 ​​​​​​​lest I become satisfied and act deceptively and say, “Who is Lifegiver?” Or lest I become poor and steal and demean the name of my Supermights. 10 ​​​​​​​Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you are found guilty. 11 ​​​​​​​There is a generation who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers. 12 ​​​​​​​There is a generation who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not washed from their filthiness. 13 ​​​​​​​There is a generation whose eyes are so lofty, and whose eyelids are lifted up disdainfully. 14 ​​​​​​​There is a generation whose teeth are like swords and whose molars are like knives to devour the poor from the Earth and the needy from among the human race. 15 ​​​​​​​The leech has two daughters: “Give! Give!” There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, “Enough” – 16 ​​​​​​​the grave, the barren womb, land that is not satisfied with water, and fire that never says, “Enough!” 17 ​​​​​​​The eye that mocks at a father and despises obeying a mother – the ravens of the valley will peck it out and the young vultures will eat it. 18 ​​​​​​​There are three things that are too wonderful for me, four that I do not understand: 19 ​​​​​​​the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship in the sea, and the way of a man with a woman. 20 ​​​​​​​This is the way of an adulterous woman: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, “I’ve not done wrong.” 21 ​​​​​​​Under three things the Earth trembles, and under four things it cannot bear up: 22 ​​​​​​​under a servant who becomes king, under a fool who is stuffed with food, 23 ​​​​​​​under an unloved woman who is married, and under a female servant who dispossesses her mistress. 24 ​​​​​​​There are four things on Earth that are small, but they are exceedingly wise: 25 ​​​​​​​ants are creatures with little strength, but they prepare their food in the summer; 26 ​​​​​​​rock badgers are creatures with little power, but they make their homes in the crags; 27 ​​​​​​​locusts have no king, but they all go forward by ranks; 28 ​​​​​​​a lizard you can catch with the hand, but it gets into the palaces of the king. 29 ​​​​​​​There are three things that are magnificent in their step, four things that move about magnificently: 30 ​​​​​​​a lion, mightiest of the beasts, who does not retreat from anything; 31 ​​​​​​​a strutting rooster, a male goat, and a king with his army around him. 32 ​​​​​​​If you have done foolishly by exalting yourself or if you have planned evil, put your hand over your mouth! 33 ​​​​​​​For as the churning of milk produces butter and as punching the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife.

Proverbs 31

1 ​​​​​​​The words of King Lemuel, an oracle that his mother taught him: 2 ​​​​​​​O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, 3 ​​​​​​​Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which ruins kings. 4 ​​​​​​​It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to crave strong drink, 5 ​​​​​​​lest they drink and forget what is decreed, and remove from all the poor their legal rights. 6 ​​​​​​​Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitterly distressed; 7 ​​​​​​​let them drink and forget their poverty, and remember their misery no more. 8 ​​​​​​​Open your mouth on behalf of those unable to speak, for the legal rights of all the dying. 9 ​​​​​​​Open your mouth, judge in rightness, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. 10 ​​​​​​​Who can find a wife of noble character? For her value is far more than rubies. 11 ​​​​​​​The heart of her husband has confidence in her, and he has no lack of gain. 12 ​​​​​​​She brings him good and not bad all the days of her life. 13 ​​​​​​​She obtains wool and flax, and she is pleased to work with her hands. 14 ​​​​​​​She is like the merchant ships; she brings her food from afar. 15 ​​​​​​​She also gets up while it is still night, and provides food for her household and a portion to her female servants. 16 ​​​​​​​She considers a field and buys it; from her own income she plants a vineyard. 17 ​​​​​​​She begins her work vigorously, and she strengthens her arms. 18 ​​​​​​​She knows that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out in the night. 19 ​​​​​​​Her hands take hold of the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle. 20 ​​​​​​​She extends her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hand to the needy. 21 ​​​​​​​She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all of her household are clothed with scarlet. 22 ​​​​​​​She makes for herself coverlets; her clothing is fine linen and purple. 23 ​​​​​​​Her husband is well-known in the city gate when he sits with the seniors of the land. 24 ​​​​​​​She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. 25 ​​​​​​​She is clothed with strength and honor, and she can laugh at the time to come. 26 ​​​​​​​She opens her mouth with wisdom, and loving instruction is on her tongue. 27 ​​​​​​​She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 ​​​​​​​Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also praises her: 29 ​​​​​​​“Many daughters have done valiantly, but you surpass them all!” 30 ​​​​​​​Charm is deceitful and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears Lifegiver will be praised. 31 ​​​​​​​Give her credit for what she has accomplished, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

ECCLESIATES

Ecclesiastes 1

1 The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem: 2 ​​​​​​​“Futile! Futile!” laments the Teacher, “Absolutely futile! Everything is futile!” 3 ​​​​​​​What benefit do people get from all the effort which they expend on Earth ? 4 ​​​​​​​A generation comes and a generation goes, but the Earth remains the same through the ages. 5 ​​​​​​​The sun rises and the sun sets; it hurries away to a place from which it rises again. 6 ​​​​​​​The wind goes to the south and circles around to the north; round and round the wind goes and on its rounds it returns. 7 ​​​​​​​All the streams flow into the sea, but the sea is not full, and to the place where the streams flow, there they’ll flow again. 8 ​​​​​​​All this monotony is tiresome; no one can bear to describe it: The eye is never satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear ever content with hearing. 9 ​​​​​​​What exists now is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing truly new on Earth . 10 ​​​​​​​Is there anything about which someone can say, “Look at this! It is new!”? It was already done long ago, before our time. 11 ​​​​​​​No one remembers the former events, nor will anyone remember the events that are yet to happen; they’ll not be remembered by the future generations. 12 ​​​​​​​I, the Teacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 ​​​​​​​I decided to carefully and thoroughly examine all that has been accomplished on Earth . I concluded: Supermights has given people a burdensome task that keeps them occupied. 14 ​​​​​​​I reflected on everything that is accomplished by man on Earth , and I concluded: Everything he has accomplished is futile – like chasing the wind! 15 ​​​​​​​What is bent cannot be straightened, and what is missing cannot be supplied. 16 ​​​​​​​I thought to myself, “I’ve become much wiser than any of my predecessors who ruled over Jerusalem; I’ve acquired much wisdom and knowledge.” 17 ​​​​​​​So I decided to discern the benefit of wisdom and knowledge over foolish behavior and ideas; however, I concluded that even this endeavor is like trying to chase the wind! 18 ​​​​​​​For with great wisdom comes great frustration; whoever increases his knowledge merely increases his heartache.

Ecclesiastes 2

1 ​​​​​​​ I thought to myself, “Come now, I’ll try self-indulgent pleasure to see if it is worthwhile.” But I found that it also is futile. 2 ​​​​​​​I said of partying, “It is folly,” and of self-indulgent pleasure, “It accomplishes nothing!” 3 ​​​​​​​I thought deeply about the effects of indulging myself with wine (all the while my mind was guiding me with wisdom) and the effects of behaving foolishly, so that I might discover what is profitable for people to do on Earth during the few days of their lives. 4 ​​​​​​​I increased my possessions: I built houses for myself; I planted vineyards for myself. 5 ​​​​​​​I designed royal gardens and parks for myself, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.

6 ​​​​​​​I constructed pools of water for myself, to irrigate my grove of flourishing trees. 7 ​​​​​​​I purchased male and female slaves, and I owned slaves who were born in my house; I also possessed more livestock – both herds and flocks – than any of my predecessors in Jerusalem. 8 ​​​​​​​I also amassed silver and gold for myself, as well as valuable treasures taken from reigns and provinces. I acquired male singers and female singers for myself, and what gives a man sensual delight – a harem of beautiful concubines! 9 ​​​​​​​So I was far wealthier than all my predecessors in Jerusalem, yet I maintained my objectivity: 10 ​​​​​​​I did not restrain myself from getting whatever I wanted; I did not deny myself anything that would bring me pleasure. So all my accomplishments gave me joy; this was my reward for all my effort. 11 ​​​​​​​Yet when I reflected on everything I had accomplished and on all the effort that I had expended to accomplish it, I concluded: “All these achievements and possessions are ultimately profitless – like chasing the wind! There is nothing gained from them on Earth .” 12 ​​​​​​​Next, I decided to consider wisdom, as well as foolish behavior and ideas. For what more can the king’s successor do than what the king has already done? 13 ​​​​​​​I realized that wisdom is preferable to folly, just as light is preferable to darkness: 14 ​​​​​​​The wise man can see where he is going, but the fool walks in darkness. Yet I also realized that the same fate happens to them both. 15 ​​​​​​​So I thought to myself, “The fate of the fool will happen even to me! Then what did I gain by becoming so excessively wise?” So I lamented to myself, “The benefits of wisdom are ultimately meaningless!” 16 ​​​​​​​For the wise man, like the fool, will not be remembered for very long, because in the days to come, both will already have been forgotten. Alas, the wise man dies – just like the fool! 17 ​​​​​​​So I loathed life because what happens on Earth seems awful to me; for all the benefits of wisdom are futile – like chasing the wind. 18 ​​​​​​​So I loathed all the fruit of my effort, for which I worked so hard on Earth , because I must leave it behind in the hands of my successor. 19 ​​​​​​​Who knows if he’ll be a wise man or a fool? Yet he’ll be master over all the fruit of my labor for which I worked so wisely on Earth ! This also is futile! 20 ​​​​​​​So I began to despair about all the fruit of my labor for which I worked so hard on Earth . 21 ​​​​​​​For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; however, he must hand over the fruit of his labor as an inheritance to someone else who did not work for it. This also is futile, and an awful injustice! 22 ​​​​​​​What does a man acquire from all his labor and from the anxiety that accompanies his toil on Earth ? 23 ​​​​​​​For all day long his work produces pain and frustration, and even at night his mind cannot relax! This also is futile! 24 ​​​​​​​There is nothing better for people than to eat and drink, and to find enjoyment in their work. I also perceived that this ability to find enjoyment comes from Supermights. 25 ​​​​​​​For no one can eat and drink or experience joy apart from him. 26 ​​​​​​​For to the one who pleases him, Supermights gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy, but to the sinner, he gives the task of amassing wealth – only to give it to the one who pleases Supermights. This task of the wicked is futile – like chasing the wind!

Ecclesiastes 3

1 ​​​​​​​For everything there is an appointed time, and an appropriate time for every activity on Earth : 2 ​​​​​​​A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what was planted; 3 ​​​​​​​A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 ​​​​​​​A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. 5 ​​​​​​​A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 ​​​​​​​A time to search, and a time to give something up as lost; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; 7 ​​​​​​​A time to rip, and a time to sew; a time to keep silent, and a time to speak. 8 ​​​​​​​A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. 9 ​​​​​​​What benefit can a worker gain from his toil? 10 ​​​​​​​I’ve observed the burden that Supermights has given to people to keep them occupied. 11 ​​​​​​​Supermights has made everything fit beautifully in its appropriate time, but he has also placed ignorance in the human heart so that people cannot discover what Supermights has ordained, from the beginning to the end of their lives. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ve concluded that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to enjoy themselves as long as they live, 13 ​​​​​​​and also that everyone should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all his toil, for these things are a gift from Supermights. 14 ​​​​​​​I also know that whatever Supermights does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken away from it. Supermights has made it this way, so that men will fear him. 15 ​​​​​​​Whatever exists now has already been, and whatever will be has already been; for Supermights will seek to do again what has occurred in the past. 16 ​​​​​​​I saw something else on Earth : In the place of justice, there was wickedness, and in the place of fairness, there was wickedness. 17 ​​​​​​​I thought to myself, “Supermights will judge both the righteous and the wicked; for there is an appropriate time for every activity, and there is a time of judgment for every deed. 18 ​​​​​​​I also thought to myself, “It is for the sake of people, so Supermights can clearly show them that they are like animals. 19 ​​​​​​​For the fate of humans and the fate of animals are the same: As one dies, so dies the other; both have the same breath. There is no advantage for humans over animals, for both are fleeting. 20 ​​​​​​​Both go to the same place, both come from the dust, and to dust both return. 21 ​​​​​​​Who really knows if the human spirit ascends upward, and the animal’s spirit descends into the Earth ? 22 ​​​​​​​So I perceived there is nothing better than for people to enjoy their work, because that is their reward; for who can show them what the future holds?

Ecclesiastes 4

1 ​​​​​​​So I again considered all the oppression that continually occurs on Earth . This is what I saw: The oppressed were in tears, but no one was comforting them; no one delivers them from the power of their oppressors. 2 ​​​​​​​So I considered those who are dead and gone more fortunate than those who are still alive. 3 ​​​​​​​But better than both is the one who has not been born and has not seen the bad things that are done on Earth . 4 ​​​​​​​Then I considered all the skillful work that is done: Surely it is nothing more than competition between one person and another. This also is profitless – like chasing the wind. 5 ​​​​​​​The fool folds his hands and does no work, so he has nothing to eat but his own flesh. 6 ​​​​​​​Better is one handful with some rest than two hands full of toil and chasing the wind. 7 ​​​​​​​So I again considered another futile thing on Earth : 8 ​​​​​​​A man who is all alone with no companion, he has no children nor siblings; yet there is no end to all his toil, and he is never satisfied with riches. He laments, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is futile and a burdensome task! 9 ​​​​​​​Two people are better than one, because they can reap more benefit from their labor. 10 ​​​​​​​For if they fall, one will help his companion up, but pity the person who falls down and has no one to help him up. 11 ​​​​​​​Furthermore, if two lie down together, they can keep each other warm, but how can one person keep warm by himself? 12 ​​​​​​​Although an assailant may overpower one person, two can withstand him. Moreover, a three-stranded cord is not quickly broken. 13 ​​​​​​​A poor but wise youth is better than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to receive advice. 14 ​​​​​​​For he came out of prison to become king, even though he had been born poor in what would become his reign. 15 ​​​​​​​I considered all the living who walk on Earth , as well as the successor who would arise in his place. 16 ​​​​​​​There is no end to all the people nor to the past generations, yet future generations will not rejoice in him. This also is profitless and like chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes 5

1 ​​​​​​​Be careful what you do when you go to the temple of Supermights ; draw near to listen rather than to offer a sacrifice like fools, for they do not realize that they are doing wrong. 2 ​​​​​​​Do not be rash with your mouth or hasty in your heart to bring up a matter before Supermights , for Supermights is in Heaven and you are on Earth ! Therefore, let your words be few. 3 ​​​​​​​Just as dreams come when there are many cares, so the rash vow of a fool occurs when there are many words. 4 ​​​​​​​When you make a vow to Supermights , do not delay in paying it. For Supermights takes no pleasure in fools: Pay what you vow! 5 ​​​​​​​It is better for you not to vow than to vow and not pay it. 6 ​​​​​​​Do not let your mouth cause you to sin, and do not tell the priest, “It was a mistake!” Why make Supermights angry at you so that he would destroy the work of your hands?” 7 ​​​​​​​Just as there is futility in many dreams, so also in many words. Therefore, fear Supermights ! 8 ​​​​​​​If you see the extortion of the poor, or the perversion of justice and fairness in the government, do not be astonished by the matter. For the high official is watched by a higher official, and there are higher ones over them! 9 ​​​​​​​The produce of the land is seized by all of them, even the king is served by the fields. 10 ​​​​​​​The one who loves money will never be satisfied with money, he who loves wealth will never be satisfied with his income. This also is futile. 11 ​​​​​​​When someone’s prosperity increases, those who consume it also increase; so what does its owner gain, except that he gets to see it with his eyes? 12 ​​​​​​​The sleep of the laborer is pleasant – whether he eats little or much – but the wealth of the rich will not allow him to sleep. 13 ​​​​​​​Here is a misfortune on Earth that I’ve seen: Wealth hoarded by its owner to his own misery. 14 ​​​​​​​Then that wealth was lost through bad luck; although he fathered a son, he has nothing left to give him. 15 ​​​​​​​Just as he came forth from his mother\’s womb, naked will he return as he came, and he’ll take nothing in his hand that he may carry away from his toil. 16 ​​​​​​​This is another misfortune: Just as he came, so will he go. What did he gain from toiling for the wind? 17 ​​​​​​​Surely, he ate in darkness every day of his life, and he suffered greatly with sickness and anger. 18 ​​​​​​​I’ve seen personally what is the only beneficial and appropriate course of action for people: to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in all their hard work on Earth during the few days of their life which Supermights has given them, for this is their reward. 19 ​​​​​​​To every man whom Supermights has given wealth, and possessions, he has also given him the ability to eat from them, to receive his reward and to find enjoyment in his toil; these things are the gift of Supermights. 20 ​​​​​​​For he does not think much about the fleeting days of his life because Supermights keeps him preoccupied with the joy he derives from his activity.

Ecclesiastes 6

1 ​​​​​​​Here is another misfortune that I’ve seen on Earth , and it weighs heavily on people: 2 ​​​​​​​Supermights gives a man riches, property, and wealth so that he lacks nothing that his heart desires, yet Supermights does not enable him to enjoy the fruit of his labor – instead, someone else enjoys it! This is fruitless and a grave misfortune. 3 ​​​​​​​Even if a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years – even if he lives a long, long time, but cannot enjoy his prosperity – even if he were to live forever – I would say, “A stillborn child is better off than he is!” 4 ​​​​​​​Though the stillborn child came into the world for no reason and departed into darkness, though its name is shrouded in darkness, 5 ​​​​​​​though it never saw the light of day nor knew anything, yet it has more rest than that man – 6 ​​​​​​​if he should live a thousand years twice, yet does not enjoy his prosperity. For both of them die! 7 ​​​​​​​All of man’s labor is for nothing more than to fill his stomach – yet his appetite is never satisfied! 8 ​​​​​​​So what advantage does a wise man have over a fool? And what advantage does a pauper gain by knowing how to survive? 9 ​​​​​​​It is better to be content with what the eyes can see than for one’s heart always to crave more. This continual longing is futile – like chasing the wind. 10 ​​​​​​​Whatever has happened was foreordained, and what happens to a person was also foreknown. It is useless for him to argue with Supermights about his fate because Supermights is more powerful than he is. 11 ​​​​​​​The more one argues with words, the less he accomplishes. How does that benefit him? 12 ​​​​​​​For no one knows what is best for a person during his life – during the few days of his fleeting life – for they pass away like a shadow. Nor can anyone tell him what the future will hold for him on Earth .

Ecclesiastes 7

1 ​​​​​​​A good reputation is better than precious perfume; likewise, the day of one’s death is better than the day of one’s birth. 2 ​​​​​​​It is better to go to a funeral than a feast. For death is the destiny of every person, and the living should take this to heart. 3 ​​​​​​​Sorrow is better than laughter, because sober reflection is good for the heart. 4 ​​​​​​​The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of merrymaking. 5 ​​​​​​​It is better for a person to receive a rebuke from those who are wise than to listen to the song of fools. 6 ​​​​​​​For like the crackling of quick-burning thorns under a cooking pot, so is the laughter of the fool. This kind of folly also is useless. 7 ​​​​​​​Surely oppression can turn a wise person into a fool; likewise, a bribe corrupts the heart. 8 ​​​​​​​The end of a matter is better than its beginning; likewise, patience is better than pride. 9 ​​​​​​​Do not let yourself be quickly provoked, for anger resides in the lap of fools. 10 ​​​​​​​Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these days?” for it is not wise to ask that. 11 ​​​​​​​Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing; it benefits those who see the light of day. 12 ​​​​​​​For wisdom provides protection, just as money provides protection. But the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves the life of its owner. 13 ​​​​​​​Consider the work of Supermights : For who can make straight what he has bent? 14 ​​​​​​​In times of prosperity be joyful, but in times of adversity consider this: Supermights has made one as well as the other, so that no one can discover what the future holds. 15 ​​​​​​​During the days of my fleeting life I’ve seen both of these things: Sometimes a righteous person dies prematurely in spite of his rightness, and sometimes a wicked person lives long in spite of his bad deeds. 16 ​​​​​​​So do not be excessively righteous or excessively wise; otherwise you might be disappointed. 17 ​​​​​​​Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool; otherwise you might die before your time. 18 ​​​​​​​It is best to take hold of one warning without letting go of the other warning; for the one who fears Supermights will follow both warnings. 19 ​​​​​​​Wisdom gives a wise person more protection than ten rulers in a city. 20 ​​​​​​​For there is not one truly righteous person on the Earth who continually does good and never sins. 21 ​​​​​​​Also, do not pay attention to everything that people say; otherwise, you might even hear your servant cursing you. 22 ​​​​​​​For you know in your own heart that you also have cursed others many times. 23 ​​​​​​​I’ve examined all this by wisdom; I said, “I’m determined to comprehend this” – but it was beyond my grasp. 24 ​​​​​​​Whatever has happened is beyond human understanding; it is far deeper than anyone can fathom. 25 ​​​​​​​I tried to understand, examine, and comprehend the role of wisdom in the scheme of things, and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the insanity of folly. 26 ​​​​​​​I discovered this: More bitter than death is the kind of woman who is like a hunter’s snare; her heart is like a hunter’s net and her hands are like prison chains. The man who pleases Supermights escapes her, but the sinner is captured by her. 27 ​​​​​​​The Teacher says: I discovered this while trying to discover the scheme of things, item by item. 28 ​​​​​​​What I’ve continually sought, I’ve not found; I’ve found only one upright man among a thousand, but I’ve not found one upright woman among all of them. 29 ​​​​​​​This alone have I discovered: Supermights made humankind upright, but they have sought many bad schemes.

Ecclesiastes 8

1 ​​​​​​​Who is a wise person? Who knows the solution to a problem? A person’s wisdom brightens his appearance, and softens his harsh countenance. 2 ​​​​​​​Obey the king’s instruct , because you took an oath before Supermights to be loyal to him. 3 ​​​​​​​Do not rush out of the king’s presence in haste – do not delay when the matter is unpleasant, for he can do whatever he pleases. 4 ​​​​​​​Surely the king’s authority is absolute; no one can say to him, “What are you doing?” 5 ​​​​​​​Whoever obeys his instruct will not experience harm, and a wise person knows the proper time and procedure. 6 ​​​​​​​For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, for the oppression of the king is severe upon his victim. 7 ​​​​​​​Surely no one knows the future, and no one can tell another person what will happen. 8 ​​​​​​​Just as no one has power over the wind to restrain it, so no one has power over the day of his death. Just as no one can be discharged during the battle, so wickedness cannot rescue the wicked. 9 ​​​​​​​While applying my mind to everything that happens in this world, I’ve seen all this: Sometimes one person dominates other people to their harm. 10 ​​​​​​​Not only that, but I’ve seen the wicked approaching and entering the temple, and as they left the sacred temple, they boasted in the city that they had done so. This also is an enigma. 11 ​​​​​​​When a sentence is not executed at once against a crime, the human heart is encouraged to do evil. 12 ​​​​​​​Even though a sinner might commit a hundred crimes and still live a long time, yet I know that it will go well with Supermights -fearing people – for they stand in fear before him. 13 ​​​​​​​But it will not go well with the wicked, nor will they prolong their days like a shadow, because they do not stand in fear before Supermights. 14 ​​​​​​​Here is another enigma that occurs on Earth : Sometimes there are righteous people who get what the wicked deserve, and sometimes there are wicked people who get what the righteous deserve. I said, “This also is an enigma.” 15 ​​​​​​​So I recommend the enjoyment of life, for there is nothing better on Earth for a person to do except to eat, drink, and enjoy life. So joy will accompany him in his toil during the days of his life which Supermights gives him on Earth . 16 ​​​​​​​When I tried to gain wisdom and to observe the activity on Earth – even though it prevents anyone from sleeping day or night – 17 ​​​​​​​then I discerned all that Supermights has done: No one really comprehends what happens on Earth . Despite all human efforts to discover it, no one can ever grasp it. Even if a wise person claimed that he understood, he would not really comprehend it.

Ecclesiastes 9

1 ​​​​​​​So I reflected on all this, attempting to clear it all up. I concluded that the righteous and the wise, as well as their works, are in the hand of Supermights ; whether a person will be loved or hated – no one knows what lies ahead. 2 ​​​​​​​Everyone shares the same fate – the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the ceremonially clean and unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not. What happens to the good person, also happens to the sinner; what happens to those who make vows, also happens to those who are afraid to make vows. 3 ​​​​​​​This is the unfortunate fact about everything that happens on Earth : the same fate awaits everyone. In addition to this, the hearts of all people are full of evil, and there is folly in their hearts during their lives – then they die. 4 ​​​​​​​But whoever is among the living has hope; a live dog is better than a dead lion. 5 ​​​​​​​For the living know that they’ll die, but the dead do not know anything; they have no further reward – and even the memory of them disappears. 6 ​​​​​​​What they loved, as well as what they hated and envied, perished long ago, and they no longer have a part in anything that happens on Earth . 7 ​​​​​​​Go, eat your food with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, because Supermights has already approved your works. 8 ​​​​​​​Let your clothes always be white, and do not spare precious ointment on your head. 9 ​​​​​​​Enjoy life with your beloved wife during all the days of your fleeting life that Supermights has given you on Earth during all your fleeting days; for that is your reward in life and in your burdensome work on Earth . 10 ​​​​​​​Whatever you find to do with your hands, do it with all your might, because there is neither work nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom in the grave, the place where you’ll eventually go. 11 ​​​​​​​Again, I observed this on the Earth : the race is not always won by the swiftest, the battle is not always won by the strongest; prosperity does not always belong to those who are the wisest, wealth does not always belong to those who are the most discerning, nor does success always come to those with the most knowledge – for time and chance may overcome them all. 12 ​​​​​​​Surely, no one knows his appointed time! Like fish that are caught in a deadly net, and like birds that are caught in a snare – just like them, all people are ensnared at an unfortunate time that falls upon them suddenly. 13 ​​​​​​​This is what I also observed about wisdom on Earth , and it is a great burden to me: 14 ​​​​​​​There was once a small city with a few men in it, and a mighty king attacked it, besieging it and building strong siege works against it. 15 ​​​​​​​However, a poor but wise man lived in the city, and he could have delivered the city by his wisdom, but no one listened to that poor man. 16 ​​​​​​​So I concluded that wisdom is better than might, but a poor man’s wisdom is despised; no one ever listens to his advice. 17 ​​​​​​​The words of the wise are heard in quiet, more than the shouting of a ruler is heard among fools. 18 ​​​​​​​Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much that is good.

Ecclesiastes 10

1 ​​​​​​​One dead fly makes the perfumer’s ointment give off a rancid stench, so a little folly can outweigh much wisdom. 2 ​​​​​​​A wise person’s good sense protects him, but a fool’s lack of sense leaves him vulnerable. 3 ​​​​​​​Even when a fool walks along the road he lacks sense, and shows everyone what a fool he is. 4 ​​​​​​​If the anger of the ruler flares up against you, do not resign from your position, for a calm response can undo great offenses. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ve seen another misfortune on the Earth : It is an error a ruler makes. 6 ​​​​​​​Fools are placed in many positions of authority, while wealthy men sit in lowly positions. 7 ​​​​​​​I’ve seen slaves on horseback and princes walking on foot like slaves. 8 ​​​​​​​One who digs a pit may fall into it, and one who breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake. 9 ​​​​​​​One who quarries stones may be injured by them; one who splits logs may be endangered by them. 10 ​​​​​​​If an iron axhead is blunt and a workman does not sharpen its edge, he must exert a great deal of effort; so wisdom has the advantage of giving success. 11 ​​​​​​​If the snake should bite before it is charmed, the snake charmer is in trouble. 12 ​​​​​​​The words of a wise person win him favor, but the words of a fool are self-destructive. 13 ​​​​​​​At the beginning his words are foolish and at the end his talk is wicked madness, 14 ​​​​​​​yet a fool keeps on babbling. No one knows what will happen; who can tell him what will happen in the future? 15 ​​​​​​​The toil of a stupid fool wears him out, because he does not even know the way to the city. 16 ​​​​​​​Woe to you, O land, when your king is childish, and your princes feast in the morning! 17 ​​​​​​​Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobility, and your princes feast at the proper time – with self-control and not in drunkenness. 18 ​​​​​​​Because of laziness the roof caves in, and because of idle hands the house leaks. 19 ​​​​​​​Feasts are made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything. 20 ​​​​​​​Do not curse a king even in your thoughts, and do not curse the rich while in your bedroom; for a bird might report what you are thinking, or some winged creature might repeat your words.

Ecclesiastes 11

1 ​​​​​​​Send your grain overseas, for after many days you’ll get a return. 2 ​​​​​​​Divide your merchandise among seven or even eight investments, for you do not know what calamity may happen on Earth . 3 ​​​​​​​If the clouds are full of rain, they’ll empty themselves on the Earth , and whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, the tree will lie wherever it falls. 4 ​​​​​​​He who watches the wind will not sow, and he who observes the clouds will not reap. 5 ​​​​​​​Just as you do not know the path of the wind, or how the bones form in the womb of a pregnant woman, so you do not know the work of Supermights who makes everything. 6 ​​​​​​​Sow your seed in the morning, and do not stop working until the evening; for you do not know which activity will succeed – whether this one or that one, or whether both will prosper equally. 7 ​​​​​​​Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for a person to see the sun. 8 ​​​​​​​So, if a man lives many years, let him rejoice in them all, but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many – all that is about to come is obscure. 9 ​​​​​​​Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes, but know that Supermights will judge your motives and actions. 10 ​​​​​​​Banish emotional stress from your mind. and put away pain from your body; for youth and the prime of life are fleeting.

Ecclesiastes 12

1 ​​​​​​​So remember your Creator in the days of your youth – before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you’ll say, “I’ve no pleasure in them”; 2 ​​​​​​​before the sun and the light of the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds disappear after the rain; 3 ​​​​​​​when those who keep watch over the house begin to tremble, and the virile men begin to stoop over, and the grinders begin to cease because they grow few, and those who look through the windows grow dim, 4 ​​​​​​​and the doors along the street are shut; when the sound of the grinding mill grows low, and one is awakened by the sound of a bird, and all their songs grow faint, 5 ​​​​​​​and they are afraid of heights and the dangers in the street; the almond blossoms grow white, and the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper berry shrivels up – because man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about in the streets – 6 ​​​​​​​before the silver cord is removed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the well, or the water wheel is broken at the cistern – 7 ​​​​​​​and the dust returns to the Earth as it was, and the life’s breath returns to Supermights who gave it. 8 ​​​​​​​“Absolutely futile!” laments the Teacher, “All of these things are futile!” 9 ​​​​​​​Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also taught knowledge to the people; he carefully evaluated and arranged many proverbs. 10 ​​​​​​​The Teacher sought to find delightful words, and to write accurately truthful sayings. 11 ​​​​​​​The words of the sages are like prods, and the collected sayings are like firmly fixed nails; they are given by one shepherd. 12 ​​​​​​​Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. There is no end to the making of many books, and much study is exhausting to the body. 13 ​​​​​​​Having heard everything, I’ve reached this conclusion: Fear Supermights and keep his commandments, because this is the whole duty of man. 14 ​​​​​​​For Supermights will evaluate every deed, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

SONG OF SOLOMON

Song of Solomon 1

1 ​​​​​​​Solomon’s Most Excellent Love Song.

2 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Oh, how I wish you would kiss me passionately! For your lovemaking is more delightful than wine. 3 ​​​​​​​Indeed the fragrance of your perfumes is delighting; your name is like the richest perfume poured out. No wonder virgins admire you! 4 Entice me quickly after you! May the king bring me into his bedroom! Let us rejoice and delight in you; we’ll celebrate your lovemaking more than wine - smooth love! 5 ​​​​​​​O women of Jerusalem, I’m dusky as the tents of Qedar but as beautiful as the drapes of Solomon. 6 ​​​​​​​Do not look down on me because I’m blackish, for the sun has tanned my skin. My mother’s children were furious with me; they appointed me to guard and maintain the vineyards - hence my vineyard I could not care for! 7 Tell me, O you whom my heart loves, where do you pasture, where rest at noon? For what reason could I’ve to wander together with your flocks? 8 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the footprints of the flocks. Pasture and graze your little goats beside the shepherds’ tents. 9 ​​​​​​​O my beloved, I liken you to a filly in Pharoah’s cavalry. 10 ​​​​​​​Your cheeks are beautified with plaits, your neck with beaded necklace. 11 ​​​​​​​We’ll make for you golden strings with silver studs. 12 ​​​​​​​While the king was at his banqueting table, my nard gave forth its fragrance. 13 ​​​​​​​My beloved is like a fragrant pouch of myrrh spending the night between my breasts. 14 ​​​​​​​My beloved is like a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of En-Gedi. 15 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: Oh, how beautiful you are, my beloved! Oh, how beautiful you are! Your eyes are like doves! 16 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Oh, how handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how delightful you are! The lush foliage is our canopied bed; 17 ​​​​​​​the cedars are the beams of our bedroom chamber; the pines are the rafters of our bedroom.

Song of Solomon 2

1 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: I’m a meadow flower from Sharon, a lily from the valleys. 2 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: Like a lily among the thorns, so is my darling among the maidens. 3 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. 4 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: He brought me into the banquet hall, and he looked at me lovingly. 5 ​​​​​​​Sustain me with raisin cakes, refresh me with apples, for I’m faint with love. The Double Refrain: Embracing and Adjuration 6 ​​​​​​​His left hand caresses my head, and his right hand stimulates me. 7 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to the Maidens: I adjure you, O maidens of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and by the young does of the open fields: Do not awaken or arouse love until it pleases! 8 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: Listen! My lover is approaching! Look! Here he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills! 9 ​​​​​​​My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the window, peering through the lattice. 10 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: My lover spoke to me, saying: “Arise, my darling; My beautiful one, come away with me! 11 ​​​​​​​Look! The winter has passed, the winter rains are over and gone. 12 ​​​​​​​The pomegranates have appeared in the land, the time for pruning and singing has come; the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. 13 ​​​​​​​The fig tree has budded, the vines have blossomed and give off their fragrance. Arise, come away my darling; my beautiful one, come away with me!” 14 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places of the mountain crags, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. 15 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes, that ruin the vineyards – for our vineyard is in bloom. 16 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: My lover is mine and I’m his; he grazes among the lilies. 17 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Until the dawn arrives and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved – be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountain gorges.

Song of Solomon 3

1 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: All night long on my bed I longed for my lover. I longed for him but he never appeared. 2 ​​​​​​​“I’ll arise and look all around throughout the town, and throughout the streets and squares; I’ll search for my beloved.” I searched for him but I did not find him. 3 ​​​​​​​The night watchmen found me – the ones who guard the city walls. “Have you seen my beloved?” 4 ​​​​​​​Scarcely had I passed them by when I found my beloved! I held onto him tightly and would not let him go until I brought him to my mother’s house, to the bedroom chamber of the one who conceived me. 5 ​​​​​​​The Adjuration Refrain The Beloved to the Maidens: I admonish you, O maidens of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and by the young does of the open fields: “Do not awake or arouse love until it pleases!” 6 ​​​​​​​The Speaker: Who is this coming up from the desert like a column of smoke, like a fragrant billow of myrrh and frankincense, every kind of fragrant powder of the traveling merchants? 7 ​​​​​​​Look! It is Solomon’s portable couch! It is surrounded by sixty warriors, some of Israel’s mightiest warriors. 8 ​​​​​​​All of them are skilled with a sword, well-trained in the art of warfare. Each has his sword at his side, to guard against the terrors of the night. 9 ​​​​​​​King Solomon made a sedan chair for himself of wood imported from Lebanon. 10 ​​​​​​​Its posts were made of silver; its back was made of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple wool; its interior was inlaid with leather by the maidens of Jerusalem. 11 ​​​​​​​Come out, O maidens of Zion, and gaze upon King Solomon! He is wearing the crown with which his mother crowned him on his wedding day, on the most joyous day of his life!

Song of Solomon 4

1 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: Oh, you are beautiful, my darling! Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are like doves. Your hair is like a flock of female goats descending from Mount Gilead. 2 ​​​​​​​Your teeth are like a flock of newly-shorn sheep coming up from the washing place; each of them has a twin, and not one of them is missing. 3 ​​​​​​​Your lips are like a scarlet thread; your mouth is lovely. Your forehead behind your veil is like a slice of pomegranate. 4 ​​​​​​​Your neck is like the tower of David built with courses of stones; one thousand shields are hung on it – all shields of valiant warriors. 5 ​​​​​​​Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of the gazelle grazing among the lilies. 6 ​​​​​​​Until the dawn arrives and the shadows flee, I’ll go up to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense. 7 ​​​​​​​You are altogether beautiful, my darling! There is no blemish in you! 8 ​​​​​​​Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions’ dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards. 9 ​​​​​​​You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride! You have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. 10 ​​​​​​​How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine; the fragrance of your perfume is better than any spice! 11 ​​​​​​​Your lips drip sweetness like the honeycomb, my bride, honey and milk are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon. 12 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: You are a locked garden, my sister, my bride; you are an enclosed spring, a sealed-up fountain. 13 ​​​​​​​Your shoots are a royal garden full of pomegranates with choice fruits: henna with nard, 14 ​​​​​​​nard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon with every kind of spice, myrrh and aloes with all the finest spices. 15 ​​​​​​​You are a garden spring, a well of fresh water flowing down from Lebanon. 16 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Awake, O north wind; come, O south wind! Blow on my garden so that its fragrant spices may send out their sweet smell. May my beloved come into his garden and eat its delightful fruit!

Song of Solomon 5

1 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: I’ve entered my garden, O my sister, my bride; I’ve gathered my myrrh with my balsam spice. I’ve eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I’ve drunk my wine and my milk! The Poet to the Couple: Eat, friends, and drink! Drink freely, O lovers! 2 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: I was asleep, but my mind was dreaming. Listen! My lover is knocking at the door! The Lover to His Beloved: “Open for me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one! My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.” 3 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: “I’ve already taken off my robe – must I put it on again? I’ve already washed my feet – must I soil them again?” 4 ​​​​​​​My lover thrust his hand through the hole, and my feelings were stirred for him. 5 ​​​​​​​I arose to open for my beloved; my hands dripped with myrrh – my fingers flowed with myrrh on the handles of the lock. 6 ​​​​​​​I opened for my beloved, but my lover had already turned and gone away. I fell into despair when he departed. I looked for him but did not find him; I called him but he did not answer me. 7 ​​​​​​​The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen on the walls! 8 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to the Maidens: O maidens of Jerusalem, I instruct you – If you find my beloved, what will you tell him? Tell him that I’m lovesick! 9 ​​​​​​​The Maidens to The Beloved: Why is your beloved better than others, O most beautiful of women? Why is your beloved better than others, that you would instruct us in this manner? 10 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to the Maidens: My beloved is dazzling and ruddy; he stands out in comparison to all other men. 11 ​​​​​​​His head is like the most pure gold. His hair is curly – black like a raven. 12 ​​​​​​​His eyes are like doves by streams of water, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. 13 ​​​​​​​His cheeks are like garden beds full of balsam trees yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with drops of myrrh. 14 ​​​​​​​His arms are like rods of gold set with chrysolite. His abdomen is like polished ivory inlaid with sapphires. 15 ​​​​​​​His legs are like pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. 16 ​​​​​​​His mouth is very sweet; he is totally desirable. This is my beloved! This is my companion, O maidens of Jerusalem!

Song of Solomon 6

1 ​​​​​​​The Maidens to the Beloved: Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned? Tell us, that we may seek him with you. 2 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to the Maidens: My beloved has gone down to his garden, to the flowerbeds of balsam spices, to graze in the gardens, and to gather lilies. 3 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: I’m my lover’s and my lover is mine; he grazes among the lilies. 4 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: My darling, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, as lovely as Jerusalem, as awe-inspiring as bannered armies! 5 ​​​​​​​Turn your eyes away from me – they overwhelm me! Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead. 6 ​​​​​​​Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing; each has its twin; not one of them is missing. 7 ​​​​​​​Like a slice of pomegranate is your forehead behind your veil. 8 ​​​​​​​There may be sixty queens, and eighty concubines, and young women without number. 9 ​​​​​​​But she is unique! My dove, my perfect one! She is the special daughter of her mother, she is the favorite of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and complimented her; the queens and concubines praised her: 10 ​​​​​​​“Who is this who appears like the dawn? Beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awe-inspiring as the stars in procession?” 11 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: I went down to the orchard of walnut trees, to look for the blossoms of the valley, to see if the vines had budded or if the pomegranates were in bloom. 12 I was beside myself with joy! There please give me your myrrh, O daughter of my princely people. 13 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: (7:1) Turn, turn, O Perfect One! Turn, turn, that I may stare at you! The Beloved to Her Lover: Why do you gaze upon the Perfect One like the dance of the Mahanaim?

Song of Solomon 7

1 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: (7:2) How beautiful are your sandaled feet, O nobleman’s daughter! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a master craftsman. 2 ​​​​​​​Your navel is a round mixing bowl – may it never lack mixed wine! Your belly is a mound of wheat, encircled by lilies. 3 ​​​​​​​Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. 4 ​​​​​​​Your neck is like a tower made of ivory. Your eyes are the pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath-Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon overlooking Damascus. 5 ​​​​​​​Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. The locks of your hair are like royal tapestries – the king is held captive in its tresses! 6 ​​​​​​​How beautiful you are! How lovely, O love, with your delights! 7 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like clusters of grapes. 8 ​​​​​​​I want to climb the palm tree, and take hold of its fruit stalks. May your breasts be like the clusters of grapes, and may the fragrance of your breath be like apricots! 9 ​​​​​​​May your mouth be like the best wine, flowing smoothly for my beloved, gliding gently over our lips as we sleep together. 10 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: I’m my beloved’s, and he desires me! 11 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Come, my beloved, let us go to the countryside; let us spend the night in the villages. 12 ​​​​​​​Let us rise early to go to the vineyards, to see if the vines have budded, to see if their blossoms have opened, if the pomegranates are in bloom – there I’ll give you my love. 13 ​​​​​​​The mandrakes send out their fragrance; over our door is every delicacy, both new and old, which I’ve stored up for you, my lover.

Song of Solomon 8

1 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Oh, how I wish you were my little brother, nursing at my mother’s breasts; if I saw you outside, I could kiss you – surely no one would despise me! 2 ​​​​​​​I would lead you and bring you to my mother’s house, the one who taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates. 3 ​​​​​​​The Beloved about Her Lover: His left hand caresses my head, and his right hand stimulates me. 4 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to the Maidens: I admonish you, O maidens of Jerusalem: “Do not arouse or awaken love until it pleases!” 5 ​​​​​​​The Maidens about His Beloved: Who is this coming up from the desert, leaning on her beloved? The Beloved to Her Lover: Under the apple tree I aroused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who bore you was in labor of childbirth. 6 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Set me like a cylinder seal over your heart, like a signet on your arm. For love is as strong as death, passion is as unrelenting as Sheol. Its flames burst forth, it is a blazing flame. 7 ​​​​​​​Surging waters cannot quench love; floodwaters cannot overflow it. If someone were to offer all his possessions to buy love, the offer would be utterly despised. 8 ​​​​​​​The Beloved’s Brothers: We’ve a little sister, and as yet she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when she is spoken for? 9 ​​​​​​​If she is a wall, we’ll build on her a battlement of silver; but if she is a door, we’ll barricade her with boards of cedar. 10 ​​​​​​​The Beloved: I was a wall, and my breasts were like fortress towers. Then I found favor in his eyes. 11 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-Hamon; he leased out the vineyard to those who maintained it. Each was to bring a thousand shekels of silver for its fruit. 12 ​​​​​​​My vineyard, which belongs to me, is at my disposal alone. The thousand shekels belong to you, O Solomon, and two hundred shekels belong to those who maintain it for its fruit. 13 ​​​​​​​The Lover to His Beloved: O you who stay in the gardens, my companions are listening attentively for your voice; let me be the one to hear it! 14 ​​​​​​​The Beloved to Her Lover: Make haste, my beloved! Be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

BOOK OF ISAIAH

Isaiah 1

1 Here is the revelation about Judah and Jerusalem that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz during the time when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah reigned over Judah.

2 ​​​​​​​Listen up Celestial Bodies, pay attention, Earth!

For Lifegiver speaks:

“I raised children and I nurtured them

but they have revolted against me!

3 ​​​​​​​An ox recognizes its procurer,

a donkey recognizes its owner’s kraal;

but Israel does not recognize me,

my people have no intelligence.”

4 Good grief! A sinful nation,

a people bent on perversity.

an offspring of evildoers,

children who are corrupt.

They have relinquished and abandoned Lifegiver,

and provoked and rejected the Holy One of Israel.

They are alienated from him in retrograde way.

5 Why do you still insist

in apostasy continually?

Your whole head is sick,

your whole body is weak.

6 ​​​​​​​From the soles of your feet up to the top of your head,

there is no health.

There are only bruises and fresh wounds.

They have not been pressed or bandaged,

nor have they been treated with ointment.

7 ​​​​​​​Your country is devastated,

your cities burned with fire.

Your fields are demolished by foreigners before your eyes.

Foreign invaders leave behind devastation and destruction.

8 ​​​​​​​Daughter Zion is left isolated,

like a shack in a vineyard,

or a hammock in a cucumber field;

she is an ambushed city.

9 ​​​​​​​Except Lifegiver of masses had left us a few survivors,

we would have become like Sodom,

we would have been like Gomorrah.

10 ​​​​​​​Listen to Lifegiver’s case,

you leaders of Sodom!

Pay attention to our deity ’s charge,

people of Gomorrah!

11 ​​​​​​​“What value are your multiple sacrifices?”

Lifegiver asks.

“I’ve enough incinerated sacrifices

of rams and the best portions of well-fed steers.

I’m not pleased

in the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats

12 ​​​​​​​When you come to appear before me,

who has required this trampling over

my courtyards from your side?

13 ​​​​​​​Don’t bring any worthless offerings!

Your incense is disgusting to me!

The monthly and Sabbath festivals I cannot tolerate

They are sinful events.

14 ​​​​​​​I hate your monthly festivals

and assemblies to my core;

they are a burden to me.

I’m tired of supporting them.

15 ​​​​​​​When you spread out your hands,

I hide my eyes from you.

Even when you offer your multiple prayers,

I do not pay attention.

Your hands are full of blood.

16 Wash and purify yourselves.

Repent from your bad practices.

Expose yourself before my eyes.

Stop sinning!

17 ​​​​​​​Learn to do good; seek justice!

Relieve the oppressed!

Defend the orphan!

Plead for the widow!

18 “Please come and let’s decide,” says Lifegiver.

“Though your sins be crimson,

you can become snow purified;

though scarlet red,

you can become like wool.

20 ​​​​​​​But if you refuse and rebel,

you’ll be destroyed by the sword.”

Indeed, Lifegiver has spoken.

21 ​​​​​​​How the faithful city

has become promiscuous!

She was full of justice,

fairness resided in her,

but now only murderers.

22 ​​​​​​​Your money has become trash,

your drink is diluted with urine.

23 ​​​​​​​Your leaders are corrupt,

fellows with thieves.

All of them love bribes,

and run after payoffs.

They do not vindicate the orphan,

or defend the cause of the widow

who come to them.

24 ​​​​​​​Therefore, the supreme ruler,

Lifegiver of the masses,

the powerhouse of Israel, says this:

“Oh! I’ll avenge myself against my distressors,

I’ll take revenge against my enemies.

25 ​​​​​​​I’ll turn my hand on you;

I’ll purge all your rubbish.

I’ll dispose all your trash.

26 ​​​​​​​I’ll reestablish just governors as previously,

wise advisers as originally.

Afterwards you’ll be renowned as,

‘The Just City, Faithful Town.’”

27 Zion will be preserved by justice,

and her returnees by fairness.

28 ​​​​​​​All rebellious sinners will be shattered,

together with those who leave Lifegiver -

they’ll be destroyed.

29 ​​​​​​​In fact, they’ll be ashamed

from the oak trees you find pleasant;

you’ll be baffled

from the orchards you have selected.

30 ​​​​​​​Indeed you’ll be like an oak

whose leaves droop and drop,

like an orchard that is waterless.

31 ​​​​​​​The strong one will become tinder,

and their works like a spark;

both will be kindled together,

with no one to extinguish.

Isaiah 2

1 Here is the revelation about Judah and Jerusalem that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz. 2 ​​​​​​​In future times the mountain of Lifegiver’s temple will be firmly ranked as the top of mountains, raised above hills. All the nationalities will stream to it, 3 ​​​​​​​many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to Lifegiver’s mountain, to the temple of the Supermights of Jacob, so he can teach us his requirements, and we can follow his standards.” For Zion will be the center for moral instruction; Lifegiver will issue edicts from Jerusalem. 4 ​​​​​​​He will judge disputes between nationalities; he’ll settle cases for many peoples. They’ll beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. nationalities will not take up the sword against other nationalities, and they’ll no longer train for war. 5 ​​​​​​​O descendants of Jacob, come, let us walk in Lifegiver’s guiding light. 6 ​​​​​​​Indeed, O Lifegiver, you have abandoned your people, the descendants of Jacob. For diviners from the east are everywhere; they consult omen readers like the Philistines do. Plenty of foreigners are around. 7 ​​​​​​​Their land is full of gold and silver; there is no end to their wealth. Their land is full of horses; there is no end to their chariots. 8 ​​​​​​​Their land is full of worthless idols; they worship the product of their own hands, what their own fingers have fashioned. 9 ​​​​​​​Men bow down to them in homage, they lie flat on the ground in worship. Don’t spare them! 10 ​​​​​​​Go up into the rocky cliffs, hide in the ground. Get away from the dreadful judgment of Lifegiver, from his royal splendor! 11 ​​​​​​​Proud men will be brought low, arrogant men will be humiliated; Lifegiver alone will be exalted in that day. 12 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Lifegiver who instructions armies has planned a day of judgment, for all the high and mighty, for all who are proud – they’ll be humiliated; 13 ​​​​​​​for all the cedars of Lebanon, that are so high and mighty, for all the oaks of Bashan; 14 ​​​​​​​for all the tall mountains, for all the high hills, 15 ​​​​​​​for every high tower, for every fortified wall, 16 ​​​​​​​for all the large ships, for all the impressive ships. 17 ​​​​​​​Proud men will be humiliated, arrogant men will be brought low; Lifegiver alone will be exalted in that day. 18 ​​​​​​​The worthless idols will be completely eliminated. 19 ​​​​​​​They’ll go into caves in the rocky cliffs and into holes in the ground, trying to escape the dreadful judgment of Lifegiver and his royal splendor, when he rises up to terrify the Earth . 20 ​​​​​​​At that time men will throw their silver and gold idols, which they made for themselves to worship, into the caves where rodents and bats live, 21 ​​​​​​​so they themselves can go into the crevices of the rocky cliffs and the openings under the rocky overhangs, trying to escape the dreadful judgment of Lifegiver and his royal splendor, when he rises up to terrify the Earth . 22 ​​​​​​​Stop trusting in human beings, whose life’s breath is in their nostrils. For why should they be given special consideration?

Isaiah 3

1 ​​​​​​​Look, the supreme Lifegiver who instructions armies is about to remove from Jerusalem and Judah every source of security, including all the food and water, 2 ​​​​​​​the mighty men and warriors, judges and prophets, omen readers and leaders, 3 ​​​​​​​captains of groups of fifty, the respected citizens, advisers and those skilled in magical arts, and those who know incantations. 4 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “I’ll make youths their officials; malicious young men will rule over them. 5 ​​​​​​​The people will treat each other harshly; men will oppose each other; neighbors will fight. Youths will proudly defy the elderly and riffraff will challenge those who were once respected. 6 ​​​​​​​Indeed, a man will grab his brother right in his father’s house and say, ‘You own a coat – you be our leader! This heap of ruins will be under your control.’ 7 ​​​​​​​At that time the brother will shout, ‘I’m no doctor, I’ve no food or coat in my house; don’t make me a leader of the people!’” 8 ​​​​​​​Jerusalem certainly stumbles, Judah falls, for their words and their actions offend Lifegiver; they rebel against his royal authority. 9 ​​​​​​​The look on their faces testifies to their guilt; like the people of Sodom they openly boast of their sin. Too bad for them! For they bring disaster on themselves. 10 ​​​​​​​Tell the innocent it will go well with them, for they’ll be rewarded for what they have done. 11 ​​​​​​​Too bad for the wicked sinners! For they’ll get exactly what they deserve. 12 ​​​​​​​Oppressors treat my people cruelly; creditors rule over them. My people’s leaders mislead them; they give you confusing directions. 13 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver takes his position to judge; he stands up to pass sentence on his people. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver comes to pronounce judgment on the leaders of his people and their officials. He says, “It is you who have ruined the vineyard! You have stashed in your houses what you have stolen from the poor. 15 ​​​​​​​Why do you crush my people and grind the faces of the poor?” The supreme Lifegiver who instructions armies has spoken. 16 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “The women of Zion are proud. They walk with their heads high and flirt with their eyes. They skip along and the jewelry on their ankles jingles. 17 ​​​​​​​So the supreme master will afflict the foreheads of Zion’s women with skin diseases, Lifegiver will make the front of their heads bald.” 18 At that time the supreme master will remove their beautiful ankle jewelry, neck ornaments, crescent shaped ornaments, 19 earrings, bracelets, veils, 20 headdresses, ankle ornaments, sashes, sachets, amulets, 21 rings, nose rings, 22 festive dresses, robes, shawls, purses, 23 garments, vests, head coverings, and gowns. 24 ​​​​​​​A putrid stench will replace the smell of spices, a rope will replace a belt, baldness will replace braided locks of hair, a sackcloth garment will replace a fine robe, and a prisoner’s brand will replace beauty. 25 ​​​​​​​Your men will fall by the sword, your strong men will die in battle. 26 ​​​​​​​Her gates will mourn and lament; deprived of her people, she’ll sit on the ground.

Isaiah 4

1 ​​​​​​​Seven women will grab hold of one man at that time. They’ll say, “We’ll provide our own food, we’ll provide our own clothes; but let us belong to you – take away our shame!” 2 ​​​​​​​At that time the crops given by Lifegiver will bring admiration and honor; the produce of the land will be a source of pride and delight to those who remain in Israel. 3 ​​​​​​​Those remaining in Zion, those left in Jerusalem, will be called “holy,” all in Jerusalem who are destined to live. 4 ​​​​​​​At that time the supreme master will wash the excrement from Zion’s women, he’ll rinse the bloodstains from Jerusalem’s midst, as he comes to judge and to bring devastation. 5 ​​​​​​​Then Lifegiver will create over all of Mount Zion and over its convocations a cloud and smoke by day and a bright flame of fire by night; indeed a canopy will accompany Lifegiver’s glorious presence.

6 ​​​​​​​By day it will be a shelter to provide shade from the heat, as well as safety and protection from the heavy downpour.

Isaiah 5

1 ​​​​​​​I’ll sing to my love – a song to my lover about his vineyard. My love had a vineyard on a fertile hill. 2 ​​​​​​​He built a hedge around it, removed its stones, and planted a vine. He built a tower in the middle of it, and constructed a winepress. He waited for it to produce edible grapes, but it produced sour ones instead. 3 ​​​​​​​So now, residents of Jerusalem, people of Judah, you decide between me and my vineyard! 4 ​​​​​​​What more can I do for my vineyard beyond what I’ve already done? When I waited for it to produce edible grapes, why did it produce sour ones instead? 5 ​​​​​​​Now I’ll inform you what I’m about to do to my vineyard: I’ll remove its hedge and turn it into pasture, I’ll break its wall and allow animals to graze there. 6 ​​​​​​​I’ll make it a wasteland; no one will prune its vines or hoe its ground, and thorns and briers will grow there. I’ll order the clouds not to drop any rain on it. 7 ​​​​​​​Indeed Israel is the vineyard of Lifegiver who instructions armies, the people of Judah are the cultivated place in which he took delight. He waited for justice, but look what he got – disobedience! He waited for fairness, but look what he got – cries for help! 8 ​​​​​​​Those who accumulate houses are as good as dead, those who also accumulate landed property until there is no land left, and you are the only landowners remaining witlitrethe land. 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who instructions armies told me this: “Many houses will certainly become desolate, large, impressive houses will have no one living in them. 10 ​​​​​​​Indeed, a large vineyard will produce just a few gallons, and enough seed to yield several bushels will produce less than a bushel.” 11 ​​​​​​​Those who get up early to drink beer are as good as dead, those who keep drinking long after dark until they are intoxicated with wine. 12 ​​​​​​​They have stringed instruments, tambourines, flutes, and wine at their parties. So they do not recognize what Lifegiver is doing, they do not perceive what he is bringing about. 13 ​​​​​​​Therefore my people will be deported because of their lack of understanding. Their leaders will have nothing to eat, their masses will have nothing to drink. 14 ​​​​​​​So Death will open up its throat, and open wide its mouth; Zion’s dignitaries and masses will descend into it, including those who revel and celebrate witlitreher. 15 ​​​​​​​Men will be humiliated, they’ll be brought low; the proud will be brought low. 16 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who instructions armies will be exalted when he punishes, the supreme Supermights ’s authority will be recognized when he judges. 17 ​​​​​​​Lambs will graze as if in their pastures, amid the ruins the rich sojourners will graze. 18 ​​​​​​​Those who pull bad along using cords of emptiness are as good as dead, who pull sin as with cart ropes. 19 ​​​​​​​They say, “Let him hurry, let him act quickly, so we can see; let the plan of the Holy One of Israel take shape and come to pass, then we’ll know it!” 20 ​​​​​​​Those who call bad good and good bad are as good as dead, who turn darkness into light and light into darkness, who turn bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter. 21 ​​​​​​​Those who think they are wise are as good as dead, those who think they possess understanding. 22 ​​​​​​​Those who are champions at drinking wine are as good as dead, who display great courage when mixing strong drinks. 23 ​​​​​​​They pronounce the guilty innocent for a payoff, they ignore the just cause of the innocent. 24 ​​​​​​​Therefore, as flaming fire devours straw, and dry grass disintegrates in the flames, so their root will rot, and their flower will blow away like dust. For they have rejected the law of Lifegiver who instructions armies, they have spurned the instructions of the Holy One of Israel. 25 ​​​​​​​So Lifegiver is furious with his people; he lifts his hand and strikes them. The mountains shake, and corpses lie like manure in the middle of the streets. Despite all this, his anger does not subside, and his hand is ready to strike again. 26 ​​​​​​​He lifts a signal flag for a distant nation, he whistles for it to come from the far regions of the Earth . Look, they come quickly and swiftly. 27 ​​​​​​​None tire or stumble, they don’t stop to nap or sleep. They don’t loosen their belts, or unstrap their sandals to rest. 28 ​​​​​​​Their arrows are sharpened, and all their bows are prepared. The hooves of their horses are hard as flint, and their chariot wheels are like a windstorm. 29 ​​​​​​​Their roar is like a lion’s; they roar like young lions. They growl and seize their prey; they drag it away and no one can come to the rescue. 30 ​​​​​​​At that time they’ll growl over their prey, it will sound like sea waves crashing against rocks. One will look out over the land and see the darkness of disaster, clouds will turn the light into darkness.

Isaiah 6

1 In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the supreme master seated on a high, elevated throne. The hem of his robe filled the temple. 2 Seraphs stood over him; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used the remaining two to fly. 3 They called out to one another, “Holy, holy, sacred is Lifegiver who instructions armies! His majestic splendor fills the entire Earth !” 4 The sound of their voices shook the door frames, and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 I said, “Too bad for me! I’m destroyed, for my lips are contaminated by sin, and I live among people whose lips are contaminated by sin. My eyes have seen the king, Lifegiver who instructions armies.” 6 But then one of the seraphs flew toward me. In his hand was a hot coal he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, “Look, this coal has touched your lips. Your bad is removed; your sin is forgiven.” 8 I heard the voice of the supreme master say, “Whom will I send? Who will go on our behalf?” I answered, “Here I’m, send me!” 9 He said, “Go and tell these people: ‘Listen continually, but don’t understand! Look continually, but don’t perceive!’ 10 ​​​​​​​Make the hearts of these people calloused; make their ears deaf and their eyes blind! Otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, their hearts might understand and they might repent and be healed.” 11 ​​​​​​​I replied, “How long, supreme master?” He said, “Until cities are in ruins and unpopulated, and houses are uninhabited, and the land is ruined and devastated, 12 ​​​​​​​and Lifegiver has sent the people off to a distant place, and the very heart of the land is completely abandoned. 13 ​​​​​​​Even if only a tenth of the people remain in the land, it will again be destroyed, like one of the large sacred trees or an Asherah pole, when a sacred pillar on a high place is thrown down. That sacred pillar symbolizes the special Designated family.”

Isaiah 7

1 During the reign of Ahaz son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel marched up to Jerusalem to do battle, but they were unable to prevail against it. 2 It was reported to the family of David, “Syria has allied with Ephraim.” They and their people were emotionally shaken, just as the trees of the forest shake before the wind. 3 So Lifegiver told Isaiah, “Go out with your son Shear-jashub and meet Ahaz at the end of the conduit of the upper pool which is located on the road to the field where they wash and dry cloth. 4 Tell him, ‘Make sure you stay calm! Don’t be afraid! Don’t be intimidated by these two stubs of smoking logs, or by the raging anger of Rezin, Syria, and the son of Remaliah. 5 Syria has plotted with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah to bring about your demise. 6 They say, “Let’s attack Judah, terrorize it, and conquer it. Then we’ll set up the son of Tabeel as its king.” 7 For this reason the supreme master, Lifegiver, says: “It will not take place; it will not happen. 8 ​​​​​​​For Syria’s leader is Damascus, and the leader of Damascus is Rezin. Witlitresixty-five years Ephraim will no longer exist as a nation. 9 ​​​​​​​Ephraim’s leader is Samaria, and Samaria’s leader is the son of Remaliah. If your faith does not remain firm, then you’ll not remain secure.” 10 Lifegiver again spoke to Ahaz: 11 “Ask for a confirming sign from Lifegiver your deity. You can even ask for something miraculous.” 12 But Ahaz responded, “I don’t want to ask; I don’t want to put Lifegiver to a test.” 13 So Isaiah replied, “Pay attention, family of David. Do you consider it too insignificant to try the patience of men? Is that why you are also trying the patience of my Supermights ? 14 For that reason the supreme Master himself will give you proof. Look out, a young virgin will be pregnant and birth a boy, brand named Immanuel. 15 He’ll eat yoghurt and honey, which will help him know how to reject bad and choose what is right. 16 Here is why this will be so: Before the child knows how to reject bad and choose what is right, the land whose two kings you fear will be desolate. 17 Lifegiver will bring on you, your people, and your father’s family a time unlike any since Ephraim departed from Judah – the king of Assyria!” 18 At that time Lifegiver will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. 19 All of them will come and make their home in the ravines between the cliffs, and in the crevices of the cliffs, in all the thorn bushes, and in all the watering holes. 20 At that time the supreme master will use a razor hired from the banks of the Euphrates River, the king of Assyria, to shave the head and the pubic hair; it will also shave off the beard. 21 At that time a man will keep alive a young cow from the herd and a couple of goats. 22 From the abundance of milk they produce, he’ll have yoghurt for his meals. Indeed, everyone left in the heart of the land will eat yoghurt and honey. 23 At that time every place where there had been a thousand vines worth a thousand shekels will be overrun with thorns and briers. 24 With bow and arrow men will hunt there, for the whole land will be covered with thorns and briers. 25 They’ll stay away from all the hills that were cultivated, for fear of the thorns and briers. Cattle will graze there and sheep will trample on them.

Isaiah 8

1 Lifegiver told me, “Take a large tablet and inscribe these words on it with an ordinary stylus: ‘Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.’ 2 Then I’ll summon as my reliable witnesses Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah.” 3 I then had sexual intimacy with the prophetess; she conceived and gave birth to a son. Lifegiver told me, “Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, 4 for before the child knows how to cry out, ‘My father’ or ‘My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.” 5 Lifegiver spoke to me again: 6 “These people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and melt in fear over Rezin and the son of Remaliah. 7 So look, the supreme master is bringing up against them the turbulent and mighty waters of the Euphrates River – the king of Assyria and all his majestic power. It will reach flood stage and overflow its banks. 8 It will spill into Judah, flooding and engulfing, as it reaches to the necks of its victims. he’ll spread his wings out over your entire land, O Immanuel.” 9 ​​​​​​​You’ll be broken, O nationalities; you’ll be shattered! Pay attention, all you distant lands of the Earth ! Get ready for battle, and you’ll be shattered! Get ready for battle, and you’ll be shattered! 10 ​​​​​​​Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted! Issue your orders, but they’ll not be executed! For Supermights is with us! 11 Indeed this is what Lifegiver told me. He took hold of me firmly and warned me not to act like these people: 12 ​​​​​​​“Do not say, ‘Conspiracy,’ every time these people say the word. Don’t be afraid of what scares them; don’t be terrified. 13 ​​​​​​​You must recognize the authority of Lifegiver who instructions armies. He is the one you must respect; he is the one you must fear. 14 ​​​​​​​He will become a sanctuary, but a stone that makes a person trip, and a rock that makes one stumble – to the two houses of Israel. he’ll become a trap and a snare to the residents of Jerusalem. 15 ​​​​​​​Many will stumble over the stone and the rock, and will fall and be seriously injured, and will be ensnared and captured.” 16 ​​​​​​​Tie up the scroll as legal evidence, seal the official record of Supermights ’s instructions and give it to my followers. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll wait patiently for Lifegiver, who has rejected the family of Jacob; I’ll wait for him. 18 ​​​​​​​Look, I and the sons whom Lifegiver has given me are reminders and object lessons in Israel, sent from Lifegiver who instructions armies, who lives on Mount Zion. 19 They’ll say to you, “Seek oracles at the pits used to conjure up underworld spirits, from the magicians who chirp and mutter incantations. Should people not seek oracles from their Deities, by asking the dead about the destiny of the living?” 20 Then you must recall Lifegiver’s instructions and the prophetic testimony of what would happen. Certainly they say such things because their minds are spiritually darkened. 21 They’ll pass through the land destitute and starving. Their hunger will make them angry, and they’ll curse their king and their Supermights as they look upward. 22 When one looks out over the land, he sees distress and darkness, gloom and anxiety, darkness and people forced from the land.

Isaiah 9

1 (8:23) Nevertheless, there is no longer any gloom similar to her previous distress when he humbled the land of Zebulun as well as the land of Naphtali. At last he will bring honour to the coastal highway, the region across Jordan and populous Galilee.

2 ​​​​​​​(9:1) The people that wandered in darkness

will see bright light.

For those living in the land of deep darkness,

daylight will radiate.

3 You increased the nation

without intense euphoria.

The people cheered up

with harvest excitement

as they celebrate when dividing spoils.

4 ​​​​​​​ You broke and shattered their oppressive yoke,

and the rod on their backs,

the oppressor’s stick,

as you did in strife times.

5 ​​​​​​​ Every soldier’s battle trampled boots

and all battledress dragged through blood

will be cremated as fuel for flames.

6 ​​​​​​​ A boy has been born to us.

A son has been delivered for us.

Governance will be on his shoulders,

and he will rise to fame with titles -

Strategist Extraordinaire,

Powerful Deity,

Everlasting Founder,

Prince of Prosperity.

7 ​​​​​​​ His empire will be expansive,

and its prosperity will be limitless.

On David’s throne and over its realm

he will be established,

upholding it with justice and fairness,

from then on into futurity.

The commitment of Lifegiver of masses will achieve this.

8 ​​​​​​​The Supreme Master sent a message to Jacob,

and it landed on Israel.

9 All the people will be aware -

Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria

who in pride and arrogance of heart say;

10 ​​​​​​​“The bricks have collapsed,

but we’ll rebuild with sculpt stone;

the sycamore trees have been chopped down,

but we’ll replace them with cedars.”

11 ​​​​​​​Then Lifegiver buttressed and fortified Rezin’s adversaries

against him, hedging and protecting their enemies –

12 ​​​​​​​Syrians from the front,

and the Philistines from the rear,

they devoured and gobbled Israel with a full mouth.

Inspite of this, his anger has not been turned away,

and his hand is stretched out still.

13 ​​​​​​​The people did not return to the one who struck them, they did not seek reconciliation with Lifegiver who instructions armies. 14 ​​​​​​​So Lifegiver cut off Israel’s head and tail, both the shoots and stalk in one day. 15 ​​​​​​​The leaders and the highly respected people are the head, the prophets who teach lies are the tail. 16 ​​​​​​​The leaders of this nation were misleading people, and the people being led were destroyed. 17 ​​​​​​​So the supreme master was not pleased with their young men, he took no pity on their orphans and widows; for the whole nation was Supermights less and did wicked things, every mouth was speaking disgraceful words. Despite all this, his anger does not subside, and his hand is ready to strike again. 18 ​​​​​​​For bad burned like a fire, it consumed thorns and briers; it burned up the thickets of the forest, and they went up in smoke. 19 ​​​​​​​Because of the anger of Lifegiver who instructions armies, the land was scorched, and the people became fuel for the fire. People had no compassion on one another. 20 ​​​​​​​They devoured on the right, but were still hungry, they ate on the left, but were not satisfied. People even ate the flesh of their own arm! 21 ​​​​​​​Manasseh fought against Ephraim, and Ephraim against Manasseh; together they fought against Judah. Despite all this, his anger does not subside, and his hand is ready to strike again.

Isaiah 10

1 ​​​​​​​Those who enact unjust policies are as good as dead, those who are always instituting unfair regulations, 2 ​​​​​​​to keep the poor from getting fair treatment, and to deprive the oppressed among my people of justice, so they can steal what widows own, and loot what belongs to orphans. 3 ​​​​​​​What will you do on judgment day, when destruction arrives from a distant place? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your wealth? 4 ​​​​​​​You’ll have no place to go, except to kneel with the prisoners, or to fall among those who have been killed. Despite all this, his anger does not subside, and his hand is ready to strike again. 5 ​​​​​​​Assyria, the club I use to vent my anger, is as good as dead, a cudgel with which I angrily punish. 6 ​​​​​​​I sent him against a Supermights less nation, I ordered him to attack the people with whom I was angry, to take plunder and to carry away loot, to trample them down like dirt in the streets. 7 ​​​​​​​But he does not agree with this, his mind does not reason this way, for his goal is to destroy, and to eliminate many nationalities. 8 ​​​​​​​Indeed, he says: “Are not my officials all kings? 9 ​​​​​​​Is not Calneh like Carchemish? Hamath like Arpad? Samaria like Damascus? 10 ​​​​​​​I overpowered reigns ruled by idols, whose carved images were more impressive than Jerusalem’s or Samaria’s. 11 ​​​​​​​As I’ve done to Samaria and its idols, so I’ll do to Jerusalem and its idols.” 12 But when the supreme master finishes judging Mount Zion and Jerusalem, then I’ll punish the king of Assyria for what he has proudly planned and for the arrogant attitude he displays. 13 For he says: “By my strong hand I’ve accomplished this, by my strategy that I devised. I invaded the territory of nationalities, and looted their storehouses. Like a mighty conqueror, I brought down rulers. 14 ​​​​​​​My hand discovered the wealth of the nationalities, as if it were in a nest, as one gathers up abandoned eggs, I gathered up the whole Earth . There was no wing flapping, or open mouth chirping.” 15 ​​​​​​​Does an ax exalt itself over the one who wields it, or a saw magnify itself over the one who cuts with it? As if a scepter should brandish the one who raises it, or a staff should lift up what is not made of wood! 16 ​​​​​​​For this reason the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, will make his healthy ones emaciated. His majestic glory will go up in smoke. 17 ​​​​​​​The light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One will become a flame; it will burn and consume the Assyrian king’s briers and his thorns in one day. 18 ​​​​​​​The splendor of his forest and his orchard will be completely destroyed, as when a sick man’s life ebbs away. 19 ​​​​​​​There will be so few trees left in his forest, a child will be able to count them. 20 At that time those left in Israel, those who remain of the family of Jacob, will no longer rely on a foreign leader that abuses them. Instead they’ll truly rely on Lifegiver, the Holy One of Israel. 21 A remnant will come back, a remnant of Jacob, to the mighty Supermights. 22 For though your people, Israel, are as numerous as the sand on the seashore, only a remnant will come back. Destruction has been decreed; just punishment is about to engulf you. 23 The supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, is certainly ready to carry out the decreed destruction throughout the land. 24 So here is what the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, says: “My people who live in Zion, do not be afraid of Assyria, even though they beat you with a club and lift their cudgel against you as Egypt did. 25 For very soon my fury will subside, and my anger will be directed toward their destruction.” 26 Lifegiver who instructions armies is about to beat them with a whip, similar to the way he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb. he’ll use his staff against the sea, lifting it up as he did in Egypt. 27 ​​​​​​​At that time Lifegiver will remove their burden from your shoulders, and their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be taken off because your neck will be too large. 28 They attacked Aiath, moved through Migron, depositing their supplies at Micmash. 29 ​​​​​​​They went through the pass, spent the night at Geba. Ramah trembled, Gibeah of Saul ran away. 30 ​​​​​​​Shout out, daughter of Gallim! Pay attention, Laishah! Answer her, Anathoth! 31 ​​​​​​​Madmenah flees, the residents of Gebim have hidden. 32 ​​​​​​​This very day, standing in Nob, they shake their fist at Daughter Zion’s mountain – at the hill of Jerusalem. 33 ​​​​​​​Look, the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, is ready to cut off the branches with terrifying power. The tallest trees will be cut down, the loftiest ones will be brought low. 34 ​​​​​​​The thickets of the forest will be chopped down with an ax, and mighty Lebanon will fall.

Isaiah 11

1 ​​​​​​​A shoot will grow out of Jesse’s root stock, a bud will sprout from his roots. 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s spirit will rest on him – a spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom, a spirit that provides the ability to execute plans, a spirit that produces absolute loyalty to Lifegiver. 3 ​​​​​​​He will take delight in obeying Lifegiver. he’ll not judge by mere appearances, or make decisions on the basis of hearsay. 4 ​​​​​​​He will treat the poor fairly, and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the Earth . he’ll strike the Earth with the rod of his mouth, and order the wicked to be executed. 5 ​​​​​​​Justice will be like a belt around his waist, integrity will be like a belt around his hips. 6 ​​​​​​​A wolf will reside with a lamb, and a leopard will lie down with a young goat; an ox and a young lion will graze together, as a small child leads them along. 7 ​​​​​​​A cow and a bear will graze together, their young will lie down together. A lion, like an ox, will eat straw. 8 ​​​​​​​A baby will play over the hole of a snake; over the nest of a serpent an infant will put his hand. 9 ​​​​​​​They’ll no longer injure or destroy on my entire royal mountain. For there will be universal submission to Lifegiver’s sovereignty, just as the waters completely cover the sea. 10 At that time a root from Jesse will stand like a signal flag for the nationalities. nationalities will look to him for guidance, and his residence will be majestic. 11 At that time the supreme master will again lift his hand to reclaim the remnant of his people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the seacoasts. 12 ​​​​​​​He will lift a signal flag for the nationalities; he’ll gather Israel’s dispersed people and assemble Judah’s scattered people from the four corners of the Earth . 13 ​​​​​​​Ephraim’s jealousy will end, and Judah’s hostility will be eliminated. Ephraim will no longer be jealous of Judah, and Judah will no longer be hostile toward Ephraim. 14 ​​​​​​​They’ll swoop down on the Philistine hills to the west; together they’ll loot the people of the east. They’ll take over Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be their subjects. 15 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will divide the gulf of the Egyptian Sea; he’ll wave his hand over the Euphrates River and send a strong wind, he’ll turn it into seven dried-up streams, and enable them to walk across in their sandals. 16 ​​​​​​​There will be a highway leading out of Assyria for the remnant of his people, just as there was for Israel, when they went up from the land of Egypt.

Isaiah 12

1 ​​​​​​​At that time you’ll say: “I praise you, O Lifegiver, for even though you were angry with me, your anger subsided, and you consoled me. 2 ​​​​​​​Look, Supermights is my deliverer! I’ll trust in him and not fear. For Lifegiver gives me strength and protects me; he has become my deliverer.” 3 ​​​​​​​Joyfully you’ll draw water from the springs of deliverance. 4 ​​​​​​​At that time you’ll say: “Praise Lifegiver! Ask him for help! Publicize his mighty acts among the nationalities! Make it known that he is unique! 5 ​​​​​​​Sing to Lifegiver, for he has done magnificent things, let this be known throughout the Earth ! 6 ​​​​​​​Cry out and shout for joy, O citizens of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel acts mightily among you!”

Isaiah 13

1 ​​​​​​​This is a message about Babylon that Supermights revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz: 2 On a bare hill raise a signal flag, shout to them, wave your hand, so they might enter the gates of the princes! 3 ​​​​​​​I’ve given orders to my Designated soldiers; I’ve summoned the warriors through whom I’ll vent my anger, my boasting, arrogant ones. 4 There is a loud noise on the mountains – it sounds like a large army! There is great commotion among the reigns – nationalities are being assembled! Lifegiver who instructions armies is mustering forces for battle. 5 ​​​​​​​They come from a distant land, from the horizon. It is Lifegiver with his instruments of judgment, coming to destroy the whole Earth . 6 ​​​​​​​Wail, for Lifegiver’s day of judgment is near; it comes with all the destructive power of the self-sufficient one. 7 ​​​​​​​For this reason all hands hang limp, every human heart loses its courage. 8 ​​​​​​​They panic – cramps and pain seize hold of them like those of a woman who is straining to give birth. They look at one another in astonishment; their faces are flushed red. 9 ​​​​​​​Look, Lifegiver’s day of judgment is coming; it is a day of cruelty and savage, raging anger, destroying the Earth and annihilating its sinners. 10 ​​​​​​​Indeed the stars in the sky and their constellations no longer give out their light; the sun is darkened as soon as it rises, and the moon does not shine. 11 I’ll punish the world for its evil, and wicked people for their sin. I’ll put an end to the pride of the insolent, I’ll bring down the arrogance of tyrants. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll make human beings more scarce than pure gold, and people more scarce than gold from Ophir. 13 ​​​​​​​So I’ll shake the Celestial Bodies, and the Earth will shake loose from its foundation, because of the fury of Lifegiver who instructions armies, in the day he vents his raging anger. 14 ​​​​​​​Like a frightened gazelle or a sheep with no shepherd, each will turn toward home, each will run to his homeland. 15 ​​​​​​​Everyone who is caught will be stabbed; everyone who is seized will die by the sword. 16 ​​​​​​​Their children will be smashed to pieces before their very eyes; their houses will be looted and their wives raped. 17 ​​​​​​​Look, I’m stirring up the Medes to attack them; they are not concerned about silver, nor are they interested in gold. 18 ​​​​​​​Their arrows will cut young men to ribbons; they have no compassion on a person’s offspring, they’ll not look with pity on children. 19 ​​​​​​​Babylon, the most admired of reigns, the Chaldeans’ source of honor and pride, will be destroyed by Supermights just as Sodom and Gomorrah were. 20 ​​​​​​​No one will live there again; no one will ever reside there again. No bedouin will camp there, no shepherds will rest their flocks there. 21 ​​​​​​​Wild animals will rest there, the ruined houses will be full of hyenas. Ostriches will live there, wild goats will skip among the ruins. 22 ​​​​​​​Wild dogs will yip in her ruined fortresses, jackals will yelp in the once-splendid palaces. Her time is almost up, her days will not be prolonged.

Isaiah 14

1 Lifegiver will certainly have compassion on Jacob; he’ll again choose Israel as his special people and restore them to their land. Resident foreigners will join them and unite with the family of Jacob. 2 nationalities will take them and bring them back to their own place. Then the family of Jacob will make foreigners their servants as they settle in Lifegiver’s land. They’ll make their captors captives and rule over the ones who oppressed them. 3 When Lifegiver gives you relief from your suffering and anxiety, and from the hard labor which you were made to perform, 4 you’ll taunt the king of Babylon with these words: “Look how the oppressor has met his end! Hostility has ceased! 5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver has broken the club of the wicked, the scepter of rulers. 6 ​​​​​​​It furiously struck down nationalities with unceasing blows. It angrily ruled over nationalities, oppressing them without restraint. 7 ​​​​​​​The whole Earth rests and is quiet; they break into song. 8 ​​​​​​​The evergreens also rejoice over your demise, as do the cedars of Lebanon, singing, ‘Since you fell asleep, no woodsman comes up to chop us down!’ 9 ​​​​​​​Sheol below is stirred up about you, ready to meet you when you arrive. It rouses the spirits of the dead for you, all the former leaders of the Earth ; it makes all the former kings of the nationalities rise from their thrones. 10 ​​​​​​​All of them respond to you, saying: ‘You too have become weak like us! You have become just like us!

11 ​​​​​​​Your splendor has been brought down to Sheol, as well as the sound of your stringed instruments. You lie on a bed of maggots, with a blanket of worms over you. 12 ​​​​​​​Look how you have fallen from the sky, O shining one, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, O conqueror of the nationalities! 13 ​​​​​​​You said to yourself, “I’ll climb up to the sky. Above the stars of El I’ll set up my throne. I’ll rule on the mountain of assembly on the remote slopes of Zaphon. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll climb up to the tops of the clouds; I’ll make myself like the Most High!” 15 ​​​​​​​But you were brought down to Sheol, to the remote slopes of the pit. 16 ​​​​​​​Those who see you stare at you, they look at you carefully, thinking: “Is this the man who shook the Earth , the one who made reigns tremble? 17 ​​​​​​​Is this the one who made the world like a desert, who ruined its cities, and refused to free his prisoners so they could return home?”’ 18 As for all the kings of the nationalities, all of them lie down in splendor, each in his own tomb. 19 ​​​​​​​But you have been thrown out of your grave like a shoot that is thrown away. You lie among the slain, among those who have been slashed by the sword, among those headed for the stones of the pit, as if you were a mangled corpse. 20 ​​​​​​​You’ll not be buried with them, because you destroyed your land and killed your people. The offspring of the wicked will never be mentioned again. 21 ​​​​​​​Prepare to execute his sons for the sins their ancestors have committed. They must not rise up and take possession of the Earth , or fill the surface of the world with cities.” 22 ​​​​​​​“I’ll rise up against them,” says Lifegiver who instructions armies. “I’ll blot out all remembrance of Babylon and destroy all her people, including the offspring she produces,” says Lifegiver. 23 ​​​​​​​“I’ll turn her into a place that is overrun with wild animals and covered with pools of stagnant water. I’ll get rid of her, just as one sweeps away dirt with a broom,” says Lifegiver who instructions armies. 24 Lifegiver who instructions armies makes this solemn vow: “Be sure of this: Just as I’ve intended, so it will be; just as I’ve planned, it will happen. 25 ​​​​​​​I’ll break Assyria in my land, I’ll trample them underfoot on my hills. Their yoke will be removed from my people, the burden will be lifted from their shoulders. 26 ​​​​​​​This is the plan I’ve devised for the whole Earth ; my hand is ready to strike all the nationalities.” 27 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Lifegiver who instructions armies has a plan, and who can possibly frustrate it? His hand is ready to strike, and who can possibly stop it? 28 In the year King Ahaz died, this message was revealed: 29 ​​​​​​​Don’t be so happy, all you Philistines, just because the club that beat you has been broken! For a viper will grow out of the serpent’s root, and its fruit will be a darting adder. 30 ​​​​​​​The poor will graze in my pastures; the needy will rest securely. But I’ll kill your root by drought; it will put to death all your survivors. 31 ​​​​​​​Wail, O city gate! Cry out, O city! Melt with fear, all you Philistines! For out of the north comes a cloud of smoke, and there are no stragglers in its ranks. 32 ​​​​​​​How will they respond to the messengers of this nation? Indeed, Lifegiver has made Zion secure; the oppressed among his people will find safety in her.

Isaiah 15

1 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about Moab: Indeed, in a night it is devastated, Ar of Moab is destroyed! Indeed, in a night it is devastated, Kir of Moab is destroyed! 2 ​​​​​​​They went up to the temple, the people of Dibon went up to the high places to lament. Because of what happened to Nebo and Medeba, Moab wails. Every head is shaved bare, every beard is trimmed off. 3 ​​​​​​​In their streets they wear sackcloth; on their roofs and in their town squares all of them wail, they fall down weeping. 4 ​​​​​​​The people of Heshbon and Elealeh cry out, their voices are heard as far away as Jahaz. For this reason Moab’s soldiers shout in distress; their courage wavers. 5 ​​​​​​​My heart cries out because of Moab’s plight, and for the fugitives stretched out as far as Zoar and Eglath Shelishiyah. For they weep as they make their way up the ascent of Luhith; they loudly lament their demise on the road to Horonaim. 6 ​​​​​​​For the waters of Nimrim are gone; the grass is dried up, the vegetation has disappeared, and there are no plants. 7 ​​​​​​​For this reason what they have made and stored up, they carry over the Stream of the Poplars. 8 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the cries of distress echo throughout Moabite territory; their wailing can be heard in Eglaim and Beer Elim. 9 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the waters of Dimon are full of blood! Indeed, I’ll heap even more trouble on Dimon. A lion will attack the Moabite fugitives and the people left in the land.

Isaiah 16

1 ​​​​​​​Send rams as tribute to the ruler of the land, from Sela in the desert to the hill of Daughter Zion. 2 ​​​​​​​At the fords of the Arnon the Moabite women are like a bird that flies about when forced from its nest. 3 ​​​​​​​“Bring a plan, make a decision! Provide some shade in the middle of the day! Hide the fugitives! Do not betray the one who tries to escape! 4 ​​​​​​​Please let the Moabite fugitives live among you. Hide them from the destroyer!” Certainly the one who applies pressure will cease, the destroyer will come to an end, those who trample will disappear from the Earth . 5 ​​​​​​​Then a trustworthy king will be established; he’ll rule in a reliable manner, this one from David’s family. he’ll be sure to make just decisions and will be experienced in executing justice. 6 ​​​​​​​We’ve heard about Moab’s pride, their great arrogance, their boasting, pride, and excess. But their boastful claims are empty! 7 ​​​​​​​So Moab wails over its demise – they all wail! Completely devastated, they moan about what has happened to the raisin cakes of Kir Hareseth. 8 ​​​​​​​For the fields of Heshbon are dried up, as well as the vines of Sibmah. The rulers of the nationalities trample all over its vines, which reach Jazer and spread to the desert; their shoots spread out and cross the sea. 9 ​​​​​​​So I weep along with Jazer over the vines of Sibmah. I’ll saturate you with my tears, Heshbon and Elealeh, for the conquering invaders shout triumphantly over your fruit and crops. 10 ​​​​​​​Joy and happiness disappear from the orchards, and in the vineyards no one rejoices or shouts; no one treads out juice in the wine vats – I’ve brought the joyful shouts to an end. 11 ​​​​​​​So my heart constantly sighs for Moab, like the strumming of a harp, my inner being sighs for Kir Hareseth. 12 ​​​​​​​When the Moabites plead with all their might at their high places, and enter their temples to pray, their prayers will be ineffective! 13 This is the message Lifegiver previously announced about Moab. 14 Now Lifegiver makes this announcement: “Witlitreexactly three years Moab’s splendor will disappear, along with all her many people; there will be just a few, insignificant survivors left.”

Isaiah 17

1 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about Damascus: “Look, Damascus is no longer a city, it is a heap of ruins! 2 ​​​​​​​The cities of Aroer are abandoned. They’ll be used for herds, which will lie down there in peace. 3 ​​​​​​​Fortified cities will disappear from Ephraim, and Damascus will lose its reign. The survivors in Syria will end up like the splendor of the Israelites,” says Lifegiver who instructions armies. 4 ​​​​​​​“At that time Jacob’s splendor will be greatly diminished, and he’ll become skin and bones. 5 ​​​​​​​It will be as when one gathers the grain harvest, and his hand gleans the ear of grain. It will be like one gathering the ears of grain in the Valley of Rephaim. 6 ​​​​​​​There will be some left behind, like when an olive tree is beaten – two or three ripe olives remain toward the very top, four or five on its fruitful branches,” says Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 7 ​​​​​​​At that time men will trust in their creator; they’ll depend on the Holy One of Israel. 8 ​​​​​​​They’ll no longer trust in the altars their hands made, or depend on the Asherah poles and incense altars their fingers made. 9 ​​​​​​​At that time their fortified cities will be like the abandoned summits of the Amorites, which they abandoned because of the Israelites; there will be desolation. 10 ​​​​​​​For you ignore the Supermights who rescues you; you pay no attention to your strong protector. So this is what happens: You cultivate beautiful plants and plant exotic vines. 11 ​​​​​​​The day you begin cultivating, you do what you can to make it grow; the morning you begin planting, you do what you can to make it sprout. Yet the harvest will disappear in the day of disease and incurable pain. 12 ​​​​​​​The many nationalities massing together are as good as dead, those who make a commotion as loud as the roaring of the sea’s waves. The people making such an uproar are as good as dead, those who make an uproar as loud as the roaring of powerful waves. 13 ​​​​​​​Though these people make an uproar as loud as the roaring of powerful waves, when he shouts at them, they’ll flee to a distant land, driven before the wind like dead weeds on the hills, or like dead thistles before a strong gale. 14 ​​​​​​​In the evening there is sudden terror; by morning they vanish. This is the fate of those who try to plunder us, the destiny of those who try to loot us!

Isaiah 18

1 ​​​​​​​The land of buzzing wings is as good as dead, the one beyond the rivers of Cush, 2 ​​​​​​​that sends messengers by sea, who glide over the water’s surface in boats made of papyrus. Go, you swift messengers, to a nation of tall, smooth-skinned people, to a people that are feared far and wide, to a nation strong and victorious, whose land rivers divide. 3 ​​​​​​​All you who live in the world, who reside on the Earth , you’ll see a signal flag raised on the mountains; you’ll hear a trumpet being blown. 4 ​​​​​​​For this is what Lifegiver has told me: “I’ll wait and watch from my place, like scorching heat produced by the sunlight, like a cloud of mist in the heat of harvest.” 5 ​​​​​​​For before the harvest, when the bud has sprouted, and the ripening fruit appears, he’ll cut off the unproductive shoots with pruning knives; he’ll prune the tendrils. 6 ​​​​​​​They’ll all be left for the birds of the hills and the wild animals; the birds will eat them during the summer, and all the wild animals will eat them during the winter. 7 ​​​​​​​At that time tribute will be brought to Lifegiver who instructions armies, by a people that are tall and smooth-skinned, a people that are feared far and wide, a nation strong and victorious, whose land rivers divide. The tribute will be brought to the place where Lifegiver who instructions armies has Designated to reside, on Mount Zion.

Isaiah 19

1 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about Egypt: Look, Lifegiver rides on a swift-moving cloud and approaches Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him; the Egyptians lose their courage. 2 ​​​​​​​“I’ll provoke civil strife in Egypt, brothers will fight with each other, as will neighbors, cities, and reigns. 3 ​​​​​​​The Egyptians will panic, and I’ll confuse their strategy. They’ll seek guidance from the idols and from the spirits of the dead, from the pits used to conjure up underworld spirits, and from the magicians. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll hand Egypt over to a harsh master; a powerful king will rule over them,” says the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies. 5 ​​​​​​​The water of the sea will be dried up, and the river will dry up and be empty. 6 ​​​​​​​The canals will stink; the streams of Egypt will trickle and then dry up; the bulrushes and reeds will decay, 7 ​​​​​​​along with the plants by the mouth of the river. All the cultivated land near the river will turn to dust and be blown away. 8 ​​​​​​​The fishermen will mourn and lament, all those who cast a fishhook into the river, and those who spread out a net on the water’s surface will grieve. 9 ​​​​​​​Those who make clothes from combed flax will be embarrassed; those who weave will turn pale. 10 ​​​​​​​Those who make cloth will be demoralized; all the hired workers will be depressed. 11 ​​​​​​​The officials of Zoan are nothing but fools; Pharaoh’s wise advisers give stupid advice. How dare you say to Pharaoh, “I’m one of the sages, one well-versed in the writings of the ancient kings?” 12 ​​​​​​​But where, oh where, are your scientists? Let them tell you, let them find out what Lifegiver who instructions armies has planned for Egypt. 13 ​​​​​​​The officials of Zoan are fools, the officials of Memphis are misled; the rulers of her tribes lead Egypt astray. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver has made them undiscerning; they lead Egypt astray in all she does, so that she is like a drunk sliding around in his own vomit. 15 ​​​​​​​Egypt will not be able to do a thing, head or tail, shoots and stalk. 16 At that time the Egyptians will be like women. They’ll tremble and fear because Lifegiver who instructions armies brandishes his fist against them. 17 The land of Judah will humiliate Egypt. Everyone who hears about Judah will be afraid because of what Lifegiver who instructions armies is planning to do to them. 18 At that time five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to Lifegiver who instructions armies. One will be called the City of the Sun. 19 At that time there will be an altar for Lifegiver in the middle of the land of Egypt, as well as a sacred pillar dedicated to Lifegiver at its border. 20 It will become a visual reminder in the land of Egypt of Lifegiver who instructions armies. When they cry out to Lifegiver because of oppressors, he’ll send them a deliverer and defender who will rescue them. 21 Lifegiver will reveal himself to the Egyptians, and they’ll acknowledge Lifegiver’s authority at that time. They’ll present sacrifices and offerings; they’ll make vows to Lifegiver and fulfill them. 22 Lifegiver will strike Egypt, striking and then healing them. They’ll turn to Lifegiver and he’ll listen to their prayers and heal them. 23 At that time there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will visit Egypt, and the Egyptians will visit Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. 24 At that time Israel will be the third member of the group, along with Egypt and Assyria, and will be a recipient of blessing in the Earth . 25 Lifegiver who instructions armies will pronounce a blessing over the Earth , saying, “Blessed be my people, Egypt, and the work of my hands, Assyria, and my special possession, Israel!”

Isaiah 20

1 Lifegiver revealed the following message during the year in which King Sargon of Assyria sent his instructing general to Ashdod, and he fought against it and captured it. 2 At that time Lifegiver announced through Isaiah son of Amoz: “Go, remove the sackcloth from your waist and take your sandals off your feet.” He did as instructed and walked around in undergarments and barefoot. 3 Later Lifegiver explained, “In the same way that my servant Isaiah has walked around in undergarments and barefoot for the past three years, as an object lesson and omen pertaining to Egypt and Cush, 4 so the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, both young and old. They’ll be in undergarments and barefoot, with the buttocks exposed; the Egyptians will be publicly humiliated. 5 Those who put their hope in Cush and took pride in Egypt will be afraid and embarrassed. 6 At that time those who live on this coast will say, ‘Look what has happened to our source of hope to whom we fled for help, expecting to be rescued from the king of Assyria! How can we escape now?’”

Isaiah 21

1 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about the Desert by the Sea: Like strong winds blowing in the south, one invades from the desert, from a land that is feared. 2 ​​​​​​​I’ve received a distressing message: “The deceiver deceives, the destroyer destroys. Attack, you Elamites! Lay siege, you Medes! I’ll put an end to all the groaning!” 3 ​​​​​​​For this reason my stomach churns; cramps overwhelm me like the contractions of a woman in labor. I’m disturbed by what I hear, horrified by what I see. 4 ​​​​​​​My heart palpitates, I shake in fear; the twilight I desired has brought me terror. 5 ​​​​​​​Arrange the table, lay out the carpet, eat and drink! Get up, you officers, smear oil on the shields! 6 ​​​​​​​For this is what the supreme master has told me: “Go, post a guard! He must report what he sees. 7 ​​​​​​​When he sees chariots, teams of horses, riders on donkeys, riders on camels, he must be alert, very alert.” 8 ​​​​​​​Then the guard cries out: “On the watchtower, O supreme master, I stand all day long; at my post I’m stationed every night. 9 ​​​​​​​Look what’s coming! A charioteer, a team of horses.” When questioned, he replies, “Babylon has fallen, fallen! All the idols of her deities lie shattered on the ground!” 10 ​​​​​​​O my downtrodden people, crushed like stalks on the threshing floor, what I’ve heard from Lifegiver who instructions armies, the Supermights of Israel, I’ve reported to you. 11 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about Dumah: Someone calls to me from Seir, “Watchman, what is left of the night? Watchman, what is left of the night?” 12 ​​​​​​​The watchman replies, “Morning is coming, but then night. If you want to ask, ask; come back again.” 13 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about Arabia: In the thicket of Arabia you spend the night, you Dedanite caravans. 14 ​​​​​​​Bring out some water for the thirsty. You who live in the land of Tema, bring some food for the fugitives. 15 ​​​​​​​For they flee from the swords – from the drawn sword and from the battle-ready bow and from the severity of the battle. 16 For this is what the supreme master has told me: “Witlitreexactly one year all the splendor of Kedar will come to an end. 17 Just a handful of archers, the warriors of Kedar, will be left.” Indeed, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel has spoken.

Isaiah 22

1 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about the Valley of Vision: What is the reason that all of you go up to the rooftops? 2 ​​​​​​​The noisy city is full of raucous sounds; the town is filled with revelry. Your slain were not cut down by the sword; they did not die in battle. 3 All your leaders ran away together – they fled to a distant place; all your refugees were captured together – they were captured without a single arrow being shot. 4 ​​​​​​​So I say: “Don’t look at me! I’m weeping bitterly. Don’t try to console me concerning the destruction of my defenseless people.” 5 ​​​​​​​For the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, has planned a day of panic, defeat, and confusion. In the Valley of Vision people shout and cry out to the hill. 6 ​​​​​​​The Elamites picked up the quiver, and came with chariots and horsemen; the men of Kir prepared the shield. 7 ​​​​​​​Your very best valleys were full of chariots; horsemen confidently took their positions at the gate. 8 ​​​​​​​They removed the defenses of Judah. At that time you looked for the weapons in the House of the Forest. 9 ​​​​​​​You saw the many breaks in the walls of the city of David; you stored up water in the lower pool. 10 ​​​​​​​You counted the houses in Jerusalem, and demolished houses so you could have material to reinforce the wall. 11 ​​​​​​​You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool – but you did not trust in the one who made it; you did not depend on the one who formed it long ago! 12 ​​​​​​​At that time the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, called for weeping and mourning, for shaved heads and sackcloth. 13 ​​​​​​​But look, there is outright celebration! You say, “Kill the ox and slaughter the sheep, eat meat and drink wine. Eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” 14 Lifegiver who instructions armies told me this: “Certainly this sin will not be forgiven as long as you live,” says the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies. 15 ​​​​​​​This is what the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, says: “Go visit this administrator, Shebna, who supervises the palace, and tell him: 16 ​​​​​​​‘What right do you have to be here? What relatives do you have buried here? Why do you chisel out a tomb for yourself here? He chisels out his burial site in an elevated place, he carves out his tomb on a cliff. 17 ​​​​​​​Look, Lifegiver will throw you far away, you mere man! he’ll wrap you up tightly. 18 ​​​​​​​He will wind you up tightly into a ball and throw you into a wide, open land. There you’ll die, and there with you’ll be your impressive chariots, which bring disgrace to the house of your master. 19 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove you from your office; you’ll be thrown down from your position. 20 “At that time I’ll summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah. 21 I’ll put your robe on him, tie your belt around him, and transfer your authority to him. he’ll become a protector of the residents of Jerusalem and of the people of Judah. 22 I’ll place the key to the house of David on his shoulder. When he opens the door, no one can close it; when he closes the door, no one can open it. 23 I’ll fasten him like a peg into a solid place; he’ll bring honor and respect to his father’s family. 24 His father’s family will gain increasing prominence because of him, including the offspring and the offshoots. All the small containers, including the bowls and all the jars will hang from this peg.’ 25 “At that time,” says Lifegiver who instructions armies, “the peg fastened into a solid place will come loose. It will be cut off and fall, and the load hanging on it will be cut off.” Indeed, Lifegiver has spoken.

Isaiah 23

1 ​​​​​​​Here is a message about Tyre: Wail, you large ships, for the port is too devastated to enter! From the land of Cyprus this news is announced to them. 2 ​​​​​​​Lament, you residents of the coast, you merchants of Sidon who travel over the sea, whose agents sail over 3 ​​​​​​​the deep waters! Grain from the Shihor region, crops grown near the Nile she receives; she is the trade center of the nationalities. 4 ​​​​​​​Be ashamed, O Sidon, for the sea says this, O fortress of the sea: “I’ve not gone into labor or given birth; I’ve not raised young men or brought up young women.” 5 ​​​​​​​When the news reaches Egypt, they’ll be shaken by what has happened to Tyre. 6 ​​​​​​​Travel to Tarshish! Wail, you residents of the coast! 7 ​​​​​​​Is this really your boisterous city whose origins are in the distant past, and whose feet led her to a distant land to reside? 8 ​​​​​​​Who planned this for royal Tyre, whose merchants are princes, whose traders are the dignitaries of the Earth ? 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who instructions armies planned it – to dishonor the pride that comes from all her beauty, to humiliate all the dignitaries of the Earth . 10 ​​​​​​​Daughter Tarshish, travel back to your land, as one crosses the Nile; there is no longer any marketplace in Tyre. 11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook reigns; he gave the order to destroy Canaan’s fortresses. 12 ​​​​​​​He said, “You’ll no longer celebrate, oppressed virgin daughter Sidon! Get up, travel to Cyprus, but you’ll find no relief there.” 13 ​​​​​​​Look at the land of the Chaldeans, these people who have lost their identity! The Assyrians have made it a home for wild animals. They erected their siege towers, demolished its fortresses, and turned it into a heap of ruins. 14 ​​​​​​​Wail, you large ships, for your fortress is destroyed! 15 At that time Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, the typical life span of a king. At the end of seventy years Tyre will try to attract attention again, like the prostitute in the popular song: 16 ​​​​​​​“Take the harp, go through the city, forgotten prostitute! Play it well, play lots of songs, so you’ll be noticed!” 17 At the end of seventy years Lifegiver will revive Tyre. She’ll start making money again by selling her services to all the Earth ’s reigns. 18 Her profits and earnings will be set apart for Lifegiver. They’ll not be stored up or accumulated, for her profits will be given to those who live in Lifegiver’s presence and will be used to purchase large quantities of food and beautiful clothes.

Isaiah 24

1 ​​​​​​​Look, Lifegiver is ready to devastate the Earth and leave it in ruins; he’ll mar its surface and scatter its inhabitants. 2 ​​​​​​​Everyone will suffer – the priest as well as the people, the master as well as the servant, the elegant lady as well as the female attendant, the seller as well as the buyer, the borrower as well as the lender, the creditor as well as the debtor. 3 ​​​​​​​The Earth will be completely devastated and thoroughly ransacked. For Lifegiver has decreed this judgment. 4 ​​​​​​​The Earth dries up and withers, the world shrivels up and withers; the prominent people of the Earth fade away. 5 ​​​​​​​The Earth is defiled by its inhabitants, for they have violated laws, disregarded the regulation, and broken the permanent treaty. 6 ​​​​​​​So a treaty curse devours the Earth ; its inhabitants pay for their guilt. This is why the inhabitants of the Earth disappear, and are reduced to just a handful of people. 7 ​​​​​​​The new wine dries up, the vines shrivel up, all those who like to celebrate groan. 8 ​​​​​​​The happy sound of the tambourines stops, the revelry of those who celebrate comes to a halt, the happy sound of the harp ceases. 9 ​​​​​​​They no longer sing and drink wine; the beer tastes bitter to those who drink it. 10 ​​​​​​​The ruined town is shattered; all of the houses are shut up tight. 11 ​​​​​​​They howl in the streets because of what happened to the wine; all joy turns to sorrow; celebrations disappear from the Earth . 12 ​​​​​​​The city is left in ruins; the gate is reduced to rubble. 13 ​​​​​​​This is what will happen throughout the Earth , among the nationalities. It will be like when they beat an olive tree, and just a few olives are left at the end of the harvest. 14 ​​​​​​​They lift their voices and shout joyfully; they praise the majesty of Lifegiver in the west. 15 ​​​​​​​So in the east extol Lifegiver, along the seacoasts extol the fame of Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel. 16 ​​​​​​​From the ends of the Earth we hear songs – the Just One is majestic. But I say, “I’m wasting away! I’m wasting away! I’m doomed! Deceivers deceive, deceivers thoroughly deceive!” 17 ​​​​​​​Terror, pit, and snare are ready to overtake you inhabitants of the Earth ! 18 ​​​​​​​The one who runs away from the sound of the terror will fall into the pit; the one who climbs out of the pit, will be trapped by the snare. For the floodgates of the skies are opened up and the foundations of the Earth shake. 19 ​​​​​​​The Earth is broken in pieces, the Earth is ripped to shreds, the Earth shakes violently. 20 ​​​​​​​The Earth will stagger around like a drunk; it will sway back and forth like a hut in a windstorm. Its sin will weigh it down, and it will fall and never get up again. 21 ​​​​​​​At that time Lifegiver will punish the celestial forces in the Celestial Bodies and the earthly kings on the Earth . 22 ​​​​​​​They’ll be imprisoned in a pit, locked up in a prison, and after staying there for a long time, they’ll be punished. 23 ​​​​​​​The full moon will be covered up, the bright sun will be darkened; for Lifegiver who instructions armies will rule on Mount Zion in Jerusalem in the presence of his assembly, in majestic splendor.

Isaiah 25

1 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, you are my Supermights ! I’ll exalt you in praise, I’ll extol your fame. For you have done extraordinary things, and executed plans made long ago exactly as you decreed. 2 ​​​​​​​Indeed, you have made the city into a heap of rubble, the fortified town into a heap of ruins; the fortress of foreigners is no longer a city, it will never be rebuilt. 3 ​​​​​​​So a strong nation will extol you; the towns of powerful nationalities will fear you. 4 ​​​​​​​For you are a protector for the poor, a protector for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm, a shade from the heat. Though the breath of tyrants is like a winter rainstorm, 5 ​​​​​​​like heat in a dry land, you humble the boasting foreigners. Just as the shadow of a cloud causes the heat to subside, so he causes the song of tyrants to cease. 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who instructions armies will hold a banquet for all the nationalities on this mountain. At this banquet there will be plenty of meat and aged wine – tender meat and choicest wine. 7 ​​​​​​​On this mountain he’ll swallow up the shroud that is over all the peoples, the woven covering that is over all the nationalities; 8 ​​​​​​​he will swallow up death permanently. The supreme Lifegiver will wipe away the tears from every face, and remove his people’s disgrace from all the Earth . Indeed, Lifegiver has announced it! 9 ​​​​​​​At that time they’ll say, “Look, here is our Supermights ! We waited for him and he delivered us. Here is Lifegiver! We waited for him. Let’s rejoice and celebrate his deliverance!” 10 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver’s power will make this mountain secure. Moab will be trampled down where it stands, as a heap of straw is trampled down in a manure pile. 11 ​​​​​​​Moab will spread out its hands in the middle of it, just as a swimmer spreads his hands to swim; Lifegiver will bring down Moab’s pride as it spreads its hands. 12 ​​​​​​​The fortified city (along with the very tops of your walls) he’ll knock down, he’ll bring it down, he’ll throw it down to the dusty ground.

Isaiah 26

1 ​​​​​​​ At that time this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

“We’ve a strong city!

Lifesaviour - fixed as walls and fortresses.

2 ​​​​​​​Open the gates so that the righteous people,

the truth keepers may enter.

3 ​​​​​​​You’ll preserve in peaceful health the mind that rests on you

through faith in you.

4 Trust in Lifegiver forever.

Indeed Life, Lifegiver is the enduring rock!

5 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Lifegiver prostrates those who live in haughty heights,

he flattens the elevated city;

he depresses it to the ground,

he strikes it down to the dust.

6 ​​​​​​​It is trampled under the feet of the poor,

by the knock of the weak.”

7 ​​​​​​​The way of the justified is level - you straighten and level the path of the justified. 8 ​​​​​​​In fact, we’ve expected the unfolding of your judgments, Lifegiver. Our life aspiration is your recognition and reputation to grow.

9 ​​​​​​​I long for you during the night, yes, my spirit witlitreme seeks you at dawn, for when your judgments come upon the Earth, the inhabitants of the world will be stimulated to justice. 10 ​​​​​​​If the wicked are shown grace, they do not learn justice. Even in the land of integrity, they act unjustly; they do not perceive Lifegiver’s excellence.

11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, even when your hand is lifted up, they don’t notice. They’ll only realise and be embarrassed by the nationalities’ anger when the flame of your enemies will consume them. 12 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, you’ll establish peace for us. In fact, you have accomplished all your acts in us. 13 ​​​Lifegiver, our deity, masters except you have bullied us. Only your character we remember well.

14 ​​​​​​​They are dead – they are not alive. They are ghosts that cannot rise up. This is how you punished and annihilated them - their entire memory is wiped out. 15 ​​​​​​​​​​​​​​You have expanded the nation. Lifegiver, you have increased the people numerously. You have extended all the borders of the land. 16 ​​​​​​​​​​​​​​Lifegiver, in distress they sought you in vain; they muttered invocations because of your reprimand.

17 ​​​​​​​Like a pregnant woman who gets ready to deliver, tosses and turns, crying out because of her labour pains, so were we before you, Lifegiver. 18 ​​​​​​​We were pregnant. We squirmed. We reaped whirlwind, as it were. We could not produce Lifesaviour on Earth; the backsliders of the world are not dropped.

19 Your dead will resurrect; your corpses will pop-up. Rise up and shout joyfully, you who live in the debris! For you’ll be brightened with the sprinkled morning dew. The Earth will drop loose its dead.

20 ​​​​​​​Come, my people! Resort into your bedrooms! Shut your doors behind you! Hide for a little while, until the rage passes over! 21 ​​​​​​​For look, Lifegiver is coming out of the place where he lives, to punish the backsliders of the Earth for their iniquity. The Earth will uncover and reveal the blood shed on it; it will no longer cover up its slain.

Isaiah 27

1 ​​​​​​​At that time Lifegiver will bring judgement on Leviathan the flying dragon with his harsh, huge, and sharp sword. he’ll crush and kill the sea monster - Leviathan the crooked dragon. 2 ​​​​​​​When that time comes, assess an ideal vineyard! 3 ​​​​​​​I, Lifegiver, will guard it; I’ll irrigate it every moment. I’ll guard it night and day, so no one can harm it. 4 ​​​​​​​I’m not angry. I wish to deal with some thorns and briers! I’ll march against them for battle; I’ll burn them together, 5 ​​​​​​​unless they take hold of my refuge and made peace with me; they’ll have peace with me.

6 ​​​​​​​A time is coming when Jacob will take root; Israel will flourish and spread out. The produce will fill the surface of the world. 7 ​​​​​​​Has Lifegiver ever struck Israel like he did their oppressors? Has Israel ever been destroyed like the ones that are their enemies? 8 ​​​​​​​​​​​​​​You’ll systematically contend with her to drive her away. he’ll blow her away with his fierce wind in the time of the east wind.

9 ​​​​​​​This is the way Jacob’s sin will be purged - and this will be every consequence to demonstrate they are repenting of their mistake - they’ll dispose all the stones of the altars like crushed limestone, and the copses of images will no longer be erected. 10 ​​​​​​​For the fortified city is left alone; it is a deserted meadow and abandoned pastureland. There the calf will graze and sleep and eat its branches bare. 11 ​​​​​​​When its branches are brittle, they’ll break off; women will come to gather them for kindle. For these people lack intelligence, therefore the one who made them will have no compassion on them; the one who formed them will show no grace to them.

12 At that time Lifegiver will thresh from the spring of the Euphrates River to the Valley of Egypt. Then you’ll be gathered up one by one, Israelites. 13 At that time a loud trumpet will be blown, and the ones lost in the land of Assyria will be brought in, as well as the refugees dispersed in the land of Egypt. They’ll worship Lifegiver on the sacred mountain in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 28

1 ​​​​​​​The splendid crown of Ephraim’s drunkards is doomed, the withering flower, its beautiful splendor, situated at the head of a rich valley, the crown of those overcome with wine. 2 ​​​​​​​Look, the supreme master sends a strong, powerful one. With the force of a hailstorm or a destructive windstorm, with the might of a driving, torrential rainstorm, he’ll knock that crown to the ground with his hand. 3 ​​​​​​​The splendid crown of Ephraim’s drunkards will be trampled underfoot. 4 ​​​​​​​The withering flower, its beautiful splendor, situated at the head of a rich valley, will be like an early fig before harvest – as soon as someone notices it, he grabs it and swallows it. 5 ​​​​​​​At that time Lifegiver who instructions armies will become a beautiful crown and a splendid diadem for the remnant of his people. 6 ​​​​​​​He will give discernment to the one who makes judicial decisions, and strength to those who defend the city from attackers. 7 ​​​​​​​Even these men stagger because of wine, they stumble around because of beer – priests and prophets stagger because of beer, they are confused because of wine, they stumble around because of beer; they stagger while seeing prophetic visions, they totter while making legal decisions. 8 ​​​​​​​Indeed, all the tables are covered with vomit; no place is untouched. 9 ​​​​​​​Who is Lifegiver trying to teach? To whom is he explaining a message? Those just weaned from milk! Those just taken from their mother’s breast! 10 ​​​​​​​Indeed, they’ll hear meaningless gibberish, senseless babbling, a syllable here, a syllable there. 11 ​​​​​​​For with mocking lips and a foreign tongue he’ll speak to these people. 12 ​​​​​​​In the past he said to them, “This is where security can be found. Provide security for the one who is exhausted! This is where rest can be found.” But they refused to listen. 13 ​​​​​​​So Lifegiver’s word to them will sound like meaningless gibberish, senseless babbling, a syllable here, a syllable there. As a result, they’ll fall on their backsides when they try to walk, and be injured, ensnared, and captured. 14 ​​​​​​​Therefore, listen to Lifegiver’s word, you who mock, you rulers of these people who reside in Jerusalem! 15 ​​​​​​​For you say, “We’ve made a treaty with death, with Sheol we’ve made an agreement. When the overwhelming judgment sweeps by it will not reach us. For we’ve made a lie our refuge, we’ve hidden ourselves in a deceitful word.” 16 ​​​​​​​Therefore, this is what the supreme master, Lifegiver, says: “Look, I’m laying a stone in Zion, an approved stone, set in place as a precious cornerstone for the foundation. The one who maintains his faith will not panic. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll make justice the measuring line, fairness the plumb line; hail will sweep away the unreliable refuge, the floodwaters will overwhelm the hiding place. 18 ​​​​​​​Your treaty with death will be dissolved; your agreement with Sheol will not last. When the overwhelming judgment sweeps by, you’ll be overrun by it. 19 ​​​​​​​Whenever it sweeps by, it will overtake you; indeed, every morning it will sweep by, it will come through during the day and the night.” When this announcement is understood, it will cause nothing but terror. 20 ​​​​​​​For the bed is too short to stretch out on, and the blanket is too narrow to wrap around oneself. 21 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver will rise up, as he did at Mount Perazim, he’ll rouse himself, as he did in the Valley of Gibeon, to accomplish his work, his peculiar work, to perform his task, his strange task. 22 ​​​​​​​So now, do not mock, or your chains will become heavier! For I’ve heard a message about decreed destruction, from the supreme master, Lifegiver who instructions armies, against the entire land. 23 ​​​​​​​Pay attention and listen to my message! Be attentive and listen to what I’ve to say! 24 ​​​​​​​Does a farmer just keep on plowing at planting time? Does he keep breaking up and harrowing his ground? 25 ​​​​​​​Once he has leveled its surface, does he not scatter the seed of the caraway plant, sow the seed of the cumin plant, and plant the wheat, barley, and grain in their designated places? 26 ​​​​​​​His Supermights instructs him; he teaches him the principles of agriculture. 27 ​​​​​​​Certainly caraway seed is not threshed with a sledge, nor is the wheel of a cart rolled over cumin seed. Certainly caraway seed is beaten with a stick, and cumin seed with a flail. 28 ​​​​​​​Grain is crushed, though one certainly does not thresh it forever. The wheel of one’s wagon rolls over it, but his horses do not crush it. 29 ​​​​​​​This also comes from Lifegiver who instructions armies, who gives supernatural guidance and imparts great wisdom.

Isaiah 29

1 ​​​​​​​Ariel is as good as dead – Ariel, the town David besieged! Keep observing your annual rituals, celebrate your festivals on schedule. 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll threaten Ariel, and she’ll mourn intensely and become like an altar hEarth before me. 3 ​​​​​​​I’ll lay siege to you on all sides; I’ll besiege you with troops; I’ll raise siege works against you. 4 ​​​​​​​You’ll fall; while lying on the ground you’ll speak; from the dust where you lie, your words will be heard. Your voice will sound like a spirit speaking from the underworld; from the dust you’ll chirp as if muttering an incantation. 5 ​​​​​​​But the horde of invaders will be like fine dust, the horde of tyrants like chaff that is blown away. It will happen suddenly, in a flash. 6 ​​​​​​​Judgment will come from Lifegiver who instructions armies, accompanied by thunder, Earth quake, and a loud noise, by a strong gale, a windstorm, and a consuming flame of fire. 7 ​​​​​​​It will be like a dream, a night vision. There will be a horde from all the nationalities that fight against Ariel, those who attack her and her stronghold and besiege her. 8 ​​​​​​​It will be like a hungry man dreaming that he is eating, only to awaken and find that his stomach is empty. It will be like a thirsty man dreaming that he is drinking, only to awaken and find that he is still weak and his thirst unquenched. So it will be for the horde from all the nationalities that fight against Mount Zion. 9 ​​​​​​​You’ll be shocked and amazed! You are totally blind! They are drunk, but not because of wine; they stagger, but not because of beer. 10 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver has poured out on you a strong urge to sleep deeply. He has shut your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers). 11 To you this entire prophetic revelation is like words in a sealed scroll. When they hand it to one who can read and say, “Read this,” he responds, “I can’t, because it is sealed.” 12 Or when they hand the scroll to one who can’t read and say, “Read this,” he says, “I can’t read.” 13 ​​​​​​​The supreme master says, “These people say they are loyal to me; they say wonderful things about me, but they are not really loyal to me. Their worship consists of nothing but man-made ritual. 14 ​​​​​​​Therefore I’ll again do an amazing thing for these people – an absolutely extraordinary deed. Scientists will have nothing to say, the sages will have no explanationalities.” 15 ​​​​​​​Those who try to hide their plans from Lifegiver are as good as dead, who do their work in secret and boast, “Who sees us? Who knows what we’re doing?” 16 ​​​​​​​Your thinking is perverse! Should the potter be regarded as clay? Should the thing made say about its maker, “He didn’t make me”? Or should the pottery say about the potter, “He doesn’t understand”? 17 ​​​​​​​In just a very short time Lebanon will turn into an orchard, and the orchard will be considered a forest. 18 ​​​​​​​At that time the deaf will be able to hear words read from a scroll, and the eyes of the blind will be able to see through deep darkness. 19 ​​​​​​​The downtrodden will again rejoice in Lifegiver; the poor among humankind will take delight in the Holy One of Israel. 20 ​​​​​​​For tyrants will disappear, those who taunt will vanish, and all those who love to do wrong will be eliminated – 21 ​​​​​​​those who bear false testimony against a person, who entrap the one who arbitrates at the city gate and deprive the innocent of justice by making false charges. 22 ​​​​​​​So this is what Lifegiver, the one who delivered Abraham, says to the family of Jacob: “Jacob will no longer be ashamed; their faces will no longer show their embarrassment. 23 ​​​​​​​For when they see their children, whom I’ll produce among them, they’ll honor my name. They’ll honor the Holy One of Jacob; they’ll respect the Supermights of Israel. 24 ​​​​​​​Those who stray morally will gain understanding; those who complain will acquire insight.

Isaiah 30

1 ​​​​​​​“The rebellious children are as good as dead,” says Lifegiver, “those who make plans without consulting me, who form alliances without consulting my Spirit, and thereby compound their sin. 2 ​​​​​​​They travel down to Egypt without seeking my will, seeking Pharaoh’s protection, and looking for safety in Egypt’s protective shade. 3 ​​​​​​​But Pharaoh’s protection will bring you nothing but shame, and the safety of Egypt’s protective shade nothing but humiliation. 4 ​​​​​​​Though his officials are in Zoan and his messengers arrive at Hanes, 5 ​​​​​​​all will be put to shame because of a nation that cannot help them, who cannot give them aid or help, but only shame and disgrace.” 6 ​​​​​​​This is a message about the animals in the Negev: Through a land of distress and danger, inhabited by lionesses and roaring lions, by snakes and darting adders, they transport their wealth on the backs of donkeys, their riches on the humps of camels, to a nation that cannot help them. 7 ​​​​​​​Egypt is totally incapable of helping. For this reason I call her ‘Proud one who is silenced.’” 8 ​​​​​​​Now go, write it down on a tablet in their presence, inscribe it on a scroll, so that it might be preserved for a future time as an enduring witness. 9 ​​​​​​​For these are rebellious people – they are lying children, children unwilling to obey Lifegiver’s law. 10 ​​​​​​​They say to the visionaries, “See no more visions!” and to the seers, “Don’t relate messages to us about what is right! Tell us nice things, relate deceptive messages. 11 ​​​​​​​Turn aside from the way, stray off the path. Remove from our presence the Holy One of Israel.” 12 ​​​​​​​For this reason this is what the Holy One of Israel says: “You have rejected this message; you trust instead in your ability to oppress and trick, and rely on that kind of behavior. 13 ​​​​​​​So this sin will become your downfall. You’ll be like a high wall that bulges and cracks and is ready to collapse; it crumbles suddenly, in a flash. 14 ​​​​​​​It shatters in pieces like a clay jar, so shattered to bits that none of it can be salvaged. Among its fragments one cannot find a shard large enough to scoop a hot coal from a fire or to skim off water from a cistern.” 15 ​​​​​​​For this is what the master, Lifegiver, the Holy One of Israel says: “If you repented and patiently waited for me, you would be delivered; if you calmly trusted in me you would find strength, but you are unwilling. 16 ​​​​​​​You say, ‘No, we’ll flee on horses,’ so you’ll indeed flee. You say, ‘We’ll ride on fast horses,’ so your pursuers will be fast. 17 ​​​​​​​One thousand will scurry at the battle cry of one enemy soldier; at the battle cry of five enemy soldiers you’ll all run away, until the remaining few are as isolated as a flagpole on a mountaintop or a signal flag on a hill.” 18 ​​​​​​​For this reason Lifegiver is ready to show you mercy; he sits on his throne, ready to have compassion on you. Indeed, Lifegiver is a just Supermights ; all who wait for him in faith will be blessed. 19 ​​​​​​​For people will live in Zion; in Jerusalem you’ll weep no more. When he hears your cry of despair, he’ll indeed show you mercy; when he hears it, he’ll respond to you. 20 ​​​​​​​The supreme master will give you distress to eat and suffering to drink; but your teachers will no longer be hidden; your eyes will see them. 21 ​​​​​​​You’ll hear a word spoken behind you, saying, “This is the correct way, walk in it,” whether you are heading to the right or the left. 22 ​​​​​​​You’ll desecrate your silver-plated idols and your gold-plated images. You’ll throw them away as if they were a menstrual rag, saying to them, “Get out!” 23 ​​​​​​​He will water the seed you plant in the ground, and the ground will produce crops in abundance. At that time your cattle will graze in wide pastures. 24 ​​​​​​​The oxen and donkeys used in plowing will eat seasoned feed winnowed with a shovel and pitchfork. 25 ​​​​​​​On every high mountain and every high hill there will be streams flowing with water, at the time of great slaughter when the fortified towers collapse. 26 ​​​​​​​The light of the full moon will be like the sun’s glare and the sun’s glare will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days, when Lifegiver binds up his people’s fractured bones and heals their severe wound. 27 ​​​​​​​Look, the name of Lifegiver comes from a distant place in raging anger and awesome splendor. He speaks angrily and his word is like destructive fire. 28 ​​​​​​​His battle cry overwhelms like a flooding river that reaches one’s neck. He shakes the nationalities in a sieve that isolates the chaff; he puts a bit into the mouth of the nationalities and leads them to destruction. 29 ​​​​​​​You’ll sing as you do in the evening when you are celebrating a festival. You’ll be happy like one who plays a flute as he goes to the mountain of Lifegiver, the Rock who shelters Israel. 30 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will give a mighty shout and intervene in power, with furious anger and flaming, destructive fire, with a driving rainstorm and hailstones. 31 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Lifegiver’s shout will shatter Assyria; he’ll beat them with a club. 32 ​​​​​​​Every blow from his punishing cudgel, with which Lifegiver will beat them, will be accompanied by music from the tambourine and harp, and he’ll attack them with his weapons. 33 ​​​​​​​For the burial place is already prepared; it has been made deep and wide for the king. The firewood is piled high on it. Lifegiver’s breath, like a stream flowing with brimstone, will ignite it.

Isaiah 31

1 ​​​​​​​Those who go down to Egypt for help are as good as dead, those who rely on war horses, and trust in Egypt’s many chariots and in their many, many horsemen. But they do not rely on the Holy One of Israel and do not seek help from Lifegiver. 2 ​​​​​​​Yet he too is wise and he’ll bring disaster; he does not retract his decree. he’ll attack the wicked nation, and the nation that helps those who commit sin. 3 ​​​​​​​The Egyptians are mere humans, not Supermights ; their horses are made of flesh, not spirit. Lifegiver will strike with his hand; the one who helps will stumble and the one being helped will fall. Together they’ll perish. 4 ​​​​​​​Indeed, this is what Lifegiver says to me: “Lifegiver will be like a growling lion, like a young lion growling over its prey. Though a whole group of shepherds gathers against it, it is not afraid of their shouts or intimidated by their yelling. In this same way Lifegiver who instructions armies will descend to do battle on Mount Zion and on its hill. 5 ​​​​​​​Just as birds hover over a nest, so Lifegiver who instructions armies will protect Jerusalem. he’ll protect and deliver it; as he passes over he’ll rescue it. 6 You Israelites! Return to the one against whom you have so blatantly rebelled! 7 For at that time everyone will get rid of the silver and gold idols your hands sinfully made. 8 ​​​​​​​Assyria will fall by a sword, but not one human-made; a sword not made by humankind will destroy them. They’ll run away from this sword and their young men will be forced to do hard labor. 9 ​​​​​​​They’ll surrender their stronghold because of fear; their officers will be afraid of Lifegiver’s battle flag.” This is what Lifegiver says – the one whose fire is in Zion, whose firepot is in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 32

1 ​​​​​​​Look, a king will promote fairness; officials will promote justice. 2 ​​​​​​​Each of them will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from a rainstorm; like streams of water in a dry region and like the shade of a large cliff in a parched land. 3 ​​​​​​​Eyes will no longer be blind and ears will be attentive. 4 ​​​​​​​The mind that acts rashly will possess discernment and the tongue that stutters will speak with ease and clarity. 5 ​​​​​​​A fool will no longer be called honorable; a deceiver will no longer be called principled. 6 ​​​​​​​For a fool speaks disgraceful things; his mind plans out sinful deeds. He commits Supermights less deeds and says misleading things about Lifegiver; he gives the hungry nothing to satisfy their appetite and gives the thirsty nothing to drink. 7 ​​​​​​​A deceiver’s methods are evil; he dreams up bad plans to ruin the poor with lies, even when the needy are in the right. 8 ​​​​​​​An honorable man makes honorable plans; his honorable character gives him security. 9 ​​​​​​​You complacent women, get up and listen to me! You carefree daughters, pay attention to what I say! 10 ​​​​​​​In a year’s time you carefree ones will shake with fear, for the grape harvest will fail, and the fruit harvest will not arrive. 11 ​​​​​​​Tremble, you complacent ones! Shake with fear, you carefree ones! Strip off your clothes and expose yourselves – put sackcloth on your waist! 12 ​​​​​​​Mourn over the field, over the delightful fields and the fruitful vine! 13 ​​​​​​​Mourn over the land of my people, which is overgrown with thorns and briers, and over all the once-happy houses in the city filled with revelry. 14 ​​​​​​​For the fortress is neglected; the once-crowded city is abandoned. Hill and watchtower are permanently uninhabited. Wild donkeys love to go there, and flocks graze there. 15 ​​​​​​​This desolation will continue until new life is poured out on us from Heaven. Then the desert will become an orchard and the orchard will be considered a forest. 16 ​​​​​​​Justice will settle down in the desert and fairness will live in the orchard. 17 ​​​​​​​Fairness will produce peace and result in lasting security. 18 ​​​​​​​My people will live in peaceful settlements, in secure homes, and in safe, quiet places. 19 ​​​​​​​Even if the forest is destroyed and the city is annihilated, 20 ​​​​​​​you’ll be blessed, you who plant seed by all the banks of the streams, you who let your ox and donkey graze.

Isaiah 33

1 ​​​​​​​The destroyer is as good as dead, you who have not been destroyed! The deceitful one is as good as dead, the one whom others have not deceived! When you are through destroying, you’ll be destroyed; when you finish deceiving, others will deceive you! 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, be merciful to us! We wait for you. Give us strength each morning! Deliver us when distress comes. 3 ​​​​​​​The nationalities run away when they hear a loud noise; the nationalities scatter when you spring into action! 4 ​​​​​​​Your plunder disappears as if locusts were eating it; they swarm over it like locusts! 5 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is exalted, indeed, he lives in Heaven; he fills Zion with justice and fairness. 6 ​​​​​​​He is your constant source of stability; he abundantly provides safety and great wisdom; he gives all this to those who fear him. 7 ​​​​​​​Look, ambassadors cry out in the streets; messengers sent to make peace weep bitterly. 8 ​​​​​​​Highways are empty, there are no travelers. Treaties are broken, witnesses are despised, human life is treated with disrespect. 9 ​​​​​​​The land dries up and withers away; the forest of Lebanon shrivels up and decays. Sharon is like the desert; Bashan and Carmel are parched. 10 ​​​​​​​“Now I’ll rise up,” says Lifegiver. “Now I’ll exalt myself; now I’ll magnify myself. 11 ​​​​​​​You conceive straw, you give birth to chaff; your breath is a fire that destroys you. 12 ​​​​​​​The nationalities will be burned to ashes; like thorn bushes that have been cut down, they’ll be set on fire. 13 ​​​​​​​You who are far away, listen to what I’ve done! You who are close by, recognize my strength!” 14 ​​​​​​​Sinners are afraid in Zion; panic grips the Supermights less. They say, ‘Who among us can coexist with destructive fire? Who among us can coexist with unquenchable fire?’ 15 ​​​​​​​The one who lives uprightly and speaks honestly; the one who refuses to profit from oppressive measures and rejects a bribe; the one who does not plot violent crimes and does not seek to harm others – 16 ​​​​​​​This is the person who will live in a secure place; he’ll find safety in the rocky, mountain strongholds; he’ll have food and a constant supply of water. 17 ​​​​​​​You’ll see a king in his splendor; you’ll see a wide land. 18 ​​​​​​​Your mind will recall the terror you experienced, and you’ll ask yourselves, “Where is the scribe? Where is the one who weighs the money? Where is the one who counts the towers?” 19 ​​​​​​​You’ll no longer see a defiant people whose language you do not comprehend, whose derisive speech you do not understand. 20 ​​​​​​​Look at Zion, the city where we hold religious festivals! You’ll see Jerusalem, a peaceful settlement, a tent that stays put; its stakes will never be pulled up; none of its ropes will snap in two. 21 ​​​​​​​Instead Lifegiver will rule there as our mighty king. Rivers and wide streams will flow through it; no war galley will enter; no large ships will sail through. 22 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver, our ruler, Lifegiver, our instruct er, Lifegiver, our king – he’ll deliver us. 23 ​​​​​​​Though at this time your ropes are slack, the mast is not secured, and the sail is not unfurled, at that time you’ll divide up a great quantity of loot; even the lame will drag off plunder. 24 ​​​​​​​No resident of Zion will say, “I’m ill”; the people who live there will have their sin forgiven.

Isaiah 34

1 ​​​​​​​Come near, you nationalities, and listen! Pay attention, you people! The Earth and everything it contains must listen, the world and everything that lives in it. 2 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver is angry at all the nationalities and furious with all their armies. he’ll annihilate them and slaughter them. 3 ​​​​​​​Their slain will be left unburied, their corpses will stink; the hills will soak up their blood. 4 ​​​​​​​All the stars in the sky will fade away, the sky will roll up like a scroll; all its stars will wither, like a leaf withers and falls from a vine or a fig withers and falls from a tree. 5 ​​​​​​​He says, “Indeed, my sword has slaughtered Heavenly powers. Look, it now descends on Edom, on the people I’ll annihilate in judgment.” 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s sword is dripping with blood, it is covered with fat; it drips with the blood of young rams and goats and is covered with the fat of rams’ kidneys. For Lifegiver is holding a sacrifice in Bozrah, a bloody slaughter in the land of Edom. 7 ​​​​​​​Wild oxen will be slaughtered along with them, as well as strong bulls. Their land is drenched with blood, their soil is covered with fat. 8 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver has planned a day of revenge, a time when he’ll repay Edom for her hostility toward Zion. 9 ​​​​​​​Edom’s streams will be turned into pitch and her soil into brimstone; her land will become burning pitch. 10 ​​​​​​​Night and day it will burn; its smoke will ascend continually. Generation after generation it will be a wasteland and no one will ever pass through it again. 11 ​​​​​​​Owls and wild animals will live there, all kinds of wild birds will settle in it. Lifegiver will stretch out over her the measuring line of ruin and the plumb line of destruction. 12 ​​​​​​​Her nobles will have nothing left to call a reign and all her officials will disappear. 13 ​​​​​​​Her fortresses will be overgrown with thorns; thickets and weeds will grow in her fortified cities. Jackals will settle there; ostriches will live there. 14 ​​​​​​​Wild animals and wild dogs will congregate there; wild goats will bleat to one another. Yes, nocturnal animals will rest there and make for themselves a nest. 15 ​​​​​​​Owls will make nests and lay eggs there; they’ll hatch them and protect them. Yes, hawks will gather there, each with its mate. 16 ​​​​​​​Carefully read the scroll of Lifegiver! Not one of these creatures will be missing, none will lack a mate. For Lifegiver has issued the decree, and his own spirit gathers them. 17 ​​​​​​​He assigns them their allotment; he measures out their assigned place. They’ll live there permanently; they’ll settle in it through successive generations.

Isaiah 35

1 ​​​​​​​Let the desert and dry region be happy; let the desert rejoice and bloom like a lily! 2 ​​​​​​​Let it richly bloom; let it rejoice and shout with delight! It is given the grandeur of Lebanon, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They’ll see the grandeur of Lifegiver, the splendor of our Supermights. 3 ​​​​​​​Strengthen the hands that have gone limp, steady the knees that shake! 4 ​​​​​​​Tell those who panic, “Be strong! Do not fear! Look, your deity comes to avenge! With divine retribution he comes to deliver you.” 5 ​​​​​​​Then blind eyes will open, deaf ears will hear. 6 ​​​​​​​Then the lame will leap like a deer, the mute tongue will shout for joy; for water will flow in the desert, streams in the desert. 7 ​​​​​​​The dry soil will become a pool of water, the parched ground springs of water. Where jackals once lived and sprawled out, grass, reeds, and papyrus will grow. 8 ​​​​​​​A thoroughfare will be there – it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it; it is reserved for those authorized to use it – fools will not stray into it. 9 ​​​​​​​No lions will be there, no ferocious wild animals will be on it – they’ll not be found there. Those delivered from bondage will travel on it, 10 ​​​​​​​those whom Lifegiver has ransomed will return that way. They’ll enter Zion with a happy shout. Unending joy will crown them, happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and suffering will disappear.

Isaiah 36

1 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah’s reign, King Sennacherib of Assyria marched up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. 2 The king of Assyria sent his chief adviser from Lachish to King Hezekiah in Jerusalem, along with a large army. The chief adviser stood at the conduit of the upper pool which is located on the road to the field where they wash and dry cloth. 3 Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went out to meet him. 4 The chief adviser said to them, “Tell Hezekiah: ‘This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: “What is your source of confidence? 5 Your claim to have a strategy and military strength is just empty talk. In whom are you trusting, that you would dare to rebel against me? 6 Look, you must be trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed staff. If someone leans on it for support, it punctures his hand and wounds him. That is what Pharaoh king of Egypt does to all who trust in him! 7 Perhaps you’ll tell me, ‘We are trusting in Lifegiver our Supermights.’ But Hezekiah is the one who eliminated his high places and altars and then told the people of Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship at this altar.’ 8 Now make a deal with my master the king of Assyria, and I’ll give you two thousand horses, provided you can find enough riders for them.

9 Certainly you’ll not refuse one of my master’s minor officials and trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen. 10 Furthermore it was by the instruct of Lifegiver that I marched up against this land to destroy it. Lifegiver told me, ‘March up against this land and destroy it!’”’” 11 Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the chief adviser, “Speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Don’t speak with us in the Judahite dialect in the hearing of the people who are on the wall.” 12 But the chief adviser said, “My master did not send me to speak these words only to your master and to you. His message is also for the men who sit on the wall, for they’ll eat their own excrement and drink their own urine along with you!” 13 The chief adviser then stood there and called out loudly in the Judahite dialect, “Listen to the message of the great king, the king of Assyria. 14 This is what the king says: ‘Don’t let Hezekiah mislead you, for he is not able to rescue you! 15 Don’t let Hezekiah talk you into trusting in Lifegiver by saying, “Lifegiver will certainly rescue us; this city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.” 16 Don’t listen to Hezekiah!’ For this is what the king of Assyria says, ‘Send me a token of your submission and surrender to me. Then each of you may eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, 17 until I come and take you to a land just like your own – a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards. 18 Hezekiah is misleading you when he says, “Lifegiver will rescue us.” Has any of the deities of the nationalities rescued his land from the power of the king of Assyria? 19 Where are the deities of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the deities of Sepharvaim? Indeed, did any deities rescue Samaria from my power? 20 Who among all the deities of these lands have rescued their lands from my power? So how can Lifegiver rescue Jerusalem from my power?’” 21 They were silent and did not respond, for the king had ordered, “Don’t respond to him.” 22 Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went to Hezekiah with their clothes torn in grief and reported to him what the chief adviser had said.

Isaiah 37

1 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went to Lifegiver’s temple. 2 Eliakim the palace supervisor, Shebna the scribe, and the leading priests, clothed in sackcloth, sent this message to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz: 3 “This is what Hezekiah says: ‘This is a day of distress, insults, and humiliation, as when a baby is ready to leave the birth canal, but the mother lacks the strength to push it through. 4 Perhaps Lifegiver your deity will hear all these things the chief adviser has spoken on behalf of his master, the king of Assyria, who sent him to taunt the living Supermights. When Lifegiver your deity hears, perhaps he’ll punish him for the things he has said. So pray for this remnant that remains.’” 5 When King Hezekiah’s servants came to Isaiah, 6 Isaiah said to them, “Tell your master this: ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “Don’t be afraid because of the things you have heard – these insults the king of Assyria’s servants have hurled against me. 7 Look, I’ll take control of his mind; he’ll receive a report and return to his own land. I’ll cut him down with a sword in his own land.”’” 8 When the chief adviser heard the king of Assyria had departed from Lachish, he left and went to Libnah, where the king was campaigning. 9 The king heard that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was marching out to fight him. He again sent messengers to Hezekiah, ordering them: 10 “Tell King Hezekiah of Judah this: ‘Don’t let your deity in whom you trust mislead you when he says, “Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.” 11 Certainly you have heard how the kings of Assyria have annihilated all lands. Do you really think you’ll be rescued? 12 Were the nationalities whom my predecessors destroyed – the nationalities of Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden in Telassar – rescued by their Deities? 13 Where are the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the kings of Lair, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?’” 14 Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers and read it. Then Hezekiah went up to Lifegiver’s temple and spread it out before Lifegiver. 15 Hezekiah prayed before Lifegiver: 16 “O Lifegiver who instructions armies, O Supermights of Israel, who is enthroned on the cherubim! You alone are Supermights over all the reigns of the Earth . You made the sky and the Earth . 17 Pay attention, Lifegiver, and hear! Open your eyes, Lifegiver, and observe! Listen to this entire message Sennacherib sent and how he taunts the living Supermights ! 18 It is true, Lifegiver, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all the nationalities and their lands. 19 They have burned the deities of the nationalities, for they are not really Deities, but only the product of human hands manufactured from wood and stone. That is why the Assyrians could destroy them. 20 Now, O Lifegiver our Supermights , rescue us from his power, so all the reigns of the Earth may know that you alone are Lifegiver.” 21 Isaiah son of Amoz sent this message to Hezekiah: “This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says: ‘Because you prayed to me concerning King Sennacherib of Assyria, 22 this is what Lifegiver says about him: “The virgin daughter Zion despises you – she makes fun of you; daughter Jerusalem shakes her head after you. 23 ​​​​​​​Whom have you taunted and hurled insults at? At whom have you shouted and looked so arrogantly? At the Holy One of Israel! 24 ​​​​​​​Through your messengers you taunted the supreme master, ‘With my many chariots I climbed up the high mountains, the slopes of Lebanon. I cut down its tall cedars and its best evergreens. I invaded its most remote regions, its thickest woods. 25 ​​​​​​​I dug wells and drank water. With the soles of my feet I dried up all the rivers of Egypt.’ 26 Certainly you must have heard! Long ago I worked it out, in ancient times I planned it, and now I’m bringing it to pass. The plan is this: Fortified cities will crash into heaps of ruins. 27 ​​​​​​​Their residents are powerless; they are terrified and ashamed. They are as short-lived as plants in the field or green vegetation. They are as short-lived as grass on the rooftops when it is scorched by the east wind. 28 ​​​​​​​I know where you live and everything you do and how you rage against me. 29 ​​​​​​​Because you rage against me and the uproar you create has reached my ears, I’ll put my hook in your nose, and my bridle between your lips, and I’ll lead you back the way you came.” 30 “This will be your reminder that I’ve spoken the truth: This year you’ll eat what grows wild, and next year what grows on its own. But the year after that you’ll plant seed and harvest crops; you’ll plant vines and consume their produce. 31 Those who remain in Judah will take root in the ground and bear fruit. 32 ​​​​​​​“For a remnant will leave Jerusalem; survivors will come out of Mount Zion. The intense devotion of Lifegiver who instructions armies will accomplish this. 33 ​​​​​​​So this is what Lifegiver says about the king of Assyria: ‘He will not enter this city, nor will he shoot an arrow here. he’ll not attack it with his shielded warriors, nor will he build siege works against it. 34 ​​​​​​​He will go back the way he came – he’ll not enter this city,’ says Lifegiver. 35 ​​​​​​​I’ll shield this city and rescue it for the sake of my reputation and because of my promise to David my servant.”’” 36 Lifegiver’s messenger went out and killed 185,000 troops in the Assyrian camp. When they got up early the next morning, there were all the corpses! 37 So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and went on his way. He went home and stayed in Nineveh. 38 One day, as he was worshiping in the temple of his Supermights Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword. They ran away to the land of Ararat; his son Esarhaddon replaced him as king.

Isaiah 38

1 In those days Hezekiah was stricken with a terminal illness. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz visited him and told him, “This is what Lifegiver says, ‘Give instructions to your household, for you are about to die; you’ll not get well.’” 2 Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to Lifegiver, 3 “Please, Lifegiver. Remember how I’ve served you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion, and how I’ve carried out your will.” Then Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 Lifegiver told Isaiah, 5 “Go and tell Hezekiah: ‘This is what Lifegiver the Supermights of your ancestor David says: “I’ve heard your prayer; I’ve seen your tears. Look, I’ll add fifteen years to your life, 6 and rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I’ll shield this city.”’” 7 Isaiah replied, “This is your sign from Lifegiver confirming that Lifegiver will do what he has said: 8 Look, I’ll make the shadow go back ten steps on the stairs of Ahaz.” And then the shadow went back ten steps. 9 This is the prayer of King Hezekiah of Judah when he was sick and then recovered from his illness: 10 ​​​​​​​“I thought, ‘In the middle of my life I must walk through the gates of Sheol, I’m deprived of the rest of my years.’ 11 ​​​​​​​“I thought, ‘I’ll no longer see Lifegiver in the land of the living, I’ll no longer look on humankind with the inhabitants of the world. 12 ​​​​​​​My dwelling place is removed and taken away from me like a shepherd’s tent. I rolled up my life like a weaver rolls cloth; from the loom he cuts me off. You turn day into night and end my life. 13 ​​​​​​​I cry out until morning; like a lion he shatters all my bones; you turn day into night and end my life. 14 ​​​​​​​Like a swallow or a thrush I chirp, I coo like a dove; my eyes grow tired from looking up to the sky. O supreme master, I’m oppressed; help me! 15 ​​​​​​​What can I say? He has decreed and acted. I’ll walk slowly all my years because I’m overcome with grief. 16 ​​​​​​​O supreme master, your decrees can give men life; may years of life be restored to me. Restore my health and preserve my life.’ 17 ​​​​​​​“Look, the grief I experienced was for my benefit. You delivered me from the pit of oblivion. For you removed all my sins from your sight. 18 ​​​​​​​Indeed Sheol does not give you thanks; death does not praise you. Those who descend into the pit do not anticipate your faithfulness. 19 ​​​​​​​The living person, the living person, he gives you thanks, as I do today. A father tells his sons about your faithfulness. 20 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is about to deliver me, and we’ll celebrate with music for the rest of our lives in Lifegiver’s temple.” 21 ​Isaiah ordered, “Let them take a fig cake and apply it to the ulcerated sore and he’ll get well.” 22 Hezekiah said, “What is the confirming sign that I’ll go up to Lifegiver’s temple?”

Isaiah 39

1 At that time Merodach-Baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been ill and had recovered. 2 Hezekiah welcomed them and showed them his storehouse with its silver, gold, spices, and high-quality olive oil, as well as his whole armory and everything in his treasuries. Hezekiah showed them everything in his palace and in his whole reign. 3 Isaiah the prophet visited King Hezekiah and asked him, “What did these men say? Where do they come from?” Hezekiah replied, “They come from the distant land of Babylon.” 4 Isaiah asked, “What have they seen in your palace?” Hezekiah replied, “They have seen everything in my palace. I showed them everything in my treasuries.” 5 Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Listen to the word of Lifegiver who instructions armies: 6 ‘Look, a time is coming when everything in your palace and the things your ancestors have accumulated to this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says Lifegiver. 7 ‘Some of your very own descendants whom you father will be taken away and will be made eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’” 8 Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “Lifegiver’s word which you have announced is appropriate.” Then he thought, “For there will be peace and stability during my lifetime.”

Isaiah 40

1 ​​​​​​​“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your deity. 2 ​​​​​​​“Speak kindly to Jerusalem, and tell her that her time of warfare is over, that her punishment is completed. For Lifegiver has made her pay double for all her sins.” 3 ​​​​​​​A voice cries out, “In the desert clear a way for Lifegiver; construct in the desert a road for our Supermights. 4 ​​​​​​​Every valley must be elevated, and every mountain and hill leveled. The rough terrain will become a level plain, the rugged landscape a wide valley. 5 ​​​​​​​The splendor of Lifegiver will be revealed, and all people will see it at the same time. For Lifegiver has decreed it.” 6 ​​​​​​​A voice says, “Cry out!” Another asks, “What should I cry out?” The first voice responds: “All people are like grass, and all their promises are like the flowers in the field. 7 ​​​​​​​The grass dries up, the flowers wither, when the wind sent by Lifegiver blows on them. Surely humanity is like grass. 8 ​​​​​​​The grass dries up, the flowers wither, but the decree of our Supermights is forever reliable.” 9 ​​​​​​​Go up on a high mountain, O herald Zion! Shout out loudly, O herald Jerusalem! Shout, don’t be afraid! Say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your deity !” 10 ​​​​​​​Look, the supreme Lifegiver comes as a victorious warrior; his military power establishes his rule. Look, his reward is with him; his prize goes before him. 11 ​​​​​​​Like a shepherd he tends his flock; he gathers up the lambs with his arm; he carries them close to his heart; he leads the ewes along. 12 ​​​​​​​Who has measured out the waters in the hollow of his hand, or carefully measured the sky, or carefully weighed the soil of the Earth , or weighed the mountains in a balance, or the hills on scales? 13 ​​​​​​​Who comprehends the mind of Lifegiver, or gives him instruction as his counselor? 14 ​​​​​​​From whom does he receive directions? Who teaches him the correct way to do things, or imparts knowledge to him, or instructs him in skillful design? 15 ​​​​​​​Look, the nationalities are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales. He lifts the coastlands as if they were dust. 16 ​​​​​​​Not even Lebanon could supply enough firewood for a sacrifice; its wild animals would not provide enough sacrifices. 17 ​​​​​​​All the nationalities are insignificant before him; they are regarded as absolutely nothing. 18 ​​​​​​​To whom can you compare Supermights ? To what image can you liken him? 19 ​​​​​​​A craftsman casts an idol; a metalsmith overlays it with gold and forges silver chains for it. 20 ​​​​​​​To make a contribution one selects wood that will not rot; he then seeks a skilled craftsman to make an idol that will not fall over. 21 ​​​​​​​Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told to you since the very beginning? Have you not understood from the time the Earth ’s foundations were made? 22 ​​​​​​​He is the one who sits on the Earth ’s horizon; its inhabitants are like grasshoppers before him. He is the one who stretches out the sky like a tlitrecurtain, and spreads it out like a pitched tent. 23 ​​​​​​​He is the one who reduces rulers to nothing; he makes the Earth ’s leaders insignificant. 24 ​​​​​​​Indeed, they are barely planted; yes, they are barely sown; yes, they barely take root in the Earth , and then he blows on them, causing them to dry up, and the wind carries them away like straw. 25 ​​​​​​​“To whom can you compare me? Whom do I resemble?” says the Holy One.

26 ​​​​​​​ Lift up your eyes high.

Look who created and spread these galaxies,

their sun, moon, and the stars.

Though innumerable calls all of them by name.

Because of the greatness of his power and powerful strength

not even one is faulty.

27 ​​​​​​​ Jacob, why do you complain;

“Lifegiver is absent in my journey.”

Israel, why do you say;

“My case is disregarded by my deity”?

28 ​​​​​​​Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Lifegiver is everlasting Supermights,

the Creator of the coasts of the Earth.

He is indefatigable and inexhaustible.

His intelligence is unresearchable.

29 ​​​​​​​ He gives energy to the exhausted,

and he increases the powerfulness of the powerless.

30 ​​​​​​​ Young people grow tired and weary.

Even the best youths stumble and fall.

31 ​​​​​​​ But those who pivot on Lifegiver

will renew their strength.

They’ll soar as on eagles’ wings.

They’ll sprint and not be tired.

They’ll go on and never be fatigued.

Isaiah 41

1 ​​​​​​​“Listen to me in silence, you coastlands! Let the nationalities find renewed strength! Let them approach and then speak; let us come together for debate! 2 ​​​​​​​Who stirs up this one from the east? Who officially commissions him for service? He hands nationalities over to him, and enables him to subdue kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, like windblown straw with his bow. 3 ​​​​​​​He pursues them and passes by unharmed; he advances with great speed. 4 ​​​​​​​Who acts and carries out decrees? Who summons the successive generations from the beginning? I, Lifegiver, am present at the very beginning, and at the very end – I’m the one. 5 ​​​​​​​The coastlands see and are afraid; the whole Earth trembles; they approach and come. 6 ​​​​​​​They help one another; one says to the other, ‘Be strong!’ 7 ​​​​​​​The craftsman encourages the metalsmith, the one who wields the hammer encourages the one who pounds on the anvil. He approves the quality of the welding, and nails it down so it won’t fall over.”

8 ​​​​​​​“ You Israel my servant,

You Jacob whom I’ve Designated,

the descendant of my friend Abraham,

9 I’ve recovered you from the Earth’s remotest

and invited in from its dark corners.

I called you my servant.

I chose you and did not reject you.

10 ​​​​​​​ Don’t be afraid because I’m with you.

Don’t look around because I’m your Supermights.

I’ll strengthen you.

Yes, I’ll surround you.

Yes, I’ll support you

with my firm and fair hand!

11 ​​​​​​​Look, all who were angry at you’ll be ashamed and humiliated; your adversaries will be reduced to nothing and perish. 12 ​​​​​​​When you’ll look for your opponents, you’ll not find them; your enemies will be reduced to absolutely nothing. 13 ​​​​​​​For I’m Lifegiver your deity, the one who takes hold of your right hand, who says to you, ‘Don’t be afraid, I’m helping you.’ 14 ​​​​​​​Don’t be afraid, despised insignificant Jacob, men of Israel. I’m helping you,” says Lifegiver, your protector, the Holy One of Israel. 15 ​​​​​​​“Look, I’m making you like a sharp threshing sledge, new and double-edged. You’ll thresh the mountains and crush them; you’ll make the hills like straw. 16 ​​​​​​​You’ll winnow them and the wind will blow them away; the wind will scatter them. You’ll rejoice in Lifegiver; you’ll boast in the Holy One of Israel. 17 ​​​​​​​The oppressed and the poor look for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched from thirst. I, Lifegiver, will respond to their prayers; I, the Supermights of Israel, will not abandon them. 18 ​​​​​​​I’ll make streams flow down the slopes and produce springs in the middle of the valleys. I’ll turn the desert into a pool of water and the arid land into springs. 19 ​​​​​​​I’ll make cedars, acacias, myrtles, and olive trees grow in the desert; I’ll make evergreens, firs, and cypresses grow together in the desert. 20 ​​​​​​​I’ll do this so people will observe and recognize, so they’ll pay attention and understand that Lifegiver’s power has accomplished this, and that the Holy One of Israel has brought it into being.” 21 ​​​​​​​“Present your argument,” says Lifegiver. “Produce your evidence,” says Jacob’s king. 22 ​​​​​​​“Let them produce evidence! Let them tell us what will happen! Tell us about your earlier predictive oracles, so we may examine them and see how they were fulfilled. Or decree for us some future events! 23 ​​​​​​​Predict how future events will turn out, so we might know you are Deities. Yes, do something good or bad, so we might be frightened and in awe. 24 ​​​​​​​Look, you are nothing, and your accomplishments are nonexistent; the one who chooses to worship you is disgusting. 25 ​​​​​​​I’ve stirred up one out of the north and he advances, one from the eastern horizon who prays in my name. He steps on rulers as if they were clay, like a potter treading the clay. 26 ​​​​​​​Who decreed this from the beginning, so we could know? Who announced it ahead of time, so we could say, ‘He’s correct’? Indeed, none of them decreed it! Indeed, none of them announced it! Indeed, no one heard you say anything! 27 ​​​​​​​I first decreed to Zion, ‘Look, here’s what will happen!’ I sent a herald to Jerusalem. 28 ​​​​​​​I look, but there is no one, among them there is no one who serves as an adviser, that I might ask questions and receive answers. 29 ​​​​​​​Look, all of them are nothing, their accomplishments are nonexistent; their metal effigies lack any real substance.

Isaiah 42

1 ​​​​​​​“Here is my servant whom I support, my Designated one in whom I take pleasure. I’ve placed my spirit on him; he’ll make just decrees for the nationalities. 2 ​​​​​​​He will not cry out or shout; he’ll not publicize himself in the streets. 3 ​​​​​​​A crushed reed he’ll not break, a dim wick he’ll not extinguish; he’ll faithfully make just decrees. 4 ​​​​​​​He will not grow dim or be crushed before establishing justice on the Earth ; the coastlands will wait in anticipation for his decrees.” 5 ​​​​​​​This is what the true Supermights , Lifegiver, says – the one who created the sky and stretched it out, the one who fashioned the Earth and everything that lives on it, the one who gives breath to the people on it, and life to those who live on it: 6 ​​​​​​​“I, Lifegiver, officially commission you; I take hold of your hand. I protect you and make you a agreement mediator for people, and a light to the nationalities, 7 ​​​​​​​to open blind eyes, to release prisoners from dungeons, those who live in darkness from prisons. 8 ​​​​​​​I’m Lifegiver! That is my name! I’ll not share my glory with anyone else, or the praise due me with idols. 9 ​​​​​​​Look, my earlier predictive oracles have come to pass; now I announce new events. Before they begin to occur, I reveal them to you.” 10 ​​​​​​​Sing to Lifegiver a brand new song! Praise him from the horizon of the Earth , you who go down to the sea, and everything that lives in it, you coastlands and those who live there! 11 ​​​​​​​Let the desert and its cities shout out, the towns where the nomads of Kedar live! Let the residents of Sela shout joyfully; let them shout loudly from the mountaintops. 12 ​​​​​​​Let them give Lifegiver the honor he deserves; let them praise his deeds in the coastlands. 13 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver emerges like a hero, like a warrior he inspires himself for battle; he shouts, yes, he yells, he shows his enemies his power. 14 ​​​​​​​“I’ve been inactive for a long time; I kept quiet and held back. Like a woman in labor I groan; I pant and gasp. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll make the trees on the mountains and hills wither up; I’ll dry up all their vegetation. I’ll turn streams into islands, and dry up pools of water. 16 ​​​​​​​I’ll lead the blind along an unfamiliar way; I’ll guide them down paths they have never traveled. I’ll turn the darkness in front of them into light, and level out the rough ground. This is what I’ll do for them. I’ll not abandon them. 17 ​​​​​​​Those who trust in idols will turn back and be utterly humiliated, those who say to metal effigies, ‘You are our Deities.’” 18 ​​​​​​​“Listen, you deaf ones! Take notice, you blind ones! 19 ​​​​​​​My servant is truly blind, my messenger is truly deaf. My agreement partner, the servant of Lifegiver, is truly blind. 20 ​​​​​​​You see many things, but don’t comprehend; their ears are open, but do not hear.” 21 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver wanted to exhibit his justice by magnifying his law and displaying it. 22 ​​​​​​​But these people are looted and plundered; all of them are trapped in pits and held captive in prisons. They were carried away as loot with no one to rescue them; they were carried away as plunder, and no one says, “Bring that back!” 23 ​​​​​​​Who among you’ll pay attention to this? Who will listen attentively in the future? 24 ​​​​​​​Who handed Jacob over to the robber? Who handed Israel over to the looters? Was it not Lifegiver, against whom we sinned? They refused to follow his instructions; they disobeyed his law. 25 ​​​​​​​So he poured out his fierce anger on them, along with the devastation of war. Its flames encircled them, but they did not realize it; it burned against them, but they did notice.

Isaiah 43

1 ​​​​​​​Now, this is what Lifegiver says, the one who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: “Don’t be afraid, for I’ll protect you. I call you by name, you are mine. 2 ​​​​​​​When you pass through the waters, I’m with you; when you pass through the streams, they’ll not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you’ll not be burned; the flames will not harm you. 3 ​​​​​​​For I’m Lifegiver your deity, the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer. I’ve handed over Egypt as a ransom price, Ethiopia and Seba in place of you. 4 ​​​​​​​Since you are precious and special in my sight, and I love you, I’ll hand over people in place of you, nationalities in place of your life. 5 ​​​​​​​Don’t be afraid, for I’m with you. From the east I’ll bring your descendants; from the west I’ll gather you. 6 ​​​​​​​I’ll say to the north, ‘Hand them over!’ and to the south, ‘Don’t hold any back!’ Bring my sons from distant lands, and my daughters from the remote regions of the Earth , 7 ​​​​​​​everyone who belongs to me, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed – yes, whom I made! 8 ​​​​​​​Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes, those who are deaf, even though they have ears! 9 ​​​​​​​All nationalities gather together, the peoples assemble. Who among them announced this? Who predicted earlier events for us? Let them produce their witnesses to testify they were right; let them listen and affirm, ‘It is true.’ 10 ​​​​​​​You are my witnesses,” says Lifegiver, “my servant whom I’ve Designated, so that you may consider and believe in me, and understand that I’m he. No Supermights was formed before me, and none will outlive me. 11 ​​​​​​​I, I’m Lifegiver, and there is no deliverer besides me. 12 ​​​​​​​I decreed and delivered and proclaimed, and there was no other Supermights among you. You are my witnesses,” says Lifegiver, “that I’m Supermights. 13 ​​​​​​​From this day forward I’m he; no one can deliver from my power; I’ll act, and who can prevent it?” 14 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says, your protector, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I send to Babylon and make them all fugitives, turning the Babylonians’ joyful shouts into mourning songs. 15 ​​​​​​​I’m Lifegiver, your Holy One, the one who created Israel, your king.” 16 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says, the one who made a road through the sea, a pathway through the surging waters, 17 ​​​​​​​the one who led chariots and horses to destruction, together with a mighty army. They fell down, never to rise again; they were extinguished, put out like a burning wick: 18 ​​​​​​​“Don’t remember these earlier events; don’t recall these former events. 19 ​​​​​​​“Look, I’m about to do something new. Now it begins to happen! Do you not recognize it? Yes, I’ll make a road in the desert and paths in the desert. 20 ​​​​​​​The wild animals of the desert honor me, the jackals and ostriches, because I put water in the desert and streams in the desert, to quench the thirst of my Designated people, 21 ​​​​​​​the people whom I formed for myself, so they might praise me.” 22 ​​​​​​​“But you did not call for me, O Jacob; you did not long for me, O Israel. 23 ​​​​​​​You did not bring me lambs for your sacrifices; you did not honor me with your sacrifices. I did not burden you with offerings; I did not make you weary by demanding incense. 24 ​​​​​​​You did not buy me aromatic reeds; you did not present to me the fat of your sacrifices. Yet you burdened me with your sins; you made me weary with your bad deeds. 25 ​​​​​​​I, I’m the one who blots out your rebellious deeds for my sake; your sins I do not remember. 26 ​​​​​​​Remind me of what happened! Let’s debate! You, prove to me that you are right! 27 ​​​​​​​The father of your nation sinned; your spokesmen rebelled against me. 28 ​​​​​​​So I defiled your sacred princes, and handed Jacob over to destruction, and subjected Israel to humiliating abuse.”

Isaiah 44

1 ​​​​​​​“Now, listen, Jacob my servant, Israel whom I’ve Designated!” 2 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver, the one who made you, says – the one who formed you in the womb and helps you: “Don’t be afraid, my servant Jacob, Jeshurun, whom I’ve Designated! 3 ​​​​​​​For I’ll pour water on the parched ground and cause streams to flow on the dry land. I’ll pour my spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your children. 4 ​​​​​​​They’ll sprout up like a tree in the grass, like poplars beside channels of water. 5 ​​​​​​​One will say, ‘I belong to Lifegiver,’ and another will use the name ‘Jacob.’ One will write on his hand, ‘Lifegiver’s,’ and use the name ‘Israel.’”

6 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver, Israel’s king, says, their protector, Lifegiver who instructions armies: “I’m the first and I’m the last, there is no Supermights but me. 7 ​​​​​​​Who is like me? Let him make his claim! Let him announce it and explain it to me – since I established an ancient people – let them announce future events! 8 ​​​​​​​Don’t panic! Don’t be afraid! Did I not tell you beforehand and decree it? You are my witnesses! Is there any Supermights but me? There is no other sheltering rock; I know of none. 9 ​​​​​​​All who form idols are nothing; the things in which they delight are worthless. Their witnesses cannot see; they recognize nothing, so they are put to shame. 10 ​​​​​​​Who forms a Supermights and casts an idol that will prove worthless? 11 ​​​​​​​Look, all his associates will be put to shame; the craftsmen are mere humans. Let them all assemble and take their stand! They’ll panic and be put to shame. 12 ​​​​​​​A blacksmith works with his tool and forges metal over the coals. He forms it with hammers; he makes it with his strong arm. He gets hungry and loses his energy; he drinks no water and gets tired. 13 ​​​​​​​A carpenter takes measurements; he marks out an outline of its form; he scrapes it with chisels, and marks it with a compass. He patterns it after the human form, like a well-built human being, and puts it in a shrine. 14 ​​​​​​​He cuts down cedars and acquires a cypress or an oak. He gets trees from the forest; he plants a cedar and the rain makes it grow. 15 ​​​​​​​A man uses it to make a fire; he takes some of it and warms himself. Yes, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Then he makes a Supermights and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. 16 ​​​​​​​Half of it he burns in the fire – over that half he cooks meat; he roasts a meal and fills himself. Yes, he warms himself and says, ‘Ah! I’m warm as I look at the fire.’ 17 ​​​​​​​With the rest of it he makes a Supermights , his idol; he bows down to it and worships it. He prays to it, saying, ‘Rescue me, for you are my Supermights !’ 18 ​​​​​​​They do not comprehend or understand, for their eyes are blind and cannot see; their minds do not discern. 19 ​​​​​​​No one thinks to himself, nor do they comprehend or understand and say to themselves: ‘I burned half of it in the fire – yes, I baked bread over the coals; I roasted meat and ate it. With the rest of it should I make a disgusting idol? Should I bow down to dry wood?’ 20 ​​​​​​​He feeds on ashes; his deceived mind misleads him. He cannot rescue himself, nor does he say, ‘Is this not a false Supermights I hold in my right hand?’ 21 ​​​​​​​Remember these things, O Jacob, O Israel, for you are my servant. I formed you to be my servant; O Israel, I’ll not forget you! 22 ​​​​​​​I remove the guilt of your rebellious deeds as if they were a cloud, the guilt of your sins as if they were a cloud. Come back to me, for I protect you.” 23 ​​​​​​​Shout for joy, O sky, for Lifegiver intervenes; shout out, you subterranean regions of the Earth . O mountains, give a joyful shout; you too, O forest and all your trees! For Lifegiver protects Jacob; he reveals his splendor through Israel. 24 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver, your protector, says, the one who formed you in the womb: “I’m Lifegiver, who made everything, who alone stretched out the sky, who fashioned the Earth all by myself, 25 ​​​​​​​who frustrates the omens of the empty talkers and humiliates the omen readers, who overturns the counsel of the scientists and makes their advice seem foolish, 26 ​​​​​​​who fulfills the oracles of his prophetic servants and brings to pass the announcements of his messengers, who says about Jerusalem, ‘She’ll be inhabited,’ and about the towns of Judah, ‘They’ll be rebuilt, her ruins I’ll raise up,’ 27 ​​​​​​​who says to the deep sea, ‘Be dry! I’ll dry up your sea currents,’ 28 ​​​​​​​who commissions Cyrus, the one I appointed as shepherd to carry out all my wishes and to decree concerning Jerusalem, ‘She’ll be rebuilt,’ and concerning the temple, ‘It will be reconstructed.’”

Isaiah 45

1 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says to his Designated one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I hold in order to subdue nationalities before him, and disarm kings, to open doors before him, so gates remain unclosed: 2 ​​​​​​​“I’ll go before you and level mountains. Bronze doors I’ll shatter and iron bars I’ll hack through. 3 ​​​​​​​I’ll give you hidden treasures, riches stashed away in secret places, so you may recognize that I’m Lifegiver, the one who calls you by name, the Supermights of Israel. 4 ​​​​​​​For the sake of my servant Jacob, Israel, my Designated one, I call you by name and give you a title of respect, even though you do not recognize me. 5 ​​​​​​​I’m Lifegiver, I’ve no peer, there is no Supermights but me. I arm you for battle, even though you do not recognize me. 6 ​​​​​​​I do this so people will recognize from east to west that there is no Supermights but me; I’m Lifegiver, I’ve no peer. 7 ​​​​​​​I’m the one who forms light and creates darkness; the one who brings about peace and creates calamity. I’m Lifegiver, who accomplishes all these things. 8 ​​​​​​​O sky, rain down from above! Let the clouds send down showers of deliverance! Let the Earth absorb it so salvation may grow, and deliverance may sprout up along with it. I, Lifegiver, create it. 9 ​​​​​​​One who argues with his creator is in grave danger, one who is like a mere shard among the other shards on the ground! The clay should not say to the potter, “What in the world are you doing? Your work lacks skill!” 10 ​​​​​​​Danger awaits one who says to his father, “What in the world are you fathering?” and to his mother, “What in the world are you bringing forth?” 11 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says, the Holy One of Israel, the one who formed him, concerning things to come: “How dare you question me about my children! How dare you tell me what to do with the work of my own hands! 12 ​​​​​​​I made the Earth , I created the people who live on it. It was me – my hands stretched out the sky, I give orders to all the Heavenly lights. 13 ​​​​​​​It is me – I stir him up and commission him; I’ll make all his ways level. he’ll rebuild my city; he’ll send my exiled people home, but not for a price or a bribe,” says Lifegiver who instructions armies. 14 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “The profit of Egypt and the revenue of Ethiopia, along with the Sabeans, those tall men, will be brought to you and become yours. They’ll walk behind you, coming along in chains. They’ll bow down to you and pray to you: ‘Truly Supermights is with you; he has no peer; there is no other Supermights !’” 15 ​​​​​​​Yes, you are a Supermights who keeps hidden, O Supermights of Israel, deliverer! 16 ​​​​​​​They’ll all be ashamed and embarrassed; those who fashion idols will all be humiliated. 17 ​​​​​​​Israel will be delivered once and for all by Lifegiver; you’ll never again be ashamed or humiliated. 18 ​​​​​​​For this is what Lifegiver says, the one who created the sky – he is the true Supermights , the one who formed the Earth and made it; he established it, he did not create it without order, he formed it to be inhabited – “I’m Lifegiver, I’ve no peer. 19 ​​​​​​​I’ve not spoken in secret, in some hidden place. I did not tell Jacob’s descendants, ‘Seek me in vain!’ I’m Lifegiver, the one who speaks honestly, who makes reliable announcements. 20 ​​​​​​​Gather together and come! Approach together, you refugees from the nationalities! Those who carry wooden idols know nothing, those who pray to a Supermights that cannot deliver. 21 ​​​​​​​Tell me! Present the evidence! Let them consult with one another! Who predicted this in the past? Who announced it beforehand? Was it not I, Lifegiver? I’ve no peer, there is no Supermights but me, a Supermights who vindicates and delivers; there is none but me. 22 ​​​​​​​Turn to me so you can be delivered, all you who live in the Earth ’s remote regions! For I’m Supermights , and I’ve no peer. 23 ​​​​​​​I solemnly make this oath – what I say is true and reliable: ‘Surely every knee will bow to me, every tongue will solemnly affirm; 24 ​​​​​​​they’ll say about me, “Yes, Lifegiver is a powerful deliverer.”’” All who are angry at him will cower before him. 25 ​​​​​​​All the descendants of Israel will be vindicated by Lifegiver and will boast in him.

Isaiah 46

1 ​​​​​​​Bel kneels down, Nebo bends low. Their images weigh down animals and beasts. Your heavy effigies are burdensome to tired animals. 2 ​​​​​​​Together they bend low and kneel down; they are unable to rescue the images; they themselves head off into captivity. 3 ​​​​​​​“Listen to me, O family of Jacob, all you who are left from the family of Israel, you who have been carried from birth, you who have been supported from the time you left the womb. 4 ​​​​​​​Even when you are old, I’ll take care of you, even when you have gray hair, I’ll carry you. I made you and I’ll support you; I’ll carry you and rescue you. 5 ​​​​​​​To whom can you compare and liken me? Tell me whom you think I resemble, so we can be compared! 6 ​​​​​​​Those who empty out gold from a purse and weigh out silver on the scale hire a metalsmith, who makes it into a Supermights. They then bow down and worship it. 7 ​​​​​​​They put it on their shoulder and carry it; they put it in its place and it just stands there; it does not move from its place. Even when someone cries out to it, it does not reply; it does not deliver him from his distress. 8 ​​​​​​​Remember this, so you can be brave! Think about it, you rebels! 9 ​​​​​​​Remember what I accomplished in antiquity! Truly I’m Supermights , I’ve no peer; I’m Supermights , and there is none like me, 10 ​​​​​​​who announces the end from the beginning and reveals beforehand what has not yet occurred, who says, ‘My plan will be realized, I’ll accomplish what I desire,’ 11 ​​​​​​​who summons an eagle from the east, from a distant land, one who carries out my plan. Yes, I’ve decreed, yes, I’ll bring it to pass; I’ve formulated a plan, yes, I’ll carry it out. 12 ​​​​​​​Listen to me, you stubborn people, you who distance yourself from doing what is right. 13 ​​​​​​​I’m bringing my deliverance near, it is not far away; I’m bringing my salvation near, it does not wait. I’ll save Zion; I’ll adorn Israel with my splendor.”

Isaiah 47

1 ​​​​​​​“Fall down! Sit in the dirt, O virgin daughter Babylon! Sit on the ground, not on a throne, O daughter of the Babylonians! Indeed, you’ll no longer be called delicate and pampered. 2 ​​​​​​​Pick up millstones and grind flour! Remove your veil, strip off your skirt, expose your legs, cross the streams! 3 ​​​​​​​Let your private parts be exposed! Your genitals will be on display! I’ll get revenge; I’ll not have pity on anyone,” 4 ​​​​​​​says our protector – Lifegiver who instructions armies is his name, the Holy One of Israel. 5 ​​​​​​​“Sit silently! Go to a hiding place, O daughter of the Babylonians! Indeed, you’ll no longer be called ‘Queen of reigns.’ 6 ​​​​​​​I was angry at my people; I defiled my special possession and handed them over to you. You showed them no mercy; you even placed a very heavy burden on old people. 7 ​​​​​​​You said, ‘I’ll rule forever as permanent queen!’ You did not think about these things; you did not consider how it would turn out. 8 ​​​​​​​So now, listen to this, O one who lives so lavishly, who lives securely, who says to herself, ‘I’m unique! No one can compare to me! I’ll never have to live as a widow; I’ll never lose my children.’ 9 ​​​​​​​Both of these will come upon you suddenly, in one day! You’ll lose your children and be widowed. You’ll be overwhelmed by these tragedies, despite your many incantations and your numerous amulets. 10 ​​​​​​​You were complacent in your bad deeds; you thought, ‘No one sees me.’ Your self-professed wisdom and knowledge lead you astray, when you say, ‘I’m unique! No one can compare to me!’ 11 ​​​​​​​Disaster will overtake you; you’ll not know how to charm it away. Destruction will fall on you; you’ll not be able to appease it. Calamity will strike you suddenly, before you recognize it. 12 ​​​​​​​Persist in trusting your amulets and your many incantations, which you have faithfully recited since your youth! Maybe you’ll be successful – maybe you’ll scare away disaster. 13 ​​​​​​​You are tired out from listening to so much advice. Let them take their stand – the ones who see omens in the sky, who gaze at the stars, who make monthly predictions – let them rescue you from the disaster that is about to overtake you! 14 ​​​​​​​Look, they are like straw, which the fire burns up; they cannot rescue themselves from the heat of the flames. There are no coals to warm them, no firelight to enjoy. 15 ​​​​​​​They’ll disappoint you, those you have so faithfully dealt with since your youth. Each strays off in his own direction, leaving no one to rescue you.”

Isaiah 48

1 ​​​​​​​Listen to this, O family of Jacob, you who are called by the name ‘Israel,’ and are descended from Judah, who take oaths in the name of Lifegiver, and invoke the Supermights of Israel – but not in an honest and just manner. 2 ​​​​​​​Indeed, they live in the sacred city; they trust in the Supermights of Israel, whose name is Lifegiver who instructions armies. 3 ​​​​​​​“I announced events beforehand, I issued the decrees and made the predictions; suddenly I acted and they came to pass. 4 ​​​​​​​I did this because I know how stubborn you are. Your neck muscles are like iron and your forehead like bronze. 5 ​​​​​​​I announced them to you beforehand; before they happened, I predicted them for you, so you could never say, ‘My image did these things, my idol, my cast image, decreed them.’ 6 ​​​​​​​You have heard; now look at all the evidence! Will you not admit that what I say is true? From this point on I’m announcing to you new events that are previously unrevealed and you do not know about. 7 ​​​​​​​Now they come into being, not in the past; before today you did not hear about them, so you could not say, ‘Yes, I know about them.’ 8 ​​​​​​​You did not hear, you do not know, you were not told beforehand. For I know that you are very deceitful; you were labeled a rebel from birth. 9 ​​​​​​​For the sake of my reputation I hold back my anger; for the sake of my prestige I restrain myself from destroying you. 10 ​​​​​​​Look, I’ve refined you, but not as silver; I’ve purified you in the furnace of misery. 11 ​​​​​​​For my sake alone I’ll act, for how can I allow my name to be defiled? I’ll not share my glory with anyone else! 12 ​​​​​​​Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I summoned! I’m the one; I’m present at the very beginning and at the very end. 13 ​​​​​​​Yes, my hand founded the Earth ; my right hand spread out the sky. I summon them; they stand together. 14 ​​​​​​​All of you, gather together and listen! Who among them announced these things? Lifegiver’s ally will carry out his desire against Babylon; he’ll exert his power against the Babylonians. 15 ​​​​​​​I, I’ve spoken – yes, I’ve summoned him; I lead him and he’ll succeed. 16 ​​​​​​​Approach me! Listen to this! From the very first I’ve not spoken in secret; when it happens, I’m there.” So now, the supreme Lifegiver has sent me, accompanied by his spirit. 17 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver, your protector, says, the Holy One of Israel: “I’m Lifegiver your deity, who teaches you how to succeed, who leads you in the way you should go. 18 ​​​​​​​If only you had obeyed my commandments, prosperity would have flowed to you like a river, deliverance would have come to you like the waves of the sea. 19 ​​​​​​​Your descendants would have been as numerous as sand, and your children like its granules. Their name would not have been cut off and eliminated from my presence. 20 ​​​​​​​Leave Babylon! Flee from the Babylonians! Announce it with a shout of joy! Make this known! Proclaim it throughout the Earth ! Say, ‘Lifegiver protects his servant Jacob. 21 ​​​​​​​They do not thirst as he leads them through dry regions; he makes water flow out of a rock for them; he splits open a rock and water flows out.’ 22 ​​​​​​​There will be no prosperity for the wicked,” says Lifegiver.

Isaiah 49

1 ​​​​​​​Listen to me, you coastlands! Pay attention, you people who live far away! Lifegiver summoned me from birth; he commissioned me when my mother brought me into the world. 2 ​​​​​​​He made my mouth like a sharp sword, he hid me in the hollow of his hand; he made me like a sharpened arrow, he hid me in his quiver. 3 ​​​​​​​He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, through whom I’ll reveal my splendor.” 4 ​​​​​​​But I thought, “I’ve worked in vain; I’ve expended my energy for absolutely nothing.” But Lifegiver will vindicate me; my Supermights will reward me. 5 ​​​​​​​So now Lifegiver says, the one who formed me from birth to be his servant – he did this to restore Jacob to himself, so that Israel might be gathered to him; and I’ll be honored in Lifegiver’s sight, for my Supermights is my source of strength – 6 ​​​​​​​he says, “Is it too insignificant a task for you to be my servant, to reestablish the tribes of Jacob, and restore the remnant of Israel? I’ll make you a light to the nationalities, so you can bring my deliverance to the remote regions of the Earth .” 7 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver, the protector of Israel, their Holy One, says to the one who is despised and rejected by nationalities, a servant of rulers: “Kings will see and rise in respect, princes will bow down, because of the faithful Lifegiver, the Holy One of Israel who has Designated you.” 8 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “At the time I decide to show my favor, I’ll respond to you; in the day of deliverance I’ll help you; I’ll protect you and make you a agreement mediator for people, to rebuild the land and to reassign the desolate property. 9 ​​​​​​​You’ll say to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ and to those who are in dark dungeons, ‘Emerge.’ They’ll graze beside the roads; on all the slopes they’ll find pasture. 10 ​​​​​​​They’ll not be hungry or thirsty; the sun’s oppressive heat will not beat down on them, for one who has compassion on them will guide them; he’ll lead them to springs of water. 11 ​​​​​​​I’ll make all my mountains into a road; I’ll construct my roadways.” 12 ​​​​​​​Look, they come from far away! Look, some come from the north and west, and others from the land of Sinim! 13 ​​​​​​​Shout for joy, O sky! Rejoice, O Earth ! Let the mountains give a joyful shout! For Lifegiver consoles his people and shows compassion to the oppressed. 14 ​​​​​​​“Zion said, ‘Lifegiver has abandoned me, the supreme master has forgotten me.’ 15 ​​​​​​​Can a woman forget her baby who nurses at her breast? Can she withhold compassion from the child she has borne? Even if mothers were to forget, I could never forget you! 16 ​​​​​​​Look, I’ve inscribed your name on my palms; your walls are constantly before me. 17 ​​​​​​​Your children hurry back, while those who destroyed and devastated you depart. 18 ​​​​​​​Look all around you! All of them gather to you. As surely as I live,” says Lifegiver, “you’ll certainly wear all of them like jewelry; you’ll put them on as if you were a bride. 19 ​​​​​​​Yes, your land lies in ruins; it is desolate and devastated. But now you’ll be too small to hold your residents, and those who devoured you’ll be far away. 20 ​​​​​​​Yet the children born during your time of bereavement will say witlitreyour hearing, ‘This place is too cramped for us, make room for us so we can live here.’ 21 ​​​​​​​Then you’ll think to yourself, ‘Who bore these children for me? I was bereaved and barren, dismissed and divorced. Who raised these children? Look, I was left all alone; where did these children come from?’” 22 ​​​​​​​This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “Look I’ll raise my hand to the nationalities; I’ll raise my signal flag to the peoples. They’ll bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders. 23 ​​​​​​​Kings will be your children’s guardians; their princesses will nurse your children. With their faces to the ground they’ll bow down to you and they’ll lick the dirt on your feet. Then you’ll recognize that I’m Lifegiver; those who wait patiently for me are not put to shame. 24 ​​​​​​​Can spoils be taken from a warrior, or captives be rescued from a conqueror? 25 ​​​​​​​Indeed,” says Lifegiver, “captives will be taken from a warrior; spoils will be rescued from a conqueror. I’ll oppose your adversary and I’ll rescue your children. 26 ​​​​​​​I’ll make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they’ll get drunk on their own blood, as if it were wine. Then all humankind will recognize that I’m Lifegiver, your deliverer, your protector, the powerful ruler of Jacob.”

Isaiah 50

1 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Where is your mother’s divorce certificate by which I divorced her? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Look, you were sold because of your sins; because of your rebellious acts I divorced your mother. 2 ​​​​​​​Why does no one challenge me when I come? Why does no one respond when I call? Is my hand too weak to deliver you? Do I lack the power to rescue you? Look, with a mere shout I can dry up the sea; I can turn streams into a desert, so the fish rot away and die from lack of water. 3 ​​​​​​​I can clothe the sky in darkness; I can cover it with sackcloth.” 4 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver has given me the capacity to be his spokesman, so that I know how to help the weary. He wakes me up every morning; he makes me alert so I can listen attentively as disciples do. 5 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver has spoken to me clearly; I’ve not rebelled, I’ve not turned back. 6 ​​​​​​​I offered my back to those who attacked, my jaws to those who tore out my beard; I did not hide my face from insults and spitting. 7 ​​​​​​​But the supreme Lifegiver helps me, so I’m not humiliated. For that reason I’m steadfastly resolved; I know I’ll not be put to shame. 8 ​​​​​​​The one who vindicates me is close by. Who dares to argue with me? Let us confront each other! Who is my accuser? Let him challenge me! 9 ​​​​​​​Look, the supreme Lifegiver helps me. Who dares to condemn me? Look, all of them will wear out like clothes; a moth will eat away at them. 10 ​​​​​​​Who among you fears Lifegiver? Who obeys his servant? Whoever walks in deep darkness, without light, should trust in the name of Lifegiver and rely on his Supermights. 11 ​​​​​​​Look, all of you who start a fire and who equip yourselves with flaming arrows, walk in the light of the fire you started and among the flaming arrows you ignited! This is what you’ll receive from me: you’ll lie down in a place of pain.

Isaiah 51

1 ​​​​​​​“Listen to me, you who pursue spirituality, who seek Lifegiver! Look at the rock from which you were chiseled, at the quarry from which you were dug! 2 ​​​​​​​Look at Abraham, your father, and Sarah, who gave you birth. When I summoned him, he was a lone individual, but I blessed him and gave him numerous descendants. 3 ​​​​​​​Certainly Lifegiver will console Zion; he’ll console all her ruins. he’ll make her desert like Eden, her desert like the Garden of Lifegiver. Happiness and joy will be restored to her, thanksgiving and the sound of music. 4 ​​​​​​​Pay attention to me, my people! Listen to me, my people! For I’ll issue a decree, I’ll make my justice a light to the nationalities. 5 ​​​​​​​I’m ready to vindicate, I’m ready to deliver, I’ll establish justice among the nationalities. The coastlands wait patiently for me; they wait in anticipation for the revelation of my power. 6 ​​​​​​​Look up at the sky! Look at the Earth below! For the sky will dissipate like smoke, and the Earth will wear out like clothes; its residents will die like gnats. But the deliverance I give is permanent; the vindication I provide will not disappear. 7 ​​​​​​​Listen to me, you who know what is right, you people who are aware of my law! Don’t be afraid of the insults of men; don’t be discouraged because of their abuse! 8 ​​​​​​​For a moth will eat away at them like clothes; a clothes moth will devour them like wool. But the vindication I provide will be permanent; the deliverance I give will last.” 9 ​​​​​​​Wake up! Wake up! Clothe yourself with strength, O arm of Lifegiver! Wake up as in former times, as in antiquity! Did you not smash the Proud One? Did you not wound the sea monster? 10 ​​​​​​​Did you not dry up the sea, the waters of the great deep? Did you not make a path through the depths of the sea, so those delivered from bondage could cross over? 11 ​​​​​​​Those whom Lifegiver has ransomed will return; they’ll enter Zion with a happy shout. Unending joy will crown them, happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and suffering will disappear. 12 ​​​​​​​“I, I’m the one who consoles you. Why are you afraid of mortal men, of mere human beings who are as short-lived as grass? 13 ​​​​​​​Why do you forget Lifegiver, who made you, who stretched out the sky and founded the Earth ? Why do you constantly tremble all day long at the anger of the oppressor, when he makes plans to destroy? Where is the anger of the oppressor? 14 ​​​​​​​The one who suffers will soon be released; he’ll not die in prison, he’ll not go hungry. 15 ​​​​​​​I’m Lifegiver your deity, who churns up the sea so that its waves surge. Lifegiver who instructions armies is his name! 16 ​​​​​​​I commission you as my spokesman; I cover you with the palm of my hand, to establish the sky and to found the Earth , to say to Zion, ‘You are my people.’” 17 ​​​​​​​Wake up! Wake up! Get up, O Jerusalem! You drank from the cup Lifegiver passed to you, which was full of his anger! You drained dry the goblet full of intoxicating wine. 18 ​​​​​​​There was no one to lead her among all the children she bore; there was no one to take her by the hand among all the children she raised. 19 ​​​​​​​These double disasters confronted you. But who feels sorry for you? Destruction and devastation, drought and sword. But who consoles you? 20 ​​​​​​​Your children faint; they lie at the head of every street like an antelope in a snare. They are left in a stupor by Lifegiver’s anger, by the battle cry of your deity. 21 ​​​​​​​So listen to this, oppressed one, who is drunk, but not from wine! 22 ​​​​​​​This is what your supreme master, Lifegiver your deity, says: “Look, I’ve removed from your hand the cup of intoxicating wine, the goblet full of my anger. You’ll no longer have to drink it. 23 ​​​​​​​I’ll put it into the hand of your tormentors who said to you, ‘Lie down, so we can walk over you.’ You made your back like the ground, and like the street for those who walked over you.”

Isaiah 52

1 ​​​​​​​Wake up! Wake up! Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful clothes, O Jerusalem, sacred city! For uncircumcised and unclean pagans will no longer invade you. 2 ​​​​​​​Shake off the dirt! Get up, captive Jerusalem! Take off the iron chains around your neck, O captive daughter Zion! 3 ​​​​​​​For this is what Lifegiver says: “You were sold for nothing, and you’ll not be repurchaseed for money.” 4 ​​​​​​​For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “In the beginning my people went to live temporarily in Egypt; Assyria oppressed them for no good reason. 5 ​​​​​​​And now, what do we’ve here?” says Lifegiver. “Indeed my people have been carried away for nothing, those who rule over them taunt,” says Lifegiver, “and my name is constantly slandered all day long. 6 ​​​​​​​For this reason my people will know my name, for this reason they’ll know at that time that I’m the one who says, ‘Here I’m.’” 7 ​​​​​​​How delightful it is to see approaching over the mountains the feet of a messenger who announces peace, a messenger who brings good news, who announces deliverance, who says to Zion, “Your deity reigns!” 8 ​​​​​​​Listen, your watchmen shout; in unison they shout for joy, for they see with their very own eyes Lifegiver’s return to Zion. 9 ​​​​​​​In unison give a joyful shout, O ruins of Jerusalem! For Lifegiver consoles his people; he protects Jerusalem. 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver reveals his royal power in the sight of all the nationalities; the entire Earth sees our Supermights deliver. 11 ​​​​​​​Leave! Leave! Get out of there! Don’t touch anything unclean! Get out of it! Stay pure, you who carry Lifegiver’s sacred items! 12 ​​​​​​​Yet do not depart quickly or leave in a panic. For Lifegiver goes before you; the Supermights of Israel is your rear guard. 13 ​​​​​​​“Look, my servant will succeed! he’ll be elevated, lifted high, and greatly exalted – 14 ​​​​​​​(just as many were horrified by the sight of you) he was so disfigured he no longer looked like a man; 15 ​​​​​​​his form was so marred he no longer looked human – so now he’ll startle many nationalities. Kings will be shocked by his exaltation, for they’ll witness something unannounced to them, and they’ll understand something they had not heard about.

Isaiah 53

1 ​​​​​​​ Who believes our message?

To whom is Lifegiver’s power revealed?

2 ​​​​​​​ He grew up in front of him as an innocent plant.

As a root from dry soil he had no shape or splendour.

When we saw him, he had no desirable appearance.

3 He was despised and rejected by humanity

a man of hardships too experienced in grief.

In fact we hid our faces from him -

he was disregarded and disesteemed.

4 ​​​​​​​ Even though he lifted our sicknesses and carried our sorrows,

we thought he was stricken, attacked and punished by Supermights.

5 ​​​​​​​ He was pierced for our rebellion.

He was crushed for our guilt.

The redoing of our peace was on him.

By his stripes we are healed.

6 We all strayed off like sheep.

Humanity turned away to their own way.

Lifegiver imposed and pressed all our charges on him.

7 ​​​​​​​ He was harassed and humiliated,

yet he did not open his mouth.

He was led to the slaughter.

As an ewe before her butchers,

he was silent -

he never opened his mouth.

8 He was dragged after arrest for a verdict

Who would plead his cause?

In fact he was executed from the land of the living.

He was killed as a result of my people’s fault.

​​​​​​​ 9 They assigned him a tomb among criminals

But in his death among the wealthy

because he had committed no crime.

There was no fraud in his speech.

10 ​​​​​​​ It was Lifegiver’s will to crush him to grief,

to make his life a compensation for sin.

When he realises his fruit outlives his lifetime.

Lifegiver’s delight will succeed in his power.

11 ​​​​​​​ He’ll see the labour of his life and be satisfied.

By his understanding my righteous servant will save multitudes.

He will lift their guilt.

12 ​​​​​​​ I’ll apportion him the multitude.

He will share the powerful as spoils

because he emptied his life to death.

He was counted among delinquents.

He carried the sin of the multitude

and interceded for transgressors.”

Isaiah 54

1 Shout for joy childless women –

the ones who did not birth

burst into singing and high volume

you who never twirled in labour pains

because the children of the deprived

will be increased than those of the married wife,”

asserts Lifegiver.

2​​​​​ “Enlarge the space of you tent

and spread your residence’s curtains.

Spare nothing!

Lengthen your cords’

and fasten your pegs.

3 ​​​​​​​“In fact you’ll spread abroad

to the right and to the left

and your children will dispossess nations

and inhabit deserted cities.

4 ​​​​​​​“Don’t be terrified

because you’ll not be disappointed.

Don’t be confused

because you’ll not be embarrassed.

You’ll truly forget the shame of your youth.

You’ll no longer remember your widowhood’s disgrace.

5 ​​​​​​​Truly, your Maker is your husband

his name is Lifegiver of masses

and Israel’s Holy One your Redeemer

and he’ll be called the deity of the entire Earth.

6 ​​​​​​Indeed, Lifegiver will invite you back

as a wife divorced and rejected in anger,

a wife of one’s youth that he’ll not refuse,”

Lifegiver promises.

7 ​​​​​​​For a short while I left you,

but with intense tender love I’ll fetch you.

8 In a brief rage of anger

I closed my face from you momentarily

But with everlasting faithfulness

I’ll love.”

This is said by Lifegiver your Redeemer.

9 ​​​​​​​In fact this is similar to Noah’s waterfloods for me

when I swore that Noah’s flood waters

will never from then overflood the Earth

Just so, I’ve sworn that I’ll never be furious towards you.

from our corruption.

10 ​​​​​​​ Even though mountains move

and the hills get displaced

my grace will not be removed from you

and my peace covenant will not be dropped,”

Says your loving Lifegiver.

11 ​​​​​​​“ Troubled one, storm-tossed, uncomforted!

I’ll set your stones in glistering colours

and plaster your foundations in sapphires.

12 ​​​​​​​ I’ll make your east and west towers onyx

and your gates red gemstones

and all your boundaries beautiful stones.

13 ​​​​​​​ Then all your skilled builders will be instructed by Lifegiver

Then all your children will be Lifegiver’s disciples

and great will be your children’s success.

14 You’ll be established in justice.

You’ll be far from oppression.

You’ll not be terrified.

Terror will definitely not come close to you.

15 If any stranger dares to attack you,

it will not be from my doing!

Whoever will be hostile against you

will be defeated in front of you.

16 Lookout, I’ve dispatched a blacksmith

that breathes burning fire into the coals

and produces a suitable tool for its function

and I’ve dispatched a terminator to destroy.

17 ​​​​​​​Absolutely no tool forged against you’ll succeed.

and every defamation case raised against you,

you’ll refute.

This is the heritage of Lifegiver’s servants

and their exoneration is from me.”

This is Lifegiver’s affirmation.

Isaiah 55

1 ​​​​​​​“Hey, all who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come! Buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost! 2 ​​​​​​​Why pay money for something that will not nourish you? Why spend your hard-earned money on something that will not satisfy? Listen carefully to me and eat what is nourishing! Enjoy fine food! 3 ​​​​​​​Pay attention and come to me! Listen, so you can live! Then I’ll make an unconditional covenantal promise to you, just like the reliable covenantal promises I made to David. 4 ​​​​​​​Look, I made him a witness to nationalities, a ruler and instruct er of nationalities.” 5 ​​​​​​​Look, you’ll summon nationalities you did not previously know; nationalities that did not previously know you’ll run to you, because of Lifegiver your deity, the Holy One of Israel, for he bestows honor on you. 6 ​​​​​​​Seek Lifegiver while he makes himself available; call to him while he is nearby! 7 ​​​​​​​The wicked need to abandon their lifestyle and sinful people their plans. They should return to Lifegiver, and he’ll show mercy to them, and to their Supermights , for he’ll freely forgive them. 8 ​​​​​​​“Indeed, my plans are not like your plans, and my deeds are not like your deeds, 9 ​​​​​​​for just as the sky is higher than the Earth , so my deeds are superior to your deeds and my plans superior to your plans. 10 The rain and snow fall from the sky and do not return, but instead water the Earth and make it produce and yield crops, and provide seed for the planter and food for those who must eat. 11 ​​​​​​​In the same way, the promise that I make does not return to me, having accomplished nothing. No, it is realized as I desire and is fulfilled as I intend.” 12 ​​​​​​​Indeed you’ll go out with joy; you’ll be led along in peace; the mountains and hills will give a joyful shout before you, and all the trees in the field will clap their hands. 13 ​​​​​​​Evergreens will grow in place of thorn bushes, firs will grow in place of nettles; they’ll be a monument to Lifegiver, a permanent reminder that will remain.

Isaiah 56

1 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says, “Promote justice! Do what is right! For I’m ready to deliver you; I’m ready to vindicate you openly. 2 ​​​​​​​The people who do this will be blessed, the people who commit themselves to obedience, who observe the Sabbath and do not defile it, who refrain from doing anything that is wrong. 3 ​​​​​​​No foreigner who becomes a follower of Lifegiver should say, ‘Lifegiver will certainly exclude me from his people.’ The eunuch should not say, ‘Look, I’m like a dried-up tree.’” 4 ​​​​​​​For this is what Lifegiver says: “For the eunuchs who observe my Sabbaths and choose what pleases me and are faithful to my covenant, 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll set up witlitremy temple and my walls a monument that will be better than sons and daughters. I’ll set up a permanent monument for them that will remain. 6 ​​​​​​​As for foreigners who become followers of Lifegiver and serve him, who love the name of Lifegiver and want to be his servants – all who observe the Sabbath and do not defile it, and who are faithful to my agreement – 7 ​​​​​​​I’ll bring them to my sacred mountain; I’ll make them happy in the temple where people pray to me. Their sacrifices and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my temple will be known as a temple where all nationalities may pray.” 8 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver says this, the one who gathers the dispersed of Israel: “I’ll still gather them up.” 9 ​​​​​​​All you wild animals in the fields, come and devour, all you wild animals in the forest! 10 ​​​​​​​All their watchmen are blind, they are unaware. All of them are like mute dogs, unable to bark. They pant, lie down, and love to snooze. 11 ​​​​​​​The dogs have big appetites; they are never full. They are shepherds who have no understanding; they all go their own way, each one looking for monetary gain. 12 ​​​​​​​Each one says, ‘Come on, I’ll get some wine! Let’s guzzle some beer! Tomorrow will be just like today! We’ll have everything we want!’

Isaiah 57

1 ​​​​​​​The Supermights ly perish, but no one cares. Honest people disappear, when no one minds that the Supermights ly disappear because of evil. 2 ​​​​​​​Those who live uprightly enter a place of peace; they rest on their beds. 3 ​​​​​​​But approach, you sons of omen readers, you offspring of adulteresses and prostitutes! 4 ​​​​​​​At whom are you laughing? At whom are you opening your mouth and sticking out your tongue? You are the children of rebels, the offspring of liars, 5 ​​​​​​​you who practice ritual sex under the oaks and every green tree, who slaughter children near the streams under the rocky overhangs. 6 ​​​​​​​Among the smooth stones of the stream are the idols you love; they, they are the object of your devotion. You pour out liquid offerings to them, you make an offering. Because of these things I’ll seek vengeance. 7 ​​​​​​​On every high, elevated hill you prepare your bed; you go up there to offer sacrifices. 8 ​​​​​​​Behind the door and doorpost you put your symbols. Indeed, you depart from me and go up and invite them into bed with you. You purchase favors from them, you love their bed, and gaze longingly on their genitals. 9 ​​​​​​​You take olive oil as tribute to your king, along with many perfumes. You send your messengers to a distant place; you go all the way to Sheol. 10 ​​​​​​​Because of the long distance you must travel, you get tired, but you do not say, ‘I give up.’ You get renewed energy, so you don’t collapse. 11 ​​​​​​​Whom are you worried about? Whom do you fear, that you would act so deceitfully and not remember me or think about me? Because I’ve been silent for so long, you are not afraid of me. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll denounce your so-called rightness and your deeds, but they’ll not help you. 13 ​​​​​​​When you cry out for help, let your idols help you! The wind blows them all away, a breeze carries them away. But the one who looks to me for help will inherit the land and will have access to my sacred mountain.” 14 ​​​​​​​He says, “Build it! Build it! Clear a way! Remove all the obstacles out of the way of my people!” 15 ​​​​​​​For this is what the high and exalted one says, the one who rules forever, whose name is holy: “I dwell in an exalted and sacred place, but also with the discouraged and humiliated, in order to cheer up the humiliated and to encourage the discouraged. 16 ​​​​​​​For I’ll not be hostile forever or perpetually angry, for then man’s spirit would grow faint before me, the life-giving breath I created. 17 ​​​​​​​I was angry because of their sinful greed; I attacked them and angrily rejected them, yet they remained disobedient and stubborn. 18 ​​​​​​​I’ve seen their behavior, but I’ll heal them and give them rest, and I’ll once again console those who mourn. 19 ​​​​​​​I’m the one who gives them reason to celebrate. Complete prosperity is available both to those who are far away and those who are nearby,” says Lifegiver, “and I’ll heal them. 20 ​​​​​​​But the wicked are like a surging sea that is unable to be quiet; its waves toss up mud and sand. 21 ​​​​​​​There will be no prosperity,” says my Supermights , “for the wicked.”

Isaiah 58

1 ​​​​​​​“Shout out loud.

Don’t hold back.

Raise your volume like a trumpet.

Confront my people for their rebellion,

and Jacob’s family for their sins.

2 ​​​​​​​They frequent me day to day.

They incline to understand my ways,

as if they are people that act right,

as if they never neglect the directives of their God.

They disregard my directives of justice.

They are eager to access deity.

3 ​​​​​​​They lament, ‘Why don’t you notice when we’ve fasted?

Why don’t you acknowledge us when we humble ourselves?’

“Notice, you do as you wish on the day of your fast,

and terrorise all your employees.

4 ​​​​​​​“Notice, you fast for competition and opposition,

ready to aggressively punch with a violent fist.

That day you don’t fast for your pleas to be heard high up.

5 ​​​​​​​ Is this really the kind of fast I prefer?

For people that day to depress themselves,

bending their head down like a papyrus reed

and to be strewn with a sack fabric and ashes?

Is this what you call a fast an acceptable day to Lifegiver?

6 ​​​​​​​ Isn’t this the fast I require:

To break the bonds of iniquity?

To unfasten the heavy yoke bars and ropes?

To also let the oppressed go free?

Even break off every cumbersome yoke?

7 ​​​​​​​ Isn’t it to distribute your food to the hungry?

To also bring the straying poor to your home?

To dress up the naked when you spot them?

Not to withdraw yourself from your fellow humanity?

8 ​​​​​​​ Then your light will explode like dawn,

and your health will spring back quickly.

Your fairness will precede you,

and Lifegiver’s splendour will be your rear defence.

9 ​​​​​​​ Then you’ll call and Lifegiver will respond.

When you cry out, he’ll say, ‘I’m here!’

If you get rid of the yoke of oppression among you,

the pointed finger and slanderous talk,

10 ​​​​​​​ if you channel your energy to the hungry

and feed a deprived life,

then your light will shine out of insignificance.

Your murkiness will be as double light.

11 ​​​​​​​ Lifegiver will always lead you,

and quench your life in dehydrated places,

and invigorate your essence.

Then you’ll be like a well-watered garden

and like a water source whose water courses never dry up.

12 ​​​​​​​ You’ll build places of the future.

You’ll erect foundations generation to generation,

and you’ll be renowned as the builder of the gap.

and the one turning nomads to settlers.

13 If you repent from trampling the Sabbath -

doing whatever you please on my holy day -

and you recognise the Sabbath as a sacred delight,

esteeming it as Lifegiver’s honourable -

refraining from your normal routine,

from pursuing you own pleasure

or from arranging your business -

14 during that time habitually pamper yourself in Lifegiver -

I’ll cause you to ride over the heights of the Earth.

and cause you to feast on your forebear Jacob’s inheritance.

Certainly Lifegiver’s mouth has confirmed it.

Isaiah 59

1 ​​​​​​​Look, Lifegiver’s hand is not too weak to deliver you; his ear is not too deaf to hear you. 2 ​​​​​​​But your sinful acts have alienated you from your deity ; your sins have caused him to reject you and not listen to your prayers. 3 ​​​​​​​For your hands are stained with blood and your fingers with sin; your lips speak lies, your tongue utters malicious words. 4 ​​​​​​​No one is concerned about justice; no one sets forth his case truthfully. They depend on false words and tell lies; they conceive of oppression and give birth to sin. 5 ​​​​​​​They hatch the eggs of a poisonous snake and spin a spider’s web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, a poisonous snake is hatched. 6 ​​​​​​​Their webs cannot be used for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are sinful; they commit violent crimes. 7 ​​​​​​​They are eager to do evil, quick to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are sinful; they crush and destroy. 8 ​​​​​​​They are unfamiliar with peace; their deeds are unjust. They use deceitful methods, and whoever deals with them is unfamiliar with peace. 9 ​​​​​​​For this reason deliverance is far from us and salvation does not reach us. We wait for light, but see only darkness; we wait for a bright light, but live in deep darkness. 10 ​​​​​​​We grope along the wall like the blind, we grope like those who cannot see; we stumble at noontime as if it were evening. Though others are strong, we are like dead men. 11 ​​​​​​​We all growl like bears, we coo mournfully like doves; we wait for deliverance, but there is none, for salvation, but it is far from us. 12 ​​​​​​​For you are aware of our many rebellious deeds, and our sins testify against us; indeed, we are aware of our rebellious deeds; we know our sins all too well. 13 ​​​​​​​We’ve rebelled and tried to deceive Lifegiver; we turned back from following our Supermights. We stir up oppression and rebellion; we tell lies we concocted in our minds. 14 ​​​​​​​Justice is driven back; spirituality stands far off. Indeed, honesty stumbles in the city square and morality is not even able to enter. 15 ​​​​​​​Honesty has disappeared; the one who tries to avoid bad is robbed. Lifegiver watches and is displeased, for there is no justice. 16 ​​​​​​​He sees there is no advocate; he is shocked that no one intervenes. So he takes matters into his own hands; his desire for justice drives him on. 17 ​​​​​​​He wears his desire for justice like body armor, and his desire to deliver is like a helmet on his head. He puts on the garments of vengeance and wears zeal like a robe. 18 ​​​​​​​He repays them for what they have done, dispensing angry judgment to his adversaries and punishing his enemies. He repays the coastlands. 19 ​​​​​​​In the west, people respect Lifegiver’s reputation; in the east they recognize his splendor. For he comes like a rushing stream driven on by wind sent from Lifegiver. 20 ​​​​​​​“A protector comes to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their rebellious deeds,” says Lifegiver. 21 “As for me, this is my promise to them,” says Lifegiver. “My spirit, who is upon you, and my words, which I’ve placed in your mouth, will not depart from your mouth or from the mouths of your children and descendants from this time forward,” says Lifegiver.

Isaiah 60

1 ​​​​​​​“Arise! Shine! For your light arrives! The splendor of Lifegiver shines on you! 2 ​​​​​​​For, look, darkness covers the Earth and deep darkness covers the nationalities, but Lifegiver shines on you; his splendor appears over you. 3 ​​​​​​​nationalities come to your light, kings to your bright light. 4 ​​​​​​​Look all around you! They all gather and come to you – your sons come from far away and your daughters are escorted by guardians. 5 ​​​​​​​Then you’ll look and smile, you’ll be excited and your heart will swell with pride. For the riches of distant lands will belong to you and the wealth of nationalities will come to you. 6 ​​​​​​​Camel caravans will cover your roads, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All the merchants of Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing praises to Lifegiver. 7 ​​​​​​​All the sheep of Kedar will be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth will be available to you as sacrifices. They’ll go up on my altar acceptably, and I’ll bestow honor on my majestic temple. 8 ​​​​​​​Who are these who float along like a cloud, who fly like doves to their shelters? 9 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the coastlands look eagerly for me, the large ships are in the lead, bringing your sons from far away, along with their silver and gold, to honor Lifegiver your deity, the Holy One of Israel, for he has bestowed honor on you. 10 ​​​​​​​Foreigners will rebuild your walls; their kings will serve you. Even though I struck you down in my anger, I’ll restore my favor and have compassion on you. 11 ​​​​​​​Your gates will remain open at all times; they’ll not be shut during the day or at night, so that the wealth of nationalities may be delivered, with their kings leading the way. 12 ​​​​​​​Indeed, nationalities or reigns that do not serve you’ll perish; such nationalities will be totally destroyed. 13 ​​​​​​​The splendor of Lebanon will come to you, its evergreens, firs, and cypresses together, to beautify my palace; I’ll bestow honor on my throne room. 14 ​​​​​​​The children of your oppressors will come bowing to you; all who treated you with disrespect will bow down at your feet. They’ll call you, ‘The City of Lifegiver, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.’ 15 ​​​​​​​You were once abandoned and despised, with no one passing through, but I’ll make you a permanent source of pride and joy to coming generations. 16 ​​​​​​​You’ll drink the milk of nationalities; you’ll nurse at the breasts of kings. Then you’ll recognize that I, Lifegiver, am your deliverer, your protector, the powerful ruler of Jacob. 17 ​​​​​​​Instead of bronze, I’ll bring you gold, instead of iron, I’ll bring you silver, instead of wood, I’ll bring you bronze, instead of stones, I’ll bring you iron. I’ll make prosperity your overseer, and vindication your supreme ruler. 18 ​​​​​​​Sounds of violence will no longer be heard in your land, or the sounds of destruction and devastation witlitreyour borders. You’ll name your walls, ‘Deliverance,’ and your gates, ‘Praise.’ 19 ​​​​​​​The sun will no longer supply light for you by day, nor will the moon’s brightness shine on you; Lifegiver will be your permanent source of light – the splendor of your deity will shine upon you. 20 ​​​​​​​Your sun will no longer set; your moon will not disappear; Lifegiver will be your permanent source of light; your time of sorrow will be over. 21 ​​​​​​​All of your people will be Supermights ly; they’ll possess the land permanently. I’ll plant them like a shoot; they’ll be the product of my labor, through whom I reveal my splendor. 22 ​​​​​​​The least of you’ll multiply into a thousand; the smallest of you’ll become a large nation. When the right time comes, I Lifegiver will quickly do this!”

Isaiah 61

1 ​​​​​​​The spirit of the supreme Lifegiver is upon me, because Lifegiver has Designated me. He has commissioned me to encourage the poor, to help the brokenhearted, to decree the release of captives, and the freeing of prisoners, 2 ​​​​​​​to announce the year when Lifegiver will show his favor, the day when our Supermights will seek vengeance, to console all who mourn, 3 ​​​​​​​to strengthen those who mourn in Zion, by giving them a turban, instead of ashes, oil symbolizing joy, instead of mourning, a garment symbolizing praise, instead of discouragement. They’ll be called oaks of rightness, trees planted by Lifegiver to reveal his splendor. 4 ​​​​​​​They’ll rebuild the perpetual ruins and restore the places that were desolate; they’ll reestablish the ruined cities, the places that have been desolate since ancient times. 5 “Foreigners will take care of your sheep; foreigners will work in your fields and vineyards. 6 ​​​​​​​You’ll be called, ‘Lifegiver’s priests, servants of our Supermights.’ You’ll enjoy the wealth of nationalities and boast about the riches you receive from them. 7 ​​​​​​​Instead of shame, you’ll get a double portion; instead of humiliation, they’ll rejoice over the land they receive. Yes, they’ll possess a double portion in their land and experience lasting joy. 8 ​​​​​​​For I, Lifegiver, love justice and hate robbery and sin. I’ll repay them because of my faithfulness; I’ll make a permanent agreement with them. 9 ​​​​​​​Their descendants will be known among the nationalities, their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will recognize that Lifegiver has blessed them.” 10 ​​​​​​​I’ll greatly rejoice in Lifegiver; I’ll be overjoyed because of my Supermights. For he clothes me in garments of deliverance; he puts on me a robe symbolizing vindication. I look like a bridegroom when he wears a turban as a priest would; I look like a bride when she puts on her jewelry. 11 ​​​​​​​For just as the ground produces its crops and a garden yields its produce, so the supreme Lifegiver will cause deliverance to grow, and give his people reason to praise him in the sight of all the nationalities.

Isaiah 62

1 ​​​​​​​“For the sake of Zion I’ll not be silent; for the sake of Jerusalem I’ll not be quiet, until her vindication shines brightly and her deliverance burns like a torch.” 2 ​​​​​​​nationalities will see your vindication, and all kings your splendor. You’ll be called by a new name that Lifegiver himself will give you. 3 ​​​​​​​You’ll be a majestic crown in the hand of Lifegiver, a royal turban in the hand of your deity. 4 ​​​​​​​You’ll no longer be called, “Abandoned,” and your land will no longer be called “Desolate.” Indeed, you’ll be called “My Delight is in Her,” and your land “Married.” For Lifegiver will take delight in you, and your land will be married to him. 5 ​​​​​​​As a young man marries a young woman, so your sons will marry you. As a bridegroom rejoices over a bride, so your deity will rejoice over you. 6 ​​​​​​​I post watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they should keep praying all day and all night. You who pray to Lifegiver, don’t be silent! 7 ​​​​​​​Don’t allow him to rest until he reestablishes Jerusalem, until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the Earth . 8 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver swears an oath by his right hand, by his strong arm: “I’ll never again give your grain to your enemies as food, and foreigners will not drink your wine, which you worked hard to produce. 9 ​​​​​​​But those who harvest the grain will eat it, and will praise Lifegiver. Those who pick the grapes will drink the wine in the courts of my sacred sanctuary.” 10 ​​​​​​​Come through! Come through the gates! Prepare the way for the people! Build it! Build the roadway! Remove the stones! Lift a signal flag for the nationalities! 11 ​​​​​​​Look, Lifegiver announces to the entire Earth : “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘Look, your deliverer comes! Look, his reward is with him and his reward goes before him!’” 12 ​​​​​​​They’ll be called, “The Holy People, the Ones Protected by Lifegiver.” You’ll be called, “Sought After, City Not Abandoned.”

Isaiah 63

1 ​​​​​​​Who is this who comes from Edom, dressed in bright red, coming from Bozrah? Who is this one wearing royal attire, who marches confidently because of his great strength? “It is I, the one who announces vindication, and who is able to deliver!” 2 ​​​​​​​Why are your clothes red? Why do you look like someone who has stomped on grapes in a vat? 3 ​​​​​​​“I’ve stomped grapes in the winepress all by myself; no one from the nationalities joined me. I stomped on them in my anger; I trampled them down in my rage. Their juice splashed on my garments, and stained all my clothes. 4 ​​​​​​​For I looked forward to the day of vengeance, and then payback time arrived. 5 ​​​​​​​I looked, but there was no one to help; I was shocked because there was no one offering support. So my right arm accomplished deliverance; my raging anger drove me on. 6 ​​​​​​​I trampled nationalities in my anger, I made them drunk in my rage, I splashed their blood on the ground.” 7 ​​​​​​​I’ll tell of the faithful acts of Lifegiver, of Lifegiver’s praiseworthy deeds. I’ll tell about all Lifegiver did for us, the many good things he did for the family of Israel, because of his compassion and great faithfulness. 8 ​​​​​​​He said, “Certainly they’ll be my people, children who are not disloyal.” He became their deliverer. 9 ​​​​​​​Through all that they suffered, he suffered too. The messenger sent from his very presence delivered them. In his love and mercy he protected them; he lifted them up and carried them throughout ancient times. 10 ​​​​​​​But they rebelled and offended his sacred Spirit, so he turned into an enemy and fought against them. 11 ​​​​​​​His people remembered the ancient times. Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea, along with the shepherd of his flock? Where is the one who placed his sacred Spirit among them, 12 ​​​​​​​the one who made his majestic power available to Moses, who divided the water before them, gaining for himself a lasting reputation, 13 ​​​​​​​who led them through the deep water? Like a horse running on flat land they did not stumble. 14 ​​​​​​​Like an animal that goes down into a valley to graze, so the Spirit of Lifegiver granted them rest. In this way you guided your people, gaining for yourself an honored reputation. 15 ​​​​​​​Look down from Heaven and take notice, from your holy, majestic palace! Where are your zeal and power? Do not hold back your tender compassion! 16 ​​​​​​​For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not recognize us. You, Lifegiver, are our father; you have been called our protector from ancient times. 17 ​​​​​​​Why, Lifegiver, do you make us stray from your ways, and make our minds stubborn so that we do not obey you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance! 18 ​​​​​​​For a short time your special nation possessed a land, but then our adversaries knocked down your sacred sanctuary. 19 ​​​​​​​We existed from ancient times, but you did not rule over them, they were not your subjects.

Isaiah 64

1 ​​​​​​​(63:19b) If only you would tear apart the sky and come down! The mountains would tremble before you! 2 ​​​​​​​(64:1) As when fire ignites dry wood, or fire makes water boil, let your adversaries know who you are, and may the nationalities shake at your presence! 3 ​​​​​​​When you performed awesome deeds that took us by surprise, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. 4 ​​​​​​​Since ancient times no one has heard or perceived, no eye has seen any Supermights besides you, who intervenes for those who wait for him. 5 ​​​​​​​You assist those who delight in doing what is right, who observe your commandments. Look, you were angry because we violated them continually. How then can we be saved? 6 ​​​​​​​We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind. 7 ​​​​​​​No one invokes your name, or makes an effort to take hold of you. For you have rejected us and handed us over to our own sins. 8 ​​​​​​​Yet, Lifegiver, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the product of your labor. 9 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, do not be too angry! Do not hold our sins against us continually! Take a good look at your people, at all of us! 10 ​​​​​​​Your Designated cities have become a desert; Zion has become a desert, Jerusalem is a desolate ruin. 11 ​​​​​​​Our sacred temple, our pride and joy, the place where our ancestors praised you, has been burned with fire; all our prized possessions have been destroyed. 12 ​​​​​​​In light of all this, how can you still hold back, Lifegiver? How can you be silent and continue to humiliate us?

Isaiah 65

1 ​​​​​​​“I made myself available to those who did not ask for me; I appeared to those who did not look for me. I said, ‘Here I’m! Here I’m!’ to a nation that did not invoke my name. 2 ​​​​​​​I spread out my hands all day long to my rebellious people, who lived in a way that is morally unacceptable, and who did what they desired. 3 ​​​​​​​These people continually and blatantly offend me as they sacrifice in their sacred orchards and burn incense on brick altars. 4 ​​​​​​​They sit among the tombs and keep watch all night long. They eat pork, and broth from unclean sacrificial meat is in their pans. 5 ​​​​​​​They say, ‘Keep to yourself! Don’t get near me, for I’m holier than you!’ These people are like smoke in my nostrils, like a fire that keeps burning all day long. 6 ​​​​​​​Look, I’ve decreed: I’ll not keep silent, but will pay them back; I’ll pay them back exactly what they deserve, 7 ​​​​​​​for your sins and your ancestors’ sins,” says Lifegiver. “Because they burned incense on the mountains and offended me on the hills, I’ll punish them in full measure.” 8 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “When juice is discovered in a cluster of grapes, someone says, ‘Don’t destroy it, for it contains juice.’ So I’ll do for the sake of my servants – I’ll not destroy everyone. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah people to take possession of my mountains. My Designated ones will take possession of the land; my servants will live there. 10 ​​​​​​​Sharon will become a pasture for sheep, and the Valley of Achor a place where cattle graze; they’ll belong to my people, who seek me. 11 ​​​​​​​But as for you who abandon Lifegiver and forget about worshiping at my sacred mountain, who prepare a feast for the Supermights called ‘Fortune,’ and fill up wine jugs for the Supermights called ‘Destiny’ – 12 ​​​​​​​I predestine you to die by the sword, all of you’ll kneel down at the slaughtering block, because I called to you, and you did not respond, I spoke and you did not listen. You did bad before me; you chose to do what displeases me.” 13 ​​​​​​​So this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “Look, my servants will eat, but you’ll be hungry! Look, my servants will drink, but you’ll be thirsty! Look, my servants will rejoice, but you’ll be humiliated! 14 ​​​​​​​Look, my servants will shout for joy as happiness fills their hearts! But you’ll cry out as sorrow fills your hearts; you’ll wail because your spirits will be crushed. 15 ​​​​​​​Your names will live on in the curse formulas of my Designated ones. The supreme Lifegiver will kill you, but he’ll give his servants another name. 16 ​​​​​​​Whoever pronounces a blessing in the Earth will do so in the name of the faithful Supermights ; whoever makes an oath in the Earth will do so in the name of the faithful Supermights. For past problems will be forgotten; I’ll no longer think about them. 17 ​​​​​​​For look, I’m ready to create new Celestial Bodies and a new Earth ! The former ones will not be remembered; no one will think about them anymore. 18 ​​​​​​​But be happy and rejoice forevermore over what I’m about to create! For look, I’m ready to create Jerusalem to be a source of joy, and her people to be a source of happiness. 19 ​​​​​​​Jerusalem will bring me joy, and my people will bring me happiness. The sound of weeping or cries of sorrow will never be heard in her again. 20 ​​​​​​​Never again will one of her infants live just a few days or an old man die before his time. Indeed, no one will die before the age of a hundred, anyone who fails to reach the age of a hundred will be considered cursed. 21 ​​​​​​​They’ll build houses and live in them; they’ll plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 ​​​​​​​No longer will they build a house only to have another live in it, or plant a vineyard only to have another eat its fruit, for my people will live as long as trees, and my Designated ones will enjoy to the fullest what they have produced. 23 ​​​​​​​They’ll not work in vain, or give birth to children that will experience disaster. For Lifegiver will bless their children and their descendants. 24 ​​​​​​​Before they even call out, I’ll respond; while they are still speaking, I’ll hear. 25 ​​​​​​​A wolf and a lamb will graze together; a lion, like an ox, will eat straw, and a snake’s food will be dirt. They’ll no longer injure or destroy on my entire royal mountain,” says Lifegiver.

Isaiah 66

1 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “The Celestial Bodies are my throne and the Earth is my footstool. Where then is the house you’ll build for me? Where is the place where I’ll rest? 2 ​​​​​​​My hand made them; that is how they came to be,” says Lifegiver. I show special favor to the humble and contrite, who respect what I’ve to say. 3 ​​​​​​​The one who slaughters a bull also strikes down a man; the one who sacrifices a lamb also breaks a dog’s neck; the one who presents an offering includes pig’s blood with it; the one who offers incense also praises an idol. They have decided to behave this way; they enjoy these disgusting practices. 4 ​​​​​​​So I’ll choose severe punishment for them; I’ll bring on them what they dread, because I called, and no one responded, I spoke and they did not listen. They did bad before me; they chose to do what displeases me.” 5 ​​​​​​​Hear the word of Lifegiver, you who respect what he has to say! Your countrymen, who hate you and exclude you, supposedly for the sake of my name, say, “May Lifegiver be glorified, then we’ll witness your joy.” But they’ll be put to shame. 6 ​​​​​​​The sound of battle comes from the city; the sound comes from the temple! It is the sound of Lifegiver paying back his enemies. 7 ​​​​​​​Before she goes into labor, she gives birth! Before her contractions begin, she delivers a boy! 8 ​​​​​​​Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen this? Can a country be brought forth in one day? Can a nation be born in a single moment? Yet as soon as Zion goes into labor she gives birth to sons! 9 ​​​​​​​“Do I bring a baby to the birth opening and then not deliver it?” asks Lifegiver. “Or do I bring a baby to the point of delivery and then hold it back?” asks your deity. 10 ​​​​​​​Be happy for Jerusalem and rejoice with her, all you who love her! Share in her great joy, all you who have mourned over her! 11 ​​​​​​​For you’ll nurse from her satisfying breasts and be nourished; you’ll feed with joy from her milk-filled breasts. 12 ​​​​​​​For this is what Lifegiver says: “Look, I’m ready to extend to her prosperity that will flow like a river, the riches of nationalities will flow into her like a stream that floods its banks. You’ll nurse from her breast and be carried at her side; you’ll play on her knees. 13 ​​​​​​​As a mother consoles a child, so I’ll console you, and you’ll be consoled over Jerusalem.” 14 ​​​​​​​When you see this, you’ll be happy, and you’ll be revived. Lifegiver will reveal his power to his servants and his anger to his enemies. 15 ​​​​​​​For look, Lifegiver comes with fire, his chariots come like a windstorm, to reveal his raging anger, his battle cry, and his flaming arrows. 16 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver judges all humanity with fire and his sword; Lifegiver will kill many.

17 “As for those who consecrate and ritually purify themselves so they can follow their leader and worship in the sacred orchards, those who eat the flesh of pigs and other disgusting creatures, like mice – they’ll all be destroyed together,” says Lifegiver. 18 “I hate their deeds and thoughts! So I’m coming to gather all the nationalities and ethnic groups; they’ll come and witness my splendor. 19 I’ll perform a mighty act among them and then send some of those who remain to the nationalities – to Tarshish, Pul, Lud (known for its archers), Tubal, Javan, and to the distant coastlands that have not heard about me or seen my splendor. They’ll tell the nationalities of my splendor. 20 They’ll bring back all your countrymen from all the nationalities as an offering to Lifegiver. They’ll bring them on horses, in chariots, in wagons, on mules, and on camels to my sacred hill Jerusalem,” says Lifegiver, “just as the Israelites bring offerings to Lifegiver’s temple in ritually pure containers. 21 And I’ll choose some of them as priests and Levites,” says Lifegiver. 22 “For just as the new Celestial Bodies and the new Earth I’m about to make will remain standing before me,” says Lifegiver, “so your descendants and your name will remain. 23 From one month to the next and from one Sabbath to the next, all people will come to worship me,” says Lifegiver. 24 “They’ll go out and observe the corpses of those who rebelled against me, for the maggots that eat them will not die, and the fire that consumes them will not die out. All people will find the sight abhorrent.”

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 1

1 The following is a record of what Jeremiah son of Hilkiah prophesied. He was one of the priests who lived at Anathoth in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 Lifegiver began to speak to him in the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon ruled over Judah. 3 Lifegiver also spoke to him when Jehoiakim son of Josiah ruled over Judah, and he continued to speak to him until the fifth month of the eleventh year that Zedekiah son of Josiah ruled over Judah. That was when the people of Jerusalem were taken into exile. 4 Lifegiver said to me, 5 ​​​​​​​“Before I formed you in your mother’s womb I chose you. Before you were born I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nationalities.” 6 I answered, “Oh, Lord Supermights , I really do not know how to speak well enough for that, for I’m too young.” 7 Lifegiver said to me, “Do not say, ‘I’m too young.’ But go to whomever I send you and say whatever I tell you. 8 Do not be afraid of those to whom I send you, for I’ll be with you to protect you,” says Lifegiver. 9 Then Lifegiver reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I’ll most assuredly give you the words you are to speak for me. 10 Know for certain that I hereby give you the authority to announce to nationalities and reigns that they’ll be uprooted and torn down, destroyed and demolished, rebuilt and firmly planted.” 11 Later Lifegiver asked me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I answered, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” 12 Then Lifegiver said, “You have observed correctly. This means I’m watching to make sure my threats are carried out.” 13 Lifegiver again asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a pot of boiling water; it is tipped toward us from the north.” 14 Then Lifegiver said, “This means destruction will break out from the north on all who live in the land. 15 For I’ll soon summon all the peoples of the reigns of the north,” says Lifegiver. “They’ll come and their kings will set up their thrones near the entrances of the gates of Jerusalem. They’ll attack all the walls surrounding it, and all the towns in Judah. 16 In this way I’ll pass sentence on the people of Jerusalem and Judah because of all their wickedness. For they rejected me and offered sacrifices to other Deities, worshiping what they made with their own hands.” 17 “But you, Jeremiah, get yourself ready! Go and tell these people everything I instruct you to say. Do not be terrified of them, or I’ll give you good reason to be terrified of them. 18 I, Lifegiver, hereby promise to make you as strong as a fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall. You’ll be able to stand up against all who live in the land, including the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and all the people of the land. 19 They’ll attack you but they’ll not be able to overcome you, for I’ll be with you to rescue you,” says Lifegiver.

Jeremiah 2

1 Lifegiver spoke to me. He said: 2 “Go and declare in the hearing of the people of Jerusalem: ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “I’ve fond memories of you, how devoted you were to me in your early years. I remember how you loved me like a new bride; you followed me through the desert, through a land that had never been planted. 3 Israel was set apart to Lifegiver; they were like the first fruits of a harvest to him. All who tried to devour them were punished; disaster came upon them,” says Lifegiver.’” 4 ​​​​​​​Now listen to what Lifegiver has to say, you descendants of Jacob, all you family groups from the nation of Israel. 5 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “What fault could your ancestors have possibly found in me that they strayed so far from me? They paid allegiance to worthless idols, and so became worthless to me. 6 ​​​​​​​They did not ask: ‘Where is Lifegiver who delivered us out of Egypt, who brought us through the desert, through a land of desert sands and rift valleys, through a land of drought and deep darkness, through a land in which no one travels, and where no one lives?’ 7 ​​​​​​​I brought you into a fertile land so you could enjoy its fruits and its rich bounty. But when you entered my land, you defiled it; you made the land I call my own loathsome to me. 8 ​​​​​​​Your priests did not ask, ‘Where is Lifegiver?’ Those responsible for teaching my law did not really know me. Your rulers rebelled against me. Your prophets prophesied in the name of the Supermights Baal. They all worshiped idols that could not help them. 9 ​​​​​​​“So, once more I’ll state my case against you,” says Lifegiver. “I’ll also state it against your children and grandchildren. 10 ​​​​​​​Go west across the sea to the coasts of Cyprus and see. Send someone east to Kedar and have them look carefully. See if such a thing as this has ever happened: 11 ​​​​​​​Has a nation ever changed its deities (even though they are not really deities at all)? But my people have exchanged me, their glorious Supermights, for a Supermights that cannot help them at all! 12 ​​​​​​​Be amazed at this, Celestial Bodies! Be shocked and utterly dumbfounded,” says Lifegiver. 13 ​​​​​​​“Do so because my people have committed a double wrong: they have rejected me, the fountain of life-giving water, and they have dug cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns which cannot even hold water.” 14 ​​​​​​​“Israel is not a slave, is he? He was not born into slavery, was he? If not, why then is he being carried off? 15 ​​​​​​​Like lions his enemies roar victoriously over him; they raise their voices in triumph. They have laid his land waste; his cities have been burned down and deserted. 16 ​​​​​​​Even the soldiers from Memphis and Tahpanhes have cracked your skulls, people of Israel. 17 ​​​​​​​You have brought all this on yourself, Israel, by deserting Lifegiver your deity when he was leading you along the right path. 18 ​​​​​​​What good will it do you then to go down to Egypt to seek help from the Egyptians? What good will it do you to go over to Assyria to seek help from the Assyrians? 19 ​​​​​​​Your own wickedness will bring about your punishment. Your unfaithful acts will bring down discipline on you. Know, then, and realize how utterly harmful it was for you to reject me, Lifegiver your deity, to show no respect for me,” says Lifegiver Supermights who rules over all. 20 ​​​​​​​“Indeed, long ago you threw off my authority and refused to be subject to me. You said, ‘I’ll not serve you.’ Instead, you gave yourself to other deities on every high hill and under every green tree, like a prostitute sprawls out before her lovers. 21 ​​​​​​​I planted you in the land like a special vine of the very best stock. Why in the world have you turned into something like a wild vine that produces rotten, foul-smelling grapes? 22 ​​​​​​​You can try to wash away your guilt with a strong detergent. You can use as much soap as you want. But the stain of your guilt is still there for me to see,” says Lifegiver Supermights. 23 ​​​​​​​“How can you say, ‘I’ve not made myself unclean. I’ve not paid allegiance to the deities called Baal.’ Just look at the way you have behaved in the Valley of Hinnom! Think about the things you have done there! You are like a flighty, young female camel that rushes here and there, crisscrossing its path. 24 ​​​​​​​You are like a wild female donkey brought up in the desert. In her lust she sniffs the wind to get the scent of a male. No one can hold her back when she is in heat. None of the males need wear themselves out chasing after her. At mating time she is easy to find. 25 ​​​​​​​Do not chase after other deities until your shoes wear out and your throats become dry. But you say, ‘It is useless for you to try and stop me because I love those foreign deities and want to pursue them!’ 26 ​​​​​​​Just as a thief has to suffer dishonor when he is caught, so the people of Israel will suffer dishonor for what they have done. So will their kings and officials, their priests and their prophets. 27 ​​​​​​​They say to a wooden idol, ‘You are my father.’ They say to a stone image, ‘You gave birth to me.’ Yes, they have turned away from me instead of turning to me. Yet when they are in trouble, they say, ‘Come and save us!’ 28 ​​​​​​​But where are the deities you made for yourselves? Let them save you when you are in trouble. The sad fact is that you have as many deities as you have towns, Judah. 29 ​​​​​​​“Why do you try to refute me? All of you have rebelled against me,” says Lifegiver. 30 ​​​​​​​“It did no good for me to punish your people. They did not respond to such correction. You slaughtered your prophets like a voracious lion.” 31 ​​​​​​​You people of this generation, listen to what Lifegiver says. “Have I been like a desert to you, Israel? Have I been like a dark and dangerous land to you? Why then do you say, ‘We are free to wander. We’ll not come to you any more?’ 32 ​​​​​​​Does a young woman forget to put on her jewels? Does a bride forget to put on her bridal attire? But my people have forgotten me for more days than can even be counted. 33 ​​​​​​​“My, how good you have become at chasing after your lovers! Why, you could even teach prostitutes a thing or two! 34 ​​​​​​​Even your clothes are stained with the lifeblood of the poor who had not done anything wrong; you did not catch them breaking into your homes. Yet, in spite of all these things you have done, 35 ​​​​​​​you say, ‘I’ve not done anything wrong, so Lifegiver cannot really be angry with me any more.’ But, watch out! I’ll bring down judgment on you because you say, ‘I’ve not committed any sin.’ 36 ​​​​​​​Why do you constantly go about changing your political allegiances? You’ll get no help from Egypt just as you got no help from Assyria. 37 ​​​​​​​Moreover, you’ll come away from Egypt with your hands covering your faces in sorrow and shame because Lifegiver will not allow your reliance on them to be successful and you’ll not gain any help from them.

Jeremiah 3

1 ​​​​​​​“If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and becomes another man’s wife, he may not take her back again. Doing that would utterly defile the land. But you, Israel, have given yourself as a prostitute to many Deities. So what makes you think you can return to me?” says Lifegiver. 2 ​​​​​​​“Look up at the hilltops and consider this. You have had sex with other deities on every one of them. You waited for those deities like a thief lying in wait in the desert. You defiled the land by your wicked prostitution to other Deities. 3 ​​​​​​​That is why the rains have been withheld, and the spring rains have not come. Yet in spite of this you are obstinate as a prostitute. You refuse to be ashamed of what you have done. 4 ​​​​​​​Even now you say to me, ‘You are my father! You have been my faithful companion ever since I was young. 5 ​​​​​​​You’ll not always be angry with me, will you? You’ll not be mad at me forever, will you?’ That is what you say, but you continually do all the bad that you can.” 6 When Josiah was king of Judah, Lifegiver said to me, “Jeremiah, you have no doubt seen what wayward Israel has done. You have seen how she went up to every high hill and under every green tree to give herself like a prostitute to other Deities. 7 Yet even after she had done all that, I thought that she might come back to me. But she did not. Her sister, unfaithful Judah, saw what she did. 8 She also saw that I gave wayward Israel her divorce papers and sent her away because of her adulterous worship of other Deities. Even after her unfaithful sister Judah had seen this, she still was not afraid, and she too went and gave herself like a prostitute to other Deities. 9 Because she took her prostitution so lightly, she defiled the land through her adulterous worship of deities made of wood and stone. 10 In spite of all this, Israel’s sister, unfaithful Judah, has not turned back to me with any sincerity; she has only pretended to do so,” says Lifegiver. 11 Then Lifegiver said to me, “Under the circumstances, wayward Israel could even be considered less guilty than unfaithful Judah. 12 “Go and shout this message to my people in the countries in the north. Tell them, ‘Come back to me, wayward Israel,’ says Lifegiver. ‘I’ll not continue to look on you with displeasure. For I’m merciful,’ says Lifegiver. ‘I’ll not be angry with you forever. 13 ​​​​​​​However, you must confess that you have done wrong, and that you have rebelled against Lifegiver your deity. You must confess that you have given yourself to foreign deities under every green tree, and have not obeyed my instructions,’ says Lifegiver. 14 “Come back to me, my wayward sons,” says Lifegiver, “for I’m your true master. If you do, I’ll take one of you from each town and two of you from each family group, and I’ll bring you back to Zion. 15 I’ll give you leaders who will be faithful to me. They’ll lead you with knowledge and insight. 16 In those days, your population will greatly increase in the land. At that time,” says Lifegiver, “people will no longer talk about having the Cabinet that contains Lifegiver’s agreement with us. They’ll not call it to mind, remember it, or miss it. No, that will not be done any more! 17 At that time the city of Jerusalem will be called Lifegiver’s throne. All nationalities will gather there in Jerusalem to honor Lifegiver’s name. They’ll no longer follow the stubborn inclinationalities of their own bad hearts. 18 At that time the nation of Judah and the nation of Israel will be reunited. Together they’ll come back from a land in the north to the land that I gave to your ancestors as a permanent possession. ” 19 ​​​​​​​“I thought to myself, ‘Oh what a joy it would be for me to treat you like a son! What a joy it would be for me to give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful piece of property there is in all the world!’ I thought you would call me, ‘Father’ and would never cease being loyal to me. 20 ​​​​​​​But, you have been unfaithful to me, nation of Israel, like an unfaithful wife who has left her husband,” says Lifegiver. 21 ​​​​​​​“A noise is heard on the hilltops. It is the sound of the people of Israel crying and pleading to their Deities. Indeed they have followed sinful ways; they have forgotten to be true to Lifegiver their Supermights. 22 ​​​​​​​Come back to me, you wayward people. I want to cure your waywardness. Say, ‘Here we are. We come to you because you are Lifegiver our Supermights. 23 ​​​​​​​We know our noisy worship of false deities on the hills and mountains did not help us. We know that Lifegiver our Supermights is the only one who can deliver Israel. 24 ​​​​​​​From earliest times our worship of that shameful Supermights , Baal, has taken away all that our ancestors worked for. It has taken away our flocks and our herds, and even our sons and daughters. 25 ​​​​​​​Let us acknowledge our shame. Let us bear the disgrace that we deserve. For we’ve sinned against Lifegiver our Supermights , both we and our ancestors. From earliest times to this very day we’ve not obeyed Lifegiver our Supermights.’

Jeremiah 4

1 ​​​​​​​“If you, Israel, want to come back,” says Lifegiver, “if you want to come back to me you must get those disgusting idols out of my sight and must no longer go astray. 2 ​​​​​​​You must be truthful, honest and upright when you take an oath saying, ‘As surely as Lifegiver lives!’ If you do, the nationalities will pray to be as blessed by him as you are and will make him the object of their boasting.” 3 ​​​​​​​Yes, Lifegiver has this to say to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: “Like a farmer breaking up hard unplowed ground, you must break your rebellious will and make a new beginning; just as a farmer must clear away thorns lest the seed is wasted, you must get rid of the sin that is ruining your lives. 4 ​​​​​​​Just as ritual circumcision cuts away the foreskin as an external symbol of dedicated agreement commitment, you must genuinely dedicate yourselves to Lifegiver and get rid of everything that hinders your commitment to me, people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. If you do not, my anger will blaze up like a flaming fire against you that no one will be able to extinguish. That will happen because of the bad you have done.” 5 Lifegiver said, “Announce this in Judah and proclaim it in Jerusalem: ‘Sound the trumpet throughout the land!’ Shout out loudly, ‘Gather together! Let us flee into the fortified cities!’ 6 ​​​​​​​Raise a signal flag that tells people to go to Zion. Run for safety! Do not delay! For I’m about to bring disaster out of the north. It will bring great destruction. 7 ​​​​​​​Like a lion that has come up from its lair the one who destroys nationalities has set out from his home base. He is coming out to lay your land waste. Your cities will become ruins and lie uninhabited. 8 ​​​​​​​So put on sackcloth! Mourn and wail, saying, ‘The fierce anger of Lifegiver has not turned away from us!’” 9 ​​​​​​​“When this happens,” says Lifegiver, “the king and his officials will lose their courage. The priests will be struck with horror, and the prophets will be speechless in astonishment.” 10 In response to all this I said, “Ah, Lord Supermights , you have surely allowed the people of Judah and Jerusalem to be deceived by those who say, ‘You’ll be safe!’ But in fact a sword is already at our throats.” 11 ​​​​​​​“At that time the people of Judah and Jerusalem will be told, ‘A scorching wind will sweep down from the hilltops in the desert on my dear people. It will not be a gentle breeze for winnowing the grain and blowing away the chaff. 12 ​​​​​​​No, a wind too strong for that will come at my bidding. Yes, even now I, myself, am calling down judgment on them.’ 13 ​​​​​​​Look! The enemy is approaching like gathering clouds. The roar of his chariots is like that of a whirlwind. His horses move more swiftly than eagles.” I cry out, “We are doomed, for we’ll be destroyed!” 14 ​​​​​​​“Oh people of Jerusalem, purify your hearts from bad so that you may yet be delivered. How long will you continue to harbor up wicked schemes witlitreyou? 15 ​​​​​​​For messengers are coming, heralding disaster, from the city of Dan and from the hills of Ephraim. 16 ​​​​​​​They are saying, ‘Announce to the surrounding nationalities, “The enemy is coming!” Proclaim this message to Jerusalem: “Those who besiege cities are coming from a distant land. They are ready to raise the battle cry against the towns in Judah.”’ 17 ​​​​​​​They’ll surround Jerusalem like men guarding a field because they have rebelled against me,” says Lifegiver. 18 ​​​​​​​“The way you have lived and the things you have done will bring this on you. This is the punishment you deserve, and it will be painful indeed. The pain will be so bad it will pierce your heart.” 19 I said, “Oh, the feeling in the pit of my stomach! I writhe in anguish. Oh, the pain in my heart! My heart pounds witlitreme. I cannot keep silent. For I hear the sound of the trumpet; the sound of the battle cry pierces my soul! 20 ​​​​​​​I see one destruction after another taking place, so that the whole land lies in ruins. I see our tents suddenly destroyed, their curtains torn down in a mere instant. 21 ​​​​​​​“How long must I see the enemy’s battle flags and hear the military signals of their bugles?” 22 Lifegiver answered, “This will happen because my people are foolish. They do not know me. They are like children who have no sense. They have no understanding. They are skilled at doing evil. They do not know how to do good.” 23 ​​​​​​​“I looked at the land and saw that it was an empty wasteland. I looked up at the sky, and its light had vanished. 24 ​​​​​​​I looked at the mountains and saw that they were shaking. All the hills were swaying back and forth! 25 ​​​​​​​I looked and saw that there were no more people, and that all the birds in the sky had flown away. 26 ​​​​​​​I looked and saw that the fruitful land had become a desert and that all of the cities had been laid in ruins. Lifegiver had brought this all about because of his blazing anger. 27 ​​​​​​​All this will happen because Lifegiver said, “The whole land will be desolate; however, I’ll not completely destroy it. 28 ​​​​​​​Because of this the land will mourn and the sky above will grow black. For I’ve made my purpose known and I’ll not relent or turn back from carrying it out.” 29 ​​​​​​​At the sound of the approaching horsemen and archers the people of every town will flee. Some of them will hide in the thickets. Others will climb up among the rocks. All the cities will be deserted. No one will remain in them. 30 ​​​​​​​And you, Zion, city doomed to destruction, you accomplish nothing by wearing a beautiful dress, decking yourself out in jewels of gold, and putting on eye shadow! You are making yourself beautiful for nothing. Your lovers spurn you. They want to kill you. 31 ​​​​​​​In fact, I hear a cry like that of a woman in labor, a cry of anguish like that of a woman giving birth to her first baby. It is the cry of Daughter Zion gasping for breath, reaching out for help, saying, “I’m done in! My life is ebbing away before these murderers!”

Jeremiah 5

1 Lifegiver said, “Go up and down through the streets of Jerusalem. Look around and see for yourselves. Search through its public squares. See if any of you can find a single person who deals honestly and tries to be truthful. If you can, then I’ll not punish this city. 2 ​​​​​​​These people make promises in the name of Lifegiver. But the fact is, what they swear to is really a lie.” 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, I know you look for faithfulness. But even when you punish these people, they feel no remorse. Even when you nearly destroy them, they refuse to be corrected. They have become as hardheaded as a rock. They refuse to change their ways. 4 ​​​​​​​I thought, “Surely it is only the ignorant poor who act this way. They act like fools because they do not know what Lifegiver demands. They do not know what their Supermights requires of them. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll go to the leaders and speak with them. Surely they know what Lifegiver demands. Surely they know what their Supermights requires of them.” Yet all of them, too, have rejected his authority and refuse to submit to him. 6 ​​​​​​​So like a lion from the thicket their enemies will kill them. Like a wolf from the desert they’ll destroy them. Like a leopard they’ll lie in wait outside their cities and totally destroy anyone who ventures out. For they have rebelled so much and done so many unfaithful things. 7 Lifegiver asked, “How can I leave you unpunished, Jerusalem? Your people have rejected me and have worshiped deities that are not deities at all. Even though I supplied all their needs, they were like an unfaithful wife to me. They went flocking to the houses of prostitutes. 8 ​​​​​​​They are like lusty, well-fed stallions. Each of them lusts after his neighbor’s wife. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll surely punish them for doing such things!” says Lifegiver. “I’ll surely bring retribution on such a nation as this!” 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver instructed the enemy, “March through the vineyards of Israel and Judah and ruin them. But do not destroy them completely. Strip off their branches for these people do not belong to Lifegiver. 11 ​​​​​​​For the nationalities of Israel and Judah have been very unfaithful to me,” says Lifegiver. 12 ​​​​​​​“These people have denied what Lifegiver says. They have said, ‘That is not so! No harm will come to us. We’ll not experience war and drought. 13 ​​​​​​​The prophets will prove to be full of wind. Lifegiver has not spoken through them. So, let what they say happen to them.’” 14 Because of that, Lifegiver, the Supermights who rules over all, said to me, “Because these people have spoken like this, I’ll make the words that I put in your mouth like fire. And I’ll make this people like wood which the fiery judgments you speak will burn up.” 15 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “Listen, nation of Israel! I’m about to bring a nation from far away to attack you. It will be a nation that was founded long ago and has lasted for a long time. It will be a nation whose language you’ll not know. Its people will speak words that you’ll not be able to understand. 16 ​​​​​​​All of its soldiers are strong and mighty. Their arrows will send you to your grave. 17 ​​​​​​​They’ll eat up your crops and your food. They’ll kill off your sons and your daughters. They’ll eat up your sheep and your cattle. They’ll destroy your vines and your fig trees. Their weapons will batter down the fortified cities you trust in. 18 Yet even then I’ll not completely destroy you,” says Lifegiver. 19 “So then, Jeremiah, when your people ask, ‘Why has Lifegiver our Supermights done all this to us?’ tell them, ‘It is because you rejected me and served foreign deities in your own land. So you must serve foreigners in a land that does not belong to you.’ 20 ​​​​​​​“Proclaim this message among the descendants of Jacob. Make it known throughout Judah. 21 ​​​​​​​Tell them: ‘Hear this, you foolish people who have no understanding, who have eyes but do not discern, who have ears but do not perceive: 22 ​​​​​​​“You should fear me!” says Lifegiver. “You should tremble in awe before me! I made the sand to be a boundary for the sea, a permanent barrier that it can never cross. Its waves may roll, but they can never prevail. They may roar, but they can never cross beyond that boundary.” 23 ​​​​​​​But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts. They have turned aside and gone their own way. 24 ​​​​​​​They do not say to themselves, “Let us revere Lifegiver our Supermights. It is he who gives us the autumn rains and the spring rains at the proper time. It is he who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.” 25 ​​​​​​​Your misdeeds have stopped these things from coming. Your sins have deprived you of my bounty.’ 26 ​​​​​​​“Indeed, there are wicked scoundrels among my people. They lie in wait like bird catchers hiding in ambush. They set deadly traps to catch people. 27 ​​​​​​​Like a cage filled with the birds that have been caught, their houses are filled with the gains of their fraud and deceit. That is how they have gotten so rich and powerful. 28 ​​​​​​​That is how they have grown fat and sleek. There is no limit to the bad things they do. They do not plead the cause of the fatherless in such a way as to win it. They do not defend the rights of the poor. 29 ​​​​​​​I’ll certainly punish them for doing such things!” says Lifegiver. “I’ll certainly bring retribution on such a nation as this! 30 ​​​​​​​“Something horrible and shocking is going on in the land of Judah: 31 ​​​​​​​The prophets prophesy lies. The priests exercise power by their own authority. And my people love to have it this way. But they’ll not be able to help you when the time of judgment comes!

Jeremiah 6

1 ​​​​​​​“Run for safety, people of Benjamin! Get out of Jerusalem! Sound the trumpet in Tekoa! Light the signal fires at Beth Hakkerem! For disaster lurks out of the north; it will bring great destruction. 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy Daughter Zion, who is as delicate and defenseless as a young maiden. 3 ​​​​​​​Kings will come against it with their armies. They’ll encamp in siege all around it. Each of them will devastate the portion assigned to him. 4 ​​​​​​​They’ll say, ‘Prepare to do battle against it! Come on! Let’s attack it at noon!’ But later they’ll say, ‘Oh, oh! Too bad! The day is almost over and the shadows of evening are getting long. 5 ​​​​​​​So come on, let’s go ahead and attack it by night and destroy all its fortified buildings.’ 6 ​​​​​​​All of this is because Lifegiver who rules over all has said: ‘Cut down the trees around Jerusalem and build up a siege ramp against its walls. This is the city which is to be punished. Nothing but oppression happens in it. 7 ​​​​​​​As a well continually pours out fresh water so it continually pours out wicked deeds. Sounds of violence and destruction echo throughout it. All I see are sick and wounded people.’ 8 ​​​​​​​So take warning, Jerusalem, or I’ll abandon you in disgust and make you desolate, a place where no one can live.” 9 This is what Lifegiver who rules over all said to me: “Those who remain in Israel will be like the grapes thoroughly gleaned from a vine. So go over them again, as though you were a grape harvester passing your hand over the branches one last time.” 10 I answered, “Who would listen if I spoke to them and warned them? Their ears are so closed that they cannot hear! Indeed, what Lifegiver says is offensive to them. They do not like it at all. 11 ​​​​​​​I’m as full of anger as you are, Lifegiver, I’m tired of trying to hold it in.” Lifegiver answered, “Vent it, then, on the children who play in the street and on the young men who are gathered together. Husbands and wives are to be included, as well as the old and those who are advanced in years. 12 ​​​​​​​Their houses will be turned over to others as will their fields and their wives. For I’ll unleash my power against those who live in this land,” says Lifegiver. 13 ​​​​​​​“That is because, from the least important to the most important of them, all of them are greedy for dishonest gain. Prophets and priests alike, all of them practice deceit. 14 ​​​​​​​They offer only superficial help for the harm my people have suffered. They say, ‘Everything will be all right!’ But everything is not all right! 15 ​​​​​​​Are they ashamed because they have done such shameful things? No, they are not at all ashamed. They do not even know how to blush! So they’ll die, just like others have died. They’ll be brought to ruin when I punish them,” says Lifegiver. 16 Lifegiver said to his people: “You are standing at the crossroads. So consider your path. Ask where the old, reliable paths are. Ask where the path is that leads to blessing and follow it. If you do, you’ll find rest for your souls.” But they said, “We’ll not follow it!” 17 Lifegiver said, “I appointed prophets as watchmen to warn you, saying: ‘Pay attention to the warning sound of the trumpet!’” But they said, “We’ll not pay attention!” 18 So Lifegiver said, “Hear, you nationalities! Be witnesses and take note of what will happen to these people. 19 ​​​​​​​Hear this, you peoples of the Earth : ‘Take note! I’m about to bring disaster on these people. It will come as punishment for their scheming. For they have paid no attention to what I’ve said, and they have rejected my law. 20 ​​​​​​​I take no delight when they offer up to me frankincense that comes from Sheba or sweet-smelling cane imported from a faraway land. I cannot accept the sacrifices they bring me. I get no pleasure from the sacrifices they offer to me.’ 21 ​​​​​​​So, this is what Lifegiver says: ‘I’ll assuredly make these people stumble to their doom. Parents and children will stumble and fall to their destruction. Friends and neighbors will die.’ 22 ​​​​​​​“This is what Lifegiver says: ‘Beware! An army is coming from a land in the north. A mighty nation is stirring into action in faraway parts of the Earth . 23 ​​​​​​​Its soldiers are armed with bows and spears. They are cruel and show no mercy. They sound like the roaring sea as they ride forth on their horses. Lined up in formation like men going into battle to attack you, Daughter Zion.’” 24 ​​​​​​​The people cry out, “We’ve heard reports about them! We’ve become helpless with fear! Anguish grips us, agony like that of a woman giving birth to a baby! 25 ​​​​​​​Do not go out into the countryside. Do not travel on the roads. For the enemy is there with sword in hand. They are spreading terror everywhere.” 26 ​​​​​​​So I said, “Oh, my dear people, put on sackcloth and roll in ashes. Mourn with painful sobs as though you had lost your only child. For any moment now that destructive army will come against us.” 27 Lifegiver said to me, “I’ve made you like a metal assayer to test my people like ore. You are to observe them and evaluate how they behave.” 28 I reported, “All of them are the most stubborn of rebels! They are as hard as bronze or iron. They go about telling lies. They all deal corruptly. 29 ​​​​​​​The fiery bellows of judgment burn fiercely. But there is too much dross to be removed. The process of refining them has proved useless. The wicked have not been purged. 30 ​​​​​​​They are regarded as ‘rejected silver’ because Lifegiver rejects them.”

Jeremiah 7

1 Lifegiver said to Jeremiah: 2 “Stand in the gate of Lifegiver’s temple and proclaim this message: ‘Listen, all you people of Judah who have passed through these gates to worship Lifegiver. Hear what Lifegiver has to say. 3 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says: Change the way you have been living and do what is right. If you do, I’ll allow you to continue to live in this land. 4 Stop putting your confidence in the false belief that says, “We are safe! The temple of Lifegiver is here! The temple of Lifegiver is here! The temple of Lifegiver is here!” 5 You must change the way you have been living and do what is right. You must treat one another fairly. 6 Stop oppressing foreigners who live in your land, children who have lost their fathers, and women who have lost their husbands. Stop killing innocent people in this land. Stop paying allegiance to other Deities. That will only bring about your ruin. 7 If you stop doing these things, I’ll allow you to continue to live in this land which I gave to your ancestors as a lasting possession. 8 “‘But just look at you! You are putting your confidence in a false belief that will not deliver you. 9 You steal. You murder. You commit adultery. You lie when you swear on oath. You sacrifice to the Supermights Baal. You pay allegiance to other deities whom you have not previously known. 10 Then you come and stand in my presence in this temple I’ve claimed as my own and say, “We are safe!” You think you are so safe that you go on doing all those hateful sins! 11 Do you think this temple I’ve claimed as my own is to be a hideout for robbers? You had better take note! I’ve seen for myself what you have done! says Lifegiver. 12 So, go to the place in Shiloh where I allowed myself to be worshiped in the early days. See what I did to it because of the wicked things my people Israel did. 13 You also have done all these things, says Lifegiver, and I’ve spoken to you over and over again. But you have not listened! You have refused to respond when I called you to repent! 14 So I’ll destroy this temple which I’ve claimed as my own, this temple that you are trusting to protect you. I’ll destroy this place that I gave to you and your ancestors, just like I destroyed Shiloh. 15 And I’ll drive you out of my sight just like I drove out your relatives, the people of Israel.’” 16 Then Lifegiver said, “As for you, Jeremiah, do not pray for these people! Do not cry out to me or petition me on their behalf! Do not plead with me to save them, because I’ll not listen to you. 17 Do you see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18 Children are gathering firewood, fathers are building fires with it, and women are mixing dough to bake cakes to offer to the "the queen of Heaven." They are also pouring out drink offerings to other gods. They seem to do all this just to trouble me. 19 But I’m not really the one being troubled!” says Lifegiver. “Rather they are bringing trouble on themselves to their own shame!

20 So,” Lifegiver Supermights says, “my raging fury will be poured out on this land. It will be poured out on human beings and animals, on trees and crops. And it will burn like a fire which cannot be extinguished.” 21 Lifegiver said to the people of Judah, “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says: ‘You might as well go ahead and add the meat of your sacrifices to that of the other sacrifices and eat it, too! 22 Consider this: When I spoke to your ancestors after I brought them out of Egypt, I did not merely give them instructions about sacrifices and sacrifices. 23 I also explicitly instructed them: “Obey me. If you do, I’ll be your deity and you’ll be my people. Live exactly the way I tell you and things will go well with you.” 24 But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me. They followed the stubborn inclinationalities of their own wicked hearts. They acted worse and worse instead of better. 25 From the time your ancestors departed the land of Egypt until now, I sent my servants the prophets to you again and again, day after day. 26 But your ancestors did not listen to me nor pay attention to me. They became obstinate and were more wicked than even their own forefathers.’” 27 Then Lifegiver said to me, “When you tell them all this, they’ll not listen to you. When you call out to them, they’ll not respond to you. 28 So tell them: ‘This is a nation that has not obeyed Lifegiver their Supermights and has not accepted correction. Faithfulness is nowhere to be found in it. These people do not even profess it anymore. 29 So, mourn, you people of this nation. Cut off your hair and throw it away. Sing a song of mourning on the hilltops. For Lifegiver has decided to reject and forsake this generation that has provoked his wrath!’” 30 Lifegiver says, “I’ve rejected them because the people of Judah have done what I consider evil. They have set up their disgusting idols in the temple which I’ve claimed for my own and have defiled it. 31 They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never instructed them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to instruct such a thing! 32 So, watch out!” says Lifegiver. “The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they’ll call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they’ll bury so many people in Topheth they’ll run out of room. 33 Then the dead bodies of these people will be left on the ground for the birds and wild animals to eat. There will not be any survivors to scare them away. 34 I’ll put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, or the glad celebration of brides and grooms throughout the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. For the whole land will become a desolate wasteland.”

Jeremiah 8

1 Lifegiver says, “When that time comes, the bones of the kings of Judah and its leaders, the bones of the priests and prophets and of all the other people who lived in Jerusalem will be dug up from their graves. 2 They’ll be spread out and exposed to the sun, the moon and the stars. These are things they adored and served, things to which they paid allegiance, from which they sought guidance, and worshiped. The bones of these people will never be regathered and reburied. They’ll be like manure used to fertilize the ground. 3 However, I’ll leave some of these wicked people alive and banish them to other places. But wherever these people who survive may go, they’ll wish they had died rather than lived,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 4 Lifegiver said to me, “Tell them, ‘Lifegiver says, Do people not get back up when they fall down? Do they not turn around when they go the wrong way? 5 ​​​​​​​Why, then, do these people of Jerusalem continually turn away from me in apostasy? They hold fast to their deception. They refuse to turn back to me. 6 ​​​​​​​I’ve listened to them very carefully, but they do not speak honestly. None of them regrets the bad he has done. None of them says, “I’ve done wrong!” All of them persist in their own wayward course like a horse charging recklessly into battle. 7 ​​​​​​​Even the stork knows when it is time to move on. The turtledove, swallow, and crane recognize the normal times for their migration. But my people pay no attention to what I, Lifegiver, require of them. 8 ​​​​​​​How can you say, “We are wise! We’ve the law of Lifegiver”? The truth is, those who teach it have used their writings to make it say what it does not really mean. 9 ​​​​​​​Your scientists will be put to shame. They’ll be dumbfounded and be brought to judgment. Since they have rejected the word of Lifegiver, what wisdom do they really have? 10 So I’ll give their wives to other men and their fields to new owners. For from the least important to the most important of them, all of them are greedy for dishonest gain. Prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. 11 ​​​​​​​They offer only superficial help for the hurt my dear people have suffered. They say, “Everything will be all right!” But everything is not all right! 12 ​​​​​​​Are they ashamed because they have done such disgusting things? No, they are not at all ashamed! They do not even know how to blush! So they’ll die just like others have died. They’ll be brought to ruin when I punish them, says Lifegiver. 13 ​​​​​​​I’ll take away their harvests, says Lifegiver. There will be no grapes on their vines. There will be no figs on their fig trees. Even the leaves on their trees will wither. The crops that I gave them will be taken away.’” 14 The people say, “Why are we just sitting here? Let us gather together inside the fortified cities. Let us at least die there fighting, since Lifegiver our Supermights has condemned us to die. He has condemned us to drink the poison waters of judgment because we’ve sinned against him. 15 ​​​​​​​We hoped for good fortune, but nothing good has come of it. We hoped for a time of relief, but instead we experience terror. 16 ​​​​​​​The snorting of the enemy’s horses is already being heard in the city of Dan. The sound of the neighing of their stallions causes the whole land to tremble with fear. They are coming to destroy the land and everything in it! They are coming to destroy the cities and everyone who lives in them!” 17 Lifegiver says, “Yes indeed, I’m sending an enemy against you that will be like poisonous snakes which cannot be charmed away. And they’ll inflict fatal wounds on you.” 18 Then I said, “There is no cure for my grief! I’m sick at heart! 19 ​​​​​​​I hear my dear people crying out throughout the length and breadth of the land. They are crying, ‘Is Lifegiver no longer in Zion? Is her divine King no longer there?’” Lifegiver answers, “Why then do they provoke me to anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?” 20 ​​​​​​​“They cry, ‘Harvest time has come and gone, and the summer is over, and still we’ve not been delivered.’ 21 ​​​​​​​My heart is crushed because my dear people are being crushed. I go about crying and grieving. I’m overwhelmed with dismay. 22 ​​​​​​​There is still medicinal ointment available in Gilead! There is still a physician there! Why then have my dear people not been restored to health?

Jeremiah 9

1 ​​​​​​​(8:23) I wish that my head were a well full of water and my eyes were a fountain full of tears! If they were, I could cry day and night for those of my dear people who have been killed. 2 ​​​​​​​(9:1) I wish I had a lodging place in the desert where I could spend some time like a weary traveler. Then I would desert my people and walk away from them because they are all unfaithful to Supermights , a congregation of people that has been disloyal to him. 3 Lifegiver says, “These people are like soldiers who have readied their bows. Their tongues are always ready to shoot out lies. They have become powerful in the land, but they have not done so by honest means. Indeed, they do one bad thing after another and do not pay attention to me. 4 ​​​​​​​Everyone must be on his guard around his friends. He must not even trust any of his relatives. For every one of them will find some way to cheat him. And all of his friends will tell lies about him. 5 ​​​​​​​One friend deceives another and no one tells the truth. These people have trained themselves to tell lies. They do wrong and are unable to repent. 6 ​​​​​​​They do one act of violence after another, and one deceitful thing after another. They refuse to pay attention to me,” says Lifegiver. 7 Therefore Lifegiver who rules over all says, “I’ll now purify them in the fires of affliction and test them. The wickedness of my dear people has left me no choice. What else can I do? 8 ​​​​​​​Their tongues are like deadly arrows. They are always telling lies. Friendly words for their neighbors come from their mouths. But their minds are thinking up ways to trap them. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll certainly punish them for doing such things!” says Lifegiver. “I’ll certainly bring retribution on such a nation as this!” 10 I said, “I’ll weep and mourn for the grasslands on the mountains, I’ll sing a mournful song for the pastures in the desert because they are so scorched no one travels through them. The sound of livestock is no longer heard there. Even the birds in the sky and the wild animals in the fields have fled and are gone.” 11 Lifegiver said, “I’ll make Jerusalem a heap of ruins. Jackals will make their home there. I’ll destroy the towns of Judah so that no one will be able to live in them.” 12 I said, “Who is wise enough to understand why this has happened? Who has a word from Lifegiver that can explain it? Why does the land lie in ruins? Why is it as scorched as a desert through which no one travels?” 13 Lifegiver answered, “This has happened because these people have rejected my laws which I gave them. They have not obeyed me or followed those laws. 14 Instead they have followed the stubborn inclinationalities of their own hearts. They have paid allegiance to the deities called Baal, as their fathers taught them to do. 15 So then, listen to what I, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all, say. ‘I’ll make these people eat the bitter food of suffering and drink the poison water of judgment. 16 I’ll scatter them among nationalities that neither they nor their ancestors have known anything about. I’ll send people chasing after them with swords until I’ve destroyed them.’” 17 Lifegiver who rules over all told me to say to this people, “Take note of what I say. Call for the women who mourn for the dead! Summon those who are the most skilled at it!” 18 ​​​​​​​I said, “Indeed, let them come quickly and sing a song of mourning for us. Let them wail loudly until tears stream from our own eyes and our eyelids overflow with water. 19 ​​​​​​​For the sound of wailing is soon to be heard in Zion. They’ll wail, ‘We are utterly ruined! We are completely disgraced! For our houses have been torn down and we must leave our land.’” 20 I said, “So now, you wailing women, hear what Lifegiver says. Open your ears to the words from his mouth. Teach your daughters this mournful song, and each of you teach your neighbor this lament. 21 ​​​​​​​‘Death has climbed in through our windows. It has entered into our fortified houses. It has taken away our children who play in the streets. It has taken away our young men who gather in the city squares.’ 22 ​​​​​​​Tell your daughters and neighbors, ‘Lifegiver says, “The dead bodies of people will lie scattered everywhere like manure scattered on a field. They’ll lie scattered on the ground like grain that has been cut down but has not been gathered.”’” 23 Lifegiver says, “Wise people should not boast that they are wise. Powerful people should not boast that they are powerful. Rich people should not boast that they are rich. 24 ​​​​​​​If people want to boast, they should boast about this: They should boast that they understand and know me. They should boast that they know and understand that I, Lifegiver, act out of faithfulness, fairness, and justice in the Earth and that I desire people to do these things,” says Lifegiver. 25 Lifegiver says, “Watch out! The time is soon coming when I’ll punish all those who are circumcised only in the flesh. 26 That is, I’ll punish the Egyptians, the Judeans, the Edomites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, and all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples. I’ll do so because none of the people of those nationalities are really circumcised in Lifegiver’s sight. Moreover, none of the people of Israel are circumcised when it comes to their hearts.”

Jeremiah 10

1 You people of Israel, listen to what Lifegiver has to say to you. 2 Lifegiver says, “Do not start following pagan religious practices. Do not be in awe of signs that occur in the sky even though the nationalities hold them in awe. 3 ​​​​​​​For the religion of these people is worthless. They cut down a tree in the forest, and a craftsman makes it into an idol with his tools. 4 ​​​​​​​He decorates it with overlays of silver and gold. He uses hammer and nails to fasten it together so that it will not fall over. 5 ​​​​​​​Such idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field. They cannot talk. They must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them because they cannot hurt you. And they do not have any power to help you.” 6 I said, “There is no one like you, Lifegiver. You are great. And you are renowned for your power. 7 ​​​​​​​Everyone should revere you, O King of all nationalities, because you deserve to be revered. For there is no one like you among any of the wise people of the nationalities nor among any of their kings. 8 ​​​​​​​The people of those nationalities are both stupid and foolish. Instruction from a wooden idol is worthless! 9 ​​​​​​​Hammered-out silver is brought from Tarshish and gold is brought from Uphaz to cover those idols. They are the handiwork of carpenters and goldsmiths. They are clothed in blue and purple clothes. They are all made by skillful workers. 10 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is the only true Supermights. He is the living Supermights and the everlasting King. When he shows his anger the Earth shakes. None of the nationalities can stand up to his fury. 11 ​​​​​​​You people of Israel should tell those nationalities this: ‘These gods did not make Celestial Bodies and Earth. They’ll disappear from the Earth and from under the skies.’ 12 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is the one who by his power made the Earth . He is the one who by his wisdom established the world. And by his understanding he spread out the skies. 13 ​​​​​​​When his voice thunders, the Heavenly waterscapes roar. He makes the clouds rise from the far flung horizons. He makes the lightning flash out in the midst of the rain. He unleashes the wind from the places where he stores it. 14 ​​​​​​​All these idolaters will prove to be stupid and ignorant. Every goldsmith will be disgraced by the idol he made. For the image he forges is merely a sham. There is no breath in any of those idols. 15 ​​​​​​​They are worthless, mere objects to be mocked. When the time comes to punish them, they’ll be destroyed. 16 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, who is the inheritance of Jacob’s descendants, is not like them. He is the one who created everything. And the people of Israel are those he claims as his own. He is known as Lifegiver who rules over all.” 17 ​​​​​​​Gather your belongings together and prepare to leave the land, you people of Jerusalem who are being besieged. 18 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver says, “I’ll now throw out those who live in this land. I’ll bring so much trouble on them that they’ll actually feel it.” 19 ​​​​​​​And I cried out, “We are doomed! Our wound is severe! We once thought, ‘This is only an illness. And we’ll be able to bear it!’ 20 ​​​​​​​But our tents have been destroyed. The ropes that held them in place have been ripped apart. Our children are gone and are not coming back. There is no survivor to put our tents back up, no one left to hang their tent curtains in place. 21 ​​​​​​​For our leaders are stupid. They have not sought Lifegiver’s advice. So they do not act wisely, and the people they are responsible for have all been scattered. 22 ​​​​​​​Listen! News is coming even now. The rumble of a great army is heard approaching from a land in the north. It is coming to turn the towns of Judah into rubble, places where only jackals live. 23 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, we know that people do not control their own destiny. It is not in their power to determine what will happen to them. 24 ​​​​​​​Correct us, Lifegiver, but only in due measure. Do not punish us in anger or you’ll reduce us to nothing. 25 ​​​​​​​Vent your anger on the nationalities that do not acknowledge you. Vent it on the peoples who do not worship you. For they have destroyed the people of Jacob. They have completely destroyed them and left their homeland in utter ruin.

Jeremiah 11

1 Lifegiver said to Jeremiah: 2 “Hear the terms of the agreement I made with Israel and pass them on to the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem. 3 Tell them that Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel, says, ‘Anyone who does not keep the terms of the agreement will be under a curse. 4 Those are the terms that I charged your ancestors to keep when I brought them out of Egypt, that place which was like an iron-smelting furnace. I said at that time, “Obey me and carry out the terms of the agreement exactly as I instructed you. If you do, you’ll be my people and I’ll be your deity. 5 Then I’ll keep the promise I swore on oath to your ancestors to give them a land flowing with milk and honey.” That is the very land that you still live in today.’” And I responded, “Amen! Let it be so, Lifegiver!” 6 Lifegiver said to me, “Announce all the following words in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: ‘Listen to the terms of my agreement with you and carry them out! 7 For I solemnly warned your ancestors to obey me. I warned them again and again, ever since I delivered them out of Egypt until this very day. 8 But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me! Each one of them followed the stubborn inclinationalities of his own wicked heart. So I brought on them all the punishments threatened in the agreement because they did not carry out its terms as I instructed them to do.’” 9 Lifegiver said to me, “The people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem have plotted rebellion against me! 10 They have gone back to the bad ways of their ancestors of old who refused to obey what I told them. They, too, have paid allegiance to other deities and worshiped them. Both the nation of Israel and the nation of Judah have violated the agreement I made with their ancestors. 11 So I, Lifegiver, say this: ‘I’ll soon bring disaster on them which they’ll not be able to escape! When they cry out to me for help, I’ll not listen to them. 12 Then those living in the towns of Judah and in Jerusalem will go and cry out for help to the deities to whom they have been sacrificing. However, those deities will by no means be able to save them when disaster strikes them. 13 This is in spite of the fact that the people of Judah have as many deities as they have towns and the citizens of Jerusalem have set up as many altars to sacrifice to that disgusting Supermights , Baal, as they have streets in the city!’ 14 So, Jeremiah, do not pray for these people. Do not cry out to me or petition me on their behalf. Do not plead with me to save them. For I’ll not listen to them when they call out to me for help when disaster strikes them.” 15 Lifegiver says to the people of Judah, “What right do you have to be in my temple, my beloved people? Many of you have done wicked things. Can your acts of treachery be so easily canceled by sacred offerings that you take joy in doing bad even while you make them? 16 ​​​​​​​I, Lifegiver, once called you a thriving olive tree, one that produced beautiful fruit. But I’ll set you on fire, fire that will blaze with a mighty roar. Then all your branches will be good for nothing. 17 ​​​​​​​For though I, Lifegiver who rules over all, planted you in the land, I now decree that disaster will come on you because the nationalities of Israel and Judah have done bad and have made me angry by offering sacrifices to the Supermights Baal.” 18 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver gave me knowledge, that I might have understanding. Then he showed me what the people were doing. 19 ​​​​​​​Before this I had been like a docile lamb ready to be led to the slaughter. I did not know they were making plans to kill me. I did not know they were saying, “Let’s destroy the tree along with its fruit! Let’s remove Jeremiah from the world of the living so people will not even be reminded of him any more.” 20 ​​​​​​​So I said to Lifegiver, “O Lifegiver who rules over all, you are a just judge! You examine people’s hearts and minds. I want to see you pay them back for what they have done because I trust you to vindicate my cause.” 21 Then Lifegiver told me about some men from Anathoth who were threatening to kill me. They had threatened, “Stop prophesying in the name of Lifegiver or we’ll kill you!” 22 So Lifegiver who rules over all said, “I’ll surely punish them! Their young men will be killed in battle. Their sons and daughters will die of starvation. 23 Not one of them will survive. I’ll bring disaster on those men from Anathoth who threatened you. A day of reckoning is coming for them.”

Jeremiah 12

1 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, you have always been fair whenever I’ve complained to you. However, I would like to speak with you about the disposition of justice. Why are wicked people successful? Why do all dishonest people have such easy lives? 2 ​​​​​​​You plant them like trees and they put down their roots. They grow prosperous and are very fruitful. They always talk about you, but they really care nothing about you. 3 ​​​​​​​But you, Lifegiver, know all about me. You watch me and test my devotion to you. Drag these wicked men away like sheep to be slaughtered! Appoint a time when they’ll be killed! 4 ​​​​​​​How long must the land be parched and the grass in every field be withered? How long must the animals and the birds die because of the wickedness of the people who live in this land? For these people boast, “Supermights will not see what happens to us.” 5 Lifegiver answered, “If you have raced on foot against men and they have worn you out, how will you be able to compete with horses? And if you feel secure only in safe and open country, how will you manage in the thick undergrowth along the Jordan River? 6 ​​​​​​​As a matter of fact, even your own brothers and the members of your own family have betrayed you too. Even they have plotted to do away with you. So do not trust them even when they say kind things to you. 7 ​​​​​​​“I’ll abandon my nation. I’ll forsake the people I call my own. I’ll turn my beloved people over to the power of their enemies. 8 ​​​​​​​The people I call my own have turned on me like a lion in the forest. They have roared defiantly at me. So I’ll treat them as though I hate them. 9 ​​​​​​​The people I call my own attack me like birds of prey or like hyenas. But other birds of prey are all around them. Let all the nationalities gather together like wild beasts. Let them come and destroy these people I call my own. 10 ​​​​​​​Many foreign rulers will ruin the land where I planted my people. They’ll trample all over my Designated land. They’ll turn my beautiful land into a desolate wasteland. 11 ​​​​​​​They’ll lay it waste. It will lie parched and empty before me. The whole land will be laid waste. But no one living in it will pay any heed. 12 ​​​​​​​A destructive army will come marching over the hilltops in the desert. For Lifegiver will use them as his destructive weapon against everyone from one end of the land to the other. No one will be safe. 13 ​​​​​​​My people will sow wheat, but will harvest weeds. They’ll work until they are exhausted, but will get nothing from it. They’ll be disappointed in their harvests because Lifegiver will take them away in his fierce anger. 14 “I, Lifegiver, also have something to say concerning the wicked nationalities who surround my land and have attacked and plundered the land that I gave to my people as a permanent possession. I say: ‘I’ll uproot the people of those nationalities from their lands and I’ll free the people of Judah who have been taken there. 15 But after I’ve uprooted the people of those nationalities, I’ll relent and have pity on them. I’ll restore the people of each of those nationalities to their own lands and to their own country. 16 But they must make sure you learn to follow the religious practices of my people. Once they taught my people to swear their oaths using the name of the Supermights Baal. But then, they must swear oaths using my name, saying, “As surely as Lifegiver lives, I swear.” If they do these things, then they’ll be included among the people I call my own. 17 But I’ll completely uproot and destroy any of those nationalities that will not pay heed,’” says Lifegiver.

Jeremiah 13

1 Lifegiver said to me, “Go and buy some linen shorts and put them on. Do not put them in water.” 2 So I bought the shorts as Lifegiver had told me to do and put them on. 3 Then Lifegiver spoke to me again and said, 4 “Take the shorts that you bought and are wearing and go at once to Perath. Bury the shorts there in a crack in the rocks.” 5 So I went and buried them at Perath as Lifegiver had ordered me to do. 6 Many days later Lifegiver said to me, “Go at once to Perath and get the shorts I ordered you to bury there.” 7 So I went to Perath and dug up the shorts from the place where I had buried them. I found that they were ruined; they were good for nothing. 8 Then Lifegiver said to me, 9 “I, Lifegiver, say: ‘This shows how I’ll ruin the highly exalted position in which Judah and Jerusalem take pride. 10 These wicked people refuse to obey what I’ve said. They follow the stubborn inclinationalities of their own hearts and pay allegiance to other deities by worshiping and serving them. So they’ll become just like these linen shorts which are good for nothing. 11 For,’ I say, ‘just as shorts cling tightly to a person’s body, so I bound the whole nation of Israel and the whole nation of Judah tightly to me.’ I intended for them to be my special people and to bring me fame, honor, and praise. But they would not obey me. 12 “So tell them, ‘Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel, says, “Every wine jar is made to be filled with wine.”’ And they’ll probably say to you, ‘Do you not think we know that every wine jar is supposed to be filled with wine?’ 13 Then tell them, ‘Lifegiver says, “I’ll soon fill all the people who live in this land with stupor. I’ll also fill the kings from David’s dynasty, the priests, the prophets, and the citizens of Jerusalem with stupor. 14 And I’ll smash them like wine bottles against one another, children and parents alike. I’ll not show any pity, mercy, or compassion. Nothing will keep me from destroying them,’ says Lifegiver.” 15 Then I said to the people of Judah, “Listen and pay attention! Do not be arrogant! For Lifegiver has spoken. 16 ​​​​​​​Show Lifegiver your deity the respect that is due him. Do it before he brings the darkness of disaster. Do it before you stumble into distress like a traveler on the mountains at twilight. Do it before he turns the light of deliverance you hope for into the darkness and gloom of exile. 17 ​​​​​​​But if you’ll not pay attention to this warning, I’ll weep alone because of your arrogant pride. I’ll weep bitterly and my eyes will overflow with tears because you, Lifegiver’s flock, will be carried into exile.” 18 Lifegiver told me, “Tell the king and the queen mother, ‘Surrender your thrones, for your glorious crowns will be removed from your heads. 19 ​​​​​​​The gates of the towns in southern Judah will be shut tight. No one will be able to go in or out of them. All Judah will be carried off into exile. They’ll be completely carried off into exile.’” 20 Then I said, “Look up, Jerusalem, and see the enemy that is coming from the north. Where now is the flock of people that were entrusted to your care? Where now are the ‘sheep’ that you take such pride in? 21 ​​​​​​​What will you say when Lifegiver appoints as rulers over you those allies that you, yourself, had actually prepared as such? Then anguish and agony will grip you like that of a woman giving birth to a baby. 22 ​​​​​​​You’ll probably ask yourself, ‘Why have these things happened to me? Why have I been treated like a disgraced adulteress whose skirt has been torn off and her limbs exposed?’ It is because you have sinned so much. 23 ​​​​​​​But there is little hope for you ever doing good, you who are so accustomed to doing evil. Can an Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Can a leopard remove its spots? 24 “Lifegiver says, ‘That is why I’ll scatter your people like chaff that is blown away by a desert wind. 25 ​​​​​​​This is your fate, the destiny to which I’ve appointed you, because you have forgotten me and have trusted in false Deities. 26 ​​​​​​​So I’ll pull your skirt up over your face and expose you to shame like a disgraced adulteress! 27 ​​​​​​​People of Jerusalem, I’ve seen your adulterous worship, your shameless prostitution to, and your lustful pursuit of, other Deities. I’ve seen your disgusting acts of worship on the hills throughout the countryside. You are doomed to destruction! How long will you continue to be unclean?’”

Jeremiah 14

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah about the drought. 2 ​​​​​​​“The people of Judah are in mourning. The people in her cities are pining away. They lie on the ground expressing their sorrow. Cries of distress come up to me from Jerusalem. 3 ​​​​​​​The leading men of the cities send their servants for water. They go to the cisterns, but they do not find any water there. They return with their containers empty. Disappointed and dismayed, they bury their faces in their hands. 4 ​​​​​​​They are dismayed because the ground is cracked because there has been no rain in the land. The farmers, too, are dismayed and bury their faces in their hands. 5 ​​​​​​​Even the doe abandons her newborn fawn in the field because there is no grass. 6 ​​​​​​​Wild donkeys stand on the hilltops and pant for breath like jackals. Their eyes are strained looking for food, because there is none to be found.” 7 Then I said, “O Lifegiver, intervene for the honor of your name even though our sins speak out against us. Indeed, we’ve turned away from you many times. We’ve sinned against you. 8 ​​​​​​​You have been the object of Israel’s hopes. You have saved them when they were in trouble. Why have you become like a resident foreigner in the land? Why have you become like a traveler who only stops in to spend the night? 9 ​​​​​​​Why should you be like someone who is helpless, like a champion who cannot save anyone? You are indeed with us, and we belong to you. Do not abandon us!” 10 Then Lifegiver spoke about these people. “They truly love to go astray. They cannot keep from running away from me. So I’m not pleased with them. I’ll now call to mind the wrongs they have done and punish them for their sins.” 11 Then Lifegiver said to me, “Do not pray for good to come to these people! 12 Even if they fast, I’ll not hear their cries for help. Even if they offer sacrifices and grain offerings, I’ll not accept them. Instead, I’ll kill them through wars, droughts, and plagues.” 13 Then I said, “Oh, Lord Supermights , look! The prophets are telling them that you said, ‘You’ll not experience war or suffer drought. I’ll give you lasting peace and prosperity in this land.’” 14 Then Lifegiver said to me, “Those prophets are prophesying lies while claiming my authority! I did not send them. I did not commission them. I did not speak to them. They are prophesying to these people false visions, worthless predictions, and the delusions of their own mind. 15 I did not send those prophets, though they claim to be prophesying in my name. They may be saying, ‘No war or drought will happen in this land.’ But I, Lifegiver, say this about them: ‘War and starvation will kill those prophets.’ 16 The people to whom they are prophesying will die through war and drought. Their bodies will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem and there will be no one to bury them. This will happen to the men and their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I’ll pour out on them the destruction they deserve.” 17 ​​​​​​​“Tell these people this, Jeremiah: ‘My eyes overflow with tears day and night without ceasing. For my people, my dear children, have suffered a crushing blow. They have suffered a serious wound. 18 ​​​​​​​If I go out into the countryside, I see those who have been killed in battle. If I go into the city, I see those who are sick because of starvation. For both prophet and priest go about their own business in the land without having any real understanding.’” 19 Then I said, “Lifegiver, have you completely rejected the nation of Judah? Do you despise the city of Zion? Why have you struck us with such force that we are beyond recovery? We hope for peace, but nothing good has come of it. We hope for a time of relief from our troubles, but experience terror. 20 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, we confess that we’ve been wicked. We confess that our ancestors have done wrong. We’ve indeed sinned against you. 21 ​​​​​​​For the honor of your name, do not treat Jerusalem with contempt. Do not treat with disdain the place where your glorious throne sits. Be mindful of your agreement with us. Do not break it! 22 ​​​​​​​Do any of the worthless idols of the nationalities cause rain to fall? Do the skies themselves send showers? Is it not you, O Lord our Supermights , who does this? So we put our hopes in you because you alone do all this.”

Jeremiah 15

1 Then Lifegiver said to me, “Even if Moses and Samuel stood before me pleading for these people, I would not feel pity for them! Get them away from me! Tell them to go away! 2 If they ask you, ‘Where should we go?’ tell them Lifegiver says this: “Those who are destined to die of disease will go to death by disease. Those who are destined to die in war will go to death in war. Those who are destined to die of starvation will go to death by starvation. Those who are destined to go into exile will go into exile.” 3 “I’ll punish them in four different ways: I’ll have war kill them. I’ll have dogs drag off their dead bodies. I’ll have birds and wild beasts devour and destroy their corpses. 4 I’ll make all the people in all the reigns of the world horrified at what has happened to them because of what Hezekiah’s son Manasseh, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem.” 5 Lifegiver cried out, “Who in the world will have pity on you, Jerusalem? Who will grieve over you? Who will stop long enough to inquire about how you are doing? 6 ​​​​​​​I, Lifegiver, say: ‘You people have deserted me! You keep turning your back on me.’ So I’ve unleashed my power against you and have begun to destroy you. I’ve grown tired of feeling sorry for you!” 7 Lifegiver continued, “In every town in the land I’ll purge them like straw blown away by the wind. I’ll destroy my people. I’ll kill off their children. I’ll do so because they did not change their behavior. 8 ​​​​​​​Their widows will become in my sight more numerous than the grains of sand on the seashores. At noontime I’ll bring a destroyer against the mothers of their young men. I’ll cause anguish and terror to fall suddenly upon them. 9 ​​​​​​​The mother who had seven children will grow faint. All the breath will go out of her. Her pride and joy will be taken from her in the prime of their life. It will seem as if the sun had set while it was still day. She’ll suffer shame and humiliation. I’ll cause any of them who are still left alive to be killed in war by the onslaughts of their enemies,” says Lifegiver. 10 I said, “Oh, mother, how I regret that you ever gave birth to me! I’m always starting arguments and quarrels with the people of this land. I’ve not lent money to anyone and I’ve not borrowed from anyone. Yet all of these people are treating me with contempt.” 11 Lifegiver said, “Jerusalem, I’ll surely send you away for your own good. I’ll surely bring the enemy upon you in a time of trouble and distress. 12 ​​​​​​​Can you people who are like iron and bronze break that iron fist from the north? 13 ​​​​​​​I’ll give away your wealth and your treasures as plunder. I’ll give it away free of charge for the sins you have committed throughout your land. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll make you serve your enemies in a land that you know nothing about. For my anger is like a fire that will burn against you.” 15 I said, “Lifegiver, you know how I suffer. Take thought of me and care for me. Pay back for me those who have been persecuting me. Do not be so patient with them that you allow them to kill me. Be mindful of how I’ve put up with their insults for your sake. 16 ​​​​​​​As your words came to me I drank them in, and they filled my heart with joy and happiness because I belong to you. 17 ​​​​​​​I did not spend my time in the company of other people, laughing and having a good time. I stayed to myself because I felt obligated to you and because I was filled with anger at what they had done. 18 ​​​​​​​Why must I continually suffer such painful anguish? Why must I endure the sting of their insults like an incurable wound? Will you let me down when I need you like a brook one goes to for water, but that cannot be relied on?” 19 Because of this, Lifegiver said, “You must repent of such words and thoughts! If you do, I’ll restore you to the privilege of serving me. If you say what is worthwhile instead of what is worthless, I’ll again allow you to be my spokesman. They must become as you have been. You must not become like them. 20 ​​​​​​​I’ll make you as strong as a wall to these people, a fortified wall of bronze. They’ll attack you, but they’ll not be able to overcome you. For I’ll be with you to rescue you and deliver you,” says Lifegiver. 21 ​​​​​​​“I’ll deliver you from the power of the wicked. I’ll free you from the clutches of violent people.”

Jeremiah 16

1 Lifegiver said to me, 2 “Do not get married and do not have children here in this land.

3 For I, Lifegiver, tell you what will happen to the children who are born here in this land and to the men and women who are their mothers and fathers. 4 They’ll die of deadly diseases. No one will mourn for them. They’ll not be buried. Their dead bodies will lie like manure spread on the ground. They’ll be killed in war or die of starvation. Their corpses will be food for the birds and wild animals. 5 “Moreover I, Lifegiver, tell you: ‘Do not go into a house where they are having a funeral meal. Do not go there to mourn and express your sorrow for them. For I’ve stopped showing them my good favor, my love, and my compassion. I, Lifegiver, so affirm it! 6 Rich and poor alike will die in this land. They’ll not be buried or mourned. People will not cut their bodies or shave off their hair to show their grief for them. 7 No one will take any food to those who mourn for the dead to comfort them. No one will give them any wine to drink to console them for the loss of their father or mother. 8 “‘Do not go to a house where people are feasting and sit down to eat and drink with them either. 9 For I, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all, tell you what will happen. I’ll put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in this land. You and the rest of the people will live to see this happen.’” 10 “When you tell these people about all this, they’ll undoubtedly ask you, ‘Why has Lifegiver threatened us with such great disaster? What wrong have we done? What sin have we done to offend Lifegiver our Supermights ?’ 11 Then tell them that Lifegiver says, ‘It is because your ancestors rejected me and paid allegiance to other Deities. They have served them and worshiped them. But they have rejected me and not obeyed my law. 12 And you have acted even more wickedly than your ancestors! Each one of you has followed the stubborn inclinationalities of your own wicked heart and not obeyed me. 13 So I’ll throw you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your ancestors have ever known. There you must worship other deities day and night, for I’ll show you no mercy.’” 14 Yet I, Lifegiver, say: “A new time will certainly come. People now affirm their oaths with ‘I swear as surely as Lifegiver lives who delivered the people of Israel out of Egypt.’ 15 But in that time they’ll affirm them with ‘I swear as surely as Lifegiver lives who delivered the people of Israel from the land of the north and from all the other lands where he had banished them.’ At that time I’ll bring them back to the land I gave their ancestors.” 16 But for now I, Lifegiver, say: “I’ll send many enemies who will catch these people like fishermen. After that I’ll send others who will hunt them out like hunters from all the mountains, all the hills, and the crevices in the rocks. 17 For I see everything they do. Their wicked ways are not hidden from me. Their sin is not hidden away where I cannot see it. 18 Before I restore them I’ll punish them in full for their sins and the wrongs they have done. For they have polluted my land with the lifeless statues of their disgusting idols. They have filled the land I’ve claimed as my own with their detestable idols.” 19 Then I said, “Lifegiver, you give me strength and protect me. You are the one I can run to for safety when I’m in trouble. nationalities from all over the Earth will come to you and say, ‘Our ancestors had nothing but false deities – worthless idols that could not help them at all. 20 ​​​​​​​Can people make their own Deities? No, what they make are not deities at all.” 21 Lifegiver said, “So I’ll now let this wicked people know – I’ll let them know my mighty power in judgment. Then they’ll know that my name is Lifegiver.”

Jeremiah 17

1 The sin of Judah is engraved with an iron chisel on their stone-hard hearts. It is inscribed with a diamond point on the horns of their altars. 2 ​​​​​​​Their children are always thinking about their altars and their sacred poles dedicated to the Supermights dess Asherah, set up beside the green trees on the high hills 3 ​​​​​​​and on the mountains and in the fields. I’ll give your wealth and all your treasures away as plunder. I’ll give it away as the price for the sins you have committed throughout your land. 4 ​​​​​​​You’ll lose your hold on the land which I gave to you as a permanent possession. I’ll make you serve your enemies in a land that you know nothing about. For you have made my anger burn like a fire that will never be put out.” 5 Lifegiver says, “I’ll put a curse on people who trust in mere human beings, who depend on mere flesh and blood for their strength, and whose hearts have turned away from Lifegiver. 6 ​​​​​​​They’ll be like a shrub in the desert. They’ll not experience good things even when they happen. It will be as though they were growing in the desert, in a salt land where no one can live. 7 ​​​​​​​My blessing is on those people who trust in me, who put their confidence in me. 8 ​​​​​​​They’ll be like a tree planted near a stream whose roots spread out toward the water. It has nothing to fear when the heat comes. Its leaves are always green. It has no need to be concerned in a year of drought. It does not stop bearing fruit. 9 ​​​​​​​The human mind is more deceitful than anything else. It is incurably bad. Who can understand it? 10 ​​​​​​​I, Lifegiver, probe into people’s minds. I examine people’s hearts. I deal with each person according to how he has behaved. I give them what they deserve based on what they have done. 11 ​​​​​​​The person who gathers wealth by unjust means is like the partridge that broods over eggs but does not hatch them. Before his life is half over he’ll lose his ill-gotten gains. At the end of his life it will be clear he was a fool.” 12 Then I said, “Lifegiver, from the very beginning you have been seated on your glorious throne on high. You are the place where we can find refuge. 13 ​​​​​​​You are the one in whom Israel may find hope. All who leave you’ll suffer shame. Those who turn away from you’ll be consigned to the nether world. For they have rejected you, Lifegiver, the fountain of life. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, grant me relief from my suffering so that I may have some relief. Rescue me from those who persecute me so that I may be rescued. 15 ​​​​​​​Listen to what they are saying to me. They are saying, “Where are the things Lifegiver threatens us with? Come on! Let’s see them happen!” 16 ​​​​​​​But I’ve not pestered you to bring disaster. I’ve not desired the time of irreparable devastation. You know that. You are fully aware of every word that I’ve spoken. 17 ​​​​​​​Do not cause me dismay! You are my source of safety in times of trouble. 18 ​​​​​​​May those who persecute me be disgraced. Do not let me be disgraced. May they be dismayed. Do not let me be dismayed. Bring days of disaster on them. Bring on them the destruction they deserve.” 19 Lifegiver told me, “Go and stand in the People’s Gate through which the kings of Judah enter and leave the city. Then go and stand in all the other gates of the city of Jerusalem. 20 As you stand in those places announce, ‘Listen, all you people who pass through these gates. Listen, all you kings of Judah, all you people of Judah and all you citizens of Jerusalem. Listen to what Lifegiver says. 21 Lifegiver says, ‘Be very careful if you value your lives! Do not carry any loads in through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. 22 Do not carry any loads out of your houses or do any work on the Sabbath day. But observe the Sabbath day as a day set apart to Lifegiver, as I instructed your ancestors. 23 Your ancestors, however, did not listen to me or pay any attention to me. They stubbornly refused to pay attention or to respond to any discipline.’ 24 Lifegiver says, ‘You must make sure to obey me. You must not bring any loads through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day. You must set the Sabbath day apart to me. You must not do any work on that day. 25 If you do this, then the kings and princes who follow in David’s succession and ride in chariots or on horses will continue to enter through these gates, as well as their officials and the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem. This city will always be filled with people. 26 Then people will come here from the towns in Judah, from the villages surrounding Jerusalem, from the territory of Benjamin, from the western foothills, from the southern hill country, and from the southern part of Judah. They’ll come bringing offerings to the temple of Lifegiver: sacrifices, sacrifices, grain offerings, and incense along with their thank offerings. 27 But you must obey me and set the Sabbath day apart to me. You must not carry any loads in through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. If you disobey, I’ll set the gates of Jerusalem on fire. It will burn down all the fortified dwellings in Jerusalem and no one will be able to put it out.’”

Jeremiah 18

1 Lifegiver said to Jeremiah: 2 “Go down at once to the potter’s house. I’ll speak to you further there.” 3 So I went down to the potter’s house and found him working at his wheel. 4 Now and then there would be something wrong with the pot he was molding from the clay with his hands. So he would rework the clay into another kind of pot as he saw fit. 5 Then Lifegiver said to me, 6 “I, Lifegiver, say: ‘O nation of Israel, can I not deal with you as this potter deals with the clay? In my hands, you, O nation of Israel, are just like the clay in this potter’s hand.’ 7 There are times, Jeremiah, when I threaten to uproot, tear down, and destroy a nation or reign. 8 But if that nation I threatened stops doing wrong, I’ll cancel the destruction I intended to do to it. 9 And there are times when I promise to build up and establish a nation or reign. 10 But if that nation does what displeases me and does not obey me, then I’ll cancel the good I promised to do to it. 11 So now, tell the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem this: Lifegiver says, ‘I’m preparing to bring disaster on you! I’m making plans to punish you. So, every one of you, stop the bad things you have been doing. Correct the way you have been living and do what is right.’ 12 But they just keep saying, ‘We do not care what you say! We’ll do whatever we want to do! We’ll continue to behave wickedly and stubbornly!’” 13 Therefore, Lifegiver says, “Ask the people of other nationalities whether they have heard of anything like this. Israel should have been like a virgin. But she has done something utterly revolting! 14 ​​​​​​​Does the snow ever completely vanish from the rocky slopes of Lebanon? Do the cool waters from those distant mountains ever cease to flow? 15 ​​​​​​​Yet my people have forgotten me and offered sacrifices to worthless idols! This makes them stumble along in the way they live and leave the old reliable path of their fathers. They have left them to walk in bypaths, in roads that are not smooth and level. 16 ​​​​​​​So their land will become an object of horror. People will forever hiss out their scorn over it. All who pass that way will be filled with horror and will shake their heads in derision. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll scatter them before their enemies like dust blowing in front of a burning east wind. I’ll turn my back on them and not look favorably on them when disaster strikes them.” 18 Then some people said, “Come on! Let us consider how to deal with Jeremiah! There will still be priests to instruct us, sages to give us advice, and prophets to declare Supermights ’s word. Come on! Let’s bring charges against him and get rid of him! Then we’ll not need to pay attention to anything he says.” 19 Then I said, “Lifegiver, pay attention to me. Listen to what my enemies are saying. 20 ​​​​​​​Should good be paid back with evil? Yet they are virtually digging a pit to kill me. Just remember how I stood before you pleading on their behalf to keep you from venting your anger on them. 21 ​​​​​​​So let their children die of starvation. Let them be cut down by the sword. Let their wives lose their husbands and children. Let the older men die of disease and the younger men die by the sword in battle. 22 ​​​​​​​Let cries of terror be heard in their houses when you send bands of raiders unexpectedly to plunder them. For they have virtually dug a pit to capture me and have hidden traps for me to step into. 23 ​​​​​​​But you, Lifegiver, know all their plots to kill me. Do not pardon their crimes! Do not ignore their sins as though you had erased them! Let them be brought down in defeat before you! Deal with them while you are still angry!

Jeremiah 19

1 Lifegiver told Jeremiah, “Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take with you some of the leaders of the people and some of the leaders of the priests. 2 Go out to the part of the Hinnom Valley which is near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. Announce there what I tell you. 3 Say, ‘Listen to what Lifegiver says, you kings of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem! Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “I’ll bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it ring! 4 I’ll do so because these people have rejected me and have defiled this place. They have offered sacrifices in it to other deities which neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah knew anything about. They have filled it with the blood of innocent children. 5 They have built places here for worship of the Supermights Baal so that they could sacrifice their children as sacrifices to him in the fire. Such sacrifices are something I never instructed them to make! They are something I never told them to do! Indeed, such a thing never even entered my mind! 6 So I, Lifegiver, say: “The time will soon come that people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Hinnom Valley. But they’ll call this valley the Valley of Slaughter! 7 In this place I’ll thwart the plans of the people of Judah and Jerusalem. I’ll deliver them over to the power of their enemies who are seeking to kill them. They’ll die by the sword at the hands of their enemies. I’ll make their dead bodies food for the birds and wild beasts to eat. 8 I’ll make this city an object of horror, a thing to be hissed at. All who pass by it will be filled with horror and will hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it. 9 I’ll reduce the people of this city to desperate straits during the siege imposed on it by their enemies who are seeking to kill them. I’ll make them so desperate that they’ll eat the flesh of their own sons and daughters and the flesh of one another.”’” 10 Lifegiver continued, “Now break the jar in front of those who have come here with you. 11 Tell them Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘I’ll do just as Jeremiah has done. I’ll smash this nation and this city as though it were a potter’s vessel which is broken beyond repair. The dead will be buried here in Topheth until there is no more room to bury them.’ 12 I, Lifegiver, say: ‘That is how I’ll deal with this city and its citizens. I’ll make it like Topheth. 13 The houses in Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will be defiled by dead bodies just like this place, Topheth. For they offered sacrifice to the stars and poured out drink offerings to other deities on the roofs of those houses.’” 14 Then Jeremiah left Topheth where Lifegiver had sent him to give that prophecy. He went to Lifegiver’s temple and stood in its courtyard and called out to all the people. 15 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘I’ll soon bring on this city and all the towns surrounding it all the disaster I threatened to do to it. I’ll do so because they have stubbornly refused to pay any attention to what I’ve said!’”

Jeremiah 20

1 Now Pashhur son of Immer heard Jeremiah prophesy these things. He was the priest who was chief of security in Lifegiver’s temple. 2 When he heard Jeremiah’s prophecy, he had the prophet flogged. Then he put him in the stocks which were at the Upper Gate of Benjamin in Lifegiver’s temple. 3 But the next day Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks. When he did, Jeremiah said to him, “Lifegiver’s name for you is not ‘Pashhur’ but ‘Terror is Everywhere.’ 4 For Lifegiver says, ‘I’ll make both you and your friends terrified of what will happen to you. You’ll see all of them die by the swords of their enemies. I’ll hand all the people of Judah over to the king of Babylon. he’ll carry some of them away into exile in Babylon and he’ll kill others of them with the sword. 5 I’ll hand over all the wealth of this city to their enemies. I’ll hand over to them all the fruits of the labor of the people of this city and all their prized possessions, as well as all the treasures of the kings of Judah. Their enemies will seize it all as plunder and carry it off to Babylon. 6 You, Pashhur, and all your household will go into exile in Babylon. You’ll die there and you’ll be buried there. The same thing will happen to all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies.’” 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, you coerced me into being a prophet, and I allowed you to do it. You overcame my resistance and prevailed over me. Now I’ve become a constant laughingstock. Everyone ridicules me. 8 ​​​​​​​For whenever I prophesy, I must cry out, “Violence and destruction are coming!” This message from Lifegiver has made me an object of continual insults and derision. 9 ​​​​​​​Sometimes I think, “I’ll make no mention of his message. I’ll not speak as his messenger any more.” But then his message becomes like a fire locked up inside of me, burning in my heart and soul. I grow weary of trying to hold it in; I cannot contain it. 10 ​​​​​​​I hear many whispering words of intrigue against me. Those who would cause me terror are everywhere! They are saying, “Come on, let’s publicly denounce him!” All my so-called friends are just watching for something that would lead to my downfall. They say, “Perhaps he can be enticed into slipping up, so we can prevail over him and get our revenge on him. 11 ​​​​​​​But Lifegiver is with me to help me like an awe-inspiring warrior. Therefore those who persecute me will fail and will not prevail over me. They’ll be thoroughly disgraced because they did not succeed. Their disgrace will never be forgotten. 12 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver who rules over all, you test and prove the righteous. You see into people’s hearts and minds. Pay them back for what they have done because I trust you to vindicate my cause. 13 ​​​​​​​Sing to Lifegiver! Praise Lifegiver! For he rescues the oppressed from the clutches of evildoers. 14 ​​​​​​​Cursed be the day I was born! May that day not be blessed when my mother gave birth to me. 15 ​​​​​​​Cursed be the man who made my father very glad when he brought him the news that a baby boy had been born to him! 16 ​​​​​​​May that man be like the cities that Lifegiver destroyed without showing any mercy. May he hear a cry of distress in the morning and a battle cry at noon. 17 ​​​​​​​For he did not kill me before I came from the womb, making my pregnant mother’s womb my grave forever. 18 ​​​​​​​Why did I ever come forth from my mother’s womb? All I experience is trouble and grief, and I spend my days in shame.

Jeremiah 21

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur son of Malkijah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah. Zedekiah sent them to Jeremiah to ask, 2 “Please ask Lifegiver to come and help us, because King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is attacking us. Maybe Lifegiver will perform one of his miracles as in times past and make him stop attacking us and leave.” 3 Jeremiah answered them, “Tell Zedekiah 4 that Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel, says, ‘The forces at your disposal are now outside the walls fighting against King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and the Babylonians who have you under siege. I’ll gather those forces back inside the city. 5 In anger, in fury, and in wrath I myself will fight against you with my mighty power and great strength! 6 I’ll kill everything living in Jerusalem, people and animals alike! They’ll die from terrible diseases. 7 Then I, Lifegiver, promise that I’ll hand over King Zedekiah of Judah, his officials, and any of the people who survive the war, starvation, and disease. I’ll hand them over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and to their enemies who want to kill them. he’ll slaughter them with the sword. he’ll not show them any mercy, compassion, or pity.’ 8 “But tell the people of Jerusalem that Lifegiver says, ‘I’ll give you a choice between two courses of action. One will result in life; the other will result in death. 9 Those who stay in this city will die in battle or of starvation or disease. Those who leave the city and surrender to the Babylonians who are besieging it will live. They’ll escape with their lives. 10 For I, Lifegiver, say that I’m determined not to deliver this city but to bring disaster on it. It will be handed over to the king of Babylon and he’ll destroy it with fire.’” 11 Lifegiver told me to say to the royal court of Judah, “Listen to what Lifegiver says, 12 ​​​​​​​O royal family descended from David. Lifegiver says: ‘See to it that people each day are judged fairly. Deliver those who have been robbed from those who oppress them. Otherwise, my wrath will blaze out against you. It will burn like a fire that cannot be put out because of the bad that you have done. 13 ​​​​​​​Listen, you who sit enthroned above the valley on a rocky plateau. I’m opposed to you,’ says Lifegiver. ‘You boast, “No one can swoop down on us. No one can penetrate into our places of refuge.” 14 ​​​​​​​But I’ll punish you as your deeds deserve,’ says Lifegiver. ‘I’ll set fire to your palace; it will burn up everything around it.’”

Jeremiah 22

1 Lifegiver told me, “Go down to the palace of the king of Judah. Give him a message from me there. 2 Say: ‘Listen, O king of Judah who follows in David’s succession. You, your officials, and your subjects who pass through the gates of this palace must listen to what Lifegiver says. 3 Lifegiver says, “Do what is just and right. Deliver those who have been robbed from those who oppress them. Do not exploit or mistreat foreigners who live in your land, children who have no fathers, or widows. Do not kill innocent people in this land. 4 If you are careful to obey these instructions, then the kings who follow in David’s succession and ride in chariots or on horses will continue to come through the gates of this palace, as will their officials and their subjects. 5 But, if you do not obey these instructions, I solemnly swear that this palace will become a pile of rubble. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!” 6 ​​​​​​​“‘For Lifegiver says concerning the palace of the king of Judah, “This place looks like a veritable forest of Gilead to me. It is like the wooded heights of Lebanon in my eyes. But I swear that I’ll make it like a desert whose towns have all been deserted. 7 ​​​​​​​I’ll send men against it to destroy it with their axes and hatchets. They’ll hack up its fine cedar panels and columns and throw them into the fire. 8 “‘People from other nationalities will pass by this city. They’ll ask one another, “Why has Lifegiver done such a thing to this great city?” 9 The answer will come back, “It is because they broke their agreement with Lifegiver their deity and worshiped and served other Deities.” 10 ​​​​​​​“‘Do not weep for the king who was killed. Do not grieve for him. But weep mournfully for the king who has gone into exile. For he’ll never return to see his native land again. 11 “‘For Lifegiver has spoken about Shallum son of Josiah, who succeeded his father as king of Judah but was carried off into exile. He has said, “He will never return to this land. 12 For he’ll die in the country where they took him as a captive. he’ll never see this land again.” 13 ​​​​​​​“‘Sure to be judged is the king who builds his palace using injustice and treats people unfairly while adding its upper rooms. He makes his countrymen work for him for nothing. He does not pay them for their labor. 14 ​​​​​​​He says, “I’ll build myself a large palace with spacious upper rooms.” He cuts windows in its walls, panels it with cedar, and paints its rooms red. 15 ​​​​​​​Does it make you any more of a king that you outstrip everyone else in building with cedar? Just think about your father. He was content that he had food and drink. He did what was just and right. So things went well with him. 16 ​​​​​​​He upheld the cause of the poor and needy. So things went well for Judah.’ Lifegiver says, ‘That is a good example of what it means to know me.’ 17 ​​​​​​​But you are always thinking and looking for ways to increase your wealth by dishonest means. Your eyes and your heart are set on killing some innocent person and committing fraud and oppression. 18 ​​​​​​​So Lifegiver has this to say about Josiah’s son, King Jehoiakim of Judah: People will not mourn for him, saying, “This makes me sad, my brother! This makes me sad, my sister!” They’ll not mourn for him, saying, “Poor, poor lord! Poor, poor majesty!” 19 ​​​​​​​He will be left unburied just like a dead donkey. His body will be dragged off and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem.’” 20 ​​​​​​​People of Jerusalem, go up to Lebanon and cry out in mourning. Go to the land of Bashan and cry out loudly. Cry out in mourning from the mountains of Moab. For your allies have all been defeated. 21 ​​​​​​​While you were feeling secure I gave you warning. But you said, “I refuse to listen to you.” That is the way you have acted from your earliest history onward. Indeed, you have never paid attention to me. 22 ​​​​​​​My judgment will carry off all your leaders like a storm wind! Your allies will go into captivity. Then you’ll certainly be disgraced and put to shame because of all the wickedness you have done. 23 ​​​​​​​You may feel as secure as a bird nesting in the cedars of Lebanon. But oh how you’ll groan when the pains of judgment come on you. They’ll be like those of a woman giving birth to a baby. 24 Lifegiver says, “As surely as I’m the living Supermights , you, Jeconiah, king of Judah, son of Jehoiakim, will not be the Earth ly representative of my authority. Indeed, I’ll take that right away from you. 25 I’ll hand you over to those who want to take your life and of whom you are afraid. I’ll hand you over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and his Babylonian soldiers. 26 I’ll force you and your mother who gave you birth into exile. You’ll be exiled to a country where neither of you were born, and you’ll both die there. 27 You’ll never come back to this land to which you’ll long to return!” 28 ​​​​​​​This man, Jeconiah, will be like a broken pot someone threw away. he’ll be like a clay vessel that no one wants. Why will he and his children be forced into exile? Why will they be thrown out into a country they know nothing about? 29 ​​​​​​​O land of Judah, land of Judah, land of Judah! Listen to what Lifegiver has to say! 30 Lifegiver says, “Enroll this man in the register as though he were childless. Enroll him as a man who will not enjoy success during his lifetime. For none of his sons will succeed in occupying the throne of David or ever succeed in ruling over Judah.”

Jeremiah 23

1 Lifegiver says, “The leaders of my people are sure to be judged. They were supposed to watch over my people like shepherds watch over their sheep. But they are causing my people to be destroyed and scattered. 2 So Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel has this to say about the leaders who are ruling over his people: “You have caused my people to be dispersed and driven into exile. You have not taken care of them. So I’ll punish you for the bad that you have done. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 3 Then I myself will regather those of my people who are still alive from all the countries where I’ve driven them. I’ll bring them back to their homeland. They’ll greatly increase in number. 4 I’ll install rulers over them who will care for them. Then they’ll no longer need to fear or be terrified. None of them will turn up missing. I, Lifegiver, promise it! 5 ​​​​​​​“I, Lifegiver, promise that a new time will certainly come when I’ll raise up for them a righteous branch, a descendant of David. he’ll rule over them with wisdom and understanding and will do what is just and right in the land. 6 ​​​​​​​Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety and Israel will live in security. This is the name he’ll go by: ‘Lifegiver has provided us with justice.’ 7 “So I, Lifegiver, say: ‘A new time will certainly come. People now affirm their oaths with “I swear as surely as Lifegiver lives who delivered the people of Israel out of Egypt.” 8 But at that time they’ll affirm them with “I swear as surely as Lifegiver lives who delivered the descendants of the former nation of Israel from the land of the north and from all the other lands where he had banished them.” At that time they’ll live in their own land.’” 9 ​​​​​​​Here is what Lifegiver says concerning the false prophets: My heart and my mind are deeply disturbed. I tremble all over. I’m like a drunk person, like a person who has had too much wine, because of the way Lifegiver and his sacred word are being mistreated. 10 ​​​​​​​For the land is full of people unfaithful to him. They live wicked lives and they misuse their power. So the land is dried up because it is under his curse. The pastures in the desert are withered. 11 ​​​​​​​Moreover, Lifegiver says, “Both the prophets and priests are Supermights less. I’ve even found them doing bad in my temple! 12 ​​​​​​​So the paths they follow will be dark and slippery. They’ll stumble and fall headlong. For I’ll bring disaster on them. A day of reckoning is coming for them.” Lifegiver affirms it! 13 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “I saw the prophets of Samaria doing something that was disgusting. They prophesied in the name of the Supermights Baal and led my people Israel astray. 14 ​​​​​​​But I see the prophets of Jerusalem doing something just as shocking. They are unfaithful to me and continually prophesy lies. So they give encouragement to people who are doing evil, with the result that they do not stop their evildoing. I consider all of them as bad as the people of Sodom, and the citizens of Jerusalem as bad as the people of Gomorrah. 15 ​​​​​​​So then I, Lifegiver who rules over all, have something to say concerning the prophets of Jerusalem: ‘I’ll make these prophets eat the bitter food of suffering and drink the poison water of judgment. For the prophets of Jerusalem are the reason that unspirituality has spread throughout the land.’” 16 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who rules over all says to the people of Jerusalem: “Do not listen to what those prophets are saying to you. They are filling you with false hopes. They are reporting visions of their own imaginationalities, not something Lifegiver has given them to say. 17 ​​​​​​​They continually say to those who reject what Lifegiver has said, ‘Things will go well for you!’ They say to all those who follow the stubborn inclinationalities of their own hearts, ‘Nothing bad will happen to you!’ 18 ​​​​​​​Yet which of them has ever stood in Lifegiver’s inner circle so they could see and hear what he has to say? Which of them have ever paid attention or listened to what he has said? 19 ​​​​​​​But just watch! The wrath of Lifegiver will come like a storm! Like a raging storm it will rage down on the heads of those who are wicked. 20 ​​​​​​​The anger of Lifegiver will not turn back until he has fully carried out his intended purposes. In days to come you people will come to understand this clearly. 21 ​​​​​​​I did not send those prophets. Yet they were in a hurry to give their message. I did not tell them anything. Yet they prophesied anyway. 22 ​​​​​​​But if they had stood in my inner circle, they would have proclaimed my message to my people. They would have caused my people to turn from their wicked ways and stop doing the bad things they are doing. 23 ​​​​​​​Do you people think that I’m some local deity and not the transcendent Supermights ?” Lifegiver asks. 24 ​​​​​​​“Do you really think anyone can hide himself where I cannot see him?” Lifegiver asks. “Do you not know that I’m everywhere?” Lifegiver asks. 25 Lifegiver says, “I’ve heard what those prophets who are prophesying lies in my name are saying. They are saying, ‘I’ve had a dream! I’ve had a dream!’ 26 Those prophets are just prophesying lies. They are prophesying the delusions of their own minds. 27 How long will they go on plotting to make my people forget who I’m through the dreams they tell one another? That is just as bad as what their ancestors did when they forgot who I’m by worshiping the Supermights Baal. 28 Let the prophet who has had a dream go ahead and tell his dream. Let the person who has received my message report that message faithfully. What is like straw cannot compare to what is like grain! I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 29 My message is like a fire that purges dross! It is like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces! I, Lifegiver, so affirm it! 30 So I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’m opposed to those prophets who steal messages from one another that they claim are from me. 31 I, Lifegiver, AFFIRM that I’m opposed to those prophets who are using their own tongues to declare, ‘Lifegiver declares….’ 32 I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’m opposed to those prophets who dream up lies and report them. They are misleading my people with their reckless lies. I did not send them. I did not commission them. They are not helping these people at all. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!” 33 Lifegiver said to me, “Jeremiah, when one of these people, or a prophet, or a priest asks you, ‘What burdensome message do you have from Lifegiver?’ Tell them, ‘You are the burden, and I’ll cast you away. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 34 I’ll punish any prophet, priest, or other person who says “Lifegiver’s message is burdensome.” I’ll punish both that person and his whole family.’” 35 So I, Jeremiah, tell you, “Each of you people should say to his friend or his relative, ‘How did Lifegiver answer? Or what did Lifegiver say?’ 36 You must no longer say that Lifegiver’s message is burdensome. For what is ‘burdensome’ really pertains to what a person himself says. You are misrepresenting the words of our Supermights , the living Supermights , Lifegiver who rules over all. 37 Each of you should merely ask the prophet, ‘What answer did Lifegiver give you? Or what did Lifegiver say?’ 38 But just suppose you continue to say, ‘The message of Lifegiver is burdensome.’ Here is what Lifegiver says will happen: ‘I sent word to you that you must not say, “Lifegiver’s message is burdensome.” But you used the words “Lifegiver’s message is burdensome” anyway. 39 So I’ll carry you far off and throw you away. I’ll send both you and the city I gave to you and to your ancestors out of my sight. 40 I’ll bring on you lasting shame and lasting disgrace which will never be forgotten!’”

Jeremiah 24

1 Lifegiver showed me two baskets of figs sitting before his temple. This happened after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon deported Jehoiakim’s son, King Jeconiah of Judah. He deported him and the leaders of Judah, along with the craftsmen and metal workers, and took them to Babylon. 2 One basket had very good-looking figs in it. They looked like those that had ripened early. The other basket had very bad-looking figs in it, so bad they could not be eaten. 3 Lifegiver said to me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I answered, “I see figs. The good ones look very good. But the bad ones look very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten.” 4 Lifegiver said to me, 5 “I, Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel, say: ‘The exiles whom I sent away from here to the land of Babylon are like those good figs. I consider them to be good. 6 I’ll look after their welfare and will restore them to this land. There I’ll build them up and will not tear them down. I’ll plant them firmly in the land and will not uproot them. 7 I’ll give them the desire to acknowledge that I’m Lifegiver. I’ll be their Supermights and they’ll be my people. For they’ll wholeheartedly return to me.’ 8 “I, Lifegiver, also solemnly assert: ‘King Zedekiah of Judah, his officials, and the people who remain in Jerusalem or who have gone to live in Egypt are like those bad figs. I consider them to be just like those bad figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten. 9 I’ll bring such disaster on them that all the reigns of the Earth will be horrified. I’ll make them an object of reproach, a proverbial example of disaster. I’ll make them an object of ridicule, an example to be used in curses. That is how they’ll be remembered wherever I banish them. 10 I’ll bring war, starvation, and disease on them until they are completely destroyed from the land I gave them and their ancestors.’”

Jeremiah 25

1 In the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was king of Judah, Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah. (That was the same as the first year that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.) 2 So the prophet Jeremiah spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the people who were living in Jerusalem. 3 “For the last twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amon was ruling in Judah until now, Lifegiver has been speaking to me. I told you over and over again what he said. But you would not listen. 4 Over and over again Lifegiver has sent his servants the prophets to you. But you have not listened or paid attention.

5 He said through them, ‘Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and stop doing the bad things you are doing. If you do, I’ll allow you to continue to live here in the land that I gave to you and your ancestors as a lasting possession. 6 Do not pay allegiance to other deities and worship and serve them. Do not make me angry by the things that you do. Then I’ll not cause you any harm.’ 7 So, now Lifegiver says, ‘You have not listened to me. But you have made me angry by the things that you have done. Thus you have brought harm on yourselves.’ 8 “Therefore, Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘You have not listened to what I said. 9 So I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’ll send for all the peoples of the north and my servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I’ll bring them against this land and its inhabitants and all the nationalities that surround it. I’ll utterly destroy this land, its inhabitants, and all the nationalities that surround it and make them everlasting ruins. I’ll make them objects of horror and hissing scorn. 10 I’ll put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in these lands. I’ll put an end to the sound of people grinding meal. I’ll put an end to lamps shining in their houses. 11 This whole area will become a desolate wasteland. These nationalities will be subject to the king of Babylon for seventy years.’ 12 “‘But when the seventy years are over, I’ll punish the king of Babylon and his nation for their sins. I’ll make the land of Babylon an everlasting ruin. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 13 I’ll bring on that land everything that I said I would. I’ll bring on it everything that is written in this book. I’ll bring on it everything that Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nationalities. 14 For many nationalities and great kings will make slaves of the king of Babylon and his nation too. I’ll repay them for all they have done!’” 15 So Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel, spoke to me in a vision. “Take this cup from my hand. It is filled with the wine of my wrath. Take it and make the nationalities to whom I send you drink it. 16 When they have drunk it, they’ll stagger to and fro and act insane. For I’ll send wars sweeping through them.” 17 So I took the cup from Lifegiver’s hand. I made all the nationalities to whom he sent me drink the wine of his wrath. 18 I made Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its officials drink it. I did it so Judah would become a ruin. I did it so Judah, its kings, and its officials would become an object of horror and of hissing scorn, an example used in curses. Such is already becoming the case! 19 I made all of these other people drink it: Pharaoh, king of Egypt; his attendants, his officials, his people, 20 the foreigners living in Egypt; all the kings of the land of Uz; all the kings of the land of the Philistines, the people of Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, the people who had been left alive from Ashdod; 21 all the people of Edom, Moab, Ammon; 22 all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon; all the kings of the coastlands along the sea; 23 the people of Dedan, Tema, Buz, all the desert people who cut their hair short at the temples; 24 all the kings of Arabia who live in the desert; 25 all the kings of Zimri; all the kings of Elam; all the kings of Media; 26 all the kings of the north, whether near or far from one another; and all the other reigns which are on the face of the Earth . After all of them have drunk the wine of Lifegiver’s wrath, the king of Babylon must drink it. 27 Then Lifegiver said to me, “Tell them that Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘Drink this cup until you get drunk and vomit. Drink until you fall down and can’t get up. For I’ll send wars sweeping through you.’ 28 If they refuse to take the cup from your hand and drink it, tell them that Lifegiver who rules over all says ‘You most certainly must drink it! 29 For take note, I’m already beginning to bring disaster on the city that I call my own. So how can you possibly avoid being punished? You’ll not go unpunished! For I’m proclaiming war against all who live on the Earth . I, Lifegiver who rules over all, affirm it!’ 30 “Then, Jeremiah, make the following prophecy against them: ‘Like a lion about to attack, Lifegiver will roar from the heights of Heaven; from his sacred dwelling on high he’ll roar loudly. he’ll roar mightily against his land. he’ll shout in triumph like those stomping juice from the grapes against all those who live on the Earth . 31 ​​​​​​​The sounds of battle will resound to the ends of the Earth . For Lifegiver will bring charges against the nationalities. he’ll pass judgment on all humankind and will hand the wicked over to be killed in war.’ Lifegiver so affirms it! 32 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘Disaster will soon come on one nation after another. A mighty storm of military destruction is rising up from the distant parts of the Earth .’ 33 ​​​​​​​Those who have been killed by Lifegiver at that time will be scattered from one end of the Earth to the other. They’ll not be mourned over, gathered up, or buried. Their dead bodies will lie scattered over the ground like manure. 34 ​​​​​​​Wail and cry out in anguish, you rulers! Roll in the dust, you who shepherd flocks of people! The time for you to be slaughtered has come. You’ll lie scattered and fallen like broken pieces of fine pottery. 35 ​​​​​​​The leaders will not be able to run away and hide. The shepherds of the flocks will not be able to escape. 36 ​​​​​​​Listen to the cries of anguish of the leaders. Listen to the wails of the shepherds of the flocks. They are wailing because Lifegiver is about to destroy their lands. 37 ​​​​​​​Their peaceful dwelling places will be laid waste by the fierce anger of Lifegiver. 38 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is like a lion who has left his lair. So their lands will certainly be laid waste by the warfare of the oppressive nation and by the fierce anger of Lifegiver.”

Jeremiah 26

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah at the beginning of the reign of Josiah’s son, King Jehoiakim of Judah. 2 Lifegiver said, “Go stand in the courtyard of Lifegiver’s temple. Speak out to all the people who are coming from the towns of Judah to worship in Lifegiver’s temple. Tell them everything I instruct you to tell them. Do not leave out a single word! 3 Maybe they’ll pay attention and each of them will stop living the bad way they do. If they do that, then I’ll forgo destroying them as I had intended to do because of the wicked things they have been doing. 4 Tell them that Lifegiver says, ‘You must obey me! You must live according to the way I’ve instructed you in my laws. 5 You must pay attention to the exhortations of my servants the prophets. I’ve sent them to you over and over again. But you have not paid any attention to them. 6 If you do not obey me, then I’ll do to this temple what I did to Shiloh. And I’ll make this city an example to be used in curses by people from all the nationalities on the Earth .’” 7 The priests, the prophets, and all the people heard Jeremiah say these things in Lifegiver’s temple. 8 Jeremiah had just barely finished saying all Lifegiver had instructed him to say to all the people. All at once some of the priests, the prophets, and the people grabbed him and shouted, “You deserve to die! 9 How dare you claim Lifegiver’s authority to prophesy such things! How dare you claim his authority to prophesy that this temple will become like Shiloh and that this city will become an uninhabited ruin!” Then all the people crowded around Jeremiah. 10 However, some of the officials of Judah heard about what was happening and they rushed up to Lifegiver’s temple from the royal palace. They set up court at the entrance of the New Gate of Lifegiver’s temple. 11 Then the priests and the prophets made their charges before the officials and all the people. They said, “This man should be condemned to die because he prophesied against this city. You have heard him do so with your own ears.” 12 Then Jeremiah made his defense before all the officials and all the people. “Lifegiver sent me to prophesy everything you have heard me say against this temple and against this city. 13 But correct the way you have been living and do what is right. Obey Lifegiver your deity. If you do, Lifegiver will forgo destroying you as he threatened he would. 14 As to my case, I’m in your power. Do to me what you deem fair and proper. 15 But you should take careful note of this: If you put me to death, you’ll bring on yourselves and this city and those who live in it the guilt of murdering an innocent man. For Lifegiver has sent me to speak all this where you can hear it. That is the truth!” 16 Then the officials and all the people rendered their verdict to the priests and the prophets. They said, “This man should not be condemned to die. For he has spoken to us under the authority of Lifegiver our Supermights.” 17 Then some of the seniors of Judah stepped forward and spoke to all the people gathered there. They said, 18 “Micah from Moresheth prophesied during the time Hezekiah was king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, ‘Lifegiver who rules over all says, “Zion will become a plowed field. Jerusalem will become a pile of rubble. The temple mount will become a mere wooded ridge.”’ 19 King Hezekiah and all the people of Judah did not put him to death, did they? Did not Hezekiah show reverence for Lifegiver and seek Lifegiver’s favor? Did not Lifegiver forgo destroying them as he threatened he would? But we are on the verge of bringing great disaster on ourselves.” 20 Now there was another man who prophesied as Lifegiver’s representative against this city and this land just as Jeremiah did. His name was Uriah son of Shemaiah from Kiriath Jearim. 21 When the king and all his bodyguards and officials heard what he was prophesying, the king sought to have him executed. But Uriah found out about it and fled to Egypt out of fear. 22 However, King Jehoiakim sent some men to Egypt, including Elnathan son of Achbor, 23 and they brought Uriah back from there. They took him to King Jehoiakim, who had him executed and had his body thrown into the burial place of the common people. 24 However, Ahikam son of Shaphan used his influence to keep Jeremiah from being handed over and executed by the people.

Jeremiah 27

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah early in the reign of Josiah’s son, King Zedekiah of Judah. 2 Lifegiver told me, “Make a yoke out of leather straps and wooden crossbars and put it on your neck. 3 Use it to send messages to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon. Send them through the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to King Zedekiah of Judah. 4 Charge them to give their masters a message from me. Tell them, ‘Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says to give your masters this message. 5 “I made the Earth and the people and animals on it by my mighty power and great strength, and I give it to whomever I see fit. 6 I’ve at this time placed all these nationalities of yours under the power of my servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I’ve even made all the wild animals subject to him. 7 All nationalities must serve him and his son and grandson until the time comes for his own nation to fall. Then many nationalities and great kings will in turn subjugate Babylon. 8 But suppose a nation or a reign will not be subject to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Suppose it will not submit to the yoke of servitude to him. I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’ll punish that nation. I’ll use the king of Babylon to punish it with war, starvation, and disease until I’ve destroyed it. 9 So do not listen to your prophets or to those who claim to predict the future by divination, by dreams, by consulting the dead, or by practicing magic. They keep telling you, ‘You do not need to be subject to the king of Babylon.’ 10 Do not listen to them, because their prophecies are lies. Listening to them will only cause you to be taken far away from your native land. I’ll drive you out of your country and you’ll die in exile. 11 Things will go better for the nation that submits to the yoke of servitude to the king of Babylon and is subject to him. I’ll leave that nation in its native land. Its people can continue to farm it and live in it. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!”’” 12 I told King Zedekiah of Judah the same thing. I said, “Submit to the yoke of servitude to the king of Babylon. Be subject to him and his people. Then you’ll continue to live. 13 There is no reason why you and your people should die in war or from starvation or disease! That’s what Lifegiver says will happen to any nation that will not be subject to the king of Babylon. 14 Do not listen to the prophets who are telling you that you do not need to serve the king of Babylon. For they are prophesying lies to you. 15 For I, Lifegiver, affirm that I did not send them. They are prophesying lies to you. If you listen to them, I’ll drive you and the prophets who are prophesying lies out of the land and you’ll all die in exile.” 16 I also told the priests and all the people, “Lifegiver says, ‘Do not listen to what your prophets are saying. They are prophesying to you that the valuable articles taken from Lifegiver’s temple will be brought back from Babylon very soon. But they are prophesying a lie to you. 17 Do not listen to them. Be subject to the king of Babylon. Then you’ll continue to live. Why should this city be made a pile of rubble?’” 18 I also told them, “If they are really prophets and Lifegiver is speaking to them, let them pray earnestly to Lifegiver who rules over all. Let them plead with him not to let the valuable articles that are still left in Lifegiver’s temple, in the royal palace, and in Jerusalem be taken away to Babylon. 19 For Lifegiver who rules over all has already spoken about the two bronze pillars, the large bronze basin called ‘The Sea,’ and the movable bronze stands. He has already spoken about the rest of the valuable articles that are left in this city. 20 He has already spoken about these things that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon did not take away when he carried Jehoiakim’s son King Jeconiah of Judah and the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem away as captives. 21 Indeed, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all has already spoken about the valuable articles that are left in Lifegiver’s temple, in the royal palace of Judah, and in Jerusalem. 22 He has said, ‘They’ll be carried off to Babylon. They’ll remain there until it is time for me to show consideration for them again. Then I’ll bring them back and restore them to this place.’ I, Lifegiver, affirm this!”

Jeremiah 28

1 The following events occurred in that same year, early in the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah. To be more precise, it was the fifth month of the fourth year of his reign. The prophet Hananiah son of Azzur, who was from Gibeon, spoke to Jeremiah in Lifegiver’s temple in the presence of the priests and all the people. 2 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘I’ll break the yoke of servitude to the king of Babylon. 3 Before two years are over, I’ll bring back to this place everything that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took from it and carried away to Babylon. 4 I’ll also bring back to this place Jehoiakim’s son King Jeconiah of Judah and all the exiles who were taken to Babylon.’ Indeed, Lifegiver affirms, ‘I’ll break the yoke of servitude to the king of Babylon.’” 5 Then the prophet Jeremiah responded to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in Lifegiver’s temple. 6 The prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May Lifegiver do all this! May Lifegiver make your prophecy come true! May he bring back to this place from Babylon all the valuable articles taken from Lifegiver’s temple and the people who were carried into exile. 7 But listen to what I say to you and to all these people. 8 From earliest times, the prophets who preceded you and me invariably prophesied war, disaster, and plagues against many countries and great reigns. 9 So if a prophet prophesied peace and prosperity, it was only known that Lifegiver truly sent him when what he prophesied came true.” 10 The prophet Hananiah then took the yoke off the prophet Jeremiah’s neck and broke it. 11 Then he spoke up in the presence of all the people. “Lifegiver says, ‘In the same way I’ll break the yoke of servitude of all the nationalities to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon before two years are over.’” After he heard this, the prophet Jeremiah departed and went on his way. 12 But shortly after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke off the prophet Jeremiah’s neck, Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah. 13 “Go and tell Hananiah that Lifegiver says, ‘You have indeed broken the wooden yoke. But you have only succeeded in replacing it with an iron one! 14 For Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “I’ve put an irresistible yoke of servitude on all these nationalities so they’ll serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. And they’ll indeed serve him. I’ve even given him control over the wild animals.”’” 15 Then the prophet Jeremiah told the prophet Hananiah, “Listen, Hananiah! Lifegiver did not send you! You are making these people trust in a lie! 16 So Lifegiver says, ‘I’ll most assuredly remove you from the face of the Earth . You’ll die this very year because you have counseled rebellion against Lifegiver.’” 17 In the seventh month of that very same year the prophet Hananiah died.

Jeremiah 29

1 The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter to the exiles Nebuchadnezzar had carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon. It was addressed to the seniors who were left among the exiles, to the priests, to the prophets, and to all the other people who were exiled in Babylon. 2 He sent it after King Jeconiah, the queen mother, the palace officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had been exiled from Jerusalem. 3 He sent it with Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah. King Zedekiah of Judah had sent these men to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The letter said: 4 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says to all those he sent into exile to Babylon from Jerusalem, 5 ‘Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and allow your daughters get married so that they too can have sons and daughters. Grow in number; do not dwindle away. 7 Work to see that the city where I sent you as exiles enjoys peace and prosperity. Pray to Lifegiver for it. For as it prospers you’ll prosper.’ 8 “For Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘Do not let the prophets or those among you who claim to be able to predict the future by divination deceive you. And do not pay any attention to the dreams that you are encouraging them to dream. 9 They are prophesying lies to you and claiming my authority to do so. But I did not send them. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!’ 10 “For Lifegiver says, ‘Only when the seventy years of Babylonian rule are over will I again take up consideration for you. Then I’ll fulfill my gracious promise to you and restore you to your homeland. 11 Be sure I’ve known and made known the plans that I’ve developed for you,” says Lifegiver, “plans for your wellbeing, not for your destruction, to give you the future I long for.” 12 When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I’ll hear your prayers. 13 When you seek me in prayer and worship, you’ll find me available to you. If you seek me with all your heart and soul, 14 I’ll make myself available to you,’ says Lifegiver. ‘Then I’ll reverse your plight and will regather you from all the nationalities and all the places where I’ve exiled you,’ says Lifegiver. ‘I’ll bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.’ 15 “You say, ‘Lifegiver has raised up prophets of good news for us here in Babylon.’ 16 But just listen to what Lifegiver has to say about the king who occupies David’s throne and all your fellow countrymen who are still living in this city of Jerusalem and were not carried off into exile with you. 17 Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘I’ll bring war, starvation, and disease on them. I’ll treat them like figs that are so rotten they cannot be eaten. 18 I’ll chase after them with war, starvation, and disease. I’ll make all the reigns of the Earth horrified at what happens to them. I’ll make them examples of those who are cursed, objects of horror, hissing scorn, and ridicule among all the nationalities where I exile them. 19 For they have not paid attention to what I said to them through my servants the prophets whom I sent to them over and over again,’ says Lifegiver. ‘And you exiles have not paid any attention to them either,’ says Lifegiver. 20 ‘So pay attention to what I, Lifegiver, have said, all you exiles whom I’ve sent to Babylon from Jerusalem.’ 21 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all also has something to say about Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying lies to you and claiming my authority to do so. ‘I’ll hand them over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and he’ll execute them before your very eyes. 22 And all the exiles of Judah who are in Babylon will use them as examples when they put a curse on anyone. They’ll say, “May Lifegiver treat you like Zedekiah and Ahab whom the king of Babylon roasted to death in the fire!” 23 This will happen to them because they have done what is shameful in Israel. They have committed adultery with their neighbors’ wives and have spoken lies while claiming my authority. They have spoken words that I did not instruct them to speak. I know what they have done. I’ve been a witness to it,’ says Lifegiver.” 24 Lifegiver told Jeremiah, “Tell Shemaiah the Nehelamite 25 that Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all has a message for him. Tell him, ‘On your own initiative you sent a letter to the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah and to all the other priests and to all the people in Jerusalem. In your letter you said to Zephaniah, 26 “Lifegiver has made you priest in place of Jehoiada. He has put you in charge in Lifegiver’s temple of controlling any lunatic who pretends to be a prophet. And it is your duty to put any such person in the stocks with an iron collar around his neck. 27 You should have reprimanded Jeremiah from Anathoth who is pretending to be a prophet among you! 28 For he has even sent a message to us here in Babylon. He wrote and told us, “You’ll be there a long time. Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat what they produce.”’” 29 Zephaniah the priest read that letter to the prophet Jeremiah. 30 Then Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah. 31 “Send a message to all the exiles in Babylon. Tell them, ‘Lifegiver has spoken about Shemaiah the Nehelamite. “Shemaiah has spoken to you as a prophet even though I did not send him. He is making you trust in a lie. 32 Because he has done this,” Lifegiver says, “I’ll punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his whole family. There will not be any of them left to experience the good things that I’ll do for my people. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! For he counseled rebellion against Lifegiver.”’”

Jeremiah 30

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah. 2 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says, ‘Write everything that I’m about to tell you in a scroll. 3 For I, Lifegiver, affirm that the time will come when I’ll reverse the plight of my people, Israel and Judah,’ says Lifegiver. ‘I’ll bring them back to the land I gave their ancestors and they’ll take possession of it once again.’” 4 So here is what Lifegiver has to say about Israel and Judah. 5 Yes, here is what he says: “You hear cries of panic and of terror; there is no peace in sight. 6 ​​​​​​​Ask yourselves this and consider it carefully: Have you ever seen a man give birth to a baby? Why then do I see all these strong men grabbing their stomachs in pain like a woman giving birth? And why do their faces turn so deathly pale? 7 ​​​​​​​Alas, what a terrible time of trouble it is! There has never been any like it. It is a time of trouble for the descendants of Jacob, but some of them will be rescued out of it. 8 ​​​​​​​When the time for them to be rescued comes,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “I’ll rescue you from foreign subjugation. I’ll deliver you from captivity. Foreigners will then no longer subjugate them. 9 ​​​​​​​But they’ll be subject to Lifegiver their Supermights and to the Davidic ruler whom I’ll raise up as king over them. 10 ​​​​​​​So I, Lifegiver, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servants. Do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I’ll rescue you and your descendants from a faraway land where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They’ll be secure and no one will terrify them. 11 ​​​​​​​For I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’ll be with you and will rescue you. I’ll completely destroy all the nationalities where I scattered you. But I’ll not completely destroy you. I’ll indeed discipline you, but only in due measure. I’ll not allow you to go entirely unpunished.” 12 Moreover, Lifegiver says to the people of Zion, “Your injuries are incurable; your wounds are severe. 13 ​​​​​​​There is no one to plead your cause. There are no remedies for your wounds. There is no healing for you. 14 ​​​​​​​All your allies have abandoned you. They no longer have any concern for you. For I’ve attacked you like an enemy would. I’ve chastened you cruelly. For your wickedness is so great and your sin is so much. 15 ​​​​​​​Why do you complain about your injuries, that your pain is incurable? I’ve done all this to you because your wickedness is so great and your sin is so much. 16 ​​​​​​​But all who destroyed you’ll be destroyed. All your enemies will go into exile. Those who plundered you’ll be plundered. I’ll cause those who pillaged you to be pillaged. 17 ​​​​​​​Yes, I’ll restore you to health. I’ll heal your wounds. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! For you have been called an outcast, Zion, whom no one cares for.” 18 Lifegiver says, “I’ll restore the ruined houses of the descendants of Jacob. I’ll show compassion on their ruined homes. Every city will be rebuilt on its former ruins. Every fortified dwelling will occupy its traditional site. 19 ​​​​​​​Out of those places you’ll hear songs of thanksgiving and the sounds of laughter and merriment. I’ll increase their number and they’ll not dwindle away. I’ll bring them honor and they’ll no longer be despised. 20 ​​​​​​​The descendants of Jacob will enjoy their former privileges. Their community will be reestablished in my favor and I’ll punish all who try to oppress them. 21 ​​​​​​​One of their own people will be their leader. Their ruler will come from their own number. I’ll invite him to approach me, and he’ll do so. For no one would dare approach me on his own. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 22 ​​​​​​​Then you’ll again be my people and I’ll be your deity. 23 ​​​​​​​Just watch! The wrath of Lifegiver will come like a storm. Like a raging storm it will rage down on the heads of those who are wicked. 24 ​​​​​​​The anger of Lifegiver will not turn back until he has fully carried out his intended purposes. In days to come you’ll come to understand this.

Jeremiah 31

1 ​​​​​​​At that time I’ll be the Supermights of all the clans of Israel and they’ll be my people. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!” 2 Lifegiver says, “The people of Israel who survived death at the hands of the enemy will find favor in the desert as they journey to find rest for themselves. 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver showed up to us from the distant past; “I have loved you with an everlasting love. Above this, with faithful kindness I have attracted you.” 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll rebuild you, my dear children Israel, so that you’ll once again be built up. Once again you’ll take up the tambourine and join in the happy throng of dancers. 5 ​​​​​​​Once again you’ll plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria. Those who plant them will once again enjoy their fruit. 6 ​​​​​​​Yes, a time is coming when watchmen will call out on the mountains of Ephraim, “Come! Let us go to Zion to worship Lifegiver our Supermights !”’” 7 Moreover, Lifegiver says, “Sing for joy for the descendants of Jacob. Utter glad shouts for that foremost of the nationalities. Make your praises heard. Then say, ‘Lifegiver, rescue your people. Deliver those of Israel who remain alive.’ 8 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll reply, ‘I’ll bring them back from the land of the north. I’ll gather them in from the distant parts of the Earth . Blind and lame people will come with them, so will pregnant women and women about to give birth. A vast throng of people will come back here. 9 ​​​​​​​They’ll come back shedding tears of contrition. I’ll bring them back praying prayers of repentance. I’ll lead them besides streams of water, along smooth paths where they’ll never stumble. I’ll do this because I’m Israel’s father; Ephraim is my firstborn son.’” 10 ​​​​​​​Hear what Lifegiver has to say, O nationalities. Proclaim it in the faraway lands along the sea. Say, “The one who scattered Israel will regather them. he’ll watch over his people like a shepherd watches over his flock.” 11 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver will rescue the descendants of Jacob. he’ll secure their release from those who had overpowered them. 12 ​​​​​​​They’ll come and shout for joy on Mount Zion. They’ll be radiant with joy over the good things Lifegiver provides, the grain, the fresh wine, the olive oil, the young sheep and calves he has given to them. They’ll be like a well-watered garden and will not grow faint or weary any more. 13 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “At that time young women will dance and be glad. Young men and old men will rejoice. I’ll turn their grief into gladness. I’ll give them comfort and joy in place of their sorrow. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll provide the priests with abundant provisions. My people will be filled to the full with the good things I provide.” 15 Lifegiver says, “A sound is heard in Ramah, a sound of crying in bitter grief. It is the sound of Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are gone.” 16 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says to her, “Stop crying! Do not shed any more tears! For your heartfelt repentance will be rewarded. Your children will return from the land of the enemy. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 17 ​​​​​​​Indeed, there is hope for your posterity. Your children will return to their own territory. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 18 ​​​​​​​I’ve indeed heard the people of Israel say mournfully, ‘We were like a calf untrained to the yoke. You disciplined us and we learned from it. Let us come back to you and we’ll do so, for you are Lifegiver our Supermights. 19 ​​​​​​​For after we turned away from you we repented. After we came to our senses we beat our breasts in sorrow. We are ashamed and humiliated because of the disgraceful things we did previously.’ 20 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the people of Israel are my dear children. They are the children I take delight in. For even though I must often rebuke them, I still remember them with fondness. So I’m deeply moved with pity for them and will surely have compassion on them. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 21 ​​​​​​​I’ll say, ‘My dear children of Israel, keep in mind the road you took when you were carried off. Mark off in your minds the landmarks. Make a mental note of telltale signs marking the way back. Return, my dear children of Israel. Return to these cities of yours. 22 ​​​​​​​How long will you vacillate, you who were once like an unfaithful daughter? For I, Lifegiver, promise to bring about something new on the Earth , something as unique as a woman protecting a man!’” 23 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “I’ll restore the people of Judah to their land and to their towns. When I do, they’ll again say of Jerusalem, ‘May Lifegiver bless you, you sacred mountain, the place where rightness dwells.’ 24 ​​​​​​​The land of Judah will be inhabited by people who live in its towns as well as by farmers and shepherds with their flocks. 25 ​​​​​​​I’ll fully satisfy the needs of those who are weary and fully refresh the souls of those who are faint. 26 ​​​​​​​Then they’ll say, ‘Under these conditions I can enjoy sweet sleep when I wake up and look around.’” 27 “Indeed, a time is coming,” says Lifegiver, “when I’ll cause people and animals to sprout up in the lands of Israel and Judah. 28 In the past I saw to it that they were uprooted and torn down, that they were destroyed and demolished. But now I’ll see to it that they are built up and firmly planted. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!” 29 “When that time comes, people will no longer say, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but the children’s teeth have grown numb.’ 30 Rather, each person will die for his own sins. The teeth of the person who eats the sour grapes will themselves grow numb. 31 “Indeed, a time is coming,” says Lifegiver, “when I’ll make a new agreement with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 It will not be like the old agreement that I made with their ancestors when I delivered them from Egypt. For they violated that covenant, even though I was like a faithful husband to them,” says Lifegiver. 33 “But I’ll make a new agreement with the whole nation of Israel after I plant them back in the land,” says Lifegiver. “I’ll put my law witlitrethem and write it on their hearts and minds. I’ll be their Supermights and they’ll be my people. 34 “People will no longer need to teach their neighbors and relatives to know me. For all of them, from the least important to the most important, will know me,” says Lifegiver. “For I’ll forgive their sin and will no longer call to mind the wrong they have done.” 35 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver has made a promise to Israel. He promises it as the one who fixed the sun to give light by day and the moon and stars to give light by night. He promises it as the one who stirs up the sea so that its waves roll. He promises it as the one who is known as Lifegiver who rules over all. 36 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver affirms, “The descendants of Israel will not cease forever to be a nation in my sight. That could only happen if the fixed ordering of the Heavenly lights were to cease to operate before me.” 37 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “I’ll not reject all the descendants of Israel because of all that they have done. That could only happen if the Celestial Bodies above could be measured or the foundations of the Earth below could all be explored,” says Lifegiver. 38 “Indeed a time is coming,” says Lifegiver, “when the city of Jerusalem will be rebuilt as my special city. It will be built from the Tower of Hananel westward to the Corner Gate. 39 The boundary line will extend beyond that, straight west from there to the Hill of Gareb and then turn southward to Goah. 40 The whole valley where dead bodies and sacrificial ashes are thrown and all the terraced fields out to the Kidron Valley on the east as far north as the Horse Gate will be included witlitrethis city that is sacred to Lifegiver. The city will never again be torn down or destroyed.”

Jeremiah 32

1 In the tenth year that Zedekiah was ruling over Judah Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah. That was the same as the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. 2 Now at that time, the armies of the king of Babylon were besieging Jerusalem. The prophet Jeremiah was confined in the courtyard of the guardhouse attached to the royal palace of Judah. 3 For King Zedekiah had confined Jeremiah there after he had reproved him for prophesying as he did. He had asked Jeremiah, “Why do you keep prophesying these things? Why do you keep saying that Lifegiver says, ‘I’ll hand this city over to the king of Babylon? I’ll let him capture it. 4 King Zedekiah of Judah will not escape from the Babylonians. he’ll certainly be handed over to the king of Babylon. He must answer personally to the king of Babylon and confront him face to face. 5 Zedekiah will be carried off to Babylon and will remain there until I’ve fully dealt with him. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! Even if you continue to fight against the Babylonians, you cannot win.’” 6 So now, Jeremiah said, “Lifegiver told me, 7 ‘Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you soon. he’ll say to you, “Buy my field at Anathoth because you are entitled as my closest relative to buy it.”’

8 Now it happened just as Lifegiver had said! My cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guardhouse. He said to me, ‘Buy my field which is at Anathoth in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. Buy it for yourself since you are entitled as my closest relative to take possession of it for yourself.’ When this happened, I recognized that Lifegiver had indeed spoken to me. 9 So I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel. I weighed out seven ounces of silver and gave it to him to pay for it. 10 I signed the deed of purchase, sealed it, and had some men serve as witnesses to the purchase. I weighed out the silver for him on a scale. 11 There were two copies of the deed of purchase. One was sealed and contained the order of transfer and the conditions of purchase. The other was left unsealed. 12 I took both copies of the deed of purchase and gave them to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah. I gave them to him in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, the witnesses who had signed the deed of purchase, and all the Judeans who were housed in the courtyard of the guardhouse. 13 In the presence of all these people I instructed Baruch, 14 ‘Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “Take these documents, both the sealed copy of the deed of purchase and the unsealed copy. Put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a long time to come.”’ 15 For Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land.”’ 16 “After I had given the copies of the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to Lifegiver, 17 ‘Oh, Lord Supermights, you did indeed sustain Celestial Bodies and Earth by your mighty power and great strength. Nothing is too hard for you! 18 You show unfailing love to thousands. But you also punish children for the sins of their parents. You are the great and powerful Supermights who is known as Lifegiver who rules over all. 19 You plan great things and you do mighty deeds. You see everything people do. You reward each of them for the way they live and for the things they do. 20 You did miracles and amazing deeds in the land of Egypt which have had lasting effect. By this means you gained both in Israel and among humankind a renown that lasts to this day. 21 You used your mighty power and your great strength to perform miracles and amazing deeds and to bring great terror on the Egyptians. By this means you brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt. 22 You kept the promise that you swore on oath to their ancestors. You gave them a land flowing with milk and honey. 23 But when they came in and took possession of it, they did not obey you or live as you had instructed them. They did not do anything that you instructed them to do. So you brought all this disaster on them. 24 Even now siege ramps have been built up around the city in order to capture it. War, starvation, and disease are sure to make the city fall into the hands of the Babylonians who are attacking it. Lifegiver, you threatened that this would happen. Now you can see that it is already taking place. 25 The city is sure to fall into the hands of the Babylonians. Yet, in spite of this, you, Lord Supermights , have said to me, “Buy that field with silver and have the transaction legally witnessed.”’” 26 Lifegiver answered Jeremiah. 27 “I’m Lifegiver, the Supermights of all humankind. There is, indeed, nothing too difficult for me. 28 Therefore I, Lifegiver, say: ‘I’ll indeed hand this city over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and the Babylonian army. They’ll capture it. 29 The Babylonian soldiers that are attacking this city will break into it and set it on fire. They’ll burn it down along with the houses where people have made me angry by offering sacrifices to the Supermights Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other deities on their rooftops. 30 This will happen because the people of Israel and Judah have repeatedly done what displeases me from their earliest history until now and because they have repeatedly made me angry by the things they have done. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 31 This will happen because the people of this city have aroused my anger and my wrath since the time they built it until now. They have made me so angry that I’m determined to remove it from my sight. 32 I’m determined to do so because the people of Israel and Judah have made me angry with all their wickedness – they, their kings, their officials, their priests, their prophets, and especially the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem have done this wickedness. 33 They have turned away from me instead of turning to me. I tried over and over again to instruct them, but they did not listen and respond to correction. 34 They set up their disgusting idols in the temple which I’ve claimed for my own and defiled it. 35 They built places of worship for the Supermights Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they could sacrifice their sons and daughters to the Supermights Molech. Such a disgusting practice was not something I instructed them to do! It never even entered my mind to instruct them to do such a thing! So Judah is certainly liable for punishment.’ 36 “You and your people are right in saying, ‘War, starvation, and disease are sure to make this city fall into the hands of the king of Babylon.’ But now I, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, have something further to say about this city: 37 ‘I’ll certainly regather my people from all the countries where I’ll have exiled them in my anger, fury, and great wrath. I’ll bring them back to this place and allow them to live here in safety. 38 They’ll be my people, and I’ll be their Supermights. 39 I’ll give them a single-minded purpose to live in a way that always shows respect for me. They’ll want to do that for their own good and the good of the children who descend from them. 40 I’ll make a lasting agreement with them that I’ll never stop doing good to them. I’ll fill their hearts and minds with respect for me so that they’ll never again turn away from me. 41 I’ll take delight in doing good to them. I’ll faithfully and wholeheartedly plant them firmly in the land.’ 42 “For I, Lifegiver, say: ‘I’ll surely bring on these people all the good fortune that I’m hereby promising them. I’ll be just as sure to do that as I’ve been in bringing all this great disaster on them. 43 You and your people are saying that this land will become desolate, uninhabited by either people or animals. You are saying that it will be handed over to the Babylonians. But fields will again be bought in this land. 44 Fields will again be bought with silver, and deeds of purchase signed, sealed, and witnessed. This will happen in the territory of Benjamin, the villages surrounding Jerusalem, the towns in Judah, the southern hill country, the western foothills, and southern Judah. For I’ll restore them to their land. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!’”

Jeremiah 33

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah a second time while he was still confined in the courtyard of the guardhouse. 2 “I, Lifegiver, do these things. I, Lifegiver, form the plan to bring them about. I’m known as Lifegiver. I say to you, 3 ‘Call on me in prayer and I’ll answer you. I’ll show you great and mysterious things which you still do not know about.’ 4 For I, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, have something more to say about the houses in this city and the royal buildings which have been torn down for defenses against the siege ramps and military incursions of the Babylonians: 5 ‘The defenders of the city will go out and fight with the Babylonians. But they’ll only fill those houses and buildings with the dead bodies of the people that I’ll kill in my anger and my wrath. That will happen because I’ve decided to turn my back on this city on account of the wicked things they have done. 6 But I’ll most surely heal the wounds of this city and restore it and its people to health. I’ll show them abundant peace and security. 7 I’ll restore Judah and Israel and will rebuild them as they were in days of old. 8 I’ll purify them from all the sin that they committed against me. I’ll forgive all their sins which they committed in rebelling against me. 9 All the nationalities will hear about all the good things which I’ll do to them. This city will bring me fame, honor, and praise before them for the joy that I bring it. The nationalities will tremble in awe at all the peace and prosperity that I’ll provide for it.’ 10 “I, Lifegiver, say: ‘You and your people are saying about this place, “It lies in ruins. There are no people or animals in it.” That is true. The towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem will soon be desolate, uninhabited either by people or by animals. But happy sounds will again be heard in these places. 11 Once again there will be sounds of joy and gladness and the glad celebrations of brides and grooms. Once again people will bring their thank offerings to the temple of Lifegiver and will say, “Give thanks to Lifegiver who rules over all. For Lifegiver is good and his unfailing love lasts forever.” For I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’ll restore the land to what it was in days of old.’ 12 “I, Lifegiver who rules over all, say: ‘This place will indeed lie in ruins. There will be no people or animals in it. But there will again be in it and in its towns sheepfolds where shepherds can rest their sheep. 13 I, Lifegiver, say that shepherds will once again count their sheep as they pass into the fold. They’ll do this in all the towns in the southern hill country, the western foothills, the southern hill country, the territory of Benjamin, the villages surrounding Jerusalem, and the towns of Judah.’ 14 “I, Lifegiver, affirm: ‘The time will certainly come when I’ll fulfill my gracious promise concerning the nationalities of Israel and Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I’ll raise up for them a righteous descendant of David. “‘He will do what is just and right in the land. 16 Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety and Jerusalem will live in security. At that time Jerusalem will be called “Lifegiver has provided us with justice.” 17 For I, Lifegiver, promise: “David will never lack a successor to occupy the throne over the nation of Israel. 18 Nor will the Levitical priests ever lack someone to stand before me and continually offer up sacrifices, sacrifice cereal offerings, and offer the other sacrifices.”’” 19 Lifegiver spoke further to Jeremiah. 20 “I, Lifegiver, make the following promise: ‘I’ve made a agreement with the day and with the night that they’ll always come at their proper times. Only if you people could break that agreement 21 could my agreement with my servant David and my agreement with the Levites ever be broken. So David will by all means always have a descendant to occupy his throne as king and the Levites will by all means always have priests who will minister before me. 22 I’ll make the children who follow one another in the line of my servant David very numerous. I’ll also make the Levites who minister before me very numerous. I’ll make them all as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sands which are on the seashore.’” 23 Lifegiver spoke still further to Jeremiah. 24 “You have surely noticed what these people are saying, haven’t you? They are saying, ‘Lifegiver has rejected the two families of Israel and Judah that he chose.’ So they have little regard that my people will ever again be a nation. 25 But I, Lifegiver, make the following promise: I’ve made a agreement governing the coming of day and night. I’ve established the fixed laws governing Celestial Bodies and Earth. 26 Just as surely as I’ve done this, so surely will I never reject the descendants of Jacob. Nor will I ever refuse to choose one of my servant David’s descendants to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Indeed, I’ll restore them and show mercy to them.”

Jeremiah 34

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah while King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was attacking Jerusalem and the towns around it with a large army. This army consisted of troops from his own army and from the reigns and peoples of the lands under his dominion. 2 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel told Jeremiah to go and give King Zedekiah of Judah a message. He told Jeremiah to tell him, “Lifegiver says, ‘I’m going to hand this city over to the king of Babylon and he’ll burn it down. 3 You yourself will not escape his clutches, but will certainly be captured and handed over to him. You must confront the king of Babylon face to face and answer to him personally. Then you must go to Babylon. 4 However, listen to what I, Lifegiver, promise you, King Zedekiah of Judah. I, Lifegiver, promise that you’ll not die in battle or be executed. 5 You’ll die a peaceful death. They’ll burn incense at your burial just as they did at the burial of your ancestors, the former kings who preceded you. They’ll mourn for you, saying, “Poor, poor master!” Indeed, you have my own word on this. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!’” 6 The prophet Jeremiah told all this to King Zedekiah of Judah in Jerusalem. 7 He did this while the army of the king of Babylon was attacking Jerusalem and the cities of Lachish and Azekah. He was attacking these cities because they were the only fortified cities of Judah which were still holding out. 8 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah after King Zedekiah had made a agreement with all the people in Jerusalem to grant their slaves their freedom. 9 Everyone was supposed to free their male and female Hebrew slaves. No one was supposed to keep a fellow Judean enslaved. 10 All the people and their leaders had agreed to this. They had agreed to free their male and female slaves and not keep them enslaved any longer. They originally complied with the agreement and freed them. 11 But later they had changed their minds. They had taken back their male and female slaves that they had freed and forced them to be slaves again. 12 That was when Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah, 13 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel has a message for you. ‘I made a agreement with your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt where they had been slaves. It stipulated, 14 “Every seven years each of you must free any fellow Hebrews who have sold themselves to you. After they have served you for six years, you shall set them free.” But your ancestors did not obey me or pay any attention to me. 15 Recently, however, you yourselves showed a change of heart and did what is pleasing to me. You granted your fellow countrymen their freedom and you made a agreement to that effect in my presence in the house that I’ve claimed for my own. 16 But then you turned right around and showed that you did not honor me. Each of you took back your male and female slaves whom you had freed as they desired, and you forced them to be your slaves again. 17 So I, Lifegiver, say: “You have not really obeyed me and granted freedom to your neighbor and fellow countryman. Therefore, I’ll grant you freedom, the freedom to die in war, or by starvation or disease. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! I’ll make all the reigns of the Earth horrified at what happens to you. 18 I’ll punish those people who have violated their agreement with me. I’ll make them like the calf they cut in two and passed between its pieces. I’ll do so because they did not keep the terms of the agreement they made in my presence. 19 I’ll punish the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests, and all the other people of the land who passed between the pieces of the calf. 20 I’ll hand them over to their enemies who want to kill them. Their dead bodies will become food for the birds and the wild animals. 21 I’ll also hand King Zedekiah of Judah and his officials over to their enemies who want to kill them. I’ll hand them over to the army of the king of Babylon, even though they have temporarily withdrawn from attacking you. 22 For I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’ll soon give the order and bring them back to this city. They’ll fight against it and capture it and burn it down. I’ll also make the towns of Judah desolate so that there will be no one living in them.”’”

Jeremiah 35

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah when Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah. 2 “Go to the Rechabite community. Invite them to come into one of the side rooms of Lifegiver’s temple and offer them some wine to drink.” 3 So I went and got Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah the grandson of Habazziniah, his brothers, all his sons, and all the rest of the Rechabite community. 4 I took them to Lifegiver’s temple. I took them into the room where the disciples of the prophet Hanan son of Igdaliah stayed. That room was next to the one where the temple officers stayed and above the room where Maaseiah son of Shallum, one of the doorkeepers of the temple, stayed. 5 Then I set cups and pitchers full of wine in front of the members of the Rechabite community and said to them, “Have some wine.” 6 But they answered, “We do not drink wine because our ancestor Jonadab son of Rechab instructed us not to. He told us, ‘You and your children must never drink wine. 7 Do not build houses. Do not plant crops. Do not plant a vineyard or own one. Live in tents all your lives. If you do these things you’ll live a long time in the land that you wander about on.’ 8 We and our wives and our sons and daughters have obeyed everything our ancestor Jonadab instructed us. We’ve never drunk wine. 9 We’ve not built any houses to live in. We do not own any vineyards, fields, or crops. 10 We’ve lived in tents. We’ve obeyed our ancestor Jonadab and done exactly as he instructed us. 11 But when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded the land we said, ‘Let’s get up and go to Jerusalem to get away from the Babylonian and Aramean armies.’ That is why we are staying here in Jerusalem.” 12 Then Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah. 13 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all told him, “Go and speak to the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem. Tell them, ‘I, Lifegiver, say: “You must learn a lesson from this about obeying what I say! 14 Jonadab son of Rechab ordered his descendants not to drink wine. His orders have been carried out. To this day his descendants have drunk no wine because they have obeyed what their ancestor instructed them. But I’ve spoken to you over and over again, but you have not obeyed me! 15 I sent all my servants the prophets to warn you over and over again. They said, “Every one of you, stop doing the bad things you have been doing and do what is right. Do not pay allegiance to other deities and worship them. Then you can continue to live in this land that I gave to you and your ancestors.” But you did not pay any attention or listen to me. 16 Yes, the descendants of Jonadab son of Rechab have carried out the orders that their ancestor gave them. But you people have not obeyed me! 17 So I, Lifegiver, the Supermights who rules over all, the Supermights of Israel, say: “I’ll soon bring on Judah and all the citizens of Jerusalem all the disaster that I threatened to bring on them. I’ll do this because I spoke to them but they did not listen. I called out to them but they did not answer.”’” 18 Then Jeremiah spoke to the Rechabite community, “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘You have obeyed the orders of your ancestor Jonadab. You have followed all his instructions. You have done exactly as he instructed you.’ 19 So Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘Jonadab son of Rechab will never lack a male descendant to serve me.’”

Jeremiah 36

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah in the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah. 2 “Get a scroll. Write on it everything I’ve told you to say about Israel, Judah, and all the other nationalities since I began to speak to you in the reign of Josiah until now. 3 Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about all the disaster I intend to bring on them, they’ll all stop doing the bad things they have been doing. If they do, I’ll forgive their sins and the wicked things they have done.” 4 So Jeremiah summoned Baruch son of Neriah. Then Jeremiah dictated to Baruch everything Lifegiver had told him to say and Baruch wrote it all down in a scroll. 5 Then Jeremiah told Baruch, “I’m no longer allowed to go into Lifegiver’s temple. 6 So you go there the next time all the people of Judah come in from their towns to fast in Lifegiver’s temple. Read out loud where all of them can hear you what I told you Lifegiver said, which you wrote in the scroll. 7 Perhaps then they’ll ask Lifegiver for mercy and will all stop doing the bad things they have been doing. For Lifegiver has threatened to bring great anger and wrath against these people.” 8 So Baruch son of Neriah did exactly what the prophet Jeremiah had told him to do. He read what Lifegiver had said from the scroll in the temple of Lifegiver. 9 All the people living in Jerusalem and all the people who came into Jerusalem from the towns of Judah came to observe a fast before Lifegiver. The fast took place in the ninth month of the fifth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah. 10 At that time Baruch went into the temple of Lifegiver. He stood in the entrance of the room of Gemariah the son of Shaphan who had been the royal secretary. That room was in the upper court near the entrance of the New Gate. There, where all the people could hear him, he read from the scroll what Jeremiah had said. 11 Micaiah, who was the son of Gemariah and the grandson of Shaphan, heard Baruch read from the scroll everything Lifegiver had said. 12 He went down to the chamber of the royal secretary in the king’s palace and found all the court officials in session there. Elishama the royal secretary, Delaiah son of Shemaiah, Elnathan son of Achbor, Gemariah son of Shaphan, Zedekiah son of Hananiah, and all the other officials were seated there. 13 Micaiah told them everything he had heard Baruch read from the scroll in the hearing of the people. 14 All the officials sent Jehudi, who was the son of Nethaniah and the grandson of Cushi, to Baruch. They ordered him to tell Baruch, “Come here and bring with you the scroll you read in the hearing of the people.” So Baruch son of Neriah went to them, carrying the scroll in his hand. 15 They said to him, “Please sit down and read it to us.” So Baruch sat down and read it to them. 16 When they had heard it all, they expressed their alarm to one another. Then they said to Baruch, “We must certainly give the king a report about everything you have read!” 17 Then they asked Baruch, “How did you come to write all these words? Do they actually come from Jeremiah’s mouth?” 18 Baruch answered, “Yes, they came from his own mouth. He dictated all these words to me and I wrote them down in ink on this scroll.” 19 Then the officials said to Baruch, “You and Jeremiah must go and hide. You must not let anyone know where you are.” 20 The officials put the scroll in the room of Elishama, the royal secretary, for safekeeping. Then they went to the court and reported everything to the king. 21 The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll. He went and got it from the room of Elishama, the royal secretary. Then he himself read it to the king and all the officials who were standing around him. 22 Since it was the ninth month of the year, the king was sitting in his winter quarters. A fire was burning in the firepot in front of him. 23 As soon as Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them on the fire in the firepot. He kept doing so until the whole scroll was burned up in the fire. 24 Neither he nor any of his attendants showed any alarm when they heard all that had been read. Nor did they tear their clothes to show any grief or sorrow. 25 The king did not even listen to Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah, who had urged him not to burn the scroll. 26 He also ordered Jerahmeel, who was one of the royal princes, Seraiah son of Azriel, and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest the scribe Baruch and the prophet Jeremiah. However, Lifegiver hid them. 27 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah after Jehoiakim had burned the scroll containing what Jeremiah had spoken and Baruch had written down. 28 “Get another scroll and write on it everything that was written on the original scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah burned. 29 Tell King Jehoiakim of Judah, ‘Lifegiver says, “You burned the scroll. You asked Jeremiah, ‘How dare you write in this scroll that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land and wipe out all the people and animals on it?’” 30 So Lifegiver says concerning King Jehoiakim of Judah, “None of his line will occupy the throne of David. His dead body will be thrown out to be exposed to scorching heat by day and frost by night. 31 I’ll punish him and his descendants and the officials who serve him for the wicked things they have done. I’ll bring on them, the citizens of Jerusalem, and the people of Judah all the disaster that I threatened to do to them. I’ll punish them because I threatened them but they still paid no heed.”’” 32 Then Jeremiah got another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah. As Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on this scroll everything that had been on the scroll that King Jehoiakim of Judah burned in the fire. They also added on this scroll several other messages of the same kind.

Jeremiah 37

1 Zedekiah son of Josiah succeeded Jeconiah son of Jehoiakim as king. He was elevated to the throne of the land of Judah by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. 2 Neither he nor the officials who served him nor the people of Judah paid any attention to what Lifegiver said through the prophet Jeremiah. 3 King Zedekiah sent Jehucal son of Shelemiah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah to the prophet Jeremiah. He told them to say, “Please pray to Lifegiver our Supermights on our behalf.” 4 (Now Jeremiah had not yet been put in prison. So he was still free to come and go among the people as he pleased. 5 At that time the Babylonian forces had temporarily given up their siege against Jerusalem. They had had it under siege, but withdrew when they heard that the army of Pharaoh had set out from Egypt.) 6 Lifegiver gave the prophet Jeremiah a message for them. He told him to tell them, 7 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel says, ‘Give a message to the king of Judah who sent you to ask me to help him. Tell him, “The army of Pharaoh that was on its way to help you’ll go back home to Egypt. 8 Then the Babylonian forces will return. They’ll attack the city and will capture it and burn it down. 9 Moreover, I, Lifegiver, warn you not to deceive yourselves into thinking that the Babylonian forces will go away and leave you alone. For they’ll not go away. 10 For even if you were to defeat all the Babylonian forces fighting against you so badly that only wounded men were left lying in their tents, they would get up and burn this city down.”’” 11 The following events also occurred while the Babylonian forces had temporarily withdrawn from Jerusalem because the army of Pharaoh was coming. 12 Jeremiah started to leave Jerusalem to go to the territory of Benjamin. He wanted to make sure he got his share of the property that was being divided up among his family there. 13 But he only got as far as the Benjamin Gate. There an officer in charge of the guards named Irijah, who was the son of Shelemiah and the grandson of Hananiah, stopped him. He seized Jeremiah and said, “You are deserting to the Babylonians!” 14 Jeremiah answered, “That’s a lie! I’m not deserting to the Babylonians.” But Irijah would not listen to him. Irijah put Jeremiah under arrest and took him to the officials. 15 The officials were very angry at Jeremiah. They had him flogged and put in prison in the house of Jonathan, the royal secretary, which they had converted into a place for confining prisoners. 16 So Jeremiah was put in prison in a cell in the dungeon in Jonathan’s house. He was kept there for a long time. 17 Then King Zedekiah had him brought to the palace. There he questioned him privately and asked him, “Is there any message from Lifegiver?” Jeremiah answered, “Yes, there is.” Then he announced, “You’ll be handed over to the king of Babylon.” 18 Then Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah, “What crime have I committed against you, or the officials who serve you, or the people of Judah? What have I done to make you people throw me into prison? 19 Where now are the prophets who prophesied to you that the king of Babylon would not attack you or this land? 20 But now please listen, your royal Majesty, and grant my plea for mercy. Do not send me back to the house of Jonathan, the royal secretary. If you do, I’ll die there.” 21 Then King Zedekiah ordered that Jeremiah be committed to the courtyard of the guardhouse. He also ordered that a loaf of bread be given to him every day from the baker’s street until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah was kept in the courtyard of the guardhouse.

Jeremiah 38

1 Now Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehucal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malkijah had heard the things that Jeremiah had been telling the people. They had heard him say, 2 “Lifegiver says, ‘Those who stay in this city will die in battle or of starvation or disease. Those who leave the city and surrender to the Babylonians will live. They’ll escape with their lives.’” 3 They had also heard him say, “Lifegiver says, ‘This city will certainly be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon. They’ll capture it.’” 4 So these officials said to the king, “This man must be put to death. For he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in the city as well as all the other people there by these things he is saying. This man is not seeking to help these people but is trying to harm them.” 5 King Zedekiah said to them, “Very well, you can do what you want with him. For I cannot do anything to stop you.” 6 So the officials took Jeremiah and put him in the cistern of Malkijah, one of the royal princes, that was in the courtyard of the guardhouse. There was no water in the cistern, only mud. So when they lowered Jeremiah into the cistern with ropes he sank in the mud. 7 An Ethiopian, Ebed Melech, a court official in the royal palace, heard that Jeremiah had been put in the cistern. While the king was holding court at the Benjamin Gate, 8 Ebed Melech departed the palace and went to speak to the king. He said to him, 9 “Your royal Majesty, those men have been very wicked in all that they have done to the prophet Jeremiah. They have thrown him into a cistern and he is sure to die of starvation there because there is no food left in the city. 10 Then the king gave Ebed Melech the Ethiopian the following order: “Take thirty men with you from here and go pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he dies.” 11 So Ebed Melech took the men with him and went to a room under the treasure room in the palace. He got some worn-out clothes and old rags from there and let them down by ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern. 12 Ebed Melech called down to Jeremiah, “Put these rags and worn-out clothes under your armpits to pad the ropes. Jeremiah did as Ebed Melech instructed. 13 So they pulled Jeremiah up from the cistern with ropes. Jeremiah, however, still remained confined to the courtyard of the guardhouse. 14 Some time later Zedekiah sent and had Jeremiah brought to him at the third entrance of Lifegiver’s temple. The king said to Jeremiah, “I would like to ask you a question. Do not hide anything from me when you answer.” 15 Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “If I answer you, you’ll certainly kill me. If I give you advice, you’ll not listen to me.” 16 So King Zedekiah made a secret promise to Jeremiah and sealed it with an oath. He promised, “As surely as Lifegiver lives who has given us life and breath, I promise you this: I’ll not kill you or hand you over to those men who want to kill you.” 17 Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “Lifegiver, the Supermights who rules over all, the Supermights of Israel, says, ‘You must surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon. If you do, your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down. Indeed, you and your whole family will be spared. 18 But if you do not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be handed over to the Babylonians and they’ll burn it down. You yourself will not escape from them.’” 19 Then King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, “I’m afraid of the Judeans who have deserted to the Babylonians. The Babylonians might hand me over to them and they’ll torture me.” 20 Then Jeremiah answered, “You’ll not be handed over to them. Please obey Lifegiver by doing what I’ve been telling you. Then all will go well with you and your life will be spared. 21 But if you refuse to surrender, Lifegiver has shown me a vision of what will happen. Here is what I saw: 22 All the women who are left in the royal palace of Judah will be led out to the officers of the king of Babylon. They’ll taunt you saying, ‘Your trusted friends misled you; they have gotten the best of you. Now that your feet are stuck in the mud, they have turned their backs on you.’ 23 “All your wives and your children will be turned over to the Babylonians. You yourself will not escape from them but will be captured by the king of Babylon. This city will be burned down.” 24 Then Zedekiah told Jeremiah, “Do not let anyone know about the conversation we’ve had. If you do, you’ll die. 25 The officials may hear that I’ve talked with you. They may come to you and say, ‘Tell us what you said to the king and what the king said to you. Do not hide anything from us. If you do, we’ll kill you.’ 26 If they do this, tell them, ‘I was pleading with the king not to send me back to die in the dungeon of Jonathan’s house.’” 27 All the officials did indeed come and question Jeremiah. He told them exactly what the king had instructed him to say. They stopped questioning him any further because no one had actually heard their conversation. 28 So Jeremiah remained confined in the courtyard of the guardhouse until the day Jerusalem was captured. The following events occurred when Jerusalem was captured.

Jeremiah 39

1 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came against Jerusalem with his whole army and laid siege to it. The siege began in the tenth month of the ninth year that Zedekiah ruled over Judah. 2 It lasted until the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah’s eleventh year. On that day they broke through the city walls. 3 Then Nergal-Sharezer of Samgar, Nebo-Sarsekim, who was a chief officer, Nergal-Sharezer, who was a high official, and all the other officers of the king of Babylon came and set up quarters in the Middle Gate. 4 When King Zedekiah of Judah and all his soldiers saw them, they tried to escape. They departed from the city during the night. They took a path through the king’s garden and passed out through the gate between the two walls. Then they headed for the Jordan Valley. 5 But the Babylonian army chased after them. They caught up with Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho and captured him. They took him to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon at Riblah in the territory of Hamath and Nebuchadnezzar passed sentence on him there. 6 There at Riblah the king of Babylon had Zedekiah’s sons put to death while Zedekiah was forced to watch. The king of Babylon also had all the nobles of Judah put to death. 7 Then he had Zedekiah’s eyes put out and had him bound in chains to be led off to Babylon. 8 The Babylonians burned down the royal palace, the temple of Lifegiver, and the people’s homes, and they tore down the wall of Jerusalem. 9 Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, took captive the rest of the people who were left in the city. He carried them off to Babylon along with the people who had deserted to him. 10 But he left behind in the land of Judah some of the poor people who owned nothing. He gave them fields and vineyards at that time. 11 Now King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had issued orders concerning Jeremiah. He had passed them on through Nebuzaradan, the captain of his royal guard, 12 “Find Jeremiah and look out for him. Do not do anything to harm him, but do with him whatever he tells you.” 13 So Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, Nebushazban, who was a chief officer, Nergal-Sharezer, who was a high official, and all the other officers of the king of Babylon 14 sent and had Jeremiah brought from the courtyard of the guardhouse. They turned him over to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and the grandson of Shaphan, to take him home with him. But Jeremiah stayed among the people. 15 Now Lifegiver had spoken to Jeremiah while he was still confined in the courtyard of the guardhouse,

16 “Go and tell Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian, ‘Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “I’ll carry out against this city what I promised. It will mean disaster and not good fortune for it. When that disaster happens, you’ll be there to see it. 17 But I’ll rescue you when it happens. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! You’ll not be handed over to those whom you fear. 18 I’ll certainly save you. You’ll not fall victim to violence. You’ll escape with your life because you trust in me. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!”’”

Jeremiah 40

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah after Nebuzaradan the captain of the royal guard had set him free at Ramah. He had taken him there in chains along with all the people from Jerusalem and Judah who were being carried off to exile to Babylon. 2 The captain of the royal guard took Jeremiah aside and said to him, “Lifegiver your deity threatened this place with this disaster. 3 Now he has brought it about. Lifegiver has done just as he threatened to do. This disaster has happened because you people sinned against Lifegiver and did not obey him. 4 But now, Jeremiah, today I’ll set you free from the chains on your wrists. If you would like to come to Babylon with me, come along and I’ll take care of you. But if you prefer not to come to Babylon with me, you are not required to do so. You are free to go anywhere in the land you want to go. Go wherever you choose.” 5 Before Jeremiah could turn to leave, the captain of the guard added, “Go back to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed to govern the towns of Judah. Go back and live with him among the people. Or go wherever else you choose.” Then the captain of the guard gave Jeremiah some food and a present and let him go. 6 So Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah and lived there with him. He stayed there to live among the people who had been left in the land of Judah. 7 Now some of the officers of the Judean army and their troops had been hiding in the countryside. They heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam to govern the country. They also heard that he had been put in charge over the men, women, and children from the poorer classes of the land who had not been carried off into exile in Babylon. 8 So all these officers and their troops came to Gedaliah at Mizpah. The officers who came were Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah son of the Maacathite. 9 Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, took an oath so as to give them and their troops some assurance of safety. “Do not be afraid to submit to the Babylonians. Settle down in the land and submit to the king of Babylon. Then things will go well for you. 10 I for my part will stay at Mizpah to represent you before the Babylonians whenever they come to us. You for your part go ahead and harvest the wine, the dates, the figs, and the olive oil, and store them in jars. Go ahead and settle down in the towns that you have taken over.” 11 Moreover, all the Judeans who were in Moab, Ammon, Edom, and all the other countries heard what had happened. They heard that the king of Babylon had allowed some people to stay in Judah and that he had appointed Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, to govern them. 12 So all these Judeans returned to the land of Judah from the places where they had been scattered. They came to Gedaliah at Mizpah. Thus they harvested a large amount of wine and dates and figs. 13 Johanan and all the officers of the troops that had been hiding in the open country came to Gedaliah at Mizpah. 14 They said to him, “Are you at all aware that King Baalis of Ammon has sent Ishmael son of Nethaniah to kill you?” But Gedaliah son of Ahikam would not believe them. 15 Then Johanan son of Kareah spoke privately to Gedaliah there at Mizpah, “Let me go and kill Ishmael the son of Nethaniah before anyone knows about it. Otherwise he’ll kill you and all the Judeans who have rallied around you’ll be scattered. Then what remains of Judah will disappear.” 16 But Gedaliah son of Ahikam said to Johanan son of Kareah, “Do not do that because what you are saying about Ishmael is not true.”

Jeremiah 41

1 But in the seventh month Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah and grandson of Elishama who was a member of the royal family and had been one of Zedekiah’s chief officers, came with ten of his men to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah. While they were eating a meal together with him there at Mizpah, 2 Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with him stood up, pulled out their swords, and killed Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan. Thus Ishmael killed the man that the king of Babylon had appointed to govern the country. 3 Ishmael also killed all the Judeans who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah and the Babylonian soldiers who happened to be there. 4 On the day after Gedaliah had been murdered, before anyone even knew about it, 5 eighty men arrived from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria. They had shaved off their beards, torn their clothes, and cut themselves to show they were mourning. They were carrying grain offerings and incense to present at the temple of Lifegiver in Jerusalem. 6 Ishmael son of Nethaniah went out from Mizpah to meet them. He was pretending to cry as he walked along. When he met them, he said to them, “Come with me to meet Gedaliah son of Ahikam.” 7 But as soon as they were inside the city, Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the men who were with him slaughtered them and threw their bodies in a cistern. 8 But there were ten men among them who said to Ishmael, “Do not kill us. For we’ll give you the stores of wheat, barley, olive oil, and honey we’ve hidden in a field. So he spared their lives and did not kill them along with the rest. 9 Now the cistern where Ishmael threw all the dead bodies of those he had killed was a large one that King Asa had constructed as part of his defenses against King Baasha of Israel. Ishmael son of Nethaniah filled it with dead bodies. 10 Then Ishmael took captive all the people who were still left alive in Mizpah. This included the royal princesses and all the rest of the people in Mizpah that Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, had put under the authority of Gedaliah son of Ahikam. Ishmael son of Nethaniah took all these people captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites. 11 Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers who were with him heard about all the atrocities that Ishmael son of Nethaniah had committed. 12 So they took all their troops and went to fight against Ishmael son of Nethaniah. They caught up with him near the large pool at Gibeon. 13 When all the people that Ishmael had taken captive saw Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers with him, they were glad. 14 All those people that Ishmael had taken captive from Mizpah turned and went over to Johanan son of Kareah. 15 But Ishmael son of Nethaniah managed to escape from Johanan along with eight of his men, and he went on over to Ammon. 16 Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers who were with him led off all the people who had been left alive at Mizpah. They had rescued them from Ishmael son of Nethaniah after he killed Gedaliah son of Ahikam. They led off the men, women, children, soldiers, and court officials whom they had brought away from Gibeon. 17 They set out to go to Egypt to get away from the Babylonians, but stopped at Geruth Kimham near Bethlehem. 18 They were afraid of what the Babylonians might do because Ishmael son of Nethaniah had killed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed to govern the country.

Jeremiah 42

1 Then all the army officers, including Johanan son of Kareah and Jezaniah son of Hoshaiah and all the people of every class, went to the prophet Jeremiah. 2 They said to him, “Please grant our request and pray to Lifegiver your deity for all those of us who are still left alive here. For, as you yourself can see, there are only a few of us left out of the many there were before. 3 Pray that Lifegiver your deity will tell us where we should go and what we should do.” 4 The prophet Jeremiah answered them, “Agreed! I’ll indeed pray to Lifegiver your deity as you have asked. I’ll tell you everything Lifegiver replies in response to you. I’ll not keep anything back from you.” 5 They answered Jeremiah, “May Lifegiver be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not do just as Lifegiver sends you to tell us to do. 6 We’ll obey what Lifegiver our Supermights to whom we are sending you tells us to do. It does not matter whether we like what he tells us or not. We’ll obey what he tells us to do so that things will go well for us.” 7 Ten days later Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah. 8 So Jeremiah summoned Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers who were with him and all the people of every class. 9 Then Jeremiah said to them, “You sent me to Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel to make your request known to him. Here is what he says to you: 10 ‘If you’ll just stay in this land, I’ll build you up. I’ll not tear you down. I’ll firmly plant you. I’ll not uproot you. For I’m filled with sorrow because of the disaster that I’ve brought on you. 11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him because I’ll be with you to save you and to rescue you from his power. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 12 I’ll have compassion on you so that he in turn will have mercy on you and allow you to return to your land.’ 13 “You must not disobey Lifegiver your deity by saying, ‘We’ll not stay in this land.’ 14 You must not say, ‘No, we’ll not stay. Instead we’ll go and live in the land of Egypt where we’ll not face war, or hear the enemy’s trumpet calls, or starve for lack of food.’ 15 If you people who remain in Judah do that, then listen to what Lifegiver says. Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘If you are so determined to go to Egypt that you go and settle there, 16 the wars you fear will catch up with you there in the land of Egypt. The starvation you are worried about will follow you there to Egypt. You’ll die there. 17 All the people who are determined to go and settle in Egypt will die from war, starvation, or disease. No one will survive or escape the disaster I’ll bring on them.’ 18 For Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘If you go to Egypt, I’ll pour out my wrath on you just as I poured out my anger and wrath on the citizens of Jerusalem. You’ll become an object of horror and ridicule, an example of those who have been cursed and that people use in pronouncing a curse. You’ll never see this place again.’ 19 “Lifegiver has told you people who remain in Judah, ‘Do not go to Egypt.’ Be very sure of this: I warn you here and now. 20 You are making a fatal mistake. For you sent me to Lifegiver your deity and asked me, ‘Pray to Lifegiver our Supermights for us. Tell us what Lifegiver our deity says and we’ll do it.’ 21 This day I’ve told you what he said. But you do not want to obey Lifegiver by doing what he sent me to tell you. 22 So now be very sure of this: You’ll die from war, starvation, or disease in the place where you want to go and live.”

Jeremiah 43

1 Jeremiah finished telling all the people all these things Lifegiver their Supermights had sent him to tell them. 2 Then Azariah son of Hoshaiah, Johanan son of Kareah, and other arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are telling a lie! Lifegiver our Supermights did not send you to tell us, ‘You must not go to Egypt and settle there.’ 3 But Baruch son of Neriah is stirring you up against us. He wants to hand us over to the Babylonians so that they’ll kill us or carry us off into exile in Babylon.” 4 So Johanan son of Kareah, all the army officers, and all the rest of the people did not obey Lifegiver’s instruct to stay in the land. 5 Instead Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led off all the Judean remnant who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nationalities where they had been scattered. 6 They also led off all the men, women, children, and royal princesses that Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, had left with Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan. This included the prophet Jeremiah and Baruch son of Neriah. 7 They went on to Egypt because they refused to obey Lifegiver, and came to Tahpanhes. 8 At Tahpanhes Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah. 9 “Take some large stones and bury them in the mortar of the clay pavement at the entrance of Pharaoh’s residence here in Tahpanhes. Do it while the people of Judah present there are watching. 10 Then tell them, ‘Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “I’ll bring my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I’ll set his throne over these stones which I’ve buried. he’ll pitch his royal tent over them. 11 he’ll come and attack Egypt. Those who are destined to die of disease will die of disease. Those who are destined to be carried off into exile will be carried off into exile. Those who are destined to die in war will die in war. 12 he’ll set fire to the temples of the deities of Egypt. he’ll burn their deities or carry them off as captives. he’ll pick Egypt clean like a shepherd picks the lice from his clothing. he’ll leave there unharmed. 13 he’ll demolish the sacred pillars in the temple of the sun in Egypt and will burn down the temples of the deities of Egypt.”’”

Jeremiah 44

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah concerning all the Judeans who were living in the land of Egypt, those in Migdol, Tahpanhes, Memphis, and in the region of southern Egypt. 2 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘You have seen all the disaster I brought on Jerusalem and all the towns of Judah. Indeed, they now lie in ruins and are deserted. 3 This happened because of the wickedness the people living there did. They made me angry by worshiping and offering sacrifice to other deities whom neither they nor you nor your ancestors previously knew. 4 I sent my servants the prophets to you people over and over again warning you not to do this disgusting thing I hate. 5 But the people of Jerusalem and Judah would not listen or pay any attention. They would not stop the wickedness they were doing nor quit sacrificing to other Deities. 6 So my anger and my wrath were poured out and burned like a fire through the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. That is why they have become the desolate ruins that they are today.’ 7 “So now Lifegiver, the Supermights who rules over all, the Supermights of Israel, asks, ‘Why will you do such great harm to yourselves? Why should every man, woman, child, and baby of yours be destroyed from the midst of Judah? Why should you leave yourselves without a remnant? 8 That is what will result from your making me angry by what you are doing. You are making me angry by sacrificing to other deities here in the land of Egypt where you live. You’ll be destroyed for doing that! You’ll become an example used in curses and an object of ridicule among all the nationalities of the Earth . 9 Have you forgotten all the wicked things that have been done in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem by your ancestors, by the kings of Judah and their wives, by you and your wives? 10 To this day your people have shown no contrition! They have not revered me nor followed the laws and principles I instructed you and your ancestors.’ 11 “Because of this, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘I’m determined to bring disaster on you, even to the point of destroying all the Judeans here. 12 I’ll see to it that all the Judean remnant that was determined to go and live in the land of Egypt will be destroyed. Here in the land of Egypt they’ll fall in battle or perish from starvation. People of every class will die in war or from starvation. They’ll become an object of horror and ridicule, an example of those who have been cursed and that people use in pronouncing a curse. 13 I’ll punish those who live in the land of Egypt with war, starvation, and disease just as I punished Jerusalem. 14 None of the Judean remnant who have come to live in the land of Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah. Though they long to return and live there, none of them shall return except a few fugitives.’” 15 Then all the men who were aware that their wives were sacrificing to other Deities, as well as all their wives, answered Jeremiah. There was a great crowd of them representing all the people who lived in northern and southern Egypt. They answered, 16 “We’ll not listen to what you claim Lifegiver has spoken to us! 17 Instead we’ll do everything we vowed we would do. We’ll sacrifice and pour out drink offerings to the "queen of the sky" just as we and our ancestors, our kings, and our leaders previously did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and had no troubles. 18 But ever since we stopped sacrificing and pouring out drink offerings to the "queen of the sky," we’ve been in great need. Our people have died in wars or of starvation.” 19 The women added, “We did indeed sacrifice and pour out drink offerings to the "queen of the sky." But it was with the full knowledge and approval of our husbands that we made cakes in her image and poured out drink offerings to her.” 20 Then Jeremiah replied to all the people, both men and women, who responded to him in this way. 21 “Lifegiver did indeed remember and call to mind what you did! He remembered the sacrifices you and your ancestors, your kings, your leaders, and all the rest of the people of the land offered to other deities in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. 22 Finally Lifegiver could no longer endure your wicked deeds and the disgusting things you did. That is why your land has become the desolate, uninhabited ruin that it is today. That is why it has become a proverbial example used in curses. 23 You have sacrificed to other Deities! You have sinned against Lifegiver! You have not obeyed Lifegiver! You have not followed his laws, his principles, and his decrees! That is why this disaster that is evident to this day has happened to you.” 24 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people, particularly to all the women. “Listen to what Lifegiver has to say all you people of Judah who are in Egypt. 25 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘You women have confirmed by your actions what you vowed with your lips! You said, “We’ll certainly carry out our vows to sacrifice and pour out drink offerings to the 'queen of the sky.'" Well, then fulfill your vows! Carry them out!’ 26 But listen to what Lifegiver has to say, all you people of Judah who are living in the land of Egypt. Lifegiver says, ‘I hereby swear by my own great name that none of the people of Judah who are living anywhere in Egypt will ever again invoke my name in their oaths! Never again will any of them use it in an oath saying, “As surely as Lifegiver Supermights lives….” 27 I’ll indeed see to it that disaster, not prosperity, happens to them. All the people of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will die in war or from starvation until not one of them is left. 28 Some who survive in battle will return to the land of Judah from the land of Egypt. But they’ll be very few indeed! Then the Judean remnant who have come to live in the land of Egypt will know whose word proves true, mine or theirs.’ 29 Moreover Lifegiver says, ‘I’ll make something happen to prove that I’ll punish you in this place. I’ll do it so that you’ll know that my threats to bring disaster on you’ll prove true. 30 I, Lifegiver, promise that I’ll hand Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt over to his enemies who are seeking to kill him. I’ll do that just as surely as I handed King Zedekiah of Judah over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his enemy who was seeking to kill him.’”

Jeremiah 45

1 The prophet Jeremiah spoke to Baruch son of Neriah while he was writing down in a scroll the words that Jeremiah spoke to him. This happened in the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah. 2 “Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel has a message for you, Baruch. 3 ‘You have said, “I feel so hopeless! For Lifegiver has added sorrow to my suffering. I’m worn out from groaning. I can’t find any rest.”’” 4 Lifegiver told Jeremiah, “Tell Baruch, ‘Lifegiver says, “I’m about to tear down what I’ve built and to uproot what I’ve planted. I’ll do this throughout the whole Earth . 5 Are you looking for great things for yourself? Do not look for such things. For I, Lifegiver, affirm that I’m about to bring disaster on all humanity. But I’ll allow you to escape with your life wherever you go.”’”

Jeremiah 46

1 Lifegiver spoke to Jeremiah about the nationalities. 2 He spoke about Egypt and the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt which was encamped along the Euphrates River at Carchemish. Now this was the army that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated in the fourth year that Jehoiakim son of Josiah was ruling over Judah. 3 ​​​​​​​“Fall into ranks with your shields ready! Prepare to march into battle! 4 ​​​​​​​Harness the horses to the chariots! Mount your horses! Put on your helmets and take your positions! Sharpen you spears! Put on your armor! 5 ​​​​​​​What do I see?” says Lifegiver. “The soldiers are terrified. They are retreating. They have been defeated. They are overcome with terror; they desert quickly without looking back. 6 ​​​​​​​But even the swiftest cannot get away. Even the strongest cannot escape. There in the north by the Euphrates River they stumble and fall in defeat. 7 ​​​​​​​“Who is this that rises like the Nile, like its streams turbulent at flood stage? 8 ​​​​​​​Egypt rises like the Nile, like its streams turbulent at flood stage. Egypt says, ‘I’ll arise and cover the Earth . I’ll destroy cities and the people who inhabit them.’ 9 ​​​​​​​Go ahead and charge into battle, you horsemen! Drive furiously, you charioteers! Let the soldiers march out into battle, those from Ethiopia and Libya who carry shields, and those from Lydia who are armed with the bow. 10 ​​​​​​​But that day belongs to Lifegiver the Supermights who rules over all. It is the day when he’ll pay back his enemies. His sword will devour them until its appetite is satisfied! It will drink their blood until it is full! For Lifegiver Supermights who rules over all will offer them up as a sacrifice in the land of the north by the Euphrates River. 11 ​​​​​​​Go up to Gilead and get medicinal ointment, you dear poor people of Egypt. But it will prove useless no matter how much medicine you use; there will be no healing for you. 12 ​​​​​​​The nationalities will hear of your devastating defeat. your cries of distress will echo throughout the Earth . In the panic of their flight one soldier will trip over another and both of them will fall down defeated.” 13 Lifegiver spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about Nebuchadnezzar coming to attack the land of Egypt. 14 ​​​​​​​“Make an announcement throughout Egypt. Proclaim it in Migdol, Memphis, and Tahpanhes. ‘Take your positions and prepare to do battle. For the enemy army is destroying all the nationalities around you.’ 15 ​​​​​​​Why will your soldiers be defeated? They’ll not stand because I, Lifegiver, will thrust them down. 16 ​​​​​​​I’ll make many stumble. They’ll fall over one another in their hurry to flee. They’ll say, ‘Get up! Let’s go back to our own people. Let’s go back to our homelands because the enemy is coming to destroy us.’ 17 ​​​​​​​There at home they’ll say, ‘Pharaoh king of Egypt is just a big noise! He has let the most opportune moment pass by.’ 18 ​​​​​​​I the King, whose name is Lifegiver who rules over all, swear this: I swear as surely as I live that a conqueror is coming. he’ll be as imposing as Mount Tabor is among the mountains, as Mount Carmel is against the backdrop of the sea. 19 ​​​​​​​Pack your bags for exile, you inhabitants of poor dear Egypt. For Memphis will be laid waste. It will lie in ruins and be uninhabited. 20 ​​​​​​​Egypt is like a beautiful young cow. But northern armies will attack her like swarms of stinging flies. 21 ​​​​​​​Even her mercenaries will prove to be like pampered, well-fed calves. For they too will turn and run away. They’ll not stand their ground when the time for them to be destroyed comes, the time for them to be punished. 22 ​​​​​​​Egypt will run away, hissing like a snake, as the enemy comes marching up in force. They’ll come against her with axes as if they were woodsmen chopping down trees. 23 ​​​​​​​The population of Egypt is like a vast, impenetrable forest. But I, Lifegiver, affirm that the enemy will cut them down. For those who chop them down will be more numerous than locusts. They’ll be too numerous to count. 24 ​​​​​​​Poor dear Egypt will be put to shame. She’ll be handed over to the people from the north.” 25 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, “I’ll punish Amon, the Supermights of Thebes. I’ll punish Egypt, its Deities, and its kings. I’ll punish Pharaoh and all who trust in him. 26 I’ll hand them over to Nebuchadnezzar and his troops, who want to kill them. But later on, people will live in Egypt again as they did in former times. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!” 27 ​​​​​​​“You descendants of Jacob, my servants, do not be afraid; do not be terrified, people of Israel. For I’ll rescue you and your descendants from the faraway lands where you are captives. The descendants of Jacob will return to their land and enjoy peace. They’ll be secure and no one will terrify them. 28 ​​​​​​​I, Lifegiver, tell you not to be afraid, you descendants of Jacob, my servant, for I’m with you. Though I completely destroy all the nationalities where I scatter you, I’ll not completely destroy you. I’ll indeed discipline you but only in due measure. I’ll not allow you to go entirely unpunished.”

Jeremiah 47

1 Lifegiver spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about the Philistines before Pharaoh attacked Gaza. 2 ​​​​​​​“Look! Enemies are gathering in the north like water rising in a river. They’ll be like an overflowing stream. They’ll overwhelm the whole country and everything in it like a flood. They’ll overwhelm the cities and their inhabitants. People will cry out in alarm. Everyone living in the country will cry out in pain. 3 ​​​​​​​Fathers will hear the hoofbeats of the enemies’ horses, the clatter of their chariots and the rumbling of their wheels. They’ll not turn back to save their children because they’ll be paralyzed with fear. 4 ​​​​​​​For the time has come to destroy all the Philistines. The time has come to destroy all the help that remains for Tyre and Sidon. For I, Lifegiver, will destroy the Philistines, that remnant that came from the island of Crete. 5 ​​​​​​​The people of Gaza will shave their heads in mourning. The people of Ashkelon will be struck dumb. How long will you gash yourselves to show your sorrow, you who remain of Philistia’s power? 6 ​​​​​​​How long will you cry out, ‘Oh, sword of Lifegiver, how long will it be before you stop killing? Go back into your sheath! Stay there and rest!’ 7 ​​​​​​​But how can it rest when I, Lifegiver, have given it orders? I’ve ordered it to attack the people of Ashkelon and the seacoast.

Jeremiah 48

1 Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all spoke about Moab. “Sure to be judged is Nebo! Indeed, it will be destroyed! Kiriathaim will suffer disgrace. It will be captured! Its fortress will suffer disgrace. It will be torn down! 2 ​​​​​​​People will not praise Moab any more. The enemy will capture Heshbon and plot how to destroy Moab, saying, ‘Come, let’s put an end to that nation!’ City of Madmen, you’ll also be destroyed. A destructive army will march against you. 3 ​​​​​​​Cries of anguish will arise in Horonaim, ‘Oh, the ruin and great destruction!’ 4 ​​​​​​​“Moab will be crushed. Her children will cry out in distress. 5 ​​​​​​​Indeed they’ll climb the slopes of Luhith, weeping continually as they go. For on the road down to Horonaim they’ll hear the cries of distress over the destruction. 6 ​​​​​​​They’ll hear, ‘Run! Save yourselves! Even if you must be like a lonely shrub in the desert!’ 7 ​​​​​​​“Moab, you trust in the things you do and in your riches. So you too will be conquered. Your deity Chemosh will go into exile along with his priests and his officials. 8 ​​​​​​​The destroyer will come against every town. Not one town will escape. The towns in the valley will be destroyed. The cities on the high plain will be laid waste. I, Lifegiver, have spoken! 9 ​​​​​​​Set up a gravestone for Moab, for it will certainly be laid in ruins! Its cities will be laid waste and become uninhabited.” 10 ​​​​​​​A curse on anyone who is lax in doing Lifegiver’s work! A curse on anyone who keeps from carrying out his destruction! 11 ​​​​​​​“From its earliest days Moab has lived undisturbed. It has never been taken into exile. Its people are like wine allowed to settle undisturbed on its dregs, never poured out from one jar to another. They are like wine which tastes like it always did, whose aroma has remained unchanged. 12 ​​​​​​​But the time is coming when I’ll send men against Moab who will empty it out. They’ll empty the towns of their people, then will lay those towns in ruins. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 13 ​​​​​​​The people of Moab will be disappointed by their Supermights Chemosh. They’ll be as disappointed as the people of Israel were when they put their trust in the calf Supermights at Bethel. 14 ​​​​​​​How can you men of Moab say, ‘We are heroes, men who are mighty in battle?’ 15 ​​​​​​​Moab will be destroyed. Its towns will be invaded. Its finest young men will be slaughtered. I, the King, Lifegiver who rules over all, affirm it! 16 ​​​​​​​Moab’s destruction is at hand. Disaster will come on it quickly. 17 ​​​​​​​Mourn for that nation, all you nationalities living around it, all of you nationalities that know of its fame. Mourn and say, ‘Alas, its powerful influence has been broken! Its glory and power have been done away!’ 18 ​​​​​​​Come down from your place of honor; sit on the dry ground, you who live in Dibon. For the one who will destroy Moab will attack you; he’ll destroy your fortifications. 19 ​​​​​​​You who live in Aroer, stand by the road and watch. Question the man who is fleeing and the woman who is escaping. Ask them, ‘What has happened?’ 20 ​​​​​​​They’ll answer, ‘Moab is disgraced, for it has fallen! Wail and cry out in mourning! Announce along the Arnon River that Moab has been destroyed.’ 21 “Judgment will come on the cities on the high plain: on Holon, Jahzah, and Mephaath, 22 on Dibon, Nebo, and Beth Diblathaim, 23 on Kiriathaim, Beth Gamul, and Beth Meon, 24 on Kerioth and Bozrah. It will come on all the towns of Moab, both far and near. 25 Moab’s might will be crushed. Its power will be broken. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 26 ​​​​​​​“Moab has vaunted itself against me. So make him drunk with the wine of my wrath until he splashes around in his own vomit, until others treat him as a laughingstock. 27 ​​​​​​​For did not you people of Moab laugh at the people of Israel? Did you think that they were nothing but thieves, that you shook your head in contempt every time you talked about them? 28 ​​​​​​​Leave your towns, you inhabitants of Moab. Go and live in the cliffs. Be like a dove that makes its nest high on the sides of a ravine. 29 ​​​​​​​I’ve heard how proud the people of Moab are, I know how haughty they are. I’ve heard how arrogant, proud, and haughty they are, what a high opinion they have of themselves. 30 ​​​​​​​I, Lifegiver, affirm that I know how arrogant they are. But their pride is ill-founded. Their boastings will prove to be false. 31 ​​​​​​​So I’ll weep with sorrow for Moab. I’ll cry out in sadness for all of Moab. I’ll moan for the people of Kir Heres. 32 ​​​​​​​I’ll weep for the grapevines of Sibmah just like the town of Jazer weeps over them. Their branches once spread as far as the Dead Sea. They reached as far as the town of Jazer. The destroyer will ravage her fig, date, and grape crops. 33 ​​​​​​​Joy and gladness will disappear from the fruitful land of Moab. I’ll stop the flow of wine from the winepresses. No one will stomp on the grapes there and shout for joy. The shouts there will be shouts of soldiers, not the shouts of those making wine. 34 ​​​​​​​Cries of anguish raised from Heshbon and Elealeh will be sounded as far as Jahaz. They’ll be sounded from Zoar as far as Horonaim and Eglath Shelishiyah. For even the waters of Nimrim will be dried up. 35 ​​​​​​​I’ll put an end in Moab to those who make offerings at her places of worship. I’ll put an end to those who sacrifice to other Deities. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 36 ​​​​​​​So my heart moans for Moab like a flute playing a funeral song. Yes, like a flute playing a funeral song, my heart moans for the people of Kir Heres. For the wealth they have gained will perish. 37 ​​​​​​​For all of them will shave their heads in mourning. They’ll all cut off their beards to show their sorrow. They’ll all make gashes in their hands. They’ll all put on sackcloth. 38 ​​​​​​​On all the housetops in Moab and in all its public squares there will be nothing but mourning. For I’ll break Moab like an unwanted jar. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 39 ​​​​​​​Oh, how shattered Moab will be! Oh, how her people will wail! Oh, how she’ll turn away in shame! Moab will become an object of ridicule, a terrifying sight to all the nationalities that surround her.” 40 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver says, “Look! Like an eagle with outspread wings a nation will swoop down on Moab. 41 ​​​​​​​Her towns will be captured. Her fortresses will be taken. At that time the soldiers of Moab will be frightened like a woman in labor. 42 ​​​​​​​Moab will be destroyed and no longer be a nation, because she has vaunted herself against Lifegiver. 43 ​​​​​​​Terror, pits, and traps are in store for the people who live in Moab. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 44 ​​​​​​​Anyone who flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit. Anyone who climbs out of the pit will be caught in a trap. For the time is coming when I’ll punish the people of Moab. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 45 ​​​​​​​In the shadows of the walls of Heshbon those trying to escape will stand helpless. For a fire will burst forth from Heshbon. Flames will shoot out from the former territory of Sihon. They’ll burn the foreheads of the people of Moab, the skulls of those war-loving people. 46 ​​​​​​​Moab, you are doomed! You people who worship Chemosh will be destroyed. Your sons will be taken away captive. Your daughters will be carried away into exile. 47 ​​​​​​​Yet in days to come I’ll reverse Moab’s ill fortune.” says Lifegiver. The judgment against Moab ends here.

Jeremiah 49

1 Lifegiver spoke about the Ammonites. “Do you think there are not any people of the nation of Israel remaining? Do you think there are not any of them remaining to reinherit their land? Is that why you people who worship the Supermights Milcom have taken possession of the territory of Gad and live in his cities? 2 ​​​​​​​Because you did that, I, Lifegiver, affirm that a time is coming when I’ll make Rabbah, the capital city of Ammon, hear the sound of the battle cry. It will become a mound covered with ruins. Its villages will be burned to the ground. Then Israel will take back its land from those who took their land from them. I, Lifegiver, affirm it! 3 ​​​​​​​Wail, you people in Heshbon, because Ai in Ammon is destroyed. Cry out in anguish, you people in the villages surrounding Rabbah. Put on sackcloth and cry out in mourning. Run about covered with gashes. For your deity Milcom will go into exile along with his priests and officials. 4 ​​​​​​​Why do you brag about your great power? Your power is ebbing away, you rebellious people of Ammon, who trust in your riches and say, ‘Who would dare to attack us?’ 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll bring terror on you from every side,” says Lifegiver Supermights who rules over all. “You’ll be scattered in every direction. No one will gather the fugitives back together. 6 ​​​​​​​Yet in days to come I’ll reverse Ammon’s ill fortune.” says Lifegiver. 7 Lifegiver who rules over all spoke about Edom. “Is wisdom no longer to be found in Teman? Can Edom’s counselors not give her any good advice? Has all of their wisdom turned bad? 8 ​​​​​​​Turn and flee! Take up refuge in remote places, you people who live in Dedan. For I’ll bring disaster on the descendants of Esau. I’ve decided it is time for me to punish them. 9 ​​​​​​​If grape pickers came to pick your grapes, would they not leave a few grapes behind? If robbers came at night, would they not pillage only what they needed? 10 ​​​​​​​But I’ll strip everything away from Esau’s descendants. I’ll uncover their hiding places so they cannot hide. Their children, relatives, and neighbors will all be destroyed. Not one of them will be left! 11 ​​​​​​​Leave your orphans behind and I’ll keep them alive. Your widows too can depend on me.”

12 For Lifegiver says, “If even those who did not deserve to drink from the cup of my wrath must drink from it, do you think you’ll go unpunished? You’ll not go unpunished, but must certainly drink from the cup of my wrath. 13 For I solemnly swear,” says Lifegiver, “that Bozrah will become a pile of ruins. It will become an object of horror and ridicule, an example to be used in curses. All the towns around it will lie in ruins forever.” 14 ​​​​​​​I said, “I’ve heard a message from Lifegiver. A messenger has been sent among the nationalities to say, ‘Gather your armies and march out against her! Prepare to do battle with her!’” 15 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says to Edom, “I’ll certainly make you small among nationalities. I’ll make you despised by all humankind. 16 ​​​​​​​The terror you inspire in others and the arrogance of your heart have deceived you. You may make your home in the clefts of the rocks; you may occupy the highest places in the hills. But even if you made your home where the eagles nest, I would bring you down from there,” says Lifegiver. 17 ​​​​​​​“Edom will become an object of horror. All who pass by it will be filled with horror; they’ll hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it. 18 ​​​​​​​Edom will be destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah and the towns that were around them. No one will live there. No human being will settle in it,” says Lifegiver. 19 ​​​​​​​“A lion coming up from the thick undergrowth along the Jordan scatters the sheep in the pastureland around it. So too I’ll chase the Edomites off their land. Then I’ll appoint over it whomever I choose. For there is no one like me, and there is no one who can call me to account. There is no ruler who can stand up against me. 20 ​​​​​​​So listen to what I, Lifegiver, have planned against Edom, what I intend to do to the people who live in Teman. Their little ones will be dragged off. I’ll completely destroy their land because of what they have done. 21 ​​​​​​​The people of the Earth will quake when they hear of their downfall. Their cries of anguish will be heard all the way to the Gulf of Aqaba. 22 ​​​​​​​Look! Like an eagle with outspread wings, a nation will soar up and swoop down on Bozrah. At that time the soldiers of Edom will be as fearful as a woman in labor.” 23 Lifegiver spoke about Damascus. “The people of Hamath and Arpad will be dismayed because they have heard bad news. Their courage will melt away because of worry. Their hearts will not be able to rest. 24 ​​​​​​​The people of Damascus will lose heart and turn to flee. Panic will grip them. Pain and anguish will seize them like a woman in labor. 25 ​​​​​​​How deserted will that once-famous city be, that city that was once filled with joy! 26 ​​​​​​​For her young men will fall in her city squares. All her soldiers will be destroyed at that time,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 27 ​​​​​​​“I’ll set fire to the walls of Damascus; it will burn up the palaces of Ben Hadad.” 28 Lifegiver spoke about Kedar and the reigns of Hazor that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered. “Army of Babylon, go and attack Kedar. Lay waste those who live in the eastern desert. 29 ​​​​​​​Their tents and their flocks will be taken away. Their tent curtains, equipment, and camels will be carried off. People will shout to them, ‘Terror is all around you!’” 30 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “Flee quickly, you who live in Hazor. Take up refuge in remote places. For King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has laid out plans to attack you. He has formed his strategy on how to defeat you.” 31 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “Army of Babylon, go and attack a nation that lives in peace and security. They have no gates or walls to protect them. They live all alone. 32 ​​​​​​​Their camels will be taken as plunder. Their vast herds will be taken as spoil. I’ll scatter to the four winds those desert peoples who cut their hair short at the temples. I’ll bring disaster against them from every direction,” says Lifegiver. 33 ​​​​​​​“Hazor will become a permanent wasteland, a place where only jackals live. No one will live there. No human being will settle in it.” 34 Early in the reign of King Zedekiah of Judah, Lifegiver spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about Elam. 35 Lifegiver who rules over all said, “I’ll kill all the archers of Elam, who are the chief source of her military might. 36 ​​​​​​​I’ll cause enemies to blow through Elam from every direction like the winds blowing in from the four quarters of the sky. I’ll scatter the people of Elam to the four winds. There will not be any nation where the refugees of Elam will not go. 37 ​​​​​​​I’ll make the people of Elam terrified of their enemies, who are seeking to kill them. I’ll vent my fierce anger and bring disaster upon them,” says Lifegiver. “I’ll send armies chasing after them until I’ve completely destroyed them. 38 ​​​​​​​I’ll establish my sovereignty over Elam. I’ll destroy their king and their leaders,” says Lifegiver. 39 ​​​​​​​“Yet in days to come I’ll reverse Elam’s ill fortune.” says Lifegiver.

Jeremiah 50

1 Lifegiver spoke concerning Babylon and the land of Babylonia through the prophet Jeremiah. 2 ​​​​​​​“Announce the news among the nationalities! Proclaim it! Signal for people to pay attention! Declare the news! Do not hide it! Say: ‘Babylon will be captured. Bel will be put to shame. Marduk will be dismayed. Babylon’s idols will be put to shame. Her disgusting effigies will be dismayed. 3 ​​​​​​​For a nation from the north will attack Babylon. It will lay her land waste. People and animals will flee out of it. No one will inhabit it.’ 4 ​​​​​​​“When that time comes,” says Lifegiver, “the people of Israel and Judah will return to the land together. They’ll come back with tears of repentance as they seek Lifegiver their Supermights. 5 ​​​​​​​They’ll ask the way to Zion; they’ll turn their faces toward it. They’ll come and bind themselves to Lifegiver in a lasting agreement that will never be forgotten. 6 ​​​​​​​“My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have allow them to go astray. They have wandered around in the mountains. They have roamed from one mountain and hill to another. They have forgotten their resting place. 7 ​​​​​​​All who encountered them devoured them. Their enemies who did this said, ‘We are not liable for punishment! For those people have sinned against Lifegiver, their true pasture. They have sinned against Lifegiver in whom their ancestors trusted.’ 8 ​​​​​​​“People of Judah, get out of Babylon quickly! Leave the land of Babylonia! Be the first to depart! Be like the male goats that lead the herd. 9 ​​​​​​​For I’ll rouse into action and bring against Babylon a host of mighty nationalities from the land of the north. They’ll set up their battle lines against her. They’ll come from the north and capture her. Their arrows will be like a skilled soldier who does not return from the battle empty-handed. 10 ​​​​​​​Babylonia will be plundered. Those who plunder it will take all they want,” says Lifegiver. 11 ​​​​​​​“People of Babylonia, you plundered my people. That made you happy and glad. You frolic about like calves in a pasture. Your joyous sounds are like the neighs of a stallion. 12 ​​​​​​​But Babylonia will be put to great shame. The land where you were born will be disgraced. Indeed, Babylonia will become the least important of all nationalities. It will become a dry and barren desert. 13 ​​​​​​​After I vent my wrath on it Babylon will be uninhabited. It will be totally desolate. All who pass by will be filled with horror and will hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it. 14 ​​​​​​​“Take up your battle positions all around Babylon, all you soldiers who are armed with bows. Shoot all your arrows at her! Do not hold any back! For she has sinned against Lifegiver. 15 ​​​​​​​Shout the battle cry from all around the city. She’ll throw up her hands in surrender. Her towers will fall. Her walls will be torn down. Because I, Lifegiver, am wreaking revenge, take out your vengeance on her! Do to her as she has done! 16 ​​​​​​​Kill all the farmers who sow the seed in the land of Babylon. Kill all those who wield the sickle at harvest time. Let all the foreigners return to their own people. Let them hurry back to their own lands to escape destruction by that enemy army. 17 ​​​​​​​“The people of Israel are like scattered sheep which lions have chased away. First the king of Assyria devoured them. Now last of all King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has gnawed their bones. 18 ​​​​​​​So I, Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all, say: ‘I’ll punish the king of Babylon and his land just as I punished the king of Assyria. 19 ​​​​​​​But I’ll restore the flock of Israel to their own pasture. They’ll graze on Mount Carmel and the land of Bashan. They’ll eat until they are full on the hills of Ephraim and the land of Gilead. 20 ​​​​​​​When that time comes, no guilt will be found in Israel. No sin will be found in Judah. For I’ll forgive those of them I’ve allowed to survive. I, Lifegiver, affirm it!’” 21 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “Attack the land of Merathaim and the people who live in Pekod! Pursue, kill, and completely destroy them! Do just as I’ve instructed you! 22 ​​​​​​​The noise of battle can be heard in the land of Babylonia. There is the sound of great destruction. 23 ​​​​​​​Babylon hammered the whole world to pieces. But see how that ‘hammer’ has been broken and shattered! See what an object of horror Babylon has become among the nationalities! 24 ​​​​​​​I set a trap for you, Babylon; you were caught before you knew it. You fought against me. So you were found and captured. 25 ​​​​​​​I’ve opened up the place where my weapons are stored. I’ve brought out the weapons for carrying out my wrath. For I, Lifegiver Supermights who rules over all, have work to carry out in the land of Babylonia. 26 ​​​​​​​Come from far away and attack Babylonia! Open up the places where she stores her grain! Pile her up in ruins! Destroy her completely! Do not leave anyone alive! 27 ​​​​​​​Kill all her soldiers! Let them be slaughtered! They are doomed, for their day of reckoning has come, the time for them to be punished.” 28 ​​​​​​​Listen! Fugitives and refugees are coming from the land of Babylon. They are coming to Zion to declare there how Lifegiver our Supermights is getting revenge, getting revenge for what they have done to his temple. 29 ​​​​​​​“Call for archers to come against Babylon! Summon against her all who draw the bow! Set up camp all around the city! Do not allow anyone to escape! Pay her back for what she has done. Do to her what she has done to others. For she has proudly defied me, the Holy One of Israel. 30 ​​​​​​​So her young men will fall in her city squares. All her soldiers will be destroyed at that time,” says Lifegiver. 31 ​​​​​​​“Listen! I’m opposed to you, you proud city,” says Lifegiver Supermights who rules over all. “Indeed, your day of reckoning has come, the time when I’ll punish you. 32 ​​​​​​​You’ll stumble and fall, you proud city; no one will help you get up. I’ll set fire to your towns; it will burn up everything that surrounds you.” 33 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who rules over all says, “The people of Israel are oppressed. So too are the people of Judah. All those who took them captive are holding them prisoners. They refuse to set them free. 34 ​​​​​​​But the one who will rescue them is strong. He is known as Lifegiver who rules over all. he’ll strongly champion their cause. As a result he’ll bring peace and rest to the Earth , but trouble and turmoil to the people who inhabit Babylonia. 35 ​​​​​​​“Destructive forces will come against the Babylonians,” says Lifegiver. “They’ll come against the people who inhabit Babylonia, against her leaders and her men of wisdom. 36 ​​​​​​​Destructive forces will come against her false prophets; they’ll be shown to be fools! Destructive forces will come against her soldiers; they’ll be filled with terror! 37 ​​​​​​​Destructive forces will come against her horses and her chariots. Destructive forces will come against all the foreign troops witlitreher; they’ll be as frightened as women! Destructive forces will come against her treasures; they’ll be taken away as plunder! 38 ​​​​​​​A drought will come upon her land; her rivers and canals will be dried up. All of this will happen because her land is filled with idols. Her people act like madmen because of those idols they fear. 39 ​​​​​​​Therefore desert creatures and jackals will live there. Ostriches will dwell in it too. But no people will ever live there again. No one will dwell there for all time to come. 40 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy Babylonia just like I did Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring towns. No one will live there. No human being will settle in it,” says Lifegiver. 41 ​​​​​​​“Look! An army is about to come from the north. A mighty nation and many kings are stirring into action in faraway parts of the Earth . 42 ​​​​​​​Its soldiers are armed with bows and spears. They are cruel and show no mercy. They sound like the roaring sea as they ride forth on their horses. Lined up in formation like men going into battle, they are coming against you, fair Babylon! 43 ​​​​​​​The king of Babylon will become paralyzed with fear when he hears news of their coming. Anguish will grip him, agony like that of a woman giving birth to a baby. 44 ​​​​​​​“A lion coming up from the thick undergrowth along the Jordan scatters the sheep in the pastureland around it. So too I’ll chase the Babylonians off of their land. Then I’ll appoint over it whomever I choose. For there is no one like me. There is no one who can call me to account. There is no ruler that can stand up against me. 45 ​​​​​​​So listen to what I, Lifegiver, have planned against Babylon, what I intend to do to the people who inhabit the land of Babylonia. Their little ones will be dragged off. I’ll completely destroy their land because of what they have done. 46 ​​​​​​​The people of the Earth will quake when they hear Babylon has been captured. Her cries of anguish will be heard by the other nationalities.”

Jeremiah 51

1 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “I’ll cause a destructive wind to blow against Babylon and the people who inhabit Babylonia. 2 ​​​​​​​I’ll send people to winnow Babylonia like a wind blowing away chaff. They’ll winnow her and strip her land bare. This will happen when they come against her from every direction, when it is time to destroy her. 3 ​​​​​​​Do not give her archers time to string their bows or to put on their coats of armor. Do not spare any of her young men. Completely destroy her whole army. 4 ​​​​​​​Let them fall slain in the land of Babylonia, mortally wounded in the streets of her cities. 5 ​​​​​​​“For Israel and Judah will not be forsaken by their Supermights , Lifegiver who rules over all. For the land of Babylonia is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. 6 ​​​​​​​Get out of Babylonia quickly, you foreign people. Flee to save your lives. Do not let yourselves be killed because of her sins. For it is time for Lifegiver to wreak his revenge. he’ll pay Babylonia back for what she has done. 7 ​​​​​​​Babylonia had been a gold cup in Lifegiver’s hand. She had made the whole world drunk. The nationalities had drunk from the wine of her wrath. So they have all gone mad. 8 ​​​​​​​But suddenly Babylonia will fall and be destroyed. Cry out in mourning over it! Get medicine for her wounds! Perhaps she can be healed! 9 ​​​​​​​Foreigners living there will say, ‘We tried to heal her, but she could not be healed. Let’s leave Babylonia and each go back to his own country. For judgment on her will be vast in its proportions. It will be like it is piled up to the sky, stacked up into the clouds.’ 10 ​​​​​​​The exiles from Judah will say, ‘Lifegiver has brought about a great deliverance for us! Come on, let’s go and proclaim in Zion what Lifegiver our Supermights has done!’ 11 ​​​​​​​“Sharpen your arrows! Fill your quivers! Lifegiver will arouse a spirit of hostility in the kings of Media. For he intends to destroy Babylonia. For that is how Lifegiver will get his revenge – how he’ll get his revenge for the Babylonians’ destruction of his temple. 12 ​​​​​​​Give the signal to attack Babylon’s wall! Bring more guards! Post them all around the city! Put men in ambush! For Lifegiver will do what he has planned. he’ll do what he said he would do to the people of Babylon. 13 ​​​​​​​“You who live along the rivers of Babylon, the time of your end has come. You who are rich in plundered treasure, it is time for your lives to be cut off. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver who rules over all has solemnly sworn, ‘I’ll fill your land with enemy soldiers. They’ll swarm over it like locusts. They’ll raise up shouts of victory over it.’ 15 ​​​​​​​He is the one who by his power made the Earth . He is the one who by his wisdom fixed the world in place, by his understanding he spread out the Celestial Bodies. 16 ​​​​​​​When his voice thunders, the waters in the skies roar. He makes the clouds rise from the far-off horizons. He makes the lightning flash out in the midst of the rain. He unleashes the wind from the places where he stores it. 17 ​​​​​​​All idolaters will prove to be stupid and ignorant. Every goldsmith will be disgraced by the idol he made. For the image he forges is merely a sham. There is no breath in any of those idols. 18 ​​​​​​​They are worthless, objects to be ridiculed. When the time comes to punish them, they’ll be destroyed. 19 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, who is the portion of the descendants of Jacob, is not like them. For he is the one who created everything, including the people of Israel whom he claims as his own. He is known as Lifegiver who rules over all. 20 ​​​​​​​“Babylon, you are my war club, my weapon for battle. I used you to smash nationalities. I used you to destroy reigns. 21 ​​​​​​​I used you to smash horses and their riders. I used you to smash chariots and their drivers. 22 ​​​​​​​I used you to smash men and women. I used you to smash old men and young men. I used you to smash young men and young women. 23 ​​​​​​​I used you to smash shepherds and their flocks. I used you to smash farmers and their teams of oxen. I used you to smash governors and leaders.” 24 ​​​​​​​“But I’ll repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wicked things they did in Zion right before the eyes of you Judeans,” says Lifegiver. 25 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “Beware! I’m opposed to you, Babylon! You are like a destructive mountain that destroys all the Earth . I’ll unleash my power against you; I’ll roll you off the cliffs and make you like a burned-out mountain. 26 ​​​​​​​No one will use any of your stones as a cornerstone. No one will use any of them in the foundation of his house. For you’ll lie desolate forever,” says Lifegiver. 27 ​​​​​​​“Raise up battle flags throughout the lands. Sound the trumpets calling the nationalities to do battle. Prepare the nationalities to do battle against Babylonia. Call for these reigns to attack her: Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz. Appoint a instruct er to lead the attack. Send horses against her like a swarm of locusts. 28 ​​​​​​​Prepare the nationalities to do battle against her. Prepare the kings of the Medes. Prepare their governors and all their leaders. Prepare all the countries they rule to do battle against her. 29 ​​​​​​​The Earth will tremble and writhe in agony. For Lifegiver will carry out his plan. He plans to make the land of Babylonia a wasteland where no one lives. 30 ​​​​​​​The soldiers of Babylonia will stop fighting. They’ll remain in their fortified cities. They’ll lose their strength to do battle. They’ll be as frightened as women. The houses in her cities will be set on fire. The gates of her cities will be broken down. 31 ​​​​​​​One runner after another will come to the king of Babylon. One messenger after another will come bringing news. They’ll bring news to the king of Babylon that his whole city has been captured. 32 ​​​​​​​They’ll report that the fords have been captured, the reed marshes have been burned, the soldiers are terrified. 33 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel who rules over all says, ‘Fair Babylon will be like a threshing floor which has been trampled flat for harvest. The time for her to be cut down and harvested will come very soon.’ 34 ​​​​​​​“King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon devoured me and drove my people out. Like a monster from the deep he swallowed me. He filled his belly with my riches. He made me an empty dish. He completely cleaned me out.” 35 ​​​​​​​The person who lives in Zion says, “May Babylon pay for the violence done to me and to my relatives.” Jerusalem says, “May those living in Babylonia pay for the bloodshed of my people.” 36 ​​​​​​​Therefore Lifegiver says, “I’ll stand up for your cause. I’ll pay the Babylonians back for what they have done to you. I’ll dry up their sea. I’ll make their springs run dry. 37 ​​​​​​​Babylon will become a heap of ruins. Jackals will make their home there. It will become an object of horror and of hissing scorn, a place where no one lives. 38 ​​​​​​​The Babylonians are all like lions roaring for prey. They are like lion cubs growling for something to eat. 39 ​​​​​​​When their appetites are all stirred up, I’ll set out a banquet for them. I’ll make them drunk so that they’ll pass out, they’ll fall asleep forever, they’ll never wake up,” says Lifegiver. 40 ​​​​​​​“I’ll lead them off to be slaughtered like lambs, rams, and male goats.” 41 ​​​​​​​“See how Babylon has been captured! See how the pride of the whole Earth has been taken! See what an object of horror Babylon has become among the nationalities! 42 ​​​​​​​The sea has swept over Babylon. She has been covered by a multitude of its waves. 43 ​​​​​​​The towns of Babylonia have become heaps of ruins. She has become a dry and barren desert. No one lives in those towns any more. No one even passes through them. 44 ​​​​​​​I’ll punish the Supermights Bel in Babylon. I’ll make him spit out what he has swallowed. The nationalities will not come streaming to him any longer. Indeed, the walls of Babylon will fall.” 45 ​​​​​​​“Get out of Babylon, my people! Flee to save your lives from the fierce anger of Lifegiver! 46 ​​​​​​​Do not lose your courage or become afraid because of the reports that are heard in the land. For a report will come in one year. Another report will follow it in the next. There will be violence in the land with ruler fighting against ruler.” 47 ​​​​​​​“So the time will certainly come when I’ll punish the idols of Babylon. Her whole land will be put to shame. All her mortally wounded will collapse in her midst. 48 ​​​​​​​Then Celestial Bodies and Earth and all that is in them will sing for joy over Babylon. For destroyers from the north will attack it,” says Lifegiver. 49 ​​​​​​​“Babylon must fall because of the Israelites she has killed, just as the Earth ’s mortally wounded fell because of Babylon. 50 ​​​​​​​You who have escaped the sword, go, do not delay. Remember Lifegiver in a faraway land. Think about Jerusalem. 51 ​​​​​​​‘We are ashamed because we’ve been insulted. Our faces show our disgrace. For foreigners have invaded the sacred rooms in Lifegiver’s temple.’ 52 ​​​​​​​Yes, but the time will certainly come,” says Lifegiver, “when I’ll punish her idols. Throughout her land the mortally wounded will groan. 53 ​​​​​​​Even if Babylon climbs high into the sky and fortifies her elevated stronghold, I’ll send destroyers against her,” says Lifegiver. 54 ​​​​​​​Cries of anguish will come from Babylon, the sound of great destruction from the land of the Babylonians. 55 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver is ready to destroy Babylon, and put an end to her loud noise. Their waves will roar like turbulent waters. They’ll make a deafening noise. 56 ​​​​​​​For a destroyer is attacking Babylon. Her warriors will be captured; their bows will be broken. For Lifegiver is a Supermights who punishes; he pays

back in full. 57 ​​​​​​​“I’ll make her officials and sages drunk, along with her governors, leaders, and warriors. They’ll fall asleep forever and never wake up,” says the King whose name is Lifegiver who rules over all. 58 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver who rules over all says, “Babylon’s thick wall will be completely demolished. Her high gates will be set on fire. The peoples strive for what does not satisfy. The nationalities grow weary trying to get what will be destroyed.” 59 This is the order Jeremiah the prophet gave to Seraiah son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went to King Zedekiah of Judah in Babylon during the fourth year of his reign. (Seraiah was a quartermaster.) 60 Jeremiah recorded on one scroll all the judgments that would come upon Babylon – all these prophecies written about Babylon. 61 Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “When you arrive in Babylon, make sure you read aloud all these prophecies. 62 Then say, ‘O Lifegiver, you have announced that you’ll destroy this place so that no people or animals live in it any longer. Certainly it will lie desolate forever!’ 63 When you finish reading this scroll aloud, tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates River. 64 Then say, ‘In the same way Babylon will sink and never rise again because of the judgments I’m ready to bring upon her; they’ll grow faint.’” The prophecies of Jeremiah end here.

Jeremiah 52

1 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he ruled in Jerusalem for eleven years. His mother’s name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah. 2 He did what displeased Lifegiver just as Jehoiakim had done. 3 What follows is a record of what happened to Jerusalem and Judah because of Lifegiver’s anger when he drove them out of his sight. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. 4 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came against Jerusalem with his whole army and set up camp outside it. They built siege ramps all around it. He arrived on the tenth day of the tenth month in the ninth year that Zedekiah ruled over Judah. 5 The city remained under siege until Zedekiah’s eleventh year. 6 By the ninth day of the fourth month the drought in the city was so severe the residents had no food. 7 They broke through the city walls, and all the soldiers tried to escape. They left the city during the night. They went through the gate between the two walls that is near the king’s garden. (The Babylonians had the city surrounded.) Then they headed for the Jordan Valley. 8 But the Babylonian army chased after the king. They caught up with Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and his entire army deserted him. 9 They captured him and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the territory of Hamath and he passed sentence on him there. 10 The king of Babylon had Zedekiah’s sons put to death while Zedekiah was forced to watch. He also had all the nobles of Judah put to death there at Riblah. 11 He had Zedekiah’s eyes put out and had him bound in chains. Then the king of Babylon had him led off to Babylon and he was imprisoned there until the day he died. 12 On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard who served the king of Babylon, arrived in Jerusalem. 13 He burned down Lifegiver’s temple, the royal palace, and all the houses in Jerusalem, including every large house. 14 The whole Babylonian army that came with the captain of the royal guard tore down the walls that surrounded Jerusalem. 15 Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, took into exile some of the poor, the rest of the people who remained in the city, those who had deserted to him, and the rest of the craftsmen. 16 But he left behind some of the poor and gave them fields and vineyards. 17 The Babylonians broke the two bronze pillars in the temple of Lifegiver, as well as the movable stands and the large bronze basin called the “The Sea.” They took all the bronze to Babylon. 18 They also took the pots, shovels, trimming shears, basins, pans, and all the bronze utensils used by the priests. 19 The captain of the royal guard took the gold and silver bowls, censers, basins, pots, lampstands, pans, and vessels. 20 The bronze of the items that King Solomon made for Lifegiver’s temple (including the two pillars, the large bronze basin called “The Sea,” the twelve bronze bulls under “The Sea,” and the movable stands) was too heavy to be weighed. 21 Each of the pillars was about 27 feet high, about 18 feet in circumference, three inches thick, and hollow. 22 The bronze top of one pillar was about seven and one-half feet high and had bronze latticework and pomegranate-shaped ornaments all around it. The second pillar with its pomegranate-shaped ornaments was like it. 23 There were ninety-six pomegranate-shaped ornaments on the sides; in all there were one hundred pomegranate-shaped ornaments over the latticework that went around it. 24 The captain of the royal guard took Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest who was second in rank, and the three doorkeepers. 25 From the city he took an official who was in charge of the soldiers, seven of the king’s advisers who were discovered in the city, an official army secretary who drafted citizens for military service, and sixty citizens who were discovered in the middle of the city. 26 Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 27 The king of Babylon ordered them to be executed at Riblah in the territory of Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile away from its land. 28 Here is the official record of the number of people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile: In the seventh year, 3,023 Jews; 29 in Nebuchadnezzar’s eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem; 30 in Nebuchadnezzar’s twenty-third year, Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, carried into exile 745 Judeans. In all 4,600 people went into exile. 31 In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiaclitreof Judah, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month, Evil-Merodach, in the first year of his reign, pardoned King Jehoiaclitreof Judah and released him from prison. 32 He spoke kindly to him and gave him a more prestigious position than the other kings who were with him in Babylon. 33 Jehoiaclitretook off his prison clothes and ate daily in the king’s presence for the rest of his life. 34 He was given daily provisions by the king of Babylon for the rest of his life until the day he died.

MENTATIONS

Lamentations 1

1 ​​​​​​​א (Alef) Alas! The city once full of people now sits all alone! The prominent lady among the nationalities has become a widow! The princess who once ruled the provinces has become a forced laborer! 2 ​​​​​​​ב (Bet) She weeps bitterly at night; tears stream down her cheeks. She has no one to comfort her among all her lovers. All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies. 3 ​​​​​​​ג (Gimel) Judah has departed into exile under affliction and harsh oppression. She lives among the nationalities; she has found no resting place. All who pursued her overtook her in narrow straits. 4 ​​​​​​​ד (Dalet) The roads to Zion mourn because no one travels to the festivals. All her city gates are deserted; her priests groan. Her virgins grieve; she is in bitter anguish! 5 ​​​​​​​ה (He) Her foes subjugated her; her enemies are at ease. For Lifegiver afflicted her because of her many acts of rebellion. Her children went away captive before the enemy. 6 ​​​​​​​ו (Vav) All of Daughter Zion’s splendor has departed. Her leaders became like deer; they found no pasture, so they were too exhausted to escape from the hunter. 7 ​​​​​​​ז (Zayin) Jerusalem remembers, when she became a poor homeless person, all her treasures that she owned in days of old. When her people fell into an enemy’s grip, none of her allies came to her rescue. Her enemies gloated over her; they sneered at her downfall. 8 ​​​​​​​ח (Khet) Jerusalem committed terrible sin; therefore she became an object of scorn. All who admired her have despised her because they have seen her nakedness. She groans aloud and turns away in shame. 9 ​​​​​​​ט (Tet) Her menstrual flow has soiled her clothing; she did not consider the consequences of her sin. Her demise was astonishing, and there was no one to comfort her. She cried, “Look, O Lifegiver, on my affliction because my enemy boasts!” 10 ​​​​​​​י (Yod) An enemy grabbed all her valuables. Indeed she watched in horror as Gentiles invaded her sacred temple – those whom you had instruct ed: “They must not enter your assembly place.” 11 ​​​​​​​כ (Kaf) All her people groaned as they searched for a morsel of bread. They exchanged their valuables for just enough food to stay alive. ​​​​​​“Look, O Lifegiver! Consider that I’ve become worthless!” 12 ​​​​​​​ל (Lamed) Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by on the road? Look and see! Is there any pain like mine? Lifegiver has afflicted me, he has inflicted it on me when he burned with anger. 13 ​​​​​​​מ (Mem) He sent down fire into my bones, and it overcame them. He spread out a trapper’s net for my feet; he made me turn back. He has made me desolate; I’m faint all day long. 14 ​​​​​​​נ (Nun) My sins are bound around my neck like a yoke; they are fastened together by his hand. He has placed his yoke on my neck; he has sapped my strength. Lifegiver has handed me over to those whom I cannot resist. 15 ​​​​​​​ס (Samek) He rounded up all my mighty ones; Lifegiver did this in my midst. He summoned an assembly against me to shatter my young men. Lifegiver has stomped like grapes the virgin daughter, Judah. 16 ​​​​​​​ע (Ayin) I weep because of these things; my eyes flow with tears. For there is no one in sight who can comfort me or encourage me. My children are desolated because an enemy has prevailed. 17 ​​​​​​​פ (Pe) Zion spread out her hands, but there is no one to comfort her. Lifegiver has issued a decree against Jacob; his neighbors have become his enemies. Jerusalem has become like filthy garbage in their midst. 18 (Tsade) Lifegiver is right to judge me! Yes, I rebelled against his instructions. Please listen, all you nationalities, and look at my suffering! My young women and men have gone into exile. 19 (Qof) I called for my lovers, but they had deceived me. My priests and my seniors perished in the city. Truly they had searched for food to keep themselves alive. 20 (Resh) Look, O Lifegiver! I’m distressed; my stomach is in knots! My heart is pounding inside me. Yes, I was terribly rebellious! Out in the street the sword bereaves a mother of her children; Inside the house death is present. 21 (Sin/Shin) They have heard that I groan, yet there is no one to comfort me. All my enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that you have brought it about. Bring about the day of judgment that you promised so that they may end up like me! 22 (Tav) Let all their wickedness come before you; afflict them just as you have afflicted me because of all my acts of rebellion. For my groans are many, and my heart is sick with sorrow.

Lamentations 2

1 (Alef) Alas! Lifegiver has covered Daughter Zion with his anger. He has thrown down the splendor of Israel from Heaven to Earth; he did not protect his temple when he displayed his anger. 2 (Bet) Lifegiver destroyed mercilessly all the homes of Jacob’s descendants. In his anger he tore down the fortified cities of Daughter Judah. He knocked to the ground and humiliated the reign and its rulers. 3 (Gimel) In fierce anger he destroyed the whole army of Israel. He withdrew his right hand as the enemy attacked. He was like a raging fire in the land of Jacob; it consumed everything around it. 4 (Dalet) He prepared his bow like an enemy; his right hand was ready to shoot. Like a foe he killed everyone, even our strong young men; he has poured out his anger like fire on the tent of Daughter Zion. 5 (He) Lifegiver, like an enemy, destroyed Israel. He destroyed all her palaces; he ruined her fortified cities. He made everyone in Daughter Judah mourn and lament. 6 ​​​​​​​ו (Vav) He destroyed his temple as if it were a vineyard; he destroyed his appointed meeting place. Lifegiver has made those in Zion forget both the festivals and the Sabbaths. In his fierce anger he has spurned both king and priest.

7 ​​​​​​​ז (Zayin) Lifegiver rejected his altar and abhorred his temple. He handed over to the enemy her palace walls; the enemy shouted in Lifegiver’S temple as if it were a feast day. 8 ​​​​​​​ח (Khet) Lifegiver was determined to tear down Daughter Zion’s wall. He prepared to knock it down; he did not withdraw his hand from destroying. He made the ramparts and fortified walls lament; together they mourned their ruin. 9 ​​​​​​​ט (Tet) Her city gates have fallen to the ground; he smashed to bits the bars that lock her gates. Her king and princes were taken into exile; there is no more guidance available. As for her prophets, they no longer receive a vision from Lifegiver. 10 ​​​​​​​י (Yod) The seniors of Daughter Zion sit on the ground in silence. They have thrown dirt on their heads; They have dressed in sackcloth. Jerusalem’s young women stare down at the ground. 11 ​​​​​​​כ (Kaf) My eyes are worn out from weeping; my stomach is in knots. My heart is poured out on the ground due to the destruction of my helpless people; children and infants faint in the town squares. 12 ​​​​​​​ל (Lamed) Children say to their mothers, “Where are food and drink?” They faint like a wounded warrior in the city squares. They die slowly in their mothers’ arms. 13 ​​​​​​​מ (Mem) With what can I equate you? To what can I compare you, O Daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you so that I might comfort you, O Virgin Daughter Zion? Your wound is as deep as the sea. Who can heal you? 14 ​​​​​​​נ (Nun) Your prophets saw visions for you that were worthless lies. They failed to expose your sin so as to restore your fortunes. They saw oracles for you that were worthless lies. 15 ​​​​​​​ס (Samek) All who passed by on the road clapped their hands to mock you. They sneered and shook their heads at Daughter Jerusalem. “Ha! Is this the city they called ‘The perfection of beauty, the source of joy of the whole Earth !’?” 16 ​​​​​​​פ (Pe) All your enemies gloated over you. They sneered and gnashed their teeth; they said, “We’ve destroyed her! Ha! We’ve waited a long time for this day. We’ve lived to see it!” 17 ​​​​​​​ע (Ayin) Lifegiver has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his promise that he threatened long ago: He has overthrown you without mercy and has enabled the enemy to gloat over you; he has exalted your adversaries’ power. 18 ​​​​​​​צ (Tsade) Cry out from your heart to Lifegiver, O wall of Daughter Zion! Make your tears flow like a river all day and all night long! Do not rest; do not let your tears stop! 19 ​​​​​​​ק (Qof) Get up! Cry out in the night when the night watches start! Pour out your heart like water before the face of Lifegiver! Lift up your hands to him for your children’s lives; they are fainting at every street corner. 20 ​​​​​​​ר (Resh) Look, O Lifegiver! Consider! Whom have you ever afflicted like this? Should women eat their offspring, their healthy infants? Should priest and prophet be killed in Lifegiver’s sanctuary? 21 ​​​​​​​ש (Sin/Shin) The young boys and old men lie dead on the ground in the streets. My young women and my young men have fallen by the sword. You killed them when you were angry; you slaughtered them without mercy. 22 ​​​​​​​ת (Tav) As if it were a feast day, you call enemies to terrify me on every side. On the day of Lifegiver’s anger no one escaped or survived. My enemy has finished off those healthy infants whom I bore and raised.

Lamentations 3

1 ​​​​​​​א (Alef) I’m the man who has experienced affliction from the rod of his wrath. 2 ​​​​​​​He drove me into captivity and made me walk in darkness and not light. 3 ​​​​​​​He repeatedly attacks me, he turns his hand against me all day long. 4 ​​​​​​​ב (Bet) He has made my mortal skin waste away; he has broken my bones. 5 ​​​​​​​He has besieged and surrounded me with bitter hardship. 6 ​​​​​​​He has made me reside in deepest darkness like those who died long ago. 7 ​​​​​​​ג (Gimel) He has walled me in so that I cannot get out; he has weighted me down with heavy prison chains. 8 ​​​​​​​Also, when I cry out desperately for help, he has shut out my prayer. 9 ​​​​​​​He has blocked every road I take with a wall of hewn stones; he has made every path impassable. 10 ​​​​​​​ד (Dalet) To me he is like a bear lying in ambush, like a hidden lion stalking its prey. 11 ​​​​​​​He has obstructed my paths and torn me to pieces; he has made me desolate. 12 ​​​​​​​He drew his bow and made me the target for his arrow. 13 ​​​​​​​ה (He) He shot his arrows into my heart. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ve become the laughingstock of all people, their mocking song all day long. 15 ​​​​​​​He has given me my fill of bitter herbs and made me drunk with bitterness. 16 ​​​​​​​ו (Vav) He ground my teeth in gravel; he trampled me in the dust. 17 ​​​​​​​I’m deprived of peace; I’ve forgotten what happiness is. 18 ​​​​​​​So I said, “My endurance has expired; I’ve lost all hope of deliverance from Lifegiver.” 19 ​​​​​​​ז (Zayin) Remember my impoverished and homeless condition, which is a bitter poison. 20 ​​​​​​​I continually think about this, and I’m depressed. 21 ​​​​​​​But this I call to mind; therefore I’ve hope: 22 ​​​​​​​ח (Khet) Because of Lifegiver’s favours we are not destroyed, because his tender sympathies are endless. 23 ​​​​​​​ They are as refreshed every morning. Your dependability is extraordinary.

24 ​​​​​​​“My portion is Lifegiver,” I’ve said to myself, so I’ll put my hope in him. 25 ​​​​​​​ט (Tet) Lifegiver is good to those who trust in him, to the one who seeks him. 26 ​​​​​​​It is good to wait patiently for deliverance from Lifegiver. 27 ​​​​​​​It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. 28 ​​​​​​​י (Yod) Let a person sit alone in silence, when Lifegiver is disciplining him. 29 ​​​​​​​Let him bury his face in the dust; perhaps there is hope. 30 ​​​​​​​Let him offer his cheek to the one who hits him; let him have his fill of insults. 31 ​​​​​​​כ (Kaf) For Lifegiver will not reject us forever. 32 ​​​​​​​Though he causes us grief, he then has compassion on us according to the abundance of his loyal kindness. 33 ​​​​​​​For he is not predisposed to afflict or to grieve people. 34 ​​​​​​​ל (Lamed) To crush underfoot all the Earth ’s prisoners, 35 ​​​​​​​to deprive a person of his rights in the presence of the Most High, 36 ​​​​​​​to defraud a person in a lawsuit – Lifegiver does not approve of such things! 37 ​​​​​​​מ (Mem) Whose instruct was ever fulfilled unless Lifegiver decreed it? 38 ​​​​​​​Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that everything comes – both calamity and blessing? 39 ​​​​​​​Why should any living person complain when punished for his sins? 40 ​​​​​​​נ (Nun) Let us carefully examine our ways, and let us return to Lifegiver. 41 ​​​​​​​Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to Supermights in Heaven: 42 ​​​​​​​“We’ve blatantly rebelled; you have not forgiven.” 43 ​​​​​​​ס (Samek) You shrouded yourself with anger and then pursued us; you killed without mercy. 44 ​​​​​​​You shrouded yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can get through. 45 ​​​​​​​You make us like filthy scum in the estimation of the nationalities. 46 ​​​​​​​פ (Pe) All our enemies have gloated over us; 47 ​​​​​​​Panic and pitfall have come upon us, devastation and destruction. 48 ​​​​​​​Streams of tears flow from my eyes because my people are destroyed. 49 ​​​​​​​ע (Ayin) Tears flow from my eyes and will not stop; there will be no break 50 ​​​​​​​until Lifegiver looks down from Heaven and sees what has happened. 51 ​​​​​​​What my eyes see grieves me – all the suffering of the daughters in my city. 52 ​​​​​​​צ (Tsade) For no good reason my enemies hunted me down like a bird. 53 ​​​​​​​They shut me up in a pit and threw stones at me. 54 ​​​​​​​The waters closed over my head; I thought I was about to die. 55 ​​​​​​​ק (Qof) I’ve called on your name, O Lifegiver, from the deepest pit. 56 ​​​​​​​You heard my plea: “Do not close your ears to my cry for relief!” 57 ​​​​​​​You came near on the day I called to you; you said, “Do not fear!” 58 ​​​​​​​ר (Resh) O Lord, you championed my cause, you repurchaseed my life. 59 ​​​​​​​You have seen the wrong done to me, O Lifegiver; pronounce judgment on my behalf! 60 ​​​​​​​You have seen all their vengeance, all their plots against me. 61 ​​​​​​​ש (Sin/Shin) You have heard their taunts, O Lifegiver, all their plots against me. 62 ​​​​​​​My assailants revile and conspire against me all day long. 63 ​​​​​​​Watch them from morning to evening; I’m the object of their mocking songs. 64 ​​​​​​​ת (Tav) Pay them back what they deserve, O Lifegiver, according to what they have done. 65 ​​​​​​​Give them a distraught heart; may your curse be on them! 66 ​​​​​​​Pursue them in anger and eradicate them from under Lifegiver’s Heaven.

Lamentations 4

1 ​​​​​​​א (Alef) Alas! Gold has lost its luster; pure gold loses value. Jewels are scattered on every street corner. 2 ​​​​​​​ב (Bet) The precious sons of Zion were worth their weight in gold – Alas! – but now they are treated like broken clay pots, made by a potter. 3 ​​​​​​​ג (Gimel) Even the jackals nurse their young at their breast, but my people are cruel, like ostriches in the desert. 4 ​​​​​​​ד (Dalet) The infant’s tongue sticks to the roof of its mouth due to thirst; little children beg for bread, but no one gives them even a morsel. 5 ​​​​​​​ה (He) Those who once feasted on delicacies are now starving to death in the streets. Those who grew up wearing expensive clothes are now dying amid garbage. 6 ​​​​​​​ו (Vav) The punishment of my people exceeded that of of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment with no one to help her. 7 ​​​​​​​ז (Zayin) Her consecrated ones were brighter than snow, whiter than milk; their bodies more ruddy than corals, their hair like lapis lazuli. 8 ​​​​​​​ח (Khet) Now their appearance is darker than soot; they are not recognized in the streets. Their skin has shriveled on their bones; it is dried up, like tree bark. 9 ​​​​​​​ט (Tet) Those who died by the sword are better off than those who die of hunger, those who waste away, struck down from lack of food. 10 ​​​​​​​י (Yod) The hands of tenderhearted women cooked their own children, who became their food, when my people were destroyed. 11 ​​​​​​​כ (Kaf) Lifegiver fully vented his wrath; he poured out his fierce anger. He started a fire in Zion; it consumed her foundations. 12 ​​​​​​​ל (Lamed) Neither the kings of the Earth nor the people of the lands ever thought that enemy or foe would enter the gates of Jerusalem. 13 ​​​​​​​מ (Mem) But it happened due to the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who poured out in her midst the blood of the righteous. 14 ​​​​​​​נ (Nun) They wander blindly through the streets, defiled by the blood they shed, while no one dares to touch their garments. 15 ​​​​​​​ס (Samek) People cry to them, “Turn away! You are unclean! Turn away! Turn away! Don’t touch us!” So they have fled and wander about; but the nationalities say, “They may not stay here any longer.” 16 ​​​​​​​פ (Pe) Lifegiver himself has scattered them; he no longer watches over them. They did not honor the priests; they did not show favor to the elders. 17 ​​​​​​​ע (Ayin) Our eyes continually failed us as we looked in vain for help. From our watchtowers we watched for a nation that could not rescue us. 18 ​​​​​​​צ (Tsade) Our enemies hunted us down at every step so that we could not walk about in our streets. Our end drew near, our days were numbered, for our end had come! 19 ​​​​​​​ק (Qof) Those who pursued us were swifter than eagles in the sky. They chased us over the mountains; they ambushed us in the desert. 20 ​​​​​​​ר (Resh) Our very life breath – Lifegiver’s anointed king – was caught in their traps, of whom we thought, “Under his protection we’ll survive among the nationalities.” 21 ​​​​​​​ש (Sin/Shin) Rejoice and be glad for now, O people of Edom, who reside in the land of Uz. But the cup of judgment will pass to you also; you’ll get drunk and take off your clothes. 22 ​​​​​​​ת (Tav) O people of Zion, your punishment will come to an end; he’ll not prolong your exile. But, O people of Edom, he’ll punish your sin and reveal your offenses!

Lamentations 5

1 ​​​​​​​O Lifegiver, reflect on what has happened to us; consider and look at our disgrace. 2 ​​​​​​​Our inheritance is turned over to strangers; foreigners now occupy our homes. 3 ​​​​​​​We’ve become fatherless orphans; our mothers have become widows. 4 ​​​​​​​We must pay money for our own water; we must buy our own wood at a steep price. 5 ​​​​​​​We are pursued – they are breathing down our necks; we are weary and have no rest. 6 ​​​​​​​We’ve submitted to Egypt and Assyria in order to buy food to eat. 7 ​​​​​​​Our forefathers sinned and are dead, but we suffer their punishment. 8 ​​​​​​​Slaves rule over us; there is no one to rescue us from their power. 9 ​​​​​​​At the risk of our lives we get our food because robbers lurk in the countryside. 10 ​​​​​​​Our skin is hot as an oven due to a fever from hunger. 11 ​​​​​​​They raped women in Zion, virgins in the towns of Judah. 12 ​​​​​​​Princes were hung by their hands; seniors were mistreated. 13 ​​​​​​​The young men perform menial labor; boys stagger from their labor. 14 ​​​​​​​The seniors are gone from the city gate; the young men have stopped playing their music. 15 ​​​​​​​Our hearts no longer have any joy; our dancing is turned to mourning. 16 ​​​​​​​The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we’ve sinned! 17 ​​​​​​​Because of this, our hearts are sick; because of these things, we can hardly see through our tears. 18 ​​​​​​​For wild animals are prowling over Mount Zion, which lies desolate. 19 ​​​​​​​But you, O Lifegiver, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. 20 ​​​​​​​Why do you keep on forgetting us? Why do you forsake us so long? 21 ​​​​​​​Bring us back to yourself, O Lifegiver, so that we may return to you; renew our life as in days before, 22 ​​​​​​​unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 1

1 In the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was among the exiles at the Kebar River, the skies opened and I saw a divine vision. 2 (On the fifth day of the month – it was the fifth year of King Jehoiachin’s exile – 3 the word of Lifegiver came to the priest Ezekiel the son of Buzi, at the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. The hand of Lifegiver came on him there). 4 As I watched, I noticed a windstorm coming from the north – an enormous cloud, with lightning flashing, such that bright light rimmed it and came from it like glowing amber from the middle of a fire. 5 In the fire were what looked like four living beings. In their appearance they had human form, 6 but each had four faces and four wings. 7 Their legs were straight, but the soles of their feet were like calves’ feet. They gleamed like polished bronze. 8 They had human hands under their wings on their four sides. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, 9 their wings touched each other; they did not turn as they moved, but went straight ahead. 10 Their faces had this appearance: Each of the four had the face of a man, with the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left and also the face of an eagle. 11 Their wings were spread out above them; each had two wings touching the wings of one of the other beings on either side and two wings covering their bodies. 12 Each moved straight ahead – wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went. 13 In the middle of the living beings was something like burning coals of fire or like torches. It moved back and forth among the living beings. It was bright, and lightning was flashing out of the fire. 14 The living beings moved backward and forward as quickly as flashes of lightning. 15 Then I looked, and I saw one wheel on the ground beside each of the four beings. 16 The appearance of the wheels and their construction was like gleaming jasper, and all four wheels looked alike. Their structure was like a wheel witlitrea wheel. 17 When they moved they would go in any of the four directions they faced without turning as they moved. 18 Their rims were high and awesome, and the rims of all four wheels were full of eyes all around. 19 When the living beings moved, the wheels beside them moved; when the living beings rose up from the ground, the wheels rose up too. 20 Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise up beside them because the spirit of the living being was in the wheel. 21 When the living beings moved, the wheels moved, and when they stopped moving, the wheels stopped. When they rose up from the ground, the wheels rose up from the ground; the wheels rose up beside them because the spirit of the living being was in the wheel. 22 Over the heads of the living beings was something like a platform, glittering awesomely like ice, stretched out over their heads. 23 Under the platform their wings were stretched out, each toward the other. Each of the beings also had two wings covering its body. 24 When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings – it was like the sound of rushing waters, or the voice of the Supermights, or the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings. 25 Then there was a voice from above the platform over their heads when they stood still. 26 Above the platform over their heads was something like a sapphire shaped like a throne. High above on the throne was a form that appeared to be a man. 27 I saw an amber glow like a fire enclosed all around from his waist up. From his waist down I saw something that looked like fire. There was a brilliant light around it, 28 like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds after the rain. This was the appearance of the surrounding brilliant light; it looked like the glory of Lifegiver. When I saw it, I threw myself face down, and I heard a voice speaking.

Ezekiel 2

1 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, stand on your feet and I’ll speak with you.” 2 As he spoke to me, a wind came into me and stood me on my feet, and I heard the one speaking to me. 3 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, I’m sending you to the house of Israel, to rebellious nationalities who have rebelled against me; both they and their fathers have revolted against me to this very day. 4 The people to whom I’m sending you are obstinate and hard-hearted, and you must say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says.’ 5 And as for them, whether they listen or not – for they are a rebellious house – they’ll know that a prophet has been among them. 6 But you, Kin of Humanity, do not fear them, and do not fear their words – even though briers and thorns surround you and you live among scorpions – do not fear their words and do not be terrified of the looks they give you, for they are a rebellious house! 7 You must speak my words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious. 8 As for you, Kin of Humanity, listen to what I’m saying to you: Do not rebel like that rebellious house! Open your mouth and eat what I’m giving you.” 9 Then I looked and realized a hand was stretched out to me, and in it was a written scroll. 10 He unrolled it before me, and it had writing on the front and back; written on it were laments, mourning, and woe.

Ezekiel 3

1 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, eat what you see in front of you – eat this scroll – and then go and speak to the house of Israel.” 2 So I opened my mouth and he fed me the scroll. 3 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, feed your stomach and fill your belly with this scroll I’m giving to you.” So I ate it, and it was sweet like honey in my mouth. 4 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, go to the house of Israel and speak my words to them. 5 For you are not being sent to a people of unintelligible speech and difficult language, but to the house of Israel – 6 not to many peoples of unintelligible speech and difficult language, whose words you cannot understand – surely if I had sent you to them, they would listen to you! 7 But the house of Israel is unwilling to listen to you, because they are not willing to listen to me, for the whole house of Israel is hard-headed and hard-hearted. 8 “I’ve made your face adamant to match their faces, and your forehead hard to match their foreheads. 9 I’ve made your forehead harder than flint – like diamond! Do not fear them or be terrified of the looks they give you, for they are a rebellious house.” 10 And he said to me, “Kin of Humanity, take all my words that I speak to you to heart and listen carefully. 11 Go to the exiles, to your fellow countrymen, and speak to them – say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says,’ whether they pay attention or not.” 12 Then a wind lifted me up and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me as the glory of Lifegiver rose from its place, 13 and the sound of the living beings’ wings brushing against each other, and the sound of the wheels alongside them, a great rumbling sound. 14 A wind lifted me up and carried me away. I went bitterly, my spirit full of fury, and the hand of Lifegiver rested powerfully on me. 15 I came to the exiles at Tel Abib, who lived by the Kebar River. I sat dumbfounded among them there, where they were living, for seven days. 16 At the end of seven days the word of Lifegiver came to me: 17 “Kin of Humanity, I’ve appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you must give them a warning from me. 18 When I say to the wicked, “You’ll certainly die,” and you do not warn him – you do not speak out to warn the wicked to turn from his wicked deed and wicked lifestyle so that he may live – that wicked person will die for his iniquity, but I’ll hold you accountable for his death. 19 But as for you, if you warn the wicked and he does not turn from his wicked deed and from his wicked lifestyle, he’ll die for his iniquity but you’ll have saved your own life. 20 “When a righteous person turns from his rightness and commits iniquity, and I set an obstacle before him, he’ll die. If you have not warned him, he’ll die for his sin. The righteous deeds he performed will not be considered, but I’ll hold you accountable for his death. 21 However, if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he’ll certainly live because he was warned, and you’ll have saved your own life.” 22 The hand of Lifegiver rested on me there, and he said to me, “Get up, go out to the valley, and I’ll speak with you there.” 23 So I got up and went out to the valley, and the glory of Lifegiver was standing there, just like the glory I had seen by the Kebar River, and I threw myself face down. 24 Then a wind came into me and stood me on my feet. Lifegiver spoke to me and said, “Go shut yourself in your house. 25 As for you, Kin of Humanity, they’ll put ropes on you and tie you up with them, so you cannot go out among them. 26 I’ll make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you’ll be silent and unable to reprove them, for they are a rebellious house. 27 But when I speak with you, I’ll loosen your tongue and you must say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says.’ Those who listen will listen, but the indifferent will refuse, for they are a rebellious house.

Ezekiel 4

1 “And you, Kin of Humanity, take a brick and set it in front of you. Inscribe a city on it – Jerusalem. 2 Lay siege to it! Build siege works against it. Erect a siege ramp against it! Post soldiers outside it and station battering rams around it. 3 Then for your part take an iron frying pan and set it up as an iron wall between you and the city. Set your face toward it. It is to be under siege; you are to besiege it. This is a sign for the house of Israel. 4 “Also for your part lie on your left side and place the iniquity of the house of Israel on it. For the number of days you lie on your side you’ll bear their iniquity. 5 I’ve determined that the number of the years of their iniquity are to be the number of days for you – 390 days. So bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. 6 “When you have completed these days, then lie down a second time, but on your right side, and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah 40 days – I’ve assigned one day for each year. 7 You must turn your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared and prophesy against it. 8 Look here, I’ll tie you up with ropes, so you cannot turn from one side to the other until you complete the days of your siege. 9 “As for you, take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt, put them in a single container, and make food from them for yourself. For the same number of days that you lie on your side – 390 days – you’ll eat it.

10 The food you eat will be eight ounces a day by weight; you must eat it at fixed times. 11 And you must drink water by measure, a pint and a half; you must drink it at fixed times. 12 And you must eat the food like you would a barley cake. You must bake it in front of them over a fire made with dried human excrement.” 13 And Lifegiver said, “This is how the people of Israel will eat their unclean food among the nationalities where I’ll banish them.” 14 And I said, “Ah, supreme Lifegiver, I’ve never been ceremonially defiled before. I’ve never eaten a carcass or an animal torn by wild beasts; from my youth up, unclean meat has never entered my mouth.” 15 So he said to me, “All right then, I’ll substitute cow’s manure instead of human excrement. You’ll cook your food over it.” 16 Then he said to me, “Kin of Humanity, I’m about to remove the bread supply in Jerusalem. They’ll eat their bread ration anxiously, and they’ll drink their water ration in terror 17 because they’ll lack bread and water. Each one will be terrified, and they’ll rot for their iniquity.

Ezekiel 5

1 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, take a sharp sword and use it as a barber’s razor. Shave off some of the hair from your head and your beard. Then take scales and divide up the hair you cut off. 2 Burn a third of it in the fire inside the city when the days of your siege are completed. Take a third and slash it with a sword all around the city. Scatter a third to the wind, and I’ll unleash a sword behind them. 3 But take a few strands of hair from those and tie them in the ends of your garment. 4 Again, take more of them and throw them into the fire, and burn them up. From there a fire will spread to all the house of Israel. 5 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: This is Jerusalem; I placed her in the center of the nationalities with countries all around her. 6 Then she defied my regulations and my principles, becoming more wicked than the nationalities and the countries around her. Indeed, they have rejected my regulations, and they do not follow my principles. 7 “Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because you are more arrogant than the nationalities around you, you have not followed my principles and have not carried out my regulations. You have not even carried out the regulations of the nationalities around you! 8 “Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I – even I – am against you, and I’ll execute judgment among you while the nationalities watch. 9 I’ll do to you what I’ve never done before and will never do again because of all your abominable practices. 10 Therefore fathers will eat their sons witlitreyou, Jerusalem, and sons will eat their fathers. I’ll execute judgments on you, and I’ll scatter any survivors to the winds. 11 “Therefore, as surely as I live, says the supreme Lifegiver, because you defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable idols and with all your abominable practices, I’ll withdraw; my eye will not pity you, nor will I spare you. 12 A third of your people will die of plague or be overcome by the drought witlitreyou. A third of your people will fall by the sword surrounding you, and a third I’ll scatter to the winds. I’ll unleash a sword behind them. 13 Then my anger will be fully vented; I’ll exhaust my rage on them, and I’ll be appeased. Then they’ll know that I, Lifegiver, have spoken in my jealousy when I’ve fully vented my rage against them. 14 “I’ll make you desolate and an object of scorn among the nationalities around you, in the sight of everyone who passes by. 15 You’ll be an object of scorn and taunting, a prime example of destruction among the nationalities around you when I execute judgments against you in anger and raging fury. I, Lifegiver, have spoken! 16 I’ll shoot against them deadly, destructive arrows of drought, which I’ll shoot to destroy you. I’ll prolong a drought on you and will remove the bread supply. 17 I’ll send drought and wild beasts against you and they’ll take your children from you. Plague and bloodshed will overwhelm you, and I’ll bring a sword against you. I, Lifegiver, have spoken!”

Ezekiel 6

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward the mountains of Israel and prophesy against them: 3 Say, ‘Mountains of Israel, Hear the word of the supreme Lifegiver! This is what the supreme Lifegiver says to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: I’m bringing a sword against you, and I’ll destroy your high places. 4 Your altars will be ruined and your incense altars will be broken. I’ll throw down your slain in front of your idols. 5 I’ll place the corpses of the people of Israel in front of their idols, and I’ll scatter your bones around your altars. 6 In all your dwellings, the cities will be laid waste and the high places ruined so that your altars will be laid waste and ruined, your idols will be shattered and demolished, your incense altars will be broken down, and your works wiped out. 7 The slain will fall among you and then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 8 “‘But I’ll spare some of you. Some will escape the sword when you are scattered in foreign lands. 9 Then your survivors will remember me among the nationalities where they are exiled. They’ll realize how I was crushed by their unfaithful heart which turned from me and by their eyes which lusted after their idols. They’ll loathe themselves because of the bad they have done and because of all their abominable practices. 10 They’ll know that I’m Lifegiver; my threats to bring this catastrophe on them were not empty.’ 11 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Clap your hands, stamp your feet, and say, “Ah!” because of all the evil, abominable practices of the house of Israel, for they’ll fall by the sword, drought, and pestilence. 12 The one far away will die by pestilence, the one close by will fall by the sword, and whoever is left and has escaped these will die by drought. I’ll fully vent my rage against them. 13 Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver – when their dead lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill and all the mountaintops, under every green tree and every leafy oak, the places where they have offered fragrant incense to all their idols. 14 I’ll stretch out my hand against them and make the land a desolate waste from the desert to Riblah, in all the places where they live. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver!”

Ezekiel 7

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “You, Kin of Humanity – this is what the supreme Lifegiver says to the land of Israel: An end! The end is coming on the four corners of the land! 3 The end is now upon you, and I’ll release my anger against you; I’ll judge you according to your behavior, I’ll hold you accountable for all your abominable practices. 4 My eye will not pity you; I’ll not spare you. For I’ll hold you responsible for your behavior, and you’ll suffer the consequences of your abominable practices. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver! 5 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: A disaster – a one-of-a-kind disaster – is coming! 6 An end comes – the end comes! It has awakened against you – the end is upon you! Look, it is coming! 7 Doom is coming upon you who live in the land! The time is coming, the day is near. There are sounds of tumult, not shouts of joy, on the mountains. 8 Soon now I’ll pour out my rage on you; I’ll fully vent my anger against you. I’ll judge you according to your behavior. I’ll hold you accountable for all your abominable practices. 9 My eye will not pity you; I’ll not spare you. For your behavior I’ll hold you accountable, and you’ll suffer the consequences of your abominable practices. Then you’ll know that it is I, Lifegiver, who is striking you. 10 “Look, the day! Look, it is coming! Doom has gone out! The staff has budded, pride has blossomed! 11 Violence has grown into a staff that supports wickedness. Not one of them will be left – not from their crowd, not from their wealth, not from their prominence. 12 The time has come; the day has struck! The customer should not rejoice, nor the seller mourn; for divine wrath comes against their whole crowd. 13 The customer will no longer pay the seller while both parties are alive, for the vision against their whole crowd will not be revoked. Each person, for his iniquity, will fail to preserve his life. 14 “They have blown the trumpet and everyone is ready, but no one goes to battle, because my anger is against their whole crowd. 15 The sword is outside; pestilence and drought are inside the house. Whoever is in the open field will die by the sword, and drought and pestilence will consume everyone in the city. 16 Their survivors will escape to the mountains and become like doves of the valleys; all of them will moan – each one for his iniquity. 17 All of their hands will hang limp; their knees will be wet with urine. 18 They’ll wear sackcloth, terror will cover them; shame will be on all their faces, and all of their heads will be shaved bald. 19 They’ll discard their silver in the streets, and their gold will be treated like filth. Their silver and gold will not be able to deliver them on the day of Lifegiver’s fury. They’ll not satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs because their wealth was the obstacle leading to their iniquity. 20 They rendered the beauty of his ornaments into pride, and with it they made their abominable images – their detestable idols. Therefore I’ll render it filthy to them. 21 I’ll give it to foreigners as loot, to the world’s wicked ones as plunder, and they’ll desecrate it. 22 I’ll turn my face away from them and they’ll desecrate my treasured place. Vandals will enter it and desecrate it. 23 (Make the chain, because the land is full of murder and the city is full of violence.) 24 I’ll bring the most wicked of the nationalities and they’ll take possession of their houses. I’ll put an end to the arrogance of the strong, and their sanctuaries will be desecrated. 25 Terror is coming! They’ll seek peace, but find none. 26 Disaster after disaster will come, and one rumor after another. They’ll seek a vision from a prophet; priestly instruction will disappear, along with counsel from the elders. 27 The king will mourn and the prince will be clothed with shuddering; the hands of the people of the land will tremble. Based on their behavior I’ll deal with them, and by their standard of justice I’ll judge them. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver!”

Ezekiel 8

1 In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth of the month, as I was sitting in my house with the seniors of Judah sitting in front of me, the hand of the supreme Lifegiver seized me. 2 As I watched, I noticed a form that appeared to be a man. From his waist downward was something like fire, and from his waist upward something like a brightness, like an amber glow. 3 He stretched out the form of a hand and grabbed me by a lock of hair on my head. Then a wind lifted me up between the Earth and sky and brought me to Jerusalem by means of divine visions, to the door of the inner gate which faces north where the statue which provokes to jealousy was located. 4 Then I perceived that the glory of the Supermights of Israel was there, as in the vision I had seen earlier in the valley. 5 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, look up toward the north.” So I looked up toward the north, and I noticed to the north of the altar gate was this statue of jealousy at the entrance. 6 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, do you see what they are doing – the great disgusting things that the people of Israel are practicing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you’ll see greater disgusting things than these!” 7 He brought me to the entrance of the court, and as I watched, I noticed a hole in the wall. 8 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, dig into the wall.” So I dug into the wall and discovered a doorway. 9 He said to me, “Go in and see the bad disgusting things they are practicing here.” 10 So I went in and looked. I noticed every figure of creeping thing and beast – detestable effigies – and every idol of the house of Israel, engraved on the wall all around. 11 Seventy men from the seniors of the house of Israel (with Jaazaniah son of Shaphan standing among them) were standing in front of them, each with a censer in his hand, and fragrant vapors from a cloud of incense were swirling upward. 12 He said to me, “Do you see, Kin of Humanity, what the seniors of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in the chamber of his idolatrous images? For they think, ‘Lifegiver does not see us! Lifegiver has abandoned the land!’” 13 He said to me, “You’ll see them practicing even greater disgusting things !” 14 Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of Lifegiver’s house. I noticed women sitting there weeping for Tammuz. 15 He said to me, “Do you see this, Kin of Humanity? You’ll see even greater disgusting things than these!” 16 Then he brought me to the inner court of Lifegiver’s house. Right there at the entrance to Lifegiver’s temple, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs to Lifegiver’s temple, facing east – they were worshiping the sun toward the east! 17 He said to me, “Do you see, Kin of Humanity? Is it a trivial thing that the house of Judah commits these disgusting things they are practicing here? For they have filled the land with violence and provoked me to anger still further. Look, they are putting the branch to their nose! 18 Therefore I’ll act with fury! My eye will not pity them nor will I spare them. When they have shouted in my ears, I’ll not listen to them.”

Ezekiel 9

1 Then he shouted in my ears, “Approach, you who are to visit destruction on the city, each with his destructive weapon in his hand!” 2 Next, I noticed six men coming from the direction of the upper gate which faces north, each with his war club in his hand. Among them was a man dressed in linen with a writing kit at his side. They came and stood beside the bronze altar. 3 Then the glory of the Supermights of Israel went up from the cherub where it had rested to the threshold of the temple. He called to the man dressed in linen who had the writing kit at his side. 4 Lifegiver said to him, “Go through the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the people who moan and groan over all the disgusting things practiced in it.” 5 While I listened, he said to the others, “Go through the city after him and strike people down; do no let your eye pity nor spare anyone! 6 Old men, young men, young women, little children, and women – wipe them out! But do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary!” So they began with the seniors who were at the front of the temple. 7 He said to them, “Defile the temple and fill the courtyards with corpses. Go!” So they went out and struck people down throughout the city. 8 While they were striking them down, I was left alone, and I threw myself face down and cried out, “Ah, supreme Lifegiver! Will you destroy the entire remnant of Israel when you pour out your fury on Jerusalem?” 9 He said to me, “The sin of the house of Israel and Judah is extremely great; the land is full of murder, and the city is full of corruption, for they say, ‘Lifegiver has abandoned the land, and Lifegiver does not see!’ 10 But as for me, my eye will not pity them nor will I spare them; I hereby repay them for what they have done.” 11 Next I noticed the man dressed in linen with the writing kit at his side bringing back word: “I’ve done just as you instructed me.”

Ezekiel 10

1 As I watched, I saw on the platform above the top of the cherubim something like a sapphire, resembling the shape of a throne, appearing above them. 2 Lifegiver said to the man dressed in linen, “Go between the wheelwork underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from among the cherubim and scatter them over the city.” He went as I watched. 3 (The cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court.) 4 Then the glory of Lifegiver arose from the cherub and moved to the threshold of the temple. The temple was filled with the cloud while the court was filled with the brightness of Lifegiver’s glory. 5 The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard from the outer court, like the sound of the supreme Supermights when he speaks. 6 When Lifegiver instructed the man dressed in linen, “Take fire from witlitrethe wheelwork, from among the cherubim,” the man went in and stood by one of the wheels. 7 Then one of the cherubim stretched out his hand toward the fire which was among the cherubim. He took some and put it into the hands of the man dressed in linen, who took it and left. 8 (The cherubim appeared to have the form of human hands under their wings.) 9 As I watched, I noticed four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub; the wheels gleamed like jasper. 10 As for their appearance, all four of them looked the same, something like a wheel witlitrea wheel. 11 When they moved, they would go in any of the four directions they faced without turning as they moved; in the direction the head would turn they would follow without turning as they moved, 12 along with their entire bodies, their backs, their hands, and their wings. The wheels of the four of them were full of eyes all around. 13 As for their wheels, they were called “the wheelwork” as I listened. 14 Each of the cherubim had four faces: The first was the face of a cherub, the second that of a man, the third that of a lion, and the fourth that of an eagle. 15 The cherubim rose up; these were the living beings I saw at the Kebar River. 16 When the cherubim moved, the wheels moved beside them; when the cherubim spread their wings to rise from the ground, the wheels did not move from their side. 17 When the cherubim stood still, the wheels stood still, and when they rose up, the wheels rose up with them, for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels. 18 Then the glory of Lifegiver moved away from the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. 19 The cherubim spread their wings, and they rose up from the Earth while I watched (when they went the wheels went alongside them). They stopped at the entrance to the east gate of Lifegiver’s temple as the glory of the Supermights of Israel hovered above them. 20 These were the living creatures which I saw at the Kebar River underneath the Supermights of Israel; I knew that they were cherubim. 21 Each had four faces; each had four wings and the form of human hands under the wings. 22 As for the form of their faces, they were the faces whose appearance I had seen at the Kebar River. Each one moved straight ahead.

Ezekiel 11

1 A wind lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of Lifegiver’s temple that faces the east. There, at the entrance of the gate, I noticed twenty-five men. Among them I saw Jaazaniah son of Azzur and Pelatiah son of Benaiah, officials of the people. 2 Lifegiver said to me, “Kin of Humanity, these are the men who plot bad and give wicked advice in this city. 3 They say, ‘The time is not near to build houses; the city is a cooking pot and we are the meat in it.’ 4 Therefore, prophesy against them! Prophesy, Kin of Humanity!” 5 Then the Spirit of Lifegiver came upon me and said to me, “Say: This is what Lifegiver says: ‘This is what you are thinking, O house of Israel; I know what goes through your minds. 6 You have killed many people in this city; you have filled its streets with corpses.’ 7 Therefore, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: ‘The corpses you have dumped in the midst of the city are the meat, and this city is the cooking pot, but I’ll take you out of it. 8 You fear the sword, so the sword I’ll bring against you,’ declares the supreme Lifegiver. 9 ‘But I’ll take you out of the city. And I’ll hand you over to foreigners. I’ll execute judgments on you. 10 You’ll die by the sword; I’ll judge you at the border of Israel. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 11 This city will not be a cooking pot for you, and you’ll not be meat witlitreit; I’ll judge you at the border of Israel. 12 Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver, whose principles you have not followed and whose regulations you have not carried out. Instead you have behaved according to the regulations of the nationalities around you!’” 13 Now, while I was prophesying, Pelatiah son of Benaiah died. Then I threw myself face down and cried out with a loud voice, “Alas, supreme Lifegiver! You are completely wiping out the remnant of Israel!” 14 Then the word of Lifegiver came to me: 15 “Kin of Humanity, your brothers, your relatives, and the whole house of Israel, all of them are those to whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, ‘They have gone far away from Lifegiver; to us this land has been given as a possession.’ 16 “Therefore say: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Although I’ve removed them far away among the nationalities and have dispersed them among the countries, I’ve been a little sanctuary for them among the lands where they have gone.’ 17 “Therefore say: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: When I regather you from the peoples and assemble you from the lands where you have been dispersed, I’ll give you back the country of Israel.’ 18 “When they return to it, they’ll remove from it all its detestable things and all its disgusting things . 19 I’ll give them one heart and I’ll put a new spirit witlitrethem; I’ll remove the hearts of stone from their bodies and I’ll give them tender hearts, 20 so that they may follow my principles and observe my regulations and carry them out. Then they’ll be my people, and I’ll be their Supermights. 21 But those whose hearts are devoted to detestable things and disgusting things , I hereby repay them for what they have done, says the supreme Lifegiver.” 22 Then the cherubim spread their wings with their wheels alongside them while the glory of the Supermights of Israel hovered above them. 23 The glory of Lifegiver rose up from witlitrethe city and stopped over the mountain east of it. 24 Then a wind lifted me up and carried me to the exiles in Babylonia, in the vision given to me by the Spirit of Supermights. Then the vision I had seen went up from me. 25 So I told the exiles everything Lifegiver had shown me.

Ezekiel 12

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, you are living in the midst of a rebellious house. They have eyes to see, but do not see, and ears to hear, but do not hear, because they are a rebellious house. 3 “Therefore, Kin of Humanity, pack up your belongings as if for exile. During the day, while they are watching, pretend to go into exile. Go from where you live to another place. Perhaps they’ll understand, although they are a rebellious house. 4 Bring out your belongings packed for exile during the day while they are watching. And go out at evening, while they are watching, as if for exile. 5 While they are watching, dig a hole in the wall and carry your belongings out through it. 6 While they are watching, raise your baggage onto your shoulder and carry it out in the dark. You must cover your face so that you cannot see the ground because I’ve made you an object lesson to the house of Israel.” 7 So I did just as I was instruct ed. I carried out my belongings packed for exile during the day, and at evening I dug myself a hole through the wall with my hands. I went out in the darkness, carrying my baggage on my shoulder while they watched. 8 The word of Lifegiver came to me in the morning: 9 “Kin of Humanity, has not the house of Israel, that rebellious house, said to you, ‘What are you doing?’ 10 Say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: The prince will raise this burden in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel witlitreit.’ 11 Say, ‘I’m an object lesson for you. Just as I’ve done, it will be done to them; they’ll go into exile and captivity.’ 12 “The prince who is among them will raise his belongings onto his shoulder in darkness, and will go out. he’ll dig a hole in the wall to leave through. he’ll cover his face so that he cannot see the land with his eyes. 13 But I’ll throw my net over him, and he’ll be caught in my snare. I’ll bring him to Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans (but he’ll not see it), and there he’ll die. 14 All his retinue – his attendants and his troops – I’ll scatter to every wind; I’ll unleash a sword behind them. 15 “Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver when I disperse them among the nationalities and scatter them among foreign countries. 16 But I’ll let a small number of them survive the sword, drought, and pestilence, so that they can confess all their abominable practices to the nationalities where they go. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.” 17 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 18 “Kin of Humanity, eat your bread with trembling, and drink your water with anxious shaking. 19 Then say to the people of the land, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says about the inhabitants of Jerusalem and of the land of Israel: They’ll eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water in fright, for their land will be stripped bare of all it contains because of the violence of all who live in it. 20 The inhabited towns will be left in ruins and the land will be devastated. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 21 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 22 “Kin of Humanity, what is this proverb you have in the land of Israel, ‘The days pass slowly, and every vision fails’? 23 Therefore tell them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I hereby end this proverb; they’ll not recite it in Israel any longer.’ But say to them, ‘The days are at hand when every vision will be fulfilled. 24 For there will no longer be any false visions or flattering omens amidst the house of Israel. 25 For I, Lifegiver, will speak. Whatever word I speak will be accomplished. It will not be delayed any longer. Indeed in your days, O rebellious house, I’ll speak the word and accomplish it, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’” 26 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 27 “Take note, Kin of Humanity, the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision that he sees is for distant days; he is prophesying about the far future.’ 28 Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: None of my words will be delayed any longer! The word I speak will come to pass, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’”

Ezekiel 13

1 Then the word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to the prophets who prophesy from their imagination: ‘Hear the word of Lifegiver! 3 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit but have seen nothing! 4 Your prophets have become like jackals among the ruins, O Israel. 5 You have not gone up in the breaks in the wall, nor repaired a wall for the house of Israel that it would stand strong in the battle on the day of Lifegiver. 6 They see delusion and their omens are a lie. They say, “Lifegiver declares,” though Lifegiver has not sent them; yet they expect their word to be confirmed. 7 Have you not seen a false vision and announced a lying omen when you say, “Lifegiver declares,” although I myself never spoke? 8 “‘Therefore, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because you have spoken false words and forecast delusion, look, I’m against you, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 9 My hand will be against the prophets who see delusion and announce lying omens. They’ll not be included in the council of my people, nor be written in the registry of the house of Israel, nor enter the land of Israel. Then you’ll know that I’m the supreme Lifegiver. 10 “‘This is because they have led my people astray saying, “All is well,” when things are not well. When anyone builds a wall without mortar, they coat it with whitewash. 11 Tell the ones who coat it with whitewash that it will fall. When there is a deluge of rain, hailstones will fall and a violent wind will break out. 12 When the wall has collapsed, people will ask you, “Where is the whitewash you coated it with?” 13 “‘Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: In my rage I’ll make a violent wind break out. In my anger there will be a deluge of rain and hailstones in destructive fury. 14 I’ll break down the wall you coated with whitewash and knock it to the ground so that its foundation is exposed. When it falls you’ll be destroyed beneath it, and you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 15 I’ll vent my rage against the wall, and against those who coated it with whitewash. Then I’ll say to you, “The wall is no more and those who whitewashed it are no more – 16 those prophets of Israel who would prophesy about Jerusalem and would see visions of peace for it, when there was no peace,” declares the supreme Lifegiver.’ 17 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, turn toward the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their imagination. Prophesy against them 18 and say ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Woe to those who sew bands on all their wrists and make headbands for heads of every size to entrap people’s lives! Will you entrap my people’s lives, yet preserve your own lives? 19 You have profaned me among my people for handfuls of barley and scraps of bread. You have put to death people who should not die and kept alive those who should not live by your lies to my people, who listen to lies! 20 “‘Therefore, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Take note that I’m against your wristbands with which you entrap people’s lives like birds. I’ll tear them from your arms and will release the people’s lives, which you hunt like birds. 21 I’ll tear off your headbands and rescue my people from your power; they’ll no longer be prey in your hands. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 22 This is because you have disheartened the righteous person with lies (although I’ve not grieved him), and because you have encouraged the wicked person not to turn from his bad conduct and preserve his life. 23 Therefore you’ll no longer see false visions and practice divination. I’ll rescue my people from your power, and you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’”

Ezekiel 14

1 Then some men from Israel’s seniors came to me and sat down in front of me. 2 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 3 “Kin of Humanity, these men have erected their idols in their hearts and placed the obstacle leading to their iniquity right before their faces. Should I really allow them to seek me? 4 Therefore speak to them and say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: When any one from the house of Israel erects his idols in his heart and sets the obstacle leading to his iniquity before his face, and then consults a prophet, I Lifegiver am determined to answer him personally according to the enormity of his idolatry. 5 I’ll do this in order to capture the hearts of the house of Israel, who have alienated themselves from me on account of all their idols.’ 6 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Return! Turn from your idols, and turn your faces away from your disgusting things . 7 For when anyone from the house of Israel, or the foreigner who lives in Israel, separates himself from me and erects his idols in his heart and sets the obstacle leading to his iniquity before his face, and then consults a prophet to seek something from me, I Lifegiver am determined to answer him personally.

8 I’ll set my face against that person and will make him an object lesson and a byword and will cut him off from among my people. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 9 “‘As for the prophet, if he is made a fool by being deceived into speaking a prophetic word – I, Lifegiver, have made a fool of that prophet, and I’ll stretch out my hand against him and destroy him from among my people Israel. 10 They’ll bear their punishment; the punishment of the one who sought an oracle will be the same as the punishment of the prophet who gave it 11 so that the house of Israel will no longer go astray from me, nor continue to defile themselves by all their sins. They’ll be my people and I’ll be their Supermights , declares the supreme Lifegiver.’” 12 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 13 “Kin of Humanity, suppose a country sins against me by being unfaithful, and I stretch out my hand against it, cut off its bread supply, cause drought to come on it, and kill both people and animals. 14 Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would save only their own lives by their rightness, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 15 “Suppose I were to send wild animals through the land and kill its children, leaving it desolate, without travelers due to the wild animals. 16 Even if these three men were in it, as surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, they could not save their own sons or daughters; they would save only their own lives, and the land would become desolate. 17 “Or suppose I were to bring a sword against that land and say, ‘Let a sword pass through the land,’ and I were to kill both people and animals. 18 Even if these three men were in it, as surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, they could not save their own sons or daughters – they would save only their own lives. 19 “Or suppose I were to send a plague into that land, and pour out my rage on it with bloodshed, killing both people and animals. 20 Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, they could not save their own son or daughter; they would save only their own lives by their rightness. 21 “For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: How much worse will it be when I send my four terrible judgments – sword, drought, wild animals, and plague – to Jerusalem to kill both people and animals! 22 Yet some survivors will be left in it, sons and daughters who will be brought out. They’ll come out to you, and when you see their behavior and their deeds, you’ll be consoled about the catastrophe I’ve brought on Jerusalem – for everything I brought on it. 23 They’ll console you when you see their behavior and their deeds, because you’ll know that it was not without reason that I’ve done everything which I’ve done in it, declares the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 15

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, of all the woody branches among the trees of the forest, what happens to the wood of the vine? 3 Can wood be taken from it to make anything useful? Or can anyone make a peg from it to hang things on? 4 No! It is thrown in the fire for fuel; when the fire has burned up both ends of it and it is charred in the middle, will it be useful for anything? 5 Indeed! If it was not made into anything useful when it was whole, how much less can it be made into anything when the fire has burned it up and it is charred? 6 “Therefore, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Like the wood of the vine is among the trees of the forest which I’ve provided as fuel for the fire – so I’ll provide the residents of Jerusalem as fuel. 7 I’ll set my face against them – although they have escaped from the fire, the fire will still consume them! Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver, when I set my face against them. 8 I’ll make the land desolate because they have acted unfaithfully, declares the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 16

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, confront Jerusalem with her abominable practices 3 and say, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. 4 As for your birth, on the day you were born your umbilical cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water; you were certainly not rubbed down with salt, nor wrapped with blankets. 5 No eye took pity on you to do even one of these things for you to spare you; you were thrown out into the open field because you were detested on the day you were born. 6 “‘I passed by you and saw you kicking around helplessly in your blood. I said to you as you lay there in your blood, “Live!” I said to you as you lay there in your blood, “Live!” 7 I made you plentiful like sprouts in a field; you grew tall and came of age so that you could wear jewelry. Your breasts had formed and your hair had grown, but you were still naked and bare. 8 “‘Then I passed by you and watched you, noticing that you had reached the age for love. I spread my cloak over you and covered your nakedness. I swore a solemn oath to you and entered into a marriage agreement with you, declares the supreme Lifegiver, and you became mine. 9 “‘Then I bathed you in water, washed the blood off you, and anointed you with fragrant oil. 10 I dressed you in embroidered clothing and put fine leather sandals on your feet. I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 I adorned you with jewelry. I put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck. 12 I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 You were adorned with gold and silver, while your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidery. You ate the finest flour, honey, and olive oil. You became extremely beautiful and attained the position of royalty. 14 Your fame spread among the nationalities because of your beauty; your beauty was perfect because of the splendor which I bestowed on you, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 15 “‘But you trusted in your beauty and capitalized on your fame by becoming a prostitute. You offered your sexual favors to every man who passed by so that your beauty became his. 16 You took some of your clothing and made for yourself decorated high places; you engaged in prostitution on them. You went to him to become his. 17 You also took your beautiful jewelry, made of my gold and my silver I had given to you, and made for yourself male effigies and engaged in prostitution with them. 18 You took your embroidered clothing and used it to cover them; you offered my olive oil and my incense to them. 19 As for my food that I gave you – the fine flour, olive oil, and honey I fed you – you placed it before them as a soothing aroma. That is exactly what happened, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 20 “‘You took your sons and your daughters whom you bore to me and you sacrificed them as food for the idols to eat. As if your prostitution not enough, 21 you slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols. 22 And with all your abominable practices and prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth when you were naked and bare, kicking around in your blood. 23 “‘After all of your bad – “Woe! Woe to you!” declares the supreme Lifegiver – 24 you built yourself a chamber and put up a pavilion in every public square. 25 At the head of every street you erected your pavilion, and you disgraced your beauty when you spread your legs to every passerby and multiplied your promiscuity. 26 You engaged in prostitution with the Egyptians, your sexually aroused neighbors, multiplying your promiscuity and provoking me to anger. 27 So see here, I’ve stretched out my hand against you and cut off your rations. I’ve delivered you into the power of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed by your obscene conduct. 28 You engaged in prostitution with the Assyrians because your sexual desires were insatiable; you prostituted yourself with them and yet you were still not satisfied. 29 Then you multiplied your promiscuity to the land of merchants, Babylonia, but you were not satisfied there either. 30 “‘How sick is your heart, declares the supreme Lifegiver, when you perform all of these acts, the deeds of a bold prostitute. 31 When you built your chamber at the head of every street and put up your pavilion in every public square, you were not like a prostitute, because you scoffed at payment. 32 “‘Adulterous wife, who prefers strangers instead of her own husband! 33 All prostitutes receive payment, but instead you give gifts to every one of your lovers. You bribe them to come to you from all around for your sexual favors! 34 You were different from other prostitutes because no one solicited you. When you gave payment and no payment was given to you, you became the opposite! 35 “‘Therefore O prostitute, hear the word of Lifegiver: 36 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness was uncovered in your prostitution with your lovers, and because of all your detestable idols, and because of the blood of your children you have given to them, 37 therefore, take note: I’m about to gather all your lovers whom you enjoyed, both all those you loved and all those you hated. I’ll gather them against you from all around, and I’ll expose your nakedness to them, and they’ll see all your nakedness. 38 I’ll punish you as an adulteress and murderer deserves. I’ll avenge your bloody deeds with furious rage. 39 I’ll give you into their hands and they’ll destroy your chambers and tear down your pavilions. They’ll strip you of your clothing and take your beautiful jewelry and leave you naked and bare. 40 They’ll summon a mob who will stone you and hack you in pieces with their swords. 41 They’ll burn down your houses and execute judgments on you in front of many women. Thus I’ll put a stop to your prostitution, and you’ll no longer give gifts to your clients. 42 I’ll exhaust my rage on you, and then my fury will turn from you. I’ll calm down and no longer be angry. 43 “‘Because you did not remember the days of your youth and have enraged me with all these deeds, I hereby repay you for what you have done, declares the supreme Lifegiver. Have you not engaged in prostitution on top of all your other abominable practices? 44 “‘Observe – everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb about you: “Like mother, like daughter.” 45 You are the daughter of your mother, who detested her husband and her sons, and you are the sister of your sisters who detested their husbands and their sons. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite. 46 Your older sister was Samaria, who lived north of you with her daughters, and your younger sister, who lived south of you, was Sodom with her daughters. 47 Have you not copied their behavior and practiced their abominable deeds? In a short time you became even more depraved in all your conduct than they were! 48 As surely as I live, declares supreme Lifegiver, your sister Sodom and her daughters never behaved as you and your daughters have behaved.

49 “‘See here – this was the perversity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters had excellence, satisfaction of food, enjoyed comfortable security, but they didn’t support the hand of the poor and needy. 50 They were haughty and practiced disgusting things before me. So when I realised it, I removed and got rid of them. 51 Samaria has not committed half the sins you have; you have done more abominable deeds than they did. You have made your sisters appear righteous with all the abominable things you have done. 52 So now, bear your disgrace, because you have given your sisters reason to justify their behavior. Because the sins you have committed were more abominable than those of your sisters; they have become more righteous than you. So now, be ashamed and bear the disgrace of making your sisters appear righteous. 53 “‘I’ll restore their fortunes, the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters (along with your fortunes among them), 54 so that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all you have done in consoling them. 55 As for your sisters, Sodom and her daughters will be restored to their former status, Samaria and her daughters will be restored to their former status, and you and your daughters will be restored to your former status. 56 In your days of majesty, was not Sodom your sister a byword in your mouth, 57 before your bad was exposed? Now you have become an object of scorn to the daughters of Aram and all those around her and to the daughters of the Philistines – those all around you who despise you. 58 You must bear your punishment for your obscene conduct and your abominable practices, declares Lifegiver. 59 “‘For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I’ll deal with you according to what you have done when you despised your oath by breaking your covenant. 60 Yet I’ll remember the agreement I made with you in the days of your youth, and I’ll establish a lasting agreement with you. 61 Then you’ll remember your conduct, and be ashamed when you receive your older and younger sisters. I’ll give them to you as daughters, but not on account of my agreement with you. 62 I’ll establish my agreement with you, and then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 63 Then you’ll remember, be ashamed, and remain silent when I make atonement for all you have done, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’”

Ezekiel 17

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, offer a riddle, and tell a parable to the house of Israel. 3 Say to them: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘A great eagle with broad wings, long feathers, with full plumage which was multi-hued, came to Lebanon and took the top of the cedar. 4 ​​​​​​​He plucked off its topmost shoot; he brought it to a land of merchants and planted it in a city of traders. 5 ​​​​​​​He took one of the seedlings of the land, placed it in a cultivated plot; a shoot by abundant water, like a willow he planted it. 6 ​​​​​​​It sprouted and became a vine, spreading low to the ground; its branches turning toward him, its roots were under itself. So it became a vine; it produced shoots and sent out branches. 7 ​​​​​​​“‘There was another great eagle with broad wings and thick plumage. Now this vine twisted its roots toward him and sent its branches toward him to be watered from the soil where it was planted. 8 ​​​​​​​In a good field, by abundant waters, it was planted to grow branches, bear fruit, and become a beautiful vine. 9 “‘Say to them: This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘Will it prosper? Will he not rip out its roots and cause its fruit to rot and wither? All its foliage will wither. No strong arm or large army will be needed to pull it out by its roots. 10 ​​​​​​​Consider! It is planted, but will it prosper? Will it not wither completely when the east wind blows on it? Will it not wither in the soil where it sprouted?’” 11 Then the word of Lifegiver came to me: 12 “Say to the rebellious house of Israel: ‘Don’t you know what these things mean?’ Say: ‘See here, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and took her king and her officials prisoner and brought them to himself in Babylon. 13 He took one from the royal family, made a treaty with him, and put him under oath. He then took the leaders of the land 14 so it would be a lowly reign which could not rise on its own but must keep its treaty with him in order to stand. 15 But this one from Israel’s royal family rebelled against the king of Babylon by sending his emissaries to Egypt to obtain horses and a large army. Will he prosper? Will the one doing these things escape? Can he break the agreement and escape? 16 “‘As surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, surely in the city of the king who crowned him, whose oath he despised and whose agreement he broke – in the middle of Babylon he’ll die! 17 Pharaoh with his great army and mighty horde will not help him in battle, when siege ramps are erected and siege-walls are built to kill many people. 18 He despised the oath by breaking the covenant. Take note – he gave his promise and did all these things – he’ll not escape! 19 “‘Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: As surely as I live, I’ll certainly repay him for despising my oath and breaking my covenant! 20 I’ll throw my net over him and he’ll be caught in my snare; I’ll bring him to Babylon and judge him there because of the unfaithfulness he committed against me. 21 All the choice men among his troops will die by the sword and the survivors will be scattered to every wind. Then you’ll know that I, Lifegiver, have spoken! 22 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘I’ll take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and plant it. I’ll pluck from the top one of its tender twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23 ​​​​​​​I’ll plant it on a high mountain of Israel, and it will raise branches and produce fruit and become a beautiful cedar. Every bird will live under it; Every winged creature will live in the shade of its branches. 24 ​​​​​​​All the trees of the field will know that I’m Lifegiver. I make the high tree low; I raise up the low tree. I make the green tree wither, and I make the dry tree sprout. I, Lifegiver, have spoken, and I’ll do it!’”

Ezekiel 18

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “What do you mean by quoting this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “‘The fathers eat sour grapes And the children’s teeth become numb?’ 3 “As surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, you’ll not quote this proverb in Israel anymore! 4 Indeed! All lives are mine – the life of the father as well as the life of the son is mine. The one who sins will die. 5 “Suppose a man is righteous. He practices what is just and right, 6 does not eat pagan sacrifices on the mountains or pray to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor’s wife, does not have sexual intimacy with a woman during her period, 7 does not oppress anyone, but gives the debtor back whatever was given in pledge, does not commit robbery, but gives his bread to the hungry and clothes the naked, 8 does not engage in usury or charge interest, but refrains from wrongdoing, promotes true justice between men, 9 and follows my principles and observes my regulations by carrying them out. That man is righteous; he’ll certainly live, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 10 “Suppose such a man has a violent son who sheds blood and does any of these things mentioned previously 11 (though the father did not do any of them). He eats pagan sacrifices on the mountains, defiles his neighbor’s wife, 12 oppresses the poor and the needy, commits robbery, does not give back what was given in pledge, prays to idols, performs abominable acts, 13 engages in usury and charges interest. Will he live? he’ll not! Because he has done all these abominable deeds he’ll certainly die. he’ll bear the responsibility for his own death. 14 “But suppose he in turn has a son who notices all the sins his father commits, considers them, and does not follow his father’s example. 15 He does not eat pagan sacrifices on the mountains, does not pray to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor’s wife, 16 does not oppress anyone or keep what has been given in pledge, does not commit robbery, gives his food to the hungry, and clothes the naked, 17 refrains from wrongdoing, does not engage in usury or charge interest, carries out my regulations and follows my principles. he’ll not die for his father’s iniquity; he’ll surely live. 18 As for his father, because he practices extortion, robs his brother, and does what is not good among his people, he’ll die for his iniquity. 19 “Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not suffer for his father’s iniquity?’ When the son does what is just and right, and observes all my principles and carries them out, he’ll surely live. 20 The person who sins is the one who will die. A son will not suffer for his father’s iniquity, and a father will not suffer for his son’s iniquity; the righteous person will be judged according to his rightness, and the wicked person according to his wickedness. 21 “But if the wicked person turns from all the sin he has committed and observes all my principles and does what is just and right, he’ll surely live; he’ll not die. 22 None of the sins he has committed will be held against him; because of the rightness he has done, he’ll live. 23 Do I actually delight in the death of the wicked, declares the supreme Lifegiver? Do I not prefer that he turn from his wicked conduct and live? 24 “But if a righteous man turns away from his rightness and practices wrongdoing according to all the abominable practices the wicked carry out, will he live? All his righteous acts will not be remembered; because of the unfaithful acts he has done and the sin he has committed, he’ll die. 25 “Yet you say, ‘Lifegiver’s conduct is unjust!’ Hear, O house of Israel: Is my conduct unjust? Is it not your conduct that is unjust? 26 When a righteous person turns back from his rightness and practices wrongdoing, he’ll die for it; because of the wrongdoing he has done, he’ll die. 27 When a wicked person turns from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he’ll preserve his life. 28 Because he considered and turned from all the sins he had done, he’ll surely live; he’ll not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘Lifegiver’s conduct is unjust!’ Is my conduct unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your conduct that is unjust? 30 “Therefore I’ll judge each person according to his conduct, O house of Israel, declares the supreme Lifegiver. Repent and turn from all your wickedness; then it will not be an obstacle leading to iniquity. 31 Throw away all your sins you have committed and fashion yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I take no delight in the death of anyone, declares the supreme Lifegiver. Repent and live!

Ezekiel 19

1 “And you, sing a lament for the princes of Israel, 2 and say: “‘What a lioness was your mother among the lions! She lay among young lions; she reared her cubs. 3 ​​​​​​​She reared one of her cubs; he became a young lion. He learned to tear prey; he devoured people. 4 ​​​​​​​The nationalities heard about him; he was trapped in their pit. They brought him with hooks to the land of Egypt. 5 ​​​​​​​“‘When she realized that she waited in vain, her hope was lost. She took another of her cubs and made him a young lion. 6 ​​​​​​​He walked about among the lions; he became a young lion. He learned to tear prey; he devoured people. 7 ​​​​​​​He broke down their strongholds and devastated their cities. The land and everything in it was frightened at the sound of his roaring. 8 ​​​​​​​The nationalities – the surrounding regions – attacked him. They threw their net over him; he was caught in their pit. 9 ​​​​​​​They put him in a collar with hooks; they brought him to the king of Babylon; they brought him to prison so that his voice would not be heard any longer on the mountains of Israel. 10 ​​​​​​​“‘Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard, planted by water. It was fruitful and full of branches because it was well-watered. 11 ​​​​​​​Its boughs were strong, fit for rulers’ scepters; it reached up into the clouds. It stood out because of its height and its many branches. 12 ​​​​​​​But it was plucked up in anger; it was thrown down to the ground. The east wind dried up its fruit; its strong branches broke off and withered – a fire consumed them. 13 ​​​​​​​Now it is planted in the desert, in a dry and thirsty land. 14 ​​​​​​​A fire has gone out from its branch; it has consumed its shoot and its fruit. No strong branch was left in it, nor a scepter to rule.’ This is a lament song, and has become a lament song.”

Ezekiel 20

1 In the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth of the month, some of the seniors of Israel came to seek Lifegiver, and they sat down in front of me. 2 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 3 “Kin of Humanity, speak to the seniors of Israel, and tell them: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Are you coming to seek me? As surely as I live, I’ll not allow you to seek me, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’ 4 “Are you’lling to pronounce judgment? Are you’lling to pronounce judgment, Kin of Humanity? Then confront them with the abominable practices of their fathers, 5 and say to them: “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: On the day I chose Israel I swore to the descendants of the house of Jacob and made myself known to them in the land of Egypt. I swore to them, “I’m Lifegiver your deity.” 6 On that day I swore to bring them out of the land of Egypt to a land which I had picked out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands. 7 I said to them, “Each of you must get rid of the detestable idols you keep before you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I’m Lifegiver your deity.” 8 But they rebelled against me, and refused to listen to me; no one got rid of their detestable idols, nor did they abandon the idols of Egypt. Then I decided to pour out my rage on them and fully vent my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. 9 I acted for the sake of my reputation, so that I would not be profaned before the nationalities among whom they lived, before whom I revealed myself by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. 10 “‘So I brought them out of the land of Egypt and led them to the desert. 11 I gave them my principles and revealed my regulations to them. The one who carries them out will live by them! 12 I also gave them my Sabbaths as a reminder of our relationship, so that they would know that I, Lifegiver, sanctify them. 13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the desert; they did not follow my principles and they rejected my regulations (the one who obeys them will live by them), and they utterly desecrated my Sabbaths. So I decided to pour out my rage on them in the desert and destroy them. 14 I acted for the sake of my reputation, so that I would not be profaned before the nationalities in whose sight I had brought them out. 15 I also swore to them in the desert that I would not bring them to the land I had given them – a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands. 16 I did this because they rejected my regulations, did not follow my principles, and desecrated my Sabbaths; for their hearts followed their idols. 17 Yet I had pity on them and did not destroy them, so I did not make an end of them in the desert. 18 “‘But I said to their children in the desert, “Do not follow the practices of your fathers; do not observe their regulations, nor defile yourselves with their idols. 19 I’m Lifegiver your deity ; follow my principles, observe my regulations, and carry them out. 20 Treat my Sabbaths as sacred and they’ll be a reminder of our relationship, and then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver your deity.” 21 “‘But the children rebelled against me, did not follow my principles, did not observe my regulations by carrying them out (the one who obeys them will live by them), and desecrated my Sabbaths. I decided to pour out my rage on them and fully vent my anger against them in the desert. 22 But I refrained from doing so, and acted instead for the sake of my reputation, so that I would not be profaned before the nationalities in whose sight I had brought them out. 23 I also swore to them in the desert that I would scatter them among the nationalities and disperse them throughout the lands. 24 I did this because they did not observe my regulations, they rejected my principles, they desecrated my Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers’ idols. 25 I also gave them decrees which were not good and regulations by which they could not live. 26 I declared them to be defiled because of their sacrifices – they caused all their first born to pass through the fire – so that I would devastate them, so that they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’ 27 “Therefore, speak to the house of Israel, Kin of Humanity, and tell them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: In this way too your fathers blasphemed me when they were unfaithful to me. 28 I brought them to the land which I swore to give them, but whenever they saw any high hill or leafy tree, they offered their sacrifices there and presented the offerings that provoke me to anger. They offered their soothing aroma there and poured out their drink offerings. 29 So I said to them, What is this high place you go to?’” (So it is called “High Place” to this day.) 30 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Will you defile yourselves like your fathers and engage in prostitution with detestable idols? 31 When you present your sacrifices – when you make your sons pass through the fire – you defile yourselves with all your idols to this very day. Will I allow you to seek me, O house of Israel? As surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, I’ll not allow you to seek me! 32 “‘What you plan will never happen. You say, “We’ll be like the nationalities, like the clans of the lands, who serve deities of wood and stone.” 33 As surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, with a powerful hand and an outstretched arm, and with an outpouring of rage, I’ll be king over you. 34 I’ll bring you out from the nationalities, and will gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a powerful hand and an outstretched arm and with an outpouring of rage! 35 I’ll bring you into the desert of the nationalities, and there I’ll enter into judgment with you face to face. 36 Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the desert of the land of Egypt, so I’ll enter into judgment with you, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 37 I’ll make you pass under the shepherd’s staff, and I’ll bring you into the bond of the covenant. 38 I’ll eliminate from among you the rebels and those who revolt against me. I’ll bring them out from the land where they have been residing, but they’ll not come to the land of Israel. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 39 “‘As for you, O house of Israel, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Each of you go and serve your idols, if you’ll not listen to me. But my sacred name will not be profaned again by your sacrifices and your idols. 40 For there on my sacred mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the supreme Lifegiver, all the house of Israel will serve me, all of them in the land. I’ll accept them there, and there I’ll seek your contributions and your choice gifts, with all your sacred things. 41 When I bring you out from the nationalities and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, I’ll accept you along with your soothing aroma. I’ll display my holiness among you in the sight of the nationalities. 42 Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver when I bring you to the land of Israel, to the land I swore to give to your fathers. 43 And there you’ll remember your conduct and all your deeds by which you defiled yourselves. You’ll despise yourselves because of all the bad deeds you have done.

44 Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver, when I deal with you for the sake of my reputation and not according to your wicked conduct and corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’” 45 (21:1) The word of Lifegiver came to me: 46 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward the south, and speak out against the south. Prophesy against the open scrub land of the Negev, 47 and say to the scrub land of the Negev, ‘Hear the word of Lifegiver: This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look here, I’m about to start a fire in you, and it will devour every green tree and every dry tree in you. The flaming fire will not be extinguished, and the whole surface of the ground from the Negev to the north will be scorched by it. 48 And everyone will see that I, Lifegiver, have burned it; it will not be extinguished.’” 49 Then I said, “O supreme Lifegiver! They are saying of me, ‘Does he not simply speak in eloquent figures of speech?’”

Ezekiel 21

1 (21:6) The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward Jerusalem and speak out against the sanctuaries. Prophesy against the land of Israel 3 and say to them, ‘This is what Lifegiver says: Look, I’m against you. I’ll draw my sword from its sheath and cut off from you both the righteous and the wicked. 4 Because I’ll cut off from you both the righteous and the wicked, my sword will go out from its sheath against everyone from the south to the north. 5 Then everyone will know that I’m Lifegiver, who drew my sword from its sheath – it will not be sheathed again!’ 6 “And you, Kin of Humanity, groan with an aching heart and bitterness; groan before their eyes. 7 When they ask you, ‘Why are you groaning?’ you’ll reply, ‘Because of the report that has come. Every heart will melt with fear and every hand will be limp; everyone will faint and every knee will be wet with urine.’ Pay attention – it is coming and it will happen, declares the supreme Lifegiver.” 8 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 9 “Kin of Humanity, prophesy and say: ‘This is what Lifegiver says: “‘A sword, a sword is sharpened, and also polished. 10 ​​​​​​​It is sharpened for slaughter, it is polished to flash like lightning! “‘Should we rejoice in the scepter of my son? No! The sword despises every tree! 11 ​​​​​​​“‘He gave it to be polished, to be grasped in the hand – the sword is sharpened, it is polished – giving it into the hand of the executioner. 12 ​​​​​​​Cry out and moan, Kin of Humanity, for it is wielded against my people; against all the princes of Israel. They are delivered up to the sword, along with my people. Therefore, strike your thigh. 13 “‘For testing will come, and what will happen when the scepter, which the sword despises, is no more? declares the supreme Lifegiver.’ 14 ​​​​​​​“And you, Kin of Humanity, prophesy, and clap your hands together. Let the sword strike twice, even three times! It is a sword for slaughter, a sword for the great slaughter surrounding them. 15 ​​​​​​​So hearts melt with fear and many stumble. At all their gates I’ve stationed the sword for slaughter. Ah! It is made to flash, it is drawn for slaughter! 16 ​​​​​​​Cut sharply on the right! Swing to the left, wherever your edge is appointed to strike. 17 ​​​​​​​I too will clap my hands together, I’ll exhaust my rage; I Lifegiver have spoken.” 18 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 19 “You, Kin of Humanity, mark out two routes for the king of Babylon’s sword to take; both of them will originate in a single land. Make a signpost and put it at the beginning of the road leading to the city. 20 Mark out the routes for the sword to take: “Rabbah of the Ammonites” and “Judah with Jerusalem in it.” 21 For the king of Babylon stands at the fork in the road at the head of the two routes. He looks for omens: He shakes arrows, he consults idols, he examines animal livers. 22 Into his right hand comes the portent for Jerusalem – to set up battering rams, to give the signal for slaughter, to shout out the battle cry, to set up battering rams against the gates, to erect a siege ramp, to build a siege wall. 23 But those in Jerusalem will view it as a false omen. They have sworn solemn oaths, but the king of Babylon will accuse them of violations in order to seize them. 24 “Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: ‘Because you have brought up your own guilt by uncovering your transgressions and revealing your sins through all your actions, for this reason you’ll be taken by force. 25 ​​​​​​​“‘As for you, profane and wicked prince of Israel, whose day has come, the time of final punishment, 26 ​​​​​​​this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Tear off the turban, take off the crown! Things must change! Exalt the lowly, bring down the proud! 27 ​​​​​​​A total ruin I’ll make it! It will come to an end when the one arrives to whom I’ve assigned judgment.’ 28 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, prophesy and say, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says concerning the Ammonites and their coming humiliation; say: “‘A sword, a sword drawn for slaughter, polished to consume, to flash like lightning – 29 ​​​​​​​while seeing false visions for you and reading lying omens for you – to place that sword on the necks of the profane wicked, whose day has come, the time of final punishment. 30 ​​​​​​​Return it to its sheath! In the place where you were created, in your native land, I’ll judge you. 31 ​​​​​​​I’ll pour out my anger on you; the fire of my fury I’ll blow on you. I’ll hand you over to brutal men, who are skilled in destruction. 32 ​​​​​​​You’ll become fuel for the fire – your blood will stain the middle of the land; you’ll no longer be remembered, for I, Lifegiver, have spoken.’”

Ezekiel 22

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, are you’lling to pronounce judgment, are you’lling to pronounce judgment on the bloody city? Then confront her with all her abominable deeds! 3 Then say, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: O city, who spills blood witlitreherself (which brings on her doom), and who makes herself idols (which results in impurity), 4 you are guilty because of the blood you shed and defiled by the idols you made. You have hastened the day of your doom; the end of your years has come. Therefore I’ll make you an object of scorn to the nationalities, an object to be mocked by all lands. 5 Those both near and far from you’ll mock you, you with your bad reputation, full of turmoil. 6 “‘See how each of the princes of Israel living witlitreyou has used his authority to shed blood. 7 They have treated father and mother with contempt witlitreyou; they have oppressed the foreigner among you; they have wronged the orphan and the widow witlitreyou. 8 You have despised my sacred things and desecrated my Sabbaths! 9 Slanderous men shed blood witlitreyou. Those who live witlitreyou eat pagan sacrifices on the mountains; they commit obscene acts among you. 10 They have sex with their father’s wife witlitreyou; they violate women during their menstrual period witlitreyou. 11 One commits an abominable act with his neighbor’s wife; another obscenely defiles his daughter-in-law; another violates his sister – his father’s daughter – witlitreyou. 12 They take bribes witlitreyou to shed blood. You engage in usury and charge interest; you extort money from your neighbors. You have forgotten me, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 13 “‘See, I strike my hands together at the dishonest profit you have made, and at the bloodshed they have done among you. 14 Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong when I deal with you? I, Lifegiver, have spoken, and I’ll do it! 15 I’ll scatter you among the nationalities and disperse you among various countries; I’ll remove your impurity from you. 16 You’ll be profaned witlitreyourself in the sight of the nationalities; then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 17 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 18 “Kin of Humanity, the house of Israel has become slag to me. All of them are like bronze, tin, iron, and lead in the furnace; they are the worthless slag of silver. 19 Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: ‘Because all of you have become slag, look out! – I’m about to gather you in the middle of Jerusalem. 20 As silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin are gathered in a furnace so that the fire can melt them, so I’ll gather you in my anger and in my rage. I’ll deposit you there and melt you. 21 I’ll gather you and blow on you with the fire of my fury, and you’ll be melted in it. 22 As silver is melted in a furnace, so you’ll be melted in it, and you’ll know that I, Lifegiver, have poured out my anger on you.’” 23 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 24 “Kin of Humanity, say to her: ‘You are a land that receives no rain or showers in the day of my anger.’ 25 Her princes witlitreher are like a roaring lion tearing its prey; they have devoured lives. They take away riches and valuable things; they have made many women widows witlitreit. 26 Her priests abuse my law and have desecrated my sacred things. They do not distinguish between the sacred and the profane, or recognize any distinction between the unclean and the clean. They ignore my Sabbaths and I’m profaned in their midst. 27 Her officials are like wolves in her midst rending their prey – shedding blood and destroying lives – so they can get dishonest profit. 28 Her prophets coat their messages with whitewash. They see false visions and announce lying omens for them, saying, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says,’ when Lifegiver has not spoken. 29 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have wronged the poor and needy; they have oppressed the foreigner who lives among them and denied them justice. 30 “I looked for a man from among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one. 31 So I’ve poured my anger on them, and destroyed them with the fire of my fury. I hereby repay them for what they have done, declares the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 23

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, there were two women who were daughters of the same mother. 3 They engaged in prostitution in Egypt; in their youth they engaged in prostitution. Their breasts were squeezed there; lovers fondled their virgin nipples there. 4 Oholah was the name of the older and Oholibah the name of her younger sister. They became mine, and gave birth to sons and daughters. Oholah is Samaria and Oholibah is Jerusalem. 5 “Oholah engaged in prostitution while she was mine. She lusted after her lovers, the Assyrians – warriors 6 clothed in blue, governors and officials, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding on horses. 7 She bestowed her sexual favors on them; all of them were the choicest young men of Assyria. She defiled herself with all whom she desired – with all their idols. 8 She did not abandon the prostitution she had practiced in Egypt; for in her youth men had sex with her, fondled her virgin breasts, and ravished her. 9 Therefore I handed her over to her lovers, the Assyrians for whom she lusted. 10 They exposed her nakedness, seized her sons and daughters, and killed her with the sword. She became notorious among women, and they executed judgments against her. 11 “Her sister Oholibah watched this, but she became more corrupt in her lust than her sister had been, and her acts of prostitution were more numerous than those of her sister. 12 She lusted after the Assyrians – governors and officials, warriors in full armor, horsemen riding on horses, all of them desirable young men. 13 I saw that she was defiled; both of them followed the same path. 14 But she increased her prostitution. She saw men carved on the wall, images of the Chaldeans carved in bright red, 15 wearing belts on their waists and flowing turbans on their heads, all of them looking like officers, the image of Babylonians whose native land is Chaldea. 16 When she saw them, she lusted after them and sent messengers to them in Chaldea. 17 The Babylonians crawled into bed with her. They defiled her with their lust; after she was defiled by them, she became disgusted with them. 18 When she lustfully exposed her nakedness, I was disgusted with her, just as I had been disgusted with her sister. 19 Yet she increased her prostitution, remembering the days of her youth when she engaged in prostitution in the land of Egypt. 20 She lusted after their genitals – as large as those of donkeys, and their seminal emission was as strong as that of stallions. 21 This is how you assessed the obscene conduct of your youth, when the Egyptians fondled your nipples and squeezed your young breasts. 22 “Therefore, Oholibah, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look here, I’m about to stir up against you the lovers with whom you were disgusted; I’ll bring them against you from every side: 23 the Babylonians and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, Shoa, and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them, desirable young men, all of them governors and officials, officers and nobles, all of them riding on horses. 24 They’ll attack you with weapons, chariots, wagons, and with a huge army; they’ll array themselves against you on every side with large shields, small shields, and helmets. I’ll assign them the task of judgment; they’ll punish you according to their laws. 25 I’ll direct my jealous anger against you, and they’ll deal with you in rage. They’ll cut off your nose and your ears, and your survivors will die by the sword. They’ll seize your sons and daughters, and your survivors will be consumed by fire. 26 They’ll strip your clothes off you and take away your beautiful jewelry. 27 So I’ll put an end to your obscene conduct and your prostitution which you have practiced in the land of Egypt. You’ll not seek their help or remember Egypt anymore. 28 “For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look here, I’m about to deliver you over to those whom you hate, to those with whom you were disgusted. 29 They’ll treat you with hatred, take away all you have labored for, and leave you naked and bare. Your nakedness will be exposed, just as when you engaged in prostitution and obscene conduct. 30 I’ll do these things to you because you engaged in prostitution with the nationalities, polluting yourself with their idols. 31 You have followed the ways of your sister, so I’ll place her cup of judgment in your hand. 32 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “You’ll drink your sister’s deep and wide cup; you’ll be scorned and derided, for it holds a great deal. 33 You’ll be overcome by drunkenness and sorrow. The cup of your sister Samaria is a cup of horror and desolation. 34 You’ll drain it dry, gnaw its pieces, and tear out your breasts, for I’ve spoken, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 35 “Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because you have forgotten me and completely disregarded me, you must bear now the punishment for your obscene conduct and prostitution.” 36 Lifegiver said to me: “Kin of Humanity, are you’lling to pronounce judgment on Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their abominable deeds! 37 For they have committed adultery and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and their sons, whom they bore to me, they have passed through the fire as food to their idols. 38 Moreover, they have done this to me: In the very same day they desecrated my sanctuary and profaned my Sabbaths. 39 On the same day they slaughtered their sons for their idols, they came to my sanctuary to desecrate it. This is what they have done in the middle of my house. 40 “They even sent for men from far away; when the messenger arrived, those men set out. For them you bathed, painted your eyes, and decorated yourself with jewelry. 41 You sat on a magnificent couch, with a table arranged in front of it where you placed my incense and my olive oil. 42 The sound of a carefree crowd accompanied her, including all kinds of men; even Sabeans were brought from the desert. The sisters put bracelets on their wrists and beautiful crowns on their heads. 43 Then I said about the one worn out by adultery, ‘Now they’ll commit immoral acts with her.’ 44 They had sex with her as one does with a prostitute. In this way they had sex with Oholah and Oholibah, promiscuous women. 45 But upright men will punish them appropriately for their adultery and bloodshed, because they are adulteresses and blood is on their hands. 46 “For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Bring up an army against them and subject them to terror and plunder. 47 That army will pelt them with stones and slash them with their swords; they’ll kill their sons and daughters and burn their houses. 48 I’ll put an end to the obscene conduct in the land; all the women will learn a lesson from this and not engage in obscene conduct. 49 They’ll repay you for your obscene conduct, and you’ll be punished for idol worship. Then you’ll know that I’m the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 24

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month: 2 “Kin of Humanity, write down the name of this day, this very day. The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day. 3 Recite a proverb to this rebellious house and say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘Set on the pot, set it on, pour water in it too; 4 ​​​​​​​add the pieces of meat to it, every good piece, the thigh and the shoulder; fill it with choice bones. 5 ​​​​​​​Take the choice bone of the flock, heap up bones under it; boil rapidly, and boil its bones in it. 6 ​​​​​​​“‘Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Woe to the city of bloodshed, the pot whose rot is in it, whose rot has not been removed from it! Empty it piece by piece. No lot has fallen on it. 7 ​​​​​​​For her blood was in it; she poured it on an exposed rock; she did not pour it on the ground to cover it up with dust. 8 ​​​​​​​To arouse anger, to take vengeance, I’ve placed her blood on an exposed rock so that it cannot be covered up. 9 ​​​​​​​“‘Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Woe to the city of bloodshed! I’ll also make the pile high. 10 ​​​​​​​Pile up the bones, kindle the fire; cook the meat well, mix in the spices, let the bones be charred. 11 ​​​​​​​Set the empty pot on the coals, until it becomes hot and its copper glows, until its uncleanness melts witlitreit and its rot is consumed. 12 ​​​​​​​It has tried my patience; yet its thick rot is not removed from it. Subject its rot to the fire! 13 ​​​​​​​You mix uncleanness with obscene conduct. I tried to cleanse you, but you are not clean. You’ll not be cleansed from your uncleanness until I’ve exhausted my anger on you. 14 “‘I Lifegiver have spoken; judgment is coming and I’ll act! I’ll not relent, or show pity, or be sorry! I’ll judge you according to your conduct and your deeds, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’” 15 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 16 “Kin of Humanity, realize that I’m about to take the delight of your eyes away from you with a jolt, but you must not mourn or weep or shed tears. 17 Groan in silence for the dead, but do not perform mourning rites. Bind on your turban and put your sandals on your feet. Do not cover your lip and do not eat food brought by others.” 18 So I spoke to the people in the morning, and my wife died in the evening. In the morning I acted just as I was instruct ed. 19 Then the people said to me, “Will you not tell us what these things you are doing mean for us?” 20 So I said to them: “The word of Lifegiver came to me: 21 Say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Realize I’m about to desecrate my sanctuary – the source of your confident pride, the object in which your eyes delight, and your life’s passion. Your very own sons and daughters whom you have left behind will die by the sword. 22 Then you’ll do as I’ve done: You’ll not cover your lip or eat food brought by others. 23 Your turbans will be on your heads and your sandals on your feet; you’ll not mourn or weep, but you’ll rot for your iniquities and groan among yourselves. 24 Ezekiel will be an object lesson for you; you’ll do all that he has done. When it happens, then you’ll know that I’m the supreme Lifegiver.’ 25 “And you, Kin of Humanity, this is what will happen on the day I take from them their stronghold – their beautiful source of joy, the object in which their eyes delight, and the main concern of their lives, as well as their sons and daughters: 26 On that day a fugitive will come to you to report the news. 27 On that day you’ll be able to speak again; you’ll talk with the fugitive and be silent no longer. You’ll be an object lesson for them, and they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 25

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward the Ammonites and prophesy against them. 3 Say to the Ammonites, ‘Hear the word of the supreme Lifegiver: This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: You said “Aha!” about my sanctuary when it was desecrated, about the land of Israel when it was made desolate, and about the house of Judah when they went into exile. 4 So take note, I’m about to make you slaves of the tribes of the east. They’ll make camps among you and pitch their tents among you. They’ll eat your fruit and drink your milk. 5 I’ll make Rabbah a pasture for camels and Ammon a resting place for sheep. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 6 For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because you clapped your hands, stamped your feet, and rejoiced with intense scorn over the land of Israel, 7 take note, I’ve stretched out my hand against you, and I’ll hand you over as plunder to the nationalities. I’ll cut you off from the peoples and make you perish from the lands. I’ll destroy you; then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 8 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: ‘Moab and Seir say, “Look, the house of Judah is like all the other nationalities.” 9 So look, I’m about to open up Moab’s flank, eliminating the cities, including its frontier cities, the beauty of the land – Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon, and Kiriathaim. 10 I’ll hand it over, along with the Ammonites, to the tribes of the east, so that the Ammonites will no longer be remembered among the nationalities. 11 I’ll execute judgments against Moab. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 12 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: ‘Edom has taken vengeance against the house of Judah; they have made themselves fully culpable by taking vengeance on them. 13 So this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I’ll stretch out my hand against Edom, and I’ll kill the people and animals witlitreher, and I’ll make her desolate; from Teman to Dedan they’ll die by the sword. 14 I’ll exact my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel. They’ll carry out in Edom my anger and rage; they’ll experience my vengeance, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’” 15 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: ‘The Philistines have exacted merciless revenge, showing intense scorn in their effort to destroy Judah with unrelenting hostility. 16 So this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Take note, I’m about to stretch out my hand against the Philistines. I’ll kill the Cherethites and destroy those who remain on the seacoast. 17 I’ll exact great vengeance upon them with angry rebukes. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver, when I exact my vengeance upon them.’”

Ezekiel 26

1 In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, because Tyre has said about Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I’ll become rich, now that she has been destroyed,’ 3 therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m against you, O Tyre! I’ll bring up many nationalities against you, as the sea brings up its waves. 4 They’ll destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers. I’ll scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock. 5 She’ll be a place where fishing nets are spread, surrounded by the sea. For I’ve spoken, declares the supreme Lifegiver. She’ll become plunder for the nationalities, 6 and her daughters who are in the field will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 7 “For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Take note that I’m about to bring King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people. 8 he’ll kill your daughters in the field with the sword. he’ll build a siege wall against you, erect a siege ramp against you, and raise a great shield against you. 9 he’ll direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his weapons. 10 he’ll cover you with the dust kicked up by his many horses. Your walls will shake from the noise of the horsemen, wheels, and chariots when he enters your gates like those who invade through a city’s broken walls. 11 With his horses’ hoofs he’ll trample all your streets. he’ll kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will tumble down to the ground. 12 They’ll steal your wealth and loot your merchandise. They’ll tear down your walls and destroy your luxurious homes. Your stones, your trees, and your soil he’ll throw into the water. 13 I’ll silence the noise of your songs; the sound of your harps will be heard no more. 14 I’ll make you a bare rock; you’ll be a place where fishing nets are spread. You’ll never be built again, for I, Lifegiver, have spoken, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 15 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst! 16 All the princes of the sea will vacate their thrones. They’ll remove their robes and strip off their embroidered clothes; they’ll clothe themselves with trembling. They’ll sit on the ground; they’ll tremble continually and be shocked at what has happened to you. 17 They’ll sing this lament over you: “‘How you have perished – you have vanished from the seas, O renowned city, once mighty in the sea, she and her inhabitants, who spread their terror! 18 ​​​​​​​Now the coastlands will tremble on the day of your fall; the coastlands by the sea will be terrified by your passing.’ 19 “For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: When I make you desolate like the uninhabited cities, when I bring up the deep over you and the surging waters overwhelm you, 20 then I’ll bring you down to bygone people, to be with those who descend to the pit. I’ll make you live in the lower parts of the Earth , among the primeval ruins, with those who descend to the pit, so that you’ll not be inhabited or stand in the land of the living. 21 I’ll bring terrors on you, and you’ll be no more! Though you are sought after, you’ll never be found again, declares the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 27

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “You, Kin of Humanity, sing a lament for Tyre. 3 Say to Tyre, who sits at the entrance of the sea, merchant to the peoples on many coasts, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘O Tyre, you have said, “I’m perfectly beautiful.” 4 Your borders are in the heart of the seas; your builders have perfected your beauty. 5 ​​​​​​​They crafted all your planks out of fir trees from Senir; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make your mast. 6 ​​​​​​​They made your oars from oaks of Bashan; they made your deck with cypresses from the Kittean isles. 7 ​​​​​​​Fine linen from Egypt, woven with patterns, was used for your sail to serve as your banner; blue and purple from the coastlands of Elishah was used for your deck’s awning. 8 ​​​​​​​The leaders of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers; your skilled men, O Tyre, were your captains. 9 ​​​​​​​The seniors of Gebal and her skilled men were witlitreyou, mending cracks; all the ships of the sea and their mariners were witlitreyou to trade for your merchandise. 10 ​​​​​​​Men of Persia, Lud, and Put were in your army, men of war. They hung shield and helmet on you; they gave you your splendor. 11 ​​​​​​​The Arvadites joined your army on your walls all around, and the Gammadites were in your towers. They hung their quivers on your walls all around; they perfected your beauty. 12 “‘Tarshish was your trade partner because of your abundant wealth; they exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your products. 13 Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your clients; they exchanged slaves and bronze items for your merchandise. 14 Beth Togarmah exchanged horses, chargers, and mules for your products. 15 The Dedanites were your clients. Many coastlands were your customers; they paid you with ivory tusks and ebony. 16 Edom was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods; they exchanged turquoise, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and rubies for your products. 17 Judah and the land of Israel were your clients; they traded wheat from Minnith, millet, honey, olive oil, and balm for your merchandise. 18 Damascus was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods and of all your wealth: wine from Helbon, white wool from Zahar, 19 and casks of wine from Izal they exchanged for your products. Wrought iron, cassia, and sweet cane were among your merchandise. 20 Dedan was your client in saddlecloths for riding. 21 Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your trade partners; for lambs, rams, and goats they traded with you. 22 The merchants of Sheba and Raamah engaged in trade with you; they traded the best kinds of spices along with precious stones and gold for your products. 23 Haran, Kanneh, Eden, merchants from Sheba, Asshur, and Kilmad were your clients. 24 They traded with you choice garments, purple clothes and embroidered work, and multicolored carpets, bound and reinforced with cords; these were among your merchandise. 25 The ships of Tarshish were the transports for your merchandise. “‘So you were filled and weighed down in the heart of the seas. 26 ​​​​​​​Your rowers have brought you into surging waters. The east wind has wrecked you in the heart of the seas. 27 ​​​​​​​Your wealth, products, and merchandise, your sailors and captains, your ship’s carpenters, your merchants, and all your fighting men witlitreyou, along with all your crew who are in you, will fall into the heart of the seas on the day of your downfall. 28 ​​​​​​​At the sound of your captains’ cry the waves will surge; 29 ​​​​​​​They’ll descend from their ships – all who handle the oar, the sailors and all the sea captains – they’ll stand on the land. 30 ​​​​​​​They’ll lament loudly over you and cry bitterly. They’ll throw dust on their heads and roll in the ashes; 31 ​​​​​​​they’ll tear out their hair because of you and put on sackcloth, and they’ll weep bitterly over you with intense mourning. 32 ​​​​​​​As they wail they’ll lament over you, chanting: “Who was like Tyre, like a tower in the midst of the sea?” 33 ​​​​​​​When your products went out from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with the abundance of your wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the Earth . 34 ​​​​​​​Now you are wrecked by the seas, in the depths of the waters; your merchandise and all your company have sunk along with you. 35 ​​​​​​​All the inhabitants of the coastlands are shocked at you, and their kings are horribly afraid – their faces are troubled. 36 ​​​​​​​The traders among the peoples hiss at you; you have become a horror, and will be no more.’”

Ezekiel 28

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘Your heart is proud and you said, “I’m a deity ; I sit in the seat of Deities, in the heart of the seas” – yet you are a man and not a Supermights , though you think you are Supermights like. 3 ​​​​​​​Look, you are wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you. 4 ​​​​​​​By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself; you have amassed gold and silver in your treasuries. 5 ​​​​​​​By your great skill in trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart is proud because of your wealth. 6 ​​​​​​​“‘Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because you think you are Supermights like, 7 ​​​​​​​I’m about to bring foreigners against you, the most terrifying of nationalities. They’ll draw their swords against the grandeur made by your wisdom, and they’ll defile your splendor. 8 ​​​​​​​They’ll bring you down to the pit, and you’ll die violently in the heart of the seas. 9 ​​​​​​​Will you still say, “I’m a Supermights ,” before the one who kills you – though you are a man and not a Supermights – when you are in the power of those who wound you? 10 ​​​​​​​You’ll die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I’ve spoken, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’” 11 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 12 “Kin of Humanity, sing a lament for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘You were the sealer of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 ​​​​​​​You were in Eden, the garden of Supermights. Every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, topaz, and emerald, the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl; your settings and mounts were made of gold. On the day you were created they were prepared. 14 ​​​​​​​I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the sacred mountain of Supermights ; you walked about amidst fiery stones. 15 ​​​​​​​You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created, until sin was discovered in you. 16 ​​​​​​​In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of Supermights – the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 ​​​​​​​Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor. I threw you down to the ground; I placed you before kings, that they might see you. 18 ​​​​​​​By the multitude of your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade, you desecrated your sanctuaries. So I drew fire out from witlitreyou; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the Earth before the eyes of all who saw you. 19 ​​​​​​​All who know you among the peoples are shocked at you; you have become terrified and will be no more.’” 20 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 21 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward Sidon and prophesy against it. 22 Say, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘Look, I’m against you, Sidon, and I’ll magnify myself in your midst. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver when I execute judgments on her and reveal my supreme power in her. 23 ​​​​​​​I’ll send a plague into the city and bloodshed into its streets; the slain will fall witlitreit, by the sword that attacks it from every side. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 24 “‘No longer will Israel suffer from the sharp briers or painful thorns of all who surround and scorn them. Then they’ll know that I’m the supreme Lifegiver. 25 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: When I regather the house of Israel from the peoples where they are dispersed, I’ll reveal my supreme power over them in the sight of the nationalities, and they’ll live in their land that I gave to my servant Jacob. 26 They’ll live securely in it; they’ll build houses and plant vineyards. They’ll live securely when I execute my judgments on all those who scorn them and surround them. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver their Supermights.’”

Ezekiel 29

1 In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. 3 Tell them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘Look, I’m against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great monster lying in the midst of its waterways, who has said, “My Nile is my own, I made it for myself.” 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll put hooks in your jaws and stick the fish of your waterways to your scales. I’ll haul you up from the midst of your waterways, and all the fish of your waterways will stick to your scales. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll leave you in the desert, you and all the fish of your waterways; you’ll fall in the open field and will not be gathered up or collected. I’ve given you as food to the beasts of the Earth and the birds of the skies. 6 ​​​​​​​Then all those living in Egypt will know that I’m Lifegiver because they were a reed staff for the house of Israel; 7 ​​​​​​​when they grasped you with their hand, you broke and tore their shoulders, and when they leaned on you, you splintered and caused their legs to be unsteady. 8 “‘Therefore, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m about to bring a sword against you, and I’ll kill every person and every animal. 9 The land of Egypt will become a desolate ruin. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. Because he said, “The Nile is mine and I made it,” 10 I’m against you and your waterways. I’ll turn the land of Egypt into an utter desolate ruin from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border with Ethiopia. 11 No human foot will pass through it, and no animal’s foot will pass through it; it will be uninhabited for fourty years. 12 I’ll turn the land of Egypt into a desolation in the midst of desolate lands; for fourty years her cities will lie desolate in the midst of ruined cities. I’ll scatter Egypt among the nationalities and disperse them among foreign countries. 13 “‘For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: At the end of fourty years I’ll gather Egypt from the peoples where they were scattered. 14 I’ll restore the fortunes of Egypt, and will bring them back to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin; there they’ll be an insignificant reign. 15 It will be the most insignificant of the reigns; it will never again exalt itself over the nationalities. I’ll make them so small that they’ll not rule over the nationalities. 16 It will never again be Israel’s source of confidence, but a reminder of how they sinned by turning to Egypt for help. Then they’ll know that I’m the supreme Lifegiver.’” 17 In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the word of Lifegiver came to me: 18 “Kin of Humanity, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon made his army labor hard against Tyre. Every head was rubbed bald and every shoulder rubbed bare; yet he and his army received no wages from Tyre for the work he carried out against it. 19 Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m about to give the land of Egypt to King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon. he’ll carry off her wealth, capture her loot, and seize her plunder; it will be his army’s wages. 20 I’ve given him the land of Egypt as his compensation for attacking Tyre, because they did it for me, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 21 On that day I’ll make Israel powerful, and I’ll give you the right to be heard among them. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 30

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, prophesy and say, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘Wail, “Alas, the day is here!” 3 ​​​​​​​For the day is near, the day of Lifegiver is near; it will be a day of storm clouds, it will be a time of judgment for the nationalities. 4 ​​​​​​​A sword will come against Egypt and panic will overtake Ethiopia when the slain fall in Egypt and they carry away her wealth and dismantle her foundations. 5 Ethiopia, Put, Lud, all the foreigners, Libya, and the people of the agreement land will die by the sword along with them. 6 ​​​​​​​“‘This is what Lifegiver says: Egypt’s supporters will fall; her confident pride will crumble. From Migdol to Syene they’ll die by the sword witlitreher, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 7 ​​​​​​​They’ll be desolate among desolate lands, and their cities will be among ruined cities. 8 ​​​​​​​They’ll know that I’m Lifegiver when I ignite a fire in Egypt and all her allies are defeated. 9 On that day messengers will go out from me in ships to frighten overly confident Ethiopia; panic will overtake them on the day of Egypt’s doom; for beware – it is coming! 10 ​​​​​​​“‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I’ll put an end to the hordes of Egypt, by the hand of King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon. 11 ​​​​​​​He and his people with him, the most terrifying of the nationalities, will be brought there to destroy the land. They’ll draw their swords against Egypt, and fill the land with corpses. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll dry up the waterways and hand the land over to bad men. I’ll make the land and everything in it desolate by the hand of foreigners. I, Lifegiver, have spoken! 13 ​​​​​​​“‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I’ll destroy the idols, and put an end to the deities of Memphis. There will no longer be a prince from the land of Egypt; so I’ll make the land of Egypt fearful. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll desolate Pathros, I’ll ignite a fire in Zoan, and I’ll execute judgments on Thebes. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll pour out my anger upon Pelusium, the stronghold of Egypt; I’ll cut off the hordes of Thebes. 16 ​​​​​​​I’ll ignite a fire in Egypt; Syene will writhe in agony, Thebes will be broken down, and Memphis will face enemies every day. 17 ​​​​​​​The young men of On and of Pi-beseth will die by the sword; and the cities will go into captivity. 18 ​​​​​​​In Tahpanhes the day will be dark when I break the yoke of Egypt there. Her confident pride will cease witlitreher; a cloud will cover her, and her daughters will go into captivity. 19 ​​​​​​​I’ll execute judgments on Egypt. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 20 In the eleventh year, in the first month, on the seventh day of the month, the word of Lifegiver came to me: 21 “Kin of Humanity, I’ve broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Look, it has not been bandaged for healing or set with a dressing so that it might become strong enough to grasp a sword. 22 Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and I’ll break his arms, the strong arm and the broken one, and I’ll make the sword drop from his hand. 23 I’ll scatter the Egyptians among the nationalities, and disperse them among foreign countries. 24 I’ll strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and I’ll place my sword in his hand, but I’ll break the arms of Pharaoh, and he’ll groan like the fatally wounded before the king of Babylon. 25 I’ll strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh will fall limp. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver when I place my sword in the hand of the king of Babylon and he extends it against the land of Egypt. 26 I’ll scatter the Egyptians among the nationalities and disperse them among foreign countries. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 31

1 In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and his hordes: “‘Who are you like in your greatness? 3 ​​​​​​​Consider Assyria, a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches, like a forest giving shade, and extremely tall; its top reached into the clouds. 4 ​​​​​​​The water made it grow; underground springs made it grow tall. Rivers flowed all around the place it was planted, while smaller channels watered all the trees of the field. 5 ​​​​​​​Therefore it grew taller than all the trees of the field; its boughs grew large and its branches grew long, because of the plentiful water in its shoots. 6 ​​​​​​​All the birds of the sky nested in its boughs; under its branches all the beasts of the field gave birth, in its shade all the great nationalities lived. 7 ​​​​​​​It was beautiful in its loftiness, in the length of its branches; for its roots went down deep to plentiful waters. 8 ​​​​​​​The cedars in the garden of Supermights could not eclipse it, nor could the fir trees match its boughs; the plane trees were as nothing compared to its branches; no tree in the garden of Supermights could rival its beauty. 9 ​​​​​​​I made it beautiful with its many branches; all the trees of Eden, in the garden of Supermights , envied it. 10 “‘Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because it was tall in stature, and its top reached into the clouds, and it was proud of its height, 11 I gave it over to the leader of the nationalities. He has judged it thoroughly, as its sinfulness deserves. I’ve thrown it out. 12 Foreigners from the most terrifying nationalities have cut it down and left it to lie there on the mountains. In all the valleys its branches have fallen, and its boughs lie broken in the ravines of the land. All the peoples of the land have departed from its shade and left it. 13 On its ruins all the birds of the sky will live, and all the wild animals will walk on its branches. 14 For this reason no watered trees will grow so tall; their tops will not reach into the clouds, nor will the well-watered ones grow that high. For all of them have been appointed to die in the lower parts of the Earth ; they’ll be among mere mortals, with those who descend to the pit. 15 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: On the day it went down to Sheol I caused observers to lament. I covered it with the deep and held back its rivers; its plentiful water was restrained. I clothed Lebanon in black for it, and all the trees of the field wilted because of it. 16 I made the nationalities shake at the sound of its fall, when I threw it down to Sheol, along with those who descend to the pit. Then all the trees of Eden, the choicest and the best of Lebanon, all that were well-watered, were comforted in the Earth below. 17 Those who lived in its shade, its allies among the nationalities, also went down with it to Sheol, to those killed by the sword. 18 Which of the trees of Eden was like you in majesty and loftiness? You’ll be brought down with the trees of Eden to the lower parts of the Earth ; you’ll lie among the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword! This is what will happen to Pharaoh and all his hordes, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’”

Ezekiel 32

1 In the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, on the first of the month, the word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, sing a lament for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say to him: “‘You were like a lion among the nationalities, but you are a monster in the seas; you thrash about in your streams, stir up the water with your feet, and muddy your streams. 3 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘I’ll throw my net over you in the assembly of many peoples; and they’ll haul you up in my dragnet. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll leave you on the ground, I’ll fling you on the open field, I’ll allow all the birds of the sky to settle on you, and I’ll permit all the wild animals to gorge themselves on you. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll put your flesh on the mountains, and fill the valleys with your maggot-infested carcass. 6 ​​​​​​​I’ll drench the land with the flow of your blood up to the mountains, and the ravines will be full of your blood. 7 ​​​​​​​When I extinguish you, I’ll cover the sky; I’ll darken its stars. I’ll cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not shine. 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll darken all the lights in the sky over you, and I’ll darken your land, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll disturb many peoples, when I bring about your destruction among the nationalities, among countries you do not know. 10 ​​​​​​​I’ll shock many peoples with you, and their kings will shiver with horror because of you. When I brandish my sword before them, every moment each one will tremble for his life, on the day of your fall. 11 “‘For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘The sword of the king of Babylon will attack you. 12 ​​​​​​​By the swords of the mighty warriors I’ll cause your hordes to fall – all of them are the most terrifying among the nationalities. They’ll devastate the pride of Egypt, and all its hordes will be destroyed. 13 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy all its cattle beside the plentiful waters; and no human foot will disturb the waters again, nor will the hooves of cattle disturb them. 14 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll make their waters calm, and will make their streams flow like olive oil, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 15 ​​​​​​​When I turn the land of Egypt into desolation and the land is destitute of everything that fills it, when I strike all those who live in it, then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’ 16 ​​​​​​​This is a lament; they’ll chant it. The daughters of the nationalities will chant it. They’ll chant it over Egypt and over all her hordes, declares the supreme Lifegiver.” 17 In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, the word of Lifegiver came to me: 18 “Kin of Humanity, wail over the horde of Egypt. Bring it down; bring her and the daughters of powerful nationalities down to the lower parts of the Earth , along with those who descend to the pit. 19 Say to them, ‘Whom do you surpass in beauty? Go down and be laid to rest with the uncircumcised!’ 20 They’ll fall among those killed by the sword. The sword is drawn; they carry her and all her hordes away. 21 The bravest of the warriors will speak to him from the midst of Sheol along with his allies, saying: ‘The uncircumcised have come down; they lie still, killed by the sword.’ 22 “Assyria is there with all her assembly around her grave, all of them struck down by the sword. 23 Their graves are located in the remote slopes of the pit. Her assembly is around her grave, all of them struck down by the sword, those who spread terror in the land of the living. 24 “Elam is there with all her hordes around her grave; all of them struck down by the sword. They went down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the Earth , those who spread terror in the land of the living. Now they’ll bear their shame with those who descend to the pit. 25 Among the dead they have made a bed for her, along with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword, for their terror had spread in the land of the living. They bear their shame along with those who descend to the pit; they are placed among the dead. 26 “Meshech-Tubal is there, along with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword, for they spread their terror in the land of the living. 27 They do not lie with the fallen warriors of ancient times, who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war, having their swords placed under their heads and their shields on their bones, when the terror of these warriors was in the land of the living. 28 “But as for you, in the midst of the uncircumcised you’ll be broken, and you’ll lie with those killed by the sword. 29 “Edom is there with her kings and all her princes. Despite their might they are laid with those killed by the sword; they lie with the uncircumcised and those who descend to the pit. 30 “All the leaders of the north are there, along with all the Sidonians; despite their might they have gone down in shameful terror with the dead. They lie uncircumcised with those killed by the sword, and bear their shame with those who descend to the pit. 31 “Pharaoh will see them and be consoled over all his hordes who were killed by the sword, Pharaoh and all his army, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 32 Indeed, I terrified him in the land of the living, yet he’ll lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with those killed by the sword, Pharaoh and all his hordes, declares the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 33

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, speak to your people, and say to them, ‘Suppose I bring a sword against the land, and the people of the land take one man from their borders and make him their watchman. 3 He sees the sword coming against the land, blows the trumpet, and warns the people, 4 but there is one who hears the sound of the trumpet yet does not heed the warning. Then the sword comes and sweeps him away. he’ll be responsible for his own death. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, so he is responsible for himself. If he had heeded the warning, he would have saved his life. 6 But suppose the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people. Then the sword comes and takes one of their lives. He is swept away for his iniquity, but I’ll hold the watchman accountable for that person’s death.’ 7 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, I’ve made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you must warn them on my behalf. 8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you must certainly die,’ and you do not warn the wicked about his behavior, the wicked man will die for his iniquity, but I’ll hold you accountable for his death. 9 But if you warn the wicked man to change his behavior, and he refuses to change, he’ll die for his iniquity, but you have saved your own life. 10 “And you, Kin of Humanity, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what you have said: “Our rebellious acts and our sins have caught up with us, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ 11 Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but prefer that the wicked change his behavior and live. Turn back, turn back from your bad deeds! Why should you die, O house of Israel?’ 12 “And you, Kin of Humanity, say to your people, ‘The rightness of the righteous will not deliver him if he rebels. As for the wicked, his wickedness will not make him stumble if he turns from it. The righteous will not be able to live by his rightness if he sins.’ 13 Suppose I tell the righteous that he’ll certainly live, but he becomes confident in his rightness and commits iniquity. None of his righteous deeds will be remembered; because of the iniquity he has committed he’ll die. 14 Suppose I say to the wicked, ‘You must certainly die,’ but he turns from his sin and does what is just and right. 15 He returns what was taken in pledge, pays back what he has stolen, and follows the principles that give life, committing no iniquity. he’ll certainly live – he’ll not die. 16 None of the sins he has committed will be counted against him. He has done what is just and right; he’ll certainly live. 17 “Yet your people say, ‘The behavior of Lifegiver is not right,’ when it is their behavior that is not right. 18 When a righteous man turns from his spirituality and commits iniquity, he’ll die for it. 19 When the wicked turns from his sin and does what is just and right, he’ll live because of it. 20 Yet you say, ‘The behavior of Lifegiver is not right.’ House of Israel, I’ll judge each of you according to his behavior.” 21 In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth month, on the fifth of the month, a refugee came to me from Jerusalem saying, “The city has been defeated!” 22 Now the hand of Lifegiver had been on me the evening before the refugee reached me, but Lifegiver opened my mouth by the time the refugee arrived in the morning; he opened my mouth and I was no longer unable to speak. 23 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 24 “Kin of Humanity, the ones living in these ruins in the land of Israel are saying, ‘Abraham was only one man, yet he possessed the land, but we are many; surely the land has been given to us for a possession.’ 25 Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: You eat the meat with the blood still in it, pray to your idols, and shed blood. Do you really think you’ll possess the land? 26 You rely on your swords and commit abominable deeds; each of you defiles his neighbor’s wife. Will you possess the land?’ 27 “This is what you must say to them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: As surely as I live, those living in the ruins will die by the sword, those in the open field I’ll give to the wild beasts for food, and those who are in the strongholds and caves will die of disease. 28 I’ll turn the land into a desolate ruin; her confident pride will come to an end. The mountains of Israel will be so desolate no one will pass through them. 29 Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver when I turn the land into a desolate ruin because of all the abominable deeds they have committed.’ 30 “But as for you, Kin of Humanity, your people (who are talking about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses) say to one another, ‘Come hear the word that comes from Lifegiver.’ 31 They come to you in crowds, and they sit in front of you as my people. They hear your words, but do not obey them. For they talk lustfully, and their heart is set on their own advantage. 32 Realize that to them you are like a sensual song, a beautiful voice and skilled musician. They hear your words, but they do not obey them. 33 When all this comes true – and it certainly will – then they’ll know that a prophet was among them.”

Ezekiel 34

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them – to the shepherds: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not shepherds feed the flock? 3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the choice animals, but you do not feed the sheep! 4 You have not strengthened the weak, healed the sick, bandaged the injured, brought back the strays, or sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled over them. 5 They were scattered because they had no shepherd, and they became food for every wild beast. 6 My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over the entire face of the Earth with no one looking or searching for them. 7 “‘Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of Lifegiver: 8 As surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, my sheep have become prey and have become food for all the wild beasts. There was no shepherd, and my shepherds did not search for my flock, but fed themselves and did not feed my sheep, 9 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of Lifegiver: 10 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m against the shepherds, and I’ll demand my sheep from their hand. I’ll no longer let them be shepherds; the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore. I’ll rescue my sheep from their mouth, so that they’ll no longer be food for them. 11 “‘For this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his scattered sheep, so I’ll seek out my flock. I’ll rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered on a cloudy, dark day. 13 I’ll bring them out from among the peoples and gather them from foreign countries; I’ll bring them to their own land. I’ll feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams and all the inhabited places of the land. 14 In a good pasture I’ll feed them; the mountain heights of Israel will be their pasture. There they’ll lie down in a lush pasture, and they’ll feed on rich grass on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will feed my sheep and I myself will make them lie down, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 16 I’ll seek the lost and bring back the strays; I’ll bandage the injured and strengthen the sick, but the fat and the strong I’ll destroy. I’ll feed them – with judgment! 17 “‘As for you, my sheep, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m about to judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. 18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must trample the rest of your pastures with your feet? When you drink clean water, must you muddy the rest of the water by trampling it with your feet? 19 As for my sheep, they must eat what you trampled with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet! 20 “‘Therefore, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says to them: Look, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you push with your side and your shoulder, and thrust your horns at all the weak sheep until you scatter them abroad, 22 I’ll save my sheep; they’ll no longer be prey. I’ll judge between one sheep and another. 23 I’ll set one shepherd over them, and he’ll feed them – namely, my servant David. he’ll feed them and will be their shepherd. 24 I, Lifegiver, will be their Supermights , and my servant David will be prince among them; I, Lifegiver, have spoken!

25 “‘I’ll make a agreement of peace with them and will rid the land of wild beasts, so that they can live securely in the desert and even sleep in the woods. 26 I’ll turn them and the regions around my hill into a blessing. I’ll make showers come down in their season; they’ll be showers that bring blessing. 27 The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the Earth will yield its crops. They’ll live securely on their land; they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hand of those who enslaved them. 28 They’ll no longer be prey for the nationalities and the wild beasts will not devour them. They’ll live securely and no one will make them afraid. 29 I’ll prepare for them a healthy planting. They’ll no longer be victims of drought in the land and will no longer bear the insults of the nationalities. 30 Then they’ll know that I, Lifegiver their Supermights , am with them, and that they are my people, the house of Israel, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 31 And you, my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are my people, and I’m your deity, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’”

Ezekiel 35

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward Mount Seir, and prophesy against it. 3 Say to it, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “‘Look, I’m against you, Mount Seir; I’ll stretch out my hand against you and turn you into a desolate ruin. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll lay waste your cities; and you’ll become desolate. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver! 5 “‘You have shown unrelenting hostility and poured the people of Israel onto the blades of a sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final punishment. 6 Therefore, as surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, I’ll subject you to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you. 7 I’ll turn Mount Seir into a desolate ruin; I’ll cut off from it the one who passes through or returns. 8 I’ll fill its mountains with its dead; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines, those killed by the sword will fall. 9 I’ll turn you into a perpetual desolation, and your cities will not be inhabited. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 10 “‘You said, “These two nationalities, these two lands will be mine, and we’ll possess them,” – although Lifegiver was there – 11 therefore, as surely as I live, declares the supreme Lifegiver, I’ll deal with you according to your anger, and according to your envy, by which you acted spitefully against them. I’ll reveal myself to them when I judge you. 12 Then you’ll know that I, Lifegiver, have heard all the insults you spoke against the mountains of Israel, saying, “They are desolate, they have been given to us for food.” 13 You exalted yourselves against me with your speech and hurled many insults against me – I’ve heard them all! 14 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: While the whole Earth rejoices, I’ll turn you into a desolation. 15 As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it was desolate, so will I deal with you – you’ll be desolate, Mount Seir, and all of Edom – all of it! Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’”

Ezekiel 36

1 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say: ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of Lifegiver! 2 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: The enemy has spoken against you, saying “Aha!” and, “The ancient heights have become our property!”’ 3 So prophesy and say: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Surely because they have made you desolate and crushed you from all directions, so that you have become the property of the rest of the nationalities, and have become the subject of gossip and slander among the people, 4 therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the supreme Lifegiver: This is what the supreme Lifegiver says to the mountains and hills, the ravines and valleys, and to the desolate ruins and the abandoned cities that have become prey and an object of derision to the rest of the nationalities round about – 5 therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Surely I’ve spoken in the fire of my zeal against the rest of the nationalities, and against all Edom, who with great joy and utter contempt have made my land their property and prey, because of its pasture.’ 6 “Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains and hills, the ravines and valleys, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’ve spoken in my zeal and in my anger, because you have endured the insults of the nationalities. 7 So this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I vow that the nationalities around you’ll endure insults as well. 8 “‘But you, mountains of Israel, will grow your branches, and bear your fruit for my people Israel; for they’ll arrive soon. 9 For indeed, I’m on your side; I’ll turn to you, and you’ll be plowed and planted. 10 I’ll multiply your people – the whole house of Israel, all of it. The cities will be populated and the ruins rebuilt. 11 I’ll increase the number of people and animals on you; they’ll increase and be fruitful. I’ll cause you to be inhabited as in ancient times, and will do more good for you than at the beginning of your history. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 12 I’ll lead people, my people Israel, across you; they’ll possess you and you’ll become their inheritance. No longer will you bereave them of their children. 13 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Because they are saying to you, “You are a devourer of men, and bereave your nation of children,” 14 therefore you’ll no longer devour people and no longer bereave your nation of children, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 15 I’ll no longer subject you to the nationalities’ insults; no longer will you bear the shame of the peoples, and no longer will you bereave your nation, declares the supreme Lifegiver.’” 16 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 17 “Kin of Humanity, when the house of Israel was living on their own land, they defiled it by their behavior and their deeds. In my sight their behavior was like the uncleanness of a woman having her monthly period. 18 So I poured my anger on them because of the blood they shed on the land and because of the idols with which they defiled it. 19 I scattered them among the nationalities; they were dispersed throughout foreign countries. In accordance with their behavior and their deeds I judged them. 20 But when they arrived in the nationalities where they went, they profaned my sacred name. It was said of them, ‘These are the people of Lifegiver, yet they have departed from his land.’ 21 I was concerned for my sacred reputation which the house of Israel profaned among the nationalities where they went. 22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: It is not for your sake that I’m about to act, O house of Israel, but for the sake of my sacred reputation which you profaned among the nationalities where you went. 23 I’ll magnify my great name that has been profaned among the nationalities, that you have profaned among them. The nationalities will know that I’m Lifegiver, declares the supreme Lifegiver, when I magnify myself among you in their sight. 24 “‘I’ll take you from the nationalities and gather you from all the countries; then I’ll bring you to your land. 25 I’ll sprinkle you with pure water and you’ll be clean from all your impurities. I’ll purify you from all your idols. 26 I’ll give you a new heart, and I’ll put a new spirit witlitreyou. I’ll remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I’ll put my Spirit witlitreyou; I’ll take the initiative and you’ll obey my principles and carefully observe my regulations. 28 Then you’ll live in the land I gave to your fathers; you’ll be my people, and I’ll be your deity. 29 I’ll save you from all your uncleanness. I’ll call for the grain and multiply it; I’ll not bring a drought on you. 30 I’ll multiply the fruit of the trees and the produce of the fields, so that you’ll never again suffer the disgrace of drought among the nationalities. 31 Then you’ll remember your bad behavior and your deeds which were not good; you’ll loathe yourselves on account of your sins and your abominable deeds. 32 Understand that it is not for your sake I’m about to act, declares the supreme Lifegiver. Be ashamed and embarrassed by your behavior, O house of Israel. 33 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: In the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I’ll populate the cities and the ruins will be rebuilt. 34 The desolate land will be plowed, instead of being desolate in the sight of everyone who passes by. 35 They’ll say, “This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; the ruined, desolate, and destroyed cities are now fortified and inhabited.” 36 Then the nationalities which remain around you’ll know that I, Lifegiver, have rebuilt the ruins and replanted what was desolate. I, Lifegiver, have spoken – and I’ll do it!’ 37 “This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: I’ll allow the house of Israel to ask me to do this for them: I’ll multiply their people like sheep. 38 Like the sheep for offerings, like the sheep of Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 37

1 The hand of Lifegiver was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of Lifegiver and placed me in the midst of the valley, and it was full of bones. 2 He made me walk all around among them. I realized there were a great many bones in the valley and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, “Kin of Humanity, can these bones live?” I said to him, “Supreme Lord, you know.” 4 Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and tell them: ‘Dry bones, hear the word of Lifegiver. 5 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says to these bones: Look, I’m about to infuse breath into you and you’ll live. 6 I’ll put tendons on you and muscles over you and will cover you with skin; I’ll put breath in you and you’ll live. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’” 7 So I prophesied as I was instruct ed. There was a sound when I prophesied – I heard a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 As I watched, I saw tendons on them, then muscles appeared, and skin covered over them from above, but there was no breath in them. 9 He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, – prophesy, Kin of Humanity – and say to the breath: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these corpses so that they may live.’” 10 So I prophesied as I was instruct ed, and the breath came into them; they lived and stood on their feet, an extremely great army. 11 Then he said to me, “Kin of Humanity, these bones are all the house of Israel. Look, they are saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope has perished; we are cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy, and tell them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m about to open your graves and will raise you from your graves, my people. I’ll bring you to the land of Israel. 13 Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. 14 I’ll place my breath in you and you’ll live; I’ll give you rest in your own land. Then you’ll know that I’m Lifegiver – I’ve spoken and I’ll act, declares Lifegiver.’” 15 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 16 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, take one branch, and write on it, ‘For Judah, and for the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another branch and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the branch of Ephraim and all the house of Israel associated with him.’ 17 Join them as one stick; they’ll be as one in your hand. 18 When your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what these things mean?’ 19 tell them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m about to take the branch of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel associated with him, and I’ll place them on the stick of Judah, and make them into one stick – they’ll be one in my hand.’ 20 The sticks you write on will be in your hand in front of them. 21 Then tell them, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m about to take the Israelites from among the nationalities where they have gone. I’ll gather them from round about and bring them to their land. 22 I’ll make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over them all. They’ll never again be two nationalities and never again be divided into two reigns. 23 They’ll not defile themselves with their idols, their detestable things, and all their rebellious deeds. I’ll save them from all their unfaithfulness by which they sinned. I’ll purify them; they’ll become my people and I’ll become their Supermights. 24 “‘My servant David will be king over them; there will be one shepherd for all of them. They’ll follow my regulations and carefully observe my principles. 25 They’ll live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your fathers lived; they’ll live in it – they and their children and their grandchildren forever. David my servant will be prince over them forever. 26 I’ll make a agreement of peace with them; it will be a perpetual agreement with them. I’ll establish them, increase their numbers, and place my sanctuary among them forever. 27 My dwelling place will be with them; I’ll be their Supermights , and they’ll be my people. 28 Then, when my sanctuary is among them forever, the nationalities will know that I, Lifegiver, sanctify Israel.’”

Ezekiel 38

1 The word of Lifegiver came to me: 2 “Kin of Humanity, turn toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophesy against him 3 and say: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 4 I’ll turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and bring you out with all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them fully armed, a great company with shields of different types, all of them armed with swords. 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Put are with them, all of them with shields and helmets. 6 They are joined by Gomer with all its troops, and by Beth Togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops – many peoples are with you. 7 “‘Be ready and stay ready, you and all your companies assembled around you, and be a guard for them. 8 After many days you’ll be summoned; in the latter years you’ll come to a land restored from the ravages of war, with many peoples gathered on the mountains of Israel that had long been in ruins. Its people were brought out from the peoples, and all of them will be living securely. 9 You’ll advance; you’ll come like a storm. You’ll be like a cloud covering the Earth , you, all your troops, and the many other peoples with you. 10 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind, and you’ll devise an bad plan. 11 You’ll say, “I’ll invade a land of unwalled towns; I’ll advance against those living quietly in security – all of them living without walls and barred gates – 12 to loot and plunder, to attack the inhabited ruins and the people gathered from the nationalities, who are acquiring cattle and goods, who live at the center of the Earth .” 13 Sheba and Dedan and the traders of Tarshish with all its young warriors will say to you, “Have you come to loot? Have you assembled your armies to plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to haul away a great amount of spoils?”’ 14 “Therefore, prophesy, Kin of Humanity, and say to Gog: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: On that day when my people Israel are living securely, you’ll take notice 15 and come from your place, from the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a vast army. 16 You’ll advance against my people Israel like a cloud covering the Earth . In the latter days I’ll bring you against my land so that the nationalities may acknowledge me, when before their eyes I magnify myself through you, O Gog. 17 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days that I would bring you against them? 18 On that day, when Gog invades the land of Israel, declares the supreme Lifegiver, my rage will mount up in my anger. 19 In my zeal, in the fire of my fury, I declare that on that day there will be a great Earth quake in the land of Israel. 20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the wild beasts, all the things that creep on the ground, and all people who live on the face of the Earth will shake at my presence. The mountains will topple, the cliffs will fall, and every wall will fall to the ground. 21 I’ll call for a sword to attack Gog on all my mountains, declares the supreme Lifegiver; every man’s sword will be against his brother. 22 I’ll judge him with plague and bloodshed. I’ll rain down on him, his troops and the many peoples who are with him a torrential downpour, hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 I’ll exalt and magnify myself; I’ll reveal myself before many nationalities. Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver.’

Ezekiel 39

1 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, prophesy against Gog, and say: ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Look, I’m against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal! 2 I’ll turn you around and drag you along; I’ll lead you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel. 3 I’ll knock your bow out of your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand. 4 You’ll fall dead on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the people who are with you. I give you as food to every kind of bird and every wild beast. 5 You’ll fall dead in the open field; for I’ve spoken, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 6 I’ll send fire on Magog and those who live securely in the coastlands; then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver. 7 “‘I’ll make my sacred name known in the midst of my people Israel; I’ll not let my sacred name be profaned anymore. Then the nationalities will know that I’m Lifegiver, the Holy One of Israel. 8 Realize that it is coming and it will be done, declares the supreme Lifegiver. It is the day I’ve spoken about. 9 “‘Then those who live in the cities of Israel will go out and use the weapons for kindling – the shields, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears – they’ll burn them for seven years. 10 They’ll not need to take wood from the field or cut down trees from the forests, because they’ll make fires with the weapons. They’ll take the loot from those who looted them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 11 “‘On that day I’ll assign Gog a grave in Israel. It will be the valley of those who travel east of the sea; it will block the way of the travelers. There they’ll bury Gog and all his horde; they’ll call it the valley of Hamon-Gog. 12 For seven months Israel will bury them, in order to cleanse the land. 13 All the people of the land will bury them, and it will be a memorial for them on the day I magnify myself, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 14 They’ll designate men to scout continually through the land, burying those who remain on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. They’ll search for seven full months. 15 When the scouts survey the land and see a human bone, they’ll place a sign by it, until those assigned to burial duty have buried it in the valley of Hamon-Gog. 16 (A city by the name of Hamonah will also be there.) They’ll cleanse the land.’ 17 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Tell every kind of bird and every wild beast: ‘Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my slaughter which I’m going to make for you, a great slaughter on the mountains of Israel! You’ll eat flesh and drink blood. 18 You’ll eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the princes of the Earth – the rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fattened animals of Bashan. 19 You’ll eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, at my slaughter which I’ve made for you. 20 You’ll fill up at my table with horses and charioteers, with warriors and all the soldiers,’ declares the supreme Lifegiver. 21 “I’ll display my majesty among the nationalities. All the nationalities will witness the judgment I’ve executed, and the power I’ve exhibited among them. 22 Then the house of Israel will know that I’m Lifegiver their Supermights , from that day forward. 23 The nationalities will know that the house of Israel went into exile due to their iniquity, for they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies; all of them died by the sword. 24 According to their uncleanness and rebellion I’ve dealt with them, and I hid my face from them. 25 “Therefore this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Now I’ll restore the fortunes of Jacob, and I’ll have mercy on the entire house of Israel. I’ll be zealous for my sacred name. 26 They’ll bear their shame for all their unfaithful acts against me, when they live securely on their land with no one to make them afraid. 27 When I’ve brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I’ll magnify myself among them in the sight of many nationalities. 28 Then they’ll know that I’m Lifegiver their Supermights , because I sent them into exile among the nationalities, and then gathered them into their own land. I’ll not leave any of them in exile any longer. 29 I’ll no longer hide my face from them, when I pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 40

1 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was struck down, on this very day, the hand of Lifegiver was on me, and he brought me there. 2 By means of divine visions he brought me to the land of Israel and placed me on a very high mountain, and on it was a structure like a city, to the south. 3 When he brought me there, I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring stick in his hand. He was standing in the gateway. 4 The man said to me, “Kin of Humanity, watch closely, listen carefully, and pay attention to everything I show you, for you have been brought here so that I can show it to you. Tell the house of Israel everything you see.” 5 I saw a wall all around the outside of the temple. In the man’s hand was a measuring stick 10½ feet long. He measured the thickness of the wall as 10½ feet, and its height as 10½ feet. 6 Then he went to the gate facing east. He climbed its steps and measured the threshold of the gate as 10½ feet deep. 7 The alcoves were 10½ feet long and 10½ feet wide; between the alcoves were 8¾ feet. The threshold of the gate by the porch of the gate facing inward was 10½ feet. 8 Then he measured the porch of the gate facing inward as 10½ feet. 9 He measured the porch of the gate as 14 feet, and its jambs as 3½ feet; the porch of the gate faced inward. 10 There were three alcoves on each side of the east gate; the three had the same measurement, and the jambs on either side had the same measurement. 11 He measured the width of the entrance of the gateway as 17½ feet, and the length of the gateway as 22¾ feet. 12 There was a barrier in front of the alcoves, 1¾ feet on either side; the alcoves were 10½ feet on either side. 13 He measured the gateway from the roof of one alcove to the roof of the other, a width of 43¾ feet from one entrance to the opposite one. 14 He measured the porch at 105 feet high; the gateway went all around to the jamb of the courtyard. 15 From the front of the entrance gate to the porch of the inner gate was 87½ feet. 16 There were closed windows toward the alcoves and toward their jambs witlitrethe gate all around, and likewise for the porches. There were windows all around the inside, and on each jamb were decorative palm trees. 17 Then he brought me to the outer court. I saw chambers there, and a pavement made for the court all around; thirty chambers faced the pavement. 18 The pavement was beside the gates, corresponding to the length of the gates; this was the lower pavement. 19 Then he measured the width from before the lower gate to the front of the exterior of the inner court as 175 feet on the east and on the north. 20 He measured the length and width of the gate of the outer court which faces north. 21 Its alcoves, three on each side, and its jambs and porches had the same measurement as the first gate; 87½ feet long and 43¾ feet wide. 22 Its windows, its porches, and its decorative palm trees had the same measurement as the gate which faced east. Seven steps led up to it, and its porch was in front of them. 23 Opposite the gate on the north and the east was a gate of the inner court; he measured the distance from gate to gate at 175 feet. 24 Then he led me toward the south. I saw a gate on the south. He measured its jambs and its porches; they had the same dimensions as the others. 25 There were windows all around it and its porches, like the windows of the others; 87½ feet long and 43¾ feet wide. 26 There were seven steps going up to it; its porches were in front of them. It had decorative palm trees on its jambs, one on either side. 27 The inner court had a gate toward the south; he measured it from gate to gate toward the south as 175 feet. 28 Then he brought me to the inner court by the south gate. He measured the south gate; it had the same dimensions as the others. 29 Its alcoves, its jambs, and its porches had the same dimensions as the others, and there were windows all around it and its porches; its length was 87½ feet and its width 43¾ feet. 30 There were porches all around, 43¾ feet long and 8¾ feet wide. 31 Its porches faced the outer court, and decorative palm trees were on its jambs, and its stairway had eight steps. 32 Then he brought me to the inner court on the east side. He measured the gate; it had the same dimensions as the others. 33 Its alcoves, its jambs, and its porches had the same dimensions as the others, and there were windows all around it and its porches; its length was 87½ feet and its width 43¾ feet. 34 Its porches faced the outer court, it had decorative palm trees on its jambs, and its stairway had eight steps. 35 Then he brought me to the north gate, and he measured it; it had the same dimensions as the others – 36 its alcoves, its jambs, and its porches. It had windows all around it; its length was 87½ feet and its width 43¾ feet. 37 Its jambs faced the outer court, and it had decorative palm trees on its jambs, on either side, and its stairway had eight steps. 38 There was a chamber with its door by the porch of the gate; there they washed the sacrifice. 39 In the porch of the gate were two tables on either side on which to slaughter the sacrifice, the sin offering, and the guilt offering. 40 On the outside of the porch as one goes up at the entrance of the north gate were two tables, and on the other side of the porch of the gate were two tables. 41 Four tables were on each side of the gate, eight tables on which the sacrifices were to be slaughtered. 42 The four tables for the sacrifice were of carved stone, 32 inches long, 32 inches wide, and 21 inches high. They would put the instruments which they used to slaughter the sacrifice and the sacrifice on them. 43 There were hooks three inches long, fastened in the house all around, and on the tables was the flesh of the offering. 44 On the outside of the inner gate were chambers for the singers of the inner court, one at the side of the north gate facing south, and the other at the side of the south gate facing north. 45 He said to me, “This chamber which faces south is for the priests who keep charge of the temple, 46 and the chamber which faces north is for the priests who keep charge of the altar. These are the descendants of Zadok, from the descendants of Levi, who may approach Lifegiver to minister to him.” 47 He measured the court as a square 175 feet long and 175 feet wide; the altar was in front of the temple. 48 Then he brought me to the porch of the temple and measured the jambs of the porch as 8¾ feet on either side, and the width of the gate was 24½ feet and the sides were 5¼ feet on each side. 49 The length of the porch was 35 feet and the width 19¼ feet; steps led up to it, and there were pillars beside the jambs on either side.

Ezekiel 41

1 Then he brought me to the outer sanctuary, and measured the jambs; the jambs were 10½ feet wide on each side. 2 The width of the entrance was 17½ feet, and the sides of the entrance were 8¾ feet on each side. He measured the length of the outer sanctuary as 70 feet, and its width as 35 feet. 3 Then he went into the inner sanctuary and measured the jambs of the entrance as 3½ feet, the entrance as 10½ feet, and the width of the entrance as 12¼ feet 4 Then he measured its length as 35 feet, and its width as 35 feet, before the outer sanctuary. He said to me, “This is the most sacred place.” 5 Then he measured the wall of the temple as 10½ feet, and the width of the side chambers as 7 feet, all around the temple. 6 The side chambers were in three stories, one above the other, thirty in each story. There were offsets in the wall all around to serve as supports for the side chambers, so that the supports were not in the wall of the temple. 7 The side chambers surrounding the temple were wider at each successive story; for the structure surrounding the temple went up story by story all around the temple. For this reason the width of the temple increased as it went up, and one went up from the lowest story to the highest by the way of the middle story. 8 I saw that the temple had a raised platform all around; the foundations of the side chambers were a full measuring stick of 10½ feet high. 9 The width of the outer wall of the side chambers was 8¾ feet, and the open area between the side chambers of the temple 10 and the chambers of the court was 35 feet in width all around the temple on every side. 11 There were entrances from the side chambers toward the open area, one entrance toward the north, and another entrance toward the south; the width of the open area was 8¾ feet all around.

12 The building that was facing the temple courtyard at the west side was 122½ feet wide; the wall of the building was 8¾ feet all around, and its length 157½ feet. 13 Then he measured the temple as 175 feet long, the courtyard of the temple and the building and its walls as 175 feet long, 14 and also the width of the front of the temple and the courtyard on the east as 175 feet. 15 Then he measured the length of the building facing the courtyard at the rear of the temple, with its galleries on either side as 175 feet. The interior of the outer sanctuary and the porch of the court, 16 as well as the thresholds, narrow windows and galleries all around on three sides facing the threshold were paneled with wood all around, from the ground up to the windows (now the windows were covered), 17 to the space above the entrance, to the inner room, and on the outside, and on all the walls in the inner room and outside, by measurement. 18 It was made with cherubim and decorative palm trees, with a palm tree between each cherub. Each cherub had two faces: 19 a human face toward the palm tree on one side and a lion’s face toward the palm tree on the other side. They were carved on the whole temple all around; 20 from the ground to the area above the entrance, cherubim and decorative palm trees were carved on the wall of the outer sanctuary. 21 The doorposts of the outer sanctuary were square. In front of the sanctuary one doorpost looked just like the other. 22 The altar was of wood, 5¼ feet high, with its length 3½ feet; its corners, its length, and its walls were of wood. He said to me, “This is the table that is before Lifegiver.” 23 The outer sanctuary and the inner sanctuary each had a double door. 24 Each of the doors had two leaves, two swinging leaves; two leaves for one door and two leaves for the other. 25 On the doors of the outer sanctuary were carved cherubim and palm trees, like those carved on the walls, and there was a canopy of wood on the front of the outside porch. 26 There were narrow windows and decorative palm trees on either side of the side walls of the porch; this is what the side chambers of the temple and the canopies were like.

Ezekiel 42

1 Then he led me out to the outer court, toward the north, and brought me to the chamber which was opposite the courtyard and opposite the building on the north. 2 Its length was 175 feet on the north side, and its width 87½ feet. 3 Opposite the 35 feet that belonged to the inner court, and opposite the pavement which belonged to the outer court, gallery faced gallery in the three stories. 4 In front of the chambers was a walkway on the inner side, 17½ feet wide at a distance of 1¾ feet, and their entrances were on the north. 5 Now the upper chambers were narrower, because the galleries took more space from them than from the lower and middle chambers of the building. 6 For they were in three stories and had no pillars like the pillars of the courts; therefore the upper chambers were set back from the ground more than the lower and upper ones. 7 As for the outer wall by the side of the chambers, toward the outer court facing the chambers, it was 87½ feet long. 8 For the chambers on the outer court were 87½ feet long, while those facing the temple were 175 feet long. 9 Below these chambers was a passage on the east side as one enters from the outer court. 10 At the beginning of the wall of the court toward the south, facing the courtyard and the building, were chambers 11 with a passage in front of them. They looked like the chambers on the north. Of the same length and width, and all their exits according to their arrangements and entrances 12 were the chambers which were toward the south. There was an opening at the head of the passage, the passage in front of the corresponding wall toward the east when one enters. 13 Then he said to me, “The north chambers and the south chambers which face the courtyard are sacred chambers where the priests who approach Lifegiver will eat the most sacred offerings. There they’ll place the most sacred offerings – the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering, because the place is holy. 14 When the priests enter, then they’ll not go out from the sanctuary to the outer court without taking off their garments in which they minister, for these are holy; they’ll put on other garments, then they’ll go near the places where the people are.” 15 Now when he had finished measuring the interior of the temple, he led me out by the gate which faces east and measured all around. 16 He measured the east side with the measuring stick as 875 feet by the measuring stick. 17 He measured the north side as 875 feet by the measuring stick. 18 He measured the south side as 875 feet by the measuring stick. 19 He turned to the west side and measured 875 feet by the measuring stick. 20 He measured it on all four sides. It had a wall around it, 875 feet long and 875 feet wide, to separate the sacred and common places.

Ezekiel 43

1 Then he brought me to the gate that faced toward the east. 2 I saw the glory of the Supermights of Israel coming from the east; the sound was like that of rushing water; and the Earth radiated his glory. 3 It was like the vision I saw when he came to destroy the city, and the vision I saw by the Kebar River. I threw myself face down. 4 The glory of Lifegiver came into the temple by way of the gate that faces east. 5 Then a wind lifted me up and brought me to the inner court; I watched the glory of Lifegiver filling the temple. 6 I heard someone speaking to me from the temple, while the man was standing beside me. 7 He said to me: “Kin of Humanity, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet, where I’ll live among the people of Israel forever. The house of Israel will no longer profane my sacred name, neither they nor their kings, by their spiritual prostitution or by the pillars of their kings set up when they die. 8 When they placed their threshold by my threshold and their doorpost by my doorpost, with only the wall between me and them, they profaned my sacred name by the abominable deeds they committed. So I consumed them in my anger. 9 Now they must put away their spiritual prostitution and the pillars of their kings far from me, and then I’ll live among them forever. 10 “As for you, Kin of Humanity, describe the temple to the house of Israel, so that they’ll be ashamed of their sins and measure the pattern. 11 When they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its pattern, its exits and entrances, and its whole design – all its principles, its entire design, and all its laws; write it all down in their sight, so that they may observe its entire design and all its principles and do them. 12 “This is the law of the temple: The entire area on top of the mountain all around will be most holy. Indeed, this is the law of the temple. 13 “And these are the measurements of the altar: Its base is 1¾ feet high, and 1¾ feet wide, and its border nine inches on its edge. This is to be the height of the altar. 14 From the base of the ground to the lower edge is 3½ feet, and the width 1¾ feet; and from the smaller ledge to the larger edge, 7 feet, and the width 1¾ feet; 15 and the altar hEarth , 7 feet, and from the altar hEarth four horns projecting upward. 16 Now the altar hEarth is a perfect square, 21 feet long and 21 feet wide. 17 The ledge is 24½ feet long and 24½ feet wide on four sides; the border around it is 10½ inches, and its surrounding base 1¾ feet. Its steps face east.” 18 Then he said to me: “Kin of Humanity, this is what the supreme Lifegiver says: These are the principles of the altar: On the day it is built to offer up sacrifices on it and to sprinkle blood on it, 19 you’ll give a young bull for a sin offering to the Levitical priests who are descended from Zadok, who approach me to minister to me, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 20 You’ll take some of its blood, and place it on the four horns of the altar, on the four corners of the ledge, and on the border all around; you’ll cleanse it and make atonement for it. 21 You’ll also take the bull for the sin offering, and it will be burned in the appointed place in the temple, outside the sanctuary. 22 “On the second day, you’ll offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering. They’ll purify the altar just as they purified it with the bull. 23 When you have finished purifying it, you’ll offer an unblemished young bull and an unblemished ram from the flock. 24 You’ll present them before Lifegiver, and the priests will scatter salt on them and offer them up as a sacrifice to Lifegiver. 25 “For seven days you’ll provide every day a goat for a sin offering; a young bull and a ram from the flock, both without blemish, will be provided. 26 For seven days they’ll make atonement for the altar and cleanse it, so they’ll consecrate it. 27 When the prescribed period is over, on the eighth day and thereafter the priests will offer up on the altar your sacrifices and your peace offerings; I’ll accept you, declares the supreme Lifegiver.”

Ezekiel 44

1 Then he brought me back by way of the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces east, but it was shut. 2 Lifegiver said to me: “This gate will be shut; it will not be opened, and no one will enter by it. For Lifegiver, the Supermights of Israel, has entered by it; therefore it will remain shut. 3 Only the prince may sit in it to eat a sacrificial meal before Lifegiver; he’ll enter by way of the porch of the gate and will go out by the same way.” 4 Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. As I watched, I noticed the glory of Lifegiver filling Lifegiver’s temple, and I threw myself face down. 5 Lifegiver said to me: “Kin of Humanity, pay attention, watch closely and listen carefully to everything I tell you concerning all the principles of Lifegiver’s house and all its laws. Pay attention to the entrances to the temple with all the exits of the sanctuary. 6 Say to the rebellious, to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Enough of all your abominable practices, O house of Israel! 7 When you bring foreigners, those uncircumcised in heart and in flesh, into my sanctuary, you desecrate it – even my house – when you offer my food, the fat and the blood. You have broken my agreement by all your abominable practices. 8 You have not kept charge of my sacred things, but you have assigned foreigners to keep charge of my sanctuary for you. 9 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: No foreigner, who is uncircumcised in heart and flesh among all the foreigners who are among the people of Israel, will enter into my sanctuary. 10 “‘But the Levites who went far from me, straying off from me after their idols when Israel went astray, will be responsible for their sin. 11 Yet they’ll be ministers in my sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the temple, and serving the temple. They’ll slaughter the sacrifices and the sacrifices for the people, and they’ll stand before them to minister to them. 12 Because they used to minister to them before their idols, and became a sinful obstacle to the house of Israel, consequently I’ve made a vow concerning them, declares the supreme Lifegiver, that they’ll be responsible for their sin. 13 They’ll not come near me to serve me as priest, nor will they come near any of my sacred things, the things which are most sacred. They’ll bear the shame of the abominable deeds they have committed. 14 Yet I’ll appoint them to keep charge of the temple, all of its service and all that will be done in it. 15 “‘But the Levitical priests, the descendants of Zadok who kept the charge of my sanctuary when the people of Israel went astray from me, will approach me to minister to me; they’ll stand before me to offer me the fat and the blood, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 16 They’ll enter my sanctuary, and approach my table to minister to me; they’ll keep my charge. 17 “‘When they enter the gates of the inner court, they must wear linen garments; they must not have any wool on them when they minister in the inner gates of the court and in the temple. 18 Linen turbans will be on their heads and linen undergarments will be around their waists; they must not bind themselves with anything that causes sweat. 19 When they go out to the outer court to the people, they must remove the garments they were ministering in, and place them in the sacred chambers; they must put on other garments so that they’ll not transmit holiness to the people with their garments. 20 “‘They must not shave their heads nor let their hair grow long; they must only trim their heads. 21 No priest may drink wine when he enters the inner court. 22 They must not marry a widow or a divorcee, but they may marry a virgin from the house of Israel or a widow who is a priest’s widow. 23 Moreover, they’ll teach my people the difference between the sacred and the common, and show them how to distinguish between the ceremonially unclean and the clean. 24 “‘In a controversy they’ll act as judges; they’ll judge according to my ordinances. They’ll keep my laws and my principles regarding all my appointed festivals and will observe my Sabbaths. 25 “‘They must not come near a dead person or they’ll be defiled; however, for father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister, they may defile themselves. 26 After a priest has become ceremonially clean, they must count off a period of seven days for him. 27 On the day he enters the sanctuary, into the inner court to serve in the sanctuary, he must offer his sin offering, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 28 “‘This will be their inheritance: I’m their inheritance, and you must give them no property in Israel; I’m their property. 29 They may eat the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering, and every devoted thing in Israel will be theirs. 30 The first of all the first fruits and all contributions of any kind will be for the priests; you’ll also give to the priest the first portion of your dough, so that a blessing may rest on your house. 31 The priests will not eat any bird or animal that has died a natural death or was torn to pieces by a wild animal.

Ezekiel 45

1 “‘When you allot the land as an inheritance, you’ll offer an allotment to Lifegiver, a sacred portion from the land; the length will be eight and a quarter miles and the width three and one-third miles. This entire area will be holy. 2 Of this area a square 875 feet by 875 feet will be designated for the sanctuary, with 87½ feet set aside for its open space round about. 3 From this measured area you’ll measure a length of eight and a quarter miles and a width of three and one-third miles; in it will be the sanctuary, the most sacred place. 4 It will be a sacred portion of the land; it will be for the priests, the ministers of the sanctuary who approach Lifegiver to minister to him. It will be a place for their houses and a sacred place for the sanctuary. 5 An area eight and a quarter miles in length and three and one-third miles in width will be for the Levites, who minister at the temple, as the place for the cities in which they’ll live. 6 “‘Alongside the portion set apart as the sacred allotment, you’ll allot for the city an area one and two-thirds miles wide and eight and a quarter miles long; it will be for the whole house of Israel. 7 “‘For the prince there will be land on both sides of the sacred allotment and the allotted city, alongside the sacred allotment and the allotted city, on the west side and on the east side; it will be comparable in length to one of the portions, from the west border to the east border 8 of the land. This will be his property in Israel. My princes will no longer oppress my people, but the land will be allotted to the house of Israel according to their tribes. 9 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: Enough, you princes of Israel! Put away violence and destruction, and do what is just and right. Put an end to your evictions of my people, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 10 You must use just balances, a just dry measure (an ephah), and a just liquid measure (a bath). 11 The dry and liquid measures will be the same, the bath will contain a tenth of a homer, and the ephah a tenth of a homer; the homer will be the standard measure. 12 The shekel will be twenty gerahs. Sixty shekels will be a mina for you. 13 “‘This is the offering you must offer: a sixth of an ephah from a homer of wheat; a sixth of an ephah from a homer of barley, 14 and as the prescribed portion of olive oil, one tenth of a bath from each kor (which is ten baths or a homer, for ten baths make a homer); 15 and one sheep from each flock of two hundred, from the watered places of Israel, for a grain offering, sacrifice, and peace offering, to make atonement for them, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 16 All the people of the land will contribute to this offering for the prince of Israel. 17 It will be the duty of the prince to provide the sacrifices, the grain offering, and the drink offering at festivals, on the new moons and Sabbaths, at all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel; he’ll provide the sin offering, the grain offering, the sacrifice, and the peace offerings to make atonement for the house of Israel. 18 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: In the first month, on the first day of the month, you must take an unblemished young bull and purify the sanctuary. 19 The priest will take some of the blood of the sin offering and place it on the doorpost of the temple, on the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and on the doorpost of the gate of the inner court. 20 This is what you must do on the seventh day of the month for anyone who sins inadvertently or through ignorance; so you’ll make atonement for the temple. 21 “‘In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you’ll celebrate the Passover, and for seven days bread made without yeast will be eaten. 22 On that day the prince will provide for himself and for all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering. 23 And during the seven days of the feast he’ll provide as a sacrifice to Lifegiver seven bulls and seven rams, all without blemish, on each of the seven days, and a male goat daily for a sin offering. 24 he’ll provide as a grain offering an ephah for each bull, an ephah for each ram, and a gallon of olive oil for each ephah of grain. 25 In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast, he’ll make the same provisions for the sin offering, sacrifice, and grain offering, and for the olive oil, for the seven days.

Ezekiel 46

1 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: The gate of the inner court that faces east will be closed six working days, but on the Sabbath day it will be opened and on the day of the new moon it will be opened. 2 The prince will enter by way of the porch of the gate from the outside, and will stand by the doorpost of the gate. The priests will provide his sacrifice and his peace offerings, and he’ll bow down at the threshold of the gate and then go out. But the gate will not be closed until evening. 3 The people of the land will bow down at the entrance of that gate before Lifegiver on the Sabbaths and on the new moons. 4 The sacrifice which the prince will offer to Lifegiver on the Sabbath day will be six unblemished lambs and one unblemished ram. 5 The grain offering will be an ephah with the ram, and the grain offering with the lambs will be as much as he is able to give, and a gallon of olive oil with an ephah. 6 On the day of the new moon he’ll offer an unblemished young bull, and six lambs and a ram, all without blemish. 7 he’ll provide a grain offering: an ephah with the bull and an ephah with the ram, and with the lambs as much as he wishes, and a gallon of olive oil with each ephah of grain. 8 When the prince enters, he’ll come by way of the porch of the gate and will go out the same way. 9 “‘When the people of the land come before Lifegiver at the appointed feasts, whoever enters by way of the north gate to worship will go out by way of the south gate; whoever enters by way of the south gate will go out by way of the north gate. No one will return by way of the gate they entered but will go out straight ahead. 10 When they come in, the prince will come in with them, and when they go out, he’ll go out. 11 “‘At the festivals and at the appointed feasts the grain offering will be an ephah with the bull and an ephah with the ram, and with the lambs as much as one is able, and a gallon of olive oil with each ephah of grain. 12 When the prince provides a freewill offering, a sacrifice, or peace offerings as a voluntary offering to Lifegiver, the gate facing east will be opened for him, and he’ll provide his sacrifice and his peace offerings just as he did on the Sabbath. Then he’ll go out, and the gate will be closed after he goes out. 13 “‘You’ll provide a lamb a year old without blemish for a sacrifice daily to Lifegiver; morning by morning he’ll provide it. 14 And you’ll provide a grain offering with it morning by morning, a sixth of an ephah, and a third of a gallon of olive oil to moisten the choice flour, as a grain offering to Lifegiver; this is a perpetual statute. 15 Thus they’ll provide the lamb, the grain offering, and the olive oil morning by morning, as a perpetual sacrifice. 16 “‘This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: If the prince should give a gift to one of his sons as his inheritance, it will belong to his sons, it is their property by inheritance. 17 But if he gives a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, it will be his until the year of liberty; then it will revert to the prince. His inheritance will only remain with his sons. 18 The prince will not take away any of the people’s inheritance by oppressively removing them from their property. he’ll give his sons an inheritance from his own possessions so that my people will not be scattered, each from his own property.’” 19 Then he brought me through the entrance, which was at the side of the gate, into the sacred chambers for the priests which faced north. There I saw a place at the extreme western end. 20 He said to me, “This is the place where the priests will boil the guilt offering and the sin offering, and where they’ll bake the grain offering, so that they do not bring them out to the outer court to transmit holiness to the people.” 21 Then he brought me out to the outer court and led me past the four corners of the court, and I noticed that in every corner of the court there was a court. 22 In the four corners of the court were small courts, 70 feet in length and 52½ feet in width; the four were all the same size. 23 There was a row of masonry around each of the four courts, and places for boiling offerings were made under the rows all around. 24 Then he said to me, “These are the houses for boiling, where the ministers of the temple boil the sacrifices of the people.”

Ezekiel 47

1 When he brought me back to the temple entrance, I realised there was water seeping through the temple’s eastern door sill because the temple front faced the east. The water was flowing down towards the right side of the temple, from the south side of the altar. 2 Then he led me through the passage of the north side entrance, leading me outside, around the pathway of the outer gate that faces the east. When I was there, I discovered that the water was flowing to the right side. 3 Moving on eastwardly, with a tape measure in his hand, the man measured off a length. When he passed me through the water, the waterflow was up to the ankles. 4 He measured another distance again, brought me through the water, the waterflow was up to my knees. He measured off another distance, the water was up to the waist.

5 Again he measured some distance. It was a river I could not cross because the water levels had risen to a swimming current that could not be simply crossed. 6 Then he asked “Young man, have you seen this?” Then he led me back to the riverbank. 7 When I had returned, I found many big trees on both sides of the riverbank.

8 Then he told me, “These waterflows stream toward the eastern region and flow down into the desert plain, and enter the sea. Once the waterflows are delivered to the Dead Sea, its waters will be cured.” 9 Whenever the torrents will flow, swarms of everything that is alive will be revitalised, and there will be massive fish because these waterflows will reach there. It will be treated, then everything will live wherever the river streams. 10 Fishers will stand next to it from En-gedi up to En-eglaim. These will be dedicated catchment areas. Their fish will be as varied as the fish of the big sea, exceeding several. 11 But its swamps and its marshes will not be treated. They’ll be used for salt. 12 Along the river, on both riverbanks, will grow various trees for food. Their leaves will not dry up, and their fruit will not be finished. They’ll produce fresh fruit monthly because the water sources come out of the sanctuary. Then their fruit will be used for food and their leaves for medicine.”

13 This is what the supreme Lifegiver says: “Here are the borders you’ll observe as you allot the land to the twelve tribes of Israel. (Joseph will have two portions.) 14 You must divide it equally just as I vowed to give it to your forefathers; this land will be assigned as your inheritance. 15 “This will be the border of the land: On the north side, from the Great Sea by way of Hethlon to the entrance of Zedad; 16 Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath, as far as Hazer-hattikon, which is on the border of Hauran. 17 The border will run from the sea to Hazar-enan, at the border of Damascus, and on the north is the border of Hamath. This is the north side. 18 On the east side, between Hauran and Damascus, and between Gilead and the land of Israel, will be the Jordan. You’ll measure from the border to the eastern sea. This is the east side. 19 On the south side it will run from Tamar to the waters of Meribath Kadesh, the river, to the Great Sea. This is the south side. 20 On the west side the Great Sea will be the boundary to a point opposite Lebo-hamath. This is the west side. 21 “This is how you’ll divide this land for yourselves among the tribes of Israel. 22 You must allot it as an inheritance among yourselves and for the foreigners who reside among you, who have fathered sons among you. You must treat them as native-born among the people of Israel; they’ll be allotted an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. 23 In whatever tribe the foreigner resides, there you’ll give him his inheritance,” declares the supreme Lifegiver.

Ezekiel 48

1 “These are the names of the tribes: From the northern end beside the road of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath, as far as Hazar-enan (which is on the border of Damascus, toward the north beside Hamath), extending from the east side to the west, Dan will have one portion. 2 Next to the border of Dan, from the east side to the west, Asher will have one portion. 3 Next to the border of Asher from the east side to the west, NaphtalI’ll have one portion. 4 Next to the border of Naphtali from the east side to the west, Manasseh will have one portion. 5 Next to the border of Manasseh from the east side to the west, Ephraim will have one portion. 6 Next to the border of Ephraim from the east side to the west, Reuben will have one portion. 7 Next to the border of Reuben from the east side to the west, Judah will have one portion. 8 “Next to the border of Judah from the east side to the west will be the allotment you must set apart. It is to be eight and a quarter miles wide, and the same length as one of the tribal portions, from the east side to the west; the sanctuary will be in the middle of it. 9 The allotment you set apart to Lifegiver will be eight and a quarter miles in length and three and one-third miles in width. 10 These will be the allotments for the sacred portion: for the priests, toward the north eight and a quarter miles in length, toward the west three and one-third miles in width, toward the east three and one-third miles in width, and toward the south eight and a quarter miles in length; the sanctuary of Lifegiver will be in the middle. 11 This will be for the priests who are set apart from the descendants of Zadok who kept my charge and did not go astray when the people of Israel strayed off, like the Levites did. 12 It will be their portion from the allotment of the land, a most sacred place, next to the border of the Levites. 13 “Alongside the border of the priests, the Levites will have an allotment eight and a quarter miles in length and three and one-third miles in width. The whole length will be eight and a quarter miles and the width three and one-third miles. 14 They must not sell or exchange any of it; they must not transfer this choice portion of land, for it is set apart to Lifegiver. 15 “The remainder, one and two-thirds miles in width and eight and a quarter miles in length, will be for common use by the city, for houses and for open space. The city will be in the middle of it; 16 these will be its measurements: The north side will be one and one-half miles, the south side one and one-half miles, the east side one and one-half miles, and the west side one and one-half miles. 17 The city will have open spaces: On the north there will be 437½ feet, on the south 437½ feet, on the east 437½ feet, and on the west 437½ feet. 18 The remainder of the length alongside the sacred allotment will be three and one-third miles to the east and three and one-third miles toward the west, and it will be beside the sacred allotment. Its produce will be for food for the workers of the city. 19 The workers of the city from all the tribes of Israel will cultivate it. 20 The whole allotment will be eight and a quarter miles square, you must set apart the sacred allotment with the possession of the city. 21 “The rest, on both sides of the sacred allotment and the property of the city, will belong to the prince. Extending from the eight and a quarter miles of the sacred allotment to the east border, and westward from the eight and a quarter miles to the west border, alongside the portions, it will belong to the prince. The sacred allotment and the sanctuary of the temple will be in the middle of it. 22 The property of the Levites and of the city will be in the middle of that which belongs to the prince. The portion between the border of Judah and the border of Benjamin will be for the prince. 23 “As for the rest of the tribes: From the east side to the west side, Benjamin will have one portion. 24 Next to the border of Benjamin, from the east side to the west side, Simeon will have one portion. 25 Next to the border of Simeon, from the east side to the west side, Issachar will have one portion. 26 Next to the border of Issachar, from the east side to the west side, Zebulun will have one portion. 27 Next to the border of Zebulun, from the east side to the west side, Gad will have one portion. 28 Next to the border of Gad, at the south side, the border will run from Tamar to the waters of Meribath Kadesh, to the Stream of Egypt and on to the Great Sea. 29 This is the land which you’ll allot to the tribes of Israel, and these are their portions, declares the supreme Lifegiver. 30 “These are the exits of the city: On the north side, one and one-half miles by measure, 31 the gates of the city will be named for the tribes of Israel; there will be three gates to the north: one gate for Reuben, one gate for Judah, and one gate for Levi. 32 On the east side, one and one-half miles in length, there will be three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan. 33 On the south side, one and one-half miles by measure, there will be three gates: one gate for Simeon, one gate for Issachar, and one gate for Zebulun. 34 On the west side, one and one-half miles in length, there will be three gates: one gate for Gad, one gate for Asher, and one gate for Naphtali. 35 The circumference of the city will be six miles. The name of the city from that day forward will be: ‘Lifegiver Is There.’”

DANIEL

Daniel 1

1 In the third year of the rule of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar [may Nebo protect the crown] of Babylon came to Jerusalem and laid it under siege. 2 Then Lifegiver yielded and surrendered King Jehoiakim of Judah into his [Nebudchanezzar’s] hand, along with some of the utensils of Supermights’ temple. He [Nebudchanezzar] carried them to the land of Babylonia to the temple of his Supermights and put the utensils in his deity’s depository.

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, his chief of staff to choose from the Israelites youth of royal and noble heritage, 4 youth who were totally untarnished but appeared to be good, intelligent, skillful, knowledgeable, and able to grasp every science as well as capable to be appointed in the royal palace and able to learn Chaldean literature and language. 5 Then every day the king would ration them a portion from his royal delicacies and from the wine he drank; feeding them for three years, at the end of which they would serve in the presence of the king.

6 There happened to be some children from Judahites: Daniel [Supermights is my judge], Hananiah [Supermights favoured], Mishael [who is what Supermights is?], and Azariah [Supermights helped]. 7 But the chief of staff assigned them titles: Daniel Belteshazzar [lord of the strained treasure], Hananiah Shadrach [royal scribe], Mishael, Meshach [king’s guest], and Azariah, Abednego [Nebo’s servant].

8 But Daniel decided in his mind that he was not going to compromise himself with the royal delicacies or the royal wine. He therefore appealed through the chief of staff not to compromise himself. 9 Then Supermights had made and rendered Daniel favourable and likeable in the presence of the chief of staff. 10 Then the chief of staff responded to Daniel, “I fear and respect my master the king who has rationed and prepared your food and drink. What if he looks and notices that your appearances are worse than the young men who are your peers? If that happened, you would endanger and forfeit my head to the king!”

11 Daniel then spoke to the butler whom the chief of staff had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 12 “Please test and try your servants for ten days by giving us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then check our appearances against the young men who dine and eat royal delicacies. After you have inspected us, deal with your subordinates as you see fit.” 14 So the butler agreed to their proposal and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of the ten days their looks were better and their skins were plumpier than all the young men who had dined and eaten the royal delicacies. 16 So the butler removed and took away the delicacies and the wine and gave them vegetables. 17 God made all these four young men intelligence and expertise in all literature and wisdom – and Daniel was perceptive in all visions and dreams.

18 When the time that had been determined by the king came, the chief of staff presented them before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them together. From among them he found none. Then Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah took their stand before the king. 20 In all matters of wisdom that the king asked them, he found them ten times better than all the horoscopists and astrologers that were in his kingdom. 21 Then Daniel lasted until the first year of King Cyrus the king.

Daniel 2

1 In the second year of Nebuchadenezzar’s rule, Nebuchadnezzar woke up to dreams that disturbed his spirit and his sleep was gone from him. 2 Then the king called the horoscopists, the astrologers and the necromancers as well as the Chaldean sages to explain to the king his dreams. So they came and took their stand before the king.

3 The king told them, “I’ve recovered from a dream and my mind is anxious to know and understand the dream.” 4 The Chaldean sages spoke to the king in Aramaic; “Live forever king! Tell your subjects the dream and we’ll interpret the meaning.” 5 The king responded and said to the Chaldean sages; “This thing is gone from me. If you’ll not tell me the dream, and its interpretation, you’ll be executed. Members of your households will be made rubble heap. 6 But if you explain the dream and its interpretation, you’ll receive from me great and glorious presents and rewards. So explain the dream and its interpretation!” 7 They again replied, “Let the king tell his subjects the dream and we’ll explain its interpretation.” 8 Then the king retorted and said; “I know for sure that you are buying all the time in view of the fact that you realise that the matter is gone from me. 9 But if you’ll not explain to me the dream, there’s one decree for you. You have conspired to speak false and fraudulent words before me until now. Time has changed. So tell me the dream and I’ll know you can explain its meaning.” 10 The Chaldean sages said before the king; “There’s no human being upon the Earth that can explain the king’s case in as much as there’s not any king, great or premier, that ever demanded such things from any horoscopist, astrologer, and Chaldean sages. 11 It’s an impossible thing that the king demands, and there is not even one that can explain it in front of the king, except the deities whose residence is not with mortals.” 12 For this reason the king became very angry. Raving in rage, he gave orders to destroy all the sages of Babylon. 13 So a decree was issued, and the scientists were about to be executed. They also sought Daniel and his friends to be executed.

14 Then Daniel spoke with prudent tact to Arioch, the captain of the king’s executioners who had gone out to execute the scientists of Babylon. 15 He inquired of Arioch the king’s captain as to why the decree from the king was so urgent? Then Arioch explained the matter to Daniel. 16 So Daniel rushed and petitioned the king to allow him time to show the king the interpretation. 17 Then Daniel went up to his house related the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, his friends.

18 They then prayed for mercy from the presence of the Supermights of Heaven concerning this mysterious matter, that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the Babylonian scientists. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel that night in a vision. Then Daniel praised the Supermights of Heaven 20 saying,

“Let the name of Supermights

be praised forever and ever,

for wisdom and power belong to him.

21 ​​​​​​​He changes times and seasons,

deposing some kings and establishing others.

He gives wisdom to the wise

he imparts knowledge

to those with understanding;

22 ​​​​​​​he reveals deep and hidden things.

He knows what is in the darkness,

and light resides with him.

23 ​​​​​​​O Supermights of my fathers,

I acknowledge and glorify you,

for you have bestowed wisdom and power on me.

Now you have enabled me to understand

what I requested from you.

For you have enabled me

to understand the king’s dilemma.”

24 Then Daniel went in to see Arioch (whom the king had appointed to destroy the scientists of Babylon). He came and said to him, “Don’t destroy the scientists of Babylon! Escort me to the king, and I’ll disclose the interpretation to him!” 25 So Arioch rushed Daniel into the king’s presence, saying to him, “I’ve found a man from the Judah exiles who can explain the interpretation to the king.” 26 The king then asked Daniel (who was also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to make explain to me the dream that I saw, as well as its interpretation?” 27 Daniel replied to the king, “The mystery that the king is asking about is such that no scientists, astrologers, magicians, or diviners can possibly disclose to the king. 28 But there is a deity in Heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the times to come. The dream and the visions you had while lying on your bed are as follows: 29 “As for you, your majesty, while you were in your bed your thoughts turned to future things. The revealer of mysteries has revealed to you what will take place. 30 As for me, this mystery was revealed to me not because I possess more wisdom than any other living person, but so that the king may understand the interpretation and discover the thoughts of your mind. 31 “You, Your Majesty, while you were watching, a huge statue – one of impressive size and extraordinary brightness – was standing before you. Its appearance caused alarm. 32 The head of the statue was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze. 33 Its legs were iron; its feet were partly iron and partly clay. 34 You were still watching as a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its iron and clay feet, crushing them into pieces. 35 Then, all at once, the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were broken into pieces without distinction and became like chaff on the summer threshing floors that the wind carries away. Not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a large mountain that filled the entire Earth . 36 This was the dream. Now we’ll set forth before the king its interpretation. 37 “You, O king, are the king of kings. The Supermights of Heaven has granted you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. 38 Wherever human beings, wild animals, and birds of the sky live – he has given them into your power. He has given you authority over them all. You are the head of gold. 39 Now after you another reign will arise, one inferior to yours. Then a third reign, one of bronze, will rule in all the Earth . 40 Then there will be a fourth reign, one strong like iron. Just like iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything, and as iron breaks in pieces all of these metals, so it will break in pieces and crush the others. 41 In that you were seeing feet and toes partly of wet clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided reign. Some of the strength of iron will be in it, for you saw iron mixed with wet clay. 42 In that the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, the latter stages of this reign will be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 And in that you saw iron mixed with wet clay, so people will be mixed with one another without adhering to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 In the days of those kings the Supermights of Heaven will raise up an everlasting reign that will not be destroyed and a reign that will not be left to another people. It will break in pieces and bring about the demise of all these reigns. But it will stand forever. 45 You saw that a stone was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands; it smashed the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold into pieces. The great Supermights has made known to the king what will occur in the future. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is reliable.” 46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar bowed down with his face to the ground and paid homage to Daniel. He gave orders to offer sacrifice and incense to him. 47 The king replied to Daniel, “Certainly your deity is a Supermights of deities and Lord of kings and revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery!” 48 Then the king elevated Daniel to high position and bestowed on him many marvelous gifts. He granted him authority over the entire province of Babylon and made him the main prefect over all the scientists of Babylon. 49 And at Daniel’s request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the administration of the province of Babylon. Daniel himself served in the king’s court.

Daniel 3

1 King Nebuchadnezzar had a golden statue made. It was ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. He erected it on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent out a summons to assemble the satraps, prefects, governors, counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the other authorities of the province to attend the dedication of the statue that he had erected. 3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the other provincial authorities assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had erected. They were standing in front of the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected. 4 Then the herald made a loud proclamation: “To you, O peoples, nationalities, and language groups, the following instruct is given: 5 When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, trigon, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music, you must bow down and pay homage to the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has erected. 6 Whoever does not bow down and pay homage will immediately be thrown into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire!” 7 Therefore when they all heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, trigon, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nationalities, and language groups began bowing down and paying homage to the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had erected. 8 Now at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought malicious accusations against the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! 10 You have issued an edict, O king, that everyone must bow down and pay homage to the golden statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, trigon, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music. 11 And whoever does not bow down and pay homage must be thrown into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire. 12 But there are Jewish men whom you appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – and these men have not shown proper respect to you, O king. They don’t serve your deity s and they don’t pay homage to the golden statue that you have erected.” 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in a fit of rage demanded that they bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego before him. So they brought them before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you don’t serve my deities and that you don’t pay homage to the golden statue that I erected? 15 Now if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, trigon, harp, pipes, and all kinds of music, you must bow down and pay homage to the statue that I had made. If you don’t pay homage to it, you’ll immediately be thrown into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. Now, who is that Supermights who can rescue you from my power?” 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to King Nebuchadnezzar, “We do not need to give you a reply concerning this. 17 If our Supermights whom we are serving exists, he is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he’ll rescue us, O king, from your power as well. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we don’t serve your deity s, and we’ll not pay homage to the golden statue that you have erected.” 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and his disposition changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave orders to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it was normally heated. 20 He ordered strong soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. 21 So those men were tied up while still wearing their cloaks, trousers, turbans, and other clothes, and were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. 22 But since the king’s instruct was so urgent, and the furnace was so excessively hot, the men who escorted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were killed by the leaping flames. 23 But those three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell into the furnace of blazing fire while still securely bound. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and quickly got up. He said to his ministers, “Wasn’t it three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied to the king, “For sure, O king.” 25 He answered, “But I see four men, untied and walking around in the midst of the fire! No harm has come to them! And the appearance of the fourth is like that of a Supermights!” 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire. He called out, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the most high Supermights , come out! Come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego emerged from the fire. 27 Once the satraps, prefects, governors, and ministers of the king had gathered around, they saw that those men were physically unharmed by the fire. The hair of their heads was not singed, nor were their trousers damaged. Not even the smell of fire was to be found on them! 28 Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, “Praised be the Supermights of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent forth his messenger and has rescued his servants who trusted in him, ignoring the edict of the king and giving up their bodies rather than serve or pay homage to any Supermights other than their Supermights ! 29 I hereby decree that any people, nation, or language group that blasphemes the Supermights of Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego will be dismembered and his home reduced to rubble! For there exists no other Supermights who can deliver in this way.” 30 Then Nebuchadnezzar promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 4

1 (3:31) “King Nebuchadnezzar, to all peoples, nationalities, and language groups that live in all the land: Peace and prosperity! 2 I’m delighted to tell you about the signs and wonders that the most high Supermights has done for me. 3 ​​​​​​​“How great are his signs! How mighty are his wonders! His reign will last forever, and his authority continues from one generation to the next.” 4 (4:1) I, Nebuchadnezzar, was relaxing in my home, living luxuriously in my palace. 5 I saw a dream that frightened me badly. The things I imagined while lying on my bed – these visions of my mind – were terrifying me. 6 So I issued an order for all the scientists of Babylon to be brought before me so that they could make known to me the interpretation of the dream. 7 When the magicians, astrologers, scientists, and diviners entered, I recounted the dream for them. But they were unable to make known its interpretation to me. 8 Later Daniel entered (whose name is Belteshazzar after the name of my Supermights , and in whom there is a spirit of the sacred Deities). I recounted the dream for him as well, 9 saying, “Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, in whom I know there to be a spirit of the sacred deities and whom no mystery baffles, consider my dream that I saw and set forth its interpretation! 10 Here are the visions of my mind while I was on my bed. While I was watching, there was a tree in the middle of the land. It was enormously tall. 11 ​​​​​​​The tree grew large and strong. Its top reached far into the sky; it could be seen from the borders of all the land. 12 ​​​​​​​Its foliage was attractive and its fruit plentiful; on it there was food enough for all. Under it the wild animals used to seek shade, and in its branches the birds of the sky used to nest. All creatures used to feed themselves from it. 13 ​​​​​​​While I was watching in my mind’s visions on my bed, a sacred sentinel came down from Heaven. 14 ​​​​​​​He called out loudly as follows: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches! Strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit! Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches! 15 ​​​​​​​But leave its taproot in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze around it surrounded by the grass of the field. Let it become damp with the dew of the sky, and let it live with the animals in the grass of the land. 16 ​​​​​​​Let his mind be altered from that of a human being, and let an animal’s mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time go by for him. 17 ​​​​​​​This announcement is by the decree of the sentinels; this decision is by the pronouncement of the sacred ones, so that those who are alive may understand that the Most High has authority over human reigns, and he bestows them on whomever he wishes. He establishes over them even the lowliest of human beings.’ 18 “This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, for none of the scientists in my reign are able to make known to me the interpretation. But you can do so, for a spirit of the sacred deities is in you.” 19 Then Daniel (whose name is also Belteshazzar) was upset for a brief time; his thoughts were alarming him. The king said, “Belteshazzar, don’t let the dream and its interpretation alarm you.” But Belteshazzar replied, “Sir, if only the dream were for your enemies and its interpretation applied to your adversaries! 20 The tree that you saw that grew large and strong, whose top reached to the sky, and which could be seen in all the land, 21 whose foliage was attractive and its fruit plentiful, and from which there was food available for all, under whose branches wild animals used to live, and in whose branches birds of the sky used to nest – 22 it is you, O king! For you have become great and strong. Your greatness is such that it reaches to Heaven, and your authority to the ends of the Earth . 23 As for the king seeing a sacred sentinel coming down from Heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its taproot in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze around it, surrounded by the grass of the field. Let it become damp with the dew of the sky, and let it live with the wild animals, until seven periods of time go by for him’ – 24 this is the interpretation, O king! It is the decision of the Most High that this has happened to my lord the king. 25 You’ll be driven from human society, and you’ll live with the wild animals. You’ll be fed grass like oxen, and you’ll become damp with the dew of the sky. Seven periods of time will pass by for you, before you understand that the Most High is ruler over human reigns and gives them to whomever he wishes. 26 They said to leave the taproot of the tree, for your reign will be restored to you when you come to understand that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you. Break away from your sins by doing what is right, and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps your prosperity will be prolonged.” 28 Now all of this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 After twelve months, he happened to be walking around on the battlements of the royal palace of Babylon. 30 The king uttered these words: “Is this not the great Babylon that I’ve built for a royal residence by my own mighty strength and for my majestic honor?” 31 While these words were still on the king’s lips, a voice came down from the sky: “It is hereby announced to you, King Nebuchadnezzar, that your reign has been removed from you! 32 You’ll be driven from human society, and you’ll live with the wild animals. You’ll be fed grass like oxen, and seven periods of time will pass by for you before you understand that the Most High is ruler over human reigns and gives them to whomever he wishes.” 33 Now in that very moment this pronouncement about Nebuchadnezzar came true. He was driven from human society, he ate grass like oxen, and his body became damp with the dew of the sky, until his hair became long like an eagle’s feathers, and his nails like a bird’s claws. 34 But at the end of the appointed time I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up toward the sky, and my sanity returned to me. I extolled the Most High, and I praised and glorified the one who lives forever. For his authority is an everlasting authority, and his reign extends from one generation to the next. 35 ​​​​​​​All the inhabitants of the Earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he wishes with the army of Heaven and with those who inhabit the Earth . No one slaps his hand and says to him, ‘What have you done?’ 36 At that time my sanity returned to me. I was restored to the honor of my reign, and my splendor returned to me. My ministers and my nobles were seeking me out, and I was reinstated over my reign. I became even greater than before. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of Heaven, for all his deeds are right and his ways are just. He is able to bring down those who live in pride.

Daniel 5

1 King Belshazzar prepared a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in front of them all. 2 While under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar issued an order to bring in the gold and silver vessels – the ones that Nebuchadnezzar his father had confiscated from the temple in Jerusalem – so that the king and his nobles, together with his wives and his concubines, could drink from them. 3 So they brought the gold and silver vessels that had been confiscated from the temple, the house of Supermights in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, together with his wives and concubines, drank from them. 4 As they drank wine, they praised the deities of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. 5 At that very moment the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the royal palace wall, opposite the lampstand. The king was watching the back of the hand that was writing. 6 Then all the color drained from the king’s face and he became alarmed. The joints of his hips gave way, and his knees began knocking together. 7 The king called out loudly to summon the astrologers, scientists, and diviners. The king proclaimed to the scientists of Babylon that anyone who could read this inscription and disclose its interpretation would be clothed in purple and have a golden collar placed on his neck and be third ruler in the reign. 8 So all the king’s scientists came in, but they were unable to read the writing or to make known its interpretation to the king. 9 Then King Belshazzar was very terrified, and he was visibly shaken. His nobles were completely dumbfounded. 10 Due to the noise caused by the king and his nobles, the queen mother then entered the banquet room. She said, “O king, live forever! Don’t be alarmed! Don’t be shaken! 11 There is a man in your reign who has witlitrehim a spirit of the sacred Deities. In the days of your father, he proved to have insight, discernment, and wisdom like that of the Deities. King Nebuchadnezzar your father appointed him chief of the magicians, astrologers, scientists, and diviners. 12 Thus there was found in this man Daniel, whom the king renamed Belteshazzar, an extraordinary spirit, knowledge, and skill to interpret dreams, solve riddles, and decipher knotty problems. Now summon Daniel, and he’ll disclose the interpretation.” 13 So Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel, “Are you that Daniel who is one of the captives of Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? 14 I’ve heard about you, how there is a spirit of the deities in you, and how you have insight, discernment, and extraordinary wisdom. 15 Now the sages and astrologers were brought before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation. But they were unable to disclose the interpretation of the message. 16 However, I’ve heard that you are able to provide interpretations and to decipher knotty problems. Now if you are able to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, you’ll wear purple and have a golden collar around your neck and be third ruler in the reign.” 17 But Daniel replied to the king, “Keep your gifts, and give your rewards to someone else! However, I’ll read the writing for the king and make known its interpretation. 18 As for you, O king, the most high Supermights bestowed on your father Nebuchadnezzar a reign, greatness, honor, and majesty. 19 Due to the greatness that he bestowed on him, all peoples, nationalities, and language groups were trembling with fear before him. He killed whom he wished, he spared whom he wished, he exalted whom he wished, and he brought low whom he wished. 20 And when his mind became arrogant and his spirit filled with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and his honor was removed from him. 21 He was driven from human society, his mind was changed to that of an animal, he lived with the wild donkeys, he was fed grass like oxen, and his body became damp with the dew of the sky, until he came to understand that the most high Supermights rules over human reigns, and he appoints over them whomever he wishes. 22 “But you, his son Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, although you knew all this. 23 Instead, you have exalted yourself against Lifegiver of Heaven. You brought before you the vessels from his temple, and you and your nobles, together with your wives and concubines, drank wine from them. You praised the deities of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone – deities that cannot see or hear or comprehend! But you have not glorified the Supermights who has in his control your very breath and all your ways! 24 Therefore the palm of a hand was sent from him, and this writing was inscribed. 25 “This is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEQEL, and PHARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the words: As for mene – Supermights has numbered your reign’s days and brought it to an end. 27 As for teqel – you are weighed on the balances and found to be lacking. 28 As for peres – your reign is divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.” 29 Then, on Belshazzar’s orders, Daniel was clothed in purple, a golden collar was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed third ruler in the reign. 30 And in that very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed. 31 (6:1) So Darius the Mede took control of the reign when he was about sixty-two years old.

Daniel 6

1 It seemed like a good idea to Darius to appoint over the reign 120 satraps who would be in charge of the entire reign. 2 Over them would be three supervisors, one of whom was Daniel. These satraps were accountable to them, so that the king’s interests might not incur damage. 3 Now this Daniel was distinguishing himself above the other supervisors and the satraps, for he had an extraordinary spirit. In fact, the king intended to appoint him over the entire reign. 4 Consequently the supervisors and satraps were trying to find some pretext against Daniel in connection with administrative matters. But they were unable to find any such damaging evidence, because he was trustworthy and guilty of no negligence or corruption. 5 So these men concluded, “We won’t find any pretext against this man Daniel unless it is in connection with the law of his Supermights.” 6 So these supervisors and satraps came by collusion to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! 7 To all the supervisors of the reign, the prefects, satraps, counselors, and governors it seemed like a good idea for a royal edict to be issued and an interdict to be enforced. For the next thirty days anyone who prays to any Supermights or human other than you, O king, should be thrown into a den of lions. 8 Now let the king issue a written interdict so that it cannot be altered, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed. 9 So King Darius issued the written interdict. 10 When Daniel realized that a written decree had been issued, he entered his home, where the windows in his upper room opened toward Jerusalem. Three times daily he was kneeling and offering prayers and thanks to his Supermights just as he had been accustomed to do previously. 11 Then those officials who had gone to the king came by collusion and found Daniel praying and asking for help before his Supermights. 12 So they approached the king and said to him, “Did you not issue an edict to the effect that for the next thirty days anyone who prays to any Supermights or human other than to you, O king, would be thrown into a den of lions?” The king replied, “That is correct, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed.” 13 Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the edict that you issued. Three times daily he offers his prayer.” 14 When the king heard this, he was very upset and began thinking about how he might rescue Daniel. Until late afternoon he was struggling to find a way to rescue him. 15 Then those men came by collusion to the king and said to him, “Recall, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or decree that the king issues can be changed.” 16 So the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into a den of lions. The king consoled Daniel by saying, “Your deity whom you continually serve will rescue you!” 17 Then a stone was brought and placed over the opening to the den. The king sealed it with his signet ring and with those of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel. 18 Then the king departed to his palace. But he spent the night without eating, and no diversions were brought to him. He was unable to sleep. 19 In the morning, at the earliest sign of daylight, the king got up and rushed to the lions’ den. 20 As he approached the den, he called out to Daniel in a worried voice, “Daniel, servant of the living Supermights , was your deity whom you continually serve able to rescue you from the lions?” 21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, “O king, live forever! 22 My Supermights sent his messenger and closed the lions’ mouths so that they have not harmed me, because I was found to be innocent before him. Nor have I done any harm to you, O king.” 23 Then the king was delighted and gave an order to haul Daniel up from the den. So Daniel was hauled up out of the den. He had no injury of any kind, because he had trusted in his Supermights. 24 The king gave another order, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the lions’ den – they, their children, and their wives. They did not even reach the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nationalities, and language groups who were living in all the land: “Peace and prosperity! 26 I’ve issued an edict that throughout all the dominion of my reign people are to revere and fear the Supermights of Daniel. “For he is the living Supermights ; he endures forever. His reign will not be destroyed; his authority is forever. 27 ​​​​​​​He rescues and delivers and performs signs and wonders in the Celestial Bodies and on the Earth . He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions!” 28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 7

1 In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream filled with visions while he was lying on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream in summary fashion. 2 Daniel explained: “I was watching in my vision during the night as the four winds of the sky were stirring up the great sea. 3 Then four large beasts came up from the sea; they were different from one another. 4 “The first one was like a lion with eagles’ wings. As I watched, its wings were pulled off and it was lifted up from the ground. It was made to stand on two feet like a human being, and a human mind was given to it. 5 “Then a second beast appeared, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and there were three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up and devour much flesh!’ 6 “After these things, as I was watching, another beast like a leopard appeared, with four bird-like wings on its back. This beast had four heads, and ruling authority was given to it. 7 “After these things, as I was watching in the night visions a fourth beast appeared – one dreadful, terrible, and very strong. It had two large rows of iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and anything that was left it trampled with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that came before it, and it had ten horns. 8 “As I was contemplating the horns, another horn – a small one – came up between them, and three of the former horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This horn had eyes resembling human eyes and a mouth speaking arrogant things. 9 “While I was watching, thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His attire was white like snow; the hair of his head was like lamb’s wool. His throne was ablaze with fire and its wheels were all aflame. 10 ​​​​​​​A river of fire was streaming forth and proceeding from his presence. Many thousands were ministering to him; Many tens of thousands stood ready to serve him. The court convened and the books were opened. 11 “Then I kept on watching because of the arrogant words of the horn that was speaking. I was watching until the beast was killed and its body destroyed and thrown into the flaming fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their ruling authority had already been removed, though they were permitted to go on living for a time and a season. 13 I was watching in the night visions, “And with the clouds of the sky one like a Kin of Humanity was approaching. He went up to the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. 14 ​​​​​​​To him was given ruling authority, honor, and sovereignty. All peoples, nationalities, and language groups were serving him. His authority is eternal and will not pass away. His reign will not be destroyed. 15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed, and the visions of my mind were alarming me. 16 I approached one of those standing nearby and asked him about the meaning of all this. So he spoke with me and revealed to me the interpretation of the vision: 17 ‘These large beasts, which are four in number, represent four kings who will arise from the Earth . 18 The sacred ones of the Most High will receive the reign and will take possession of the reign forever and ever.’ 19 “Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others. It was very dreadful, with two rows of iron teeth and bronze claws, and it devoured, crushed, and trampled anything that was left with its feet. 20 I also wanted to know the meaning of the ten horns on its head, and of that other horn which came up and before which three others fell. This was the horn that had eyes and a mouth speaking arrogant things, whose appearance was more formidable than the others. 21 While I was watching, that horn began to wage war against the sacred ones and was defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days arrived and judgment was rendered in favor of the sacred ones of the Most High. Then the time came for the sacred ones to take possession of the reign. 23 ​​​​​​​“This is what he told me: ‘The fourth beast means that there will be a fourth reign on Earth that will differ from all the other reigns. It will devour all the Earth and will trample and crush it. 24 ​​​​​​​The ten horns mean that ten kings will arise from that reign. Another king will arise after them, but he’ll be different from the earlier ones. he’ll humiliate three kings. 25 ​​​​​​​He will speak words against the Most High. he’ll harass the sacred ones of the Most High continually. His intention will be to change times established by law. They’ll be delivered into his hand For a time, times, and half a time. 26 ​​​​​​​But the court will convene, and his ruling authority will be removed – destroyed and abolished forever! 27 ​​​​​​​Then the reign, authority, and greatness of the reigns under all of Heaven will be delivered to the people of the sacred ones of the Most High. His reign is an eternal reign; all authorities will serve him and obey him.’ 28 “This is the conclusion of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts troubled me greatly, and the color drained from my face. But I kept the matter to myself.”

Daniel 8

1 In the third year of King Belshazzar’s reign, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after the one that had appeared to me previously. 2 In this vision I saw myself in Susa the citadel, which is located in the province of Elam. In the vision I saw myself at the Ulai Canal. 3 I looked up and saw a ram with two horns standing at the canal. Its two horns were both long, but one was longer than the other. The longer one was coming up after the shorter one. 4 I saw that the ram was butting westward, northward, and southward. No animal was able to stand before it, and there was none who could deliver from its power. It did as it pleased and acted arrogantly. 5 While I was contemplating all this, a male goat was coming from the west over the surface of all the land without touching the ground. This goat had a conspicuous horn between its eyes. 6 It came to the two-horned ram that I had seen standing beside the canal and rushed against it with raging strength. 7 I saw it approaching the ram. It went into a fit of rage against the ram and struck it and broke off its two horns. The ram had no ability to resist it. The goat hurled the ram to the ground and trampled it. No one could deliver the ram from its power. 8 The male goat acted even more arrogantly. But no sooner had the large horn become strong than it was broken, and there arose four conspicuous horns in its place, extending toward the four winds of the sky. 9 From one of them came a small horn. But it grew to be very big, toward the south and the east and toward the beautiful land. 10 It grew so big it reached the army of Heaven, and it brought about the fall of some of the army and some of the stars to the ground, where it trampled them. 11 It also acted arrogantly against the Prince of the army, from whom the daily sacrifice was removed and whose sanctuary was thrown down. 12 The army was given over, along with the daily sacrifice, in the course of his sinful rebellion. It hurled truth to the ground and enjoyed success. 13 Then I heard a sacred one speaking. Another sacred one said to the one who was speaking, “To what period of time does the vision pertain – this vision concerning the daily sacrifice and the destructive act of rebellion and the giving over of both the sanctuary and army to be trampled?” 14 He said to me, “To 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be put right again.” 15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision, I sought to understand it. Now one who appeared to be a man was standing before me. 16 Then I heard a human voice coming from between the banks of the Ulai. It called out, “Gabriel, enable this person to understand the vision.” 17 So he approached the place where I was standing. As he came, I felt terrified and fell flat on the ground. Then he said to me, “Understand, Kin of Humanity, that the vision pertains to the time of the end.” 18 As he spoke with me, I fell into a trance with my face to the ground. But he touched me and stood me upright. 19 Then he said, “I’m going to inform you about what will happen in the latter time of wrath, for the vision pertains to the appointed time of the end. 20 The ram that you saw with the two horns stands for the kings of Media and Persia. 21 The male goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between its eyes is the first king. 22 The horn that was broken and in whose place there arose four others stands for four reigns that will arise from his nation, though they’ll not have his strength. 23 Toward the end of their rule, when rebellious acts are complete, a rash and deceitful king will arise. 24 His power will be great, but it will not be by his strength alone. he’ll cause terrible destruction. he’ll be successful in what he undertakes. he’ll destroy powerful people and the people of the sacred ones. 25 By his treachery he’ll succeed through deceit. he’ll have an arrogant attitude, and he’ll destroy many who are unaware of his schemes. he’ll rise up against the Prince of princes, yet he’ll be broken apart – but not by human agency. 26 The vision of the evenings and mornings that was told to you is correct. But you should seal up the vision, for it refers to a time many days from now.” 27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up and again carried out the king’s business. But I was astonished at the vision, and there was no one to explain it.

Daniel 9

1 In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus, who was of Median descent and who had been appointed king over the Babylonian empire – 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, came to understand from the sacred books that, according to the word of Lifegiver disclosed to the prophet Jeremiah, the years for the fulfilling of the desolation of Jerusalem were seventy in number. 3 So I turned my attention to Lifegiver the Supermights to implore him by prayer and requests, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4 I prayed to Lifegiver my Supermights , confessing in this way: “O Lord, great and awesome Supermights who is faithful to his agreement with those who love him and keep his commandments, 5 we’ve sinned! We’ve done what is wrong and wicked; we’ve rebelled by turning away from your commandments and standards. 6 We’ve not paid attention to your servants the prophets, who spoke by your authority to our kings, our leaders, and our ancestors, and to all the inhabitants of the land as well. 7 “You are righteous, O Lord, but we are humiliated this day – the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far away in all the countries in which you have scattered them, because they have behaved unfaithfully toward you. 8 O Lifegiver, we’ve been humiliated – our kings, our leaders, and our ancestors – because we’ve sinned against you. 9 Yet Lifegiver our Supermights is compassionate and forgiving, even though we’ve rebelled against him. 10 We’ve not obeyed Lifegiver our Supermights by living according to his laws that he set before us through his servants the prophets. 11 “All Israel has broken your law and turned away by not obeying you. Therefore you have poured out on us the judgment solemnly threatened in the law of Moses the servant of Supermights , for we’ve sinned against you. 12 He has carried out his threats against us and our rulers who were over us by bringing great calamity on us – what has happened to Jerusalem has never been equaled under all Heaven! 13 Just as it is written in the law of Moses, so all this calamity has come on us. Still we’ve not tried to pacify Lifegiver our Supermights by turning back from our sin and by seeking wisdom from your reliable moral standards. 14 Lifegiver was mindful of the calamity, and he brought it on us. For Lifegiver our Supermights is just in all he has done, and we’ve not obeyed him. 15 “Now, O Lord our Supermights , who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with great power and made a name for yourself that is remembered to this day – we’ve sinned and behaved wickedly. 16 O Lord, according to all your justice, please turn your raging anger away from your city Jerusalem, your sacred mountain. For due to our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors, Jerusalem and your people are mocked by all our neighbors. 17 “So now, our Supermights , accept the prayer and requests of your servant, and show favor to your devastated sanctuary for your own sake. 18 Listen attentively, my Supermights , and hear! Open your eyes and look on our desolated ruins and the city called by your name. For it is not because of our own righteous deeds that we are praying to you, but because your compassion is abundant. 19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, pay attention, and act! Don’t delay, for your own sake, O my Supermights ! For your city and your people are called by your name.” 20 While I was still speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and presenting my request before Lifegiver my Supermights concerning his sacred mountain – 21 yes, while I was still praying, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen previously in a vision, was approaching me in my state of extreme weariness, around the time of the evening offering. 22 He spoke with me, instructing me as follows: “Daniel, I’ve now come to impart understanding to you. 23 At the beginning of your requests a message went out, and I’ve come to convey it to you, for you are of great value in Supermights ’s sight. Therefore consider the message and understand the vision: 24 ​​​​​​​“Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your sacred city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual rightness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most sacred place. 25 ​​​​​​​So know and understand: From the issuing of the instruct to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until an anointed one, a prince arrives, there will be a period of seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will again be built, with plaza and moat, but in distressful times. 26 ​​​​​​​Now after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one will be cut off and have nothing. As for the city and the sanctuary, the people of the coming prince will destroy them. But his end will come speedily like a flood. Until the end of the war that has been decreed there will be destruction. 27 ​​​​​​​He will confirm a agreement with many for one week. But in the middle of that week he’ll bring sacrifices and offerings to a halt. On the wing of disgusting things will come one who destroys, until the decreed end is poured out on the one who destroys.”

Daniel 10

1 In the third year of King Cyrus of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel (who was also called Belteshazzar). This message was true and concerned a great war. He understood the message and gained insight by the vision. 2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three whole weeks. 3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine came to my lips, nor did I anoint myself with oil until the end of those three weeks. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month I was beside the great river, the Tigris. 5 I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen; around his waist was a belt made of gold from Upaz. 6 His body resembled yellow jasper, and his face had an appearance like lightning. His eyes were like blazing torches; his arms and feet had the gleam of polished bronze. His voice thundered forth like the sound of a large crowd. 7 Only I, Daniel, saw the vision; the men who were with me did not see it. On the contrary, they were overcome with fright and ran away to hide. 8 I alone was left to see this great vision. My strength drained from me, and my vigor disappeared; I was without energy. 9 I listened to his voice, and as I did so I fell into a trance-like sleep with my face to the ground. 10 Then a hand touched me and set me on my hands and knees. 11 He said to me, “Daniel, you are of great value. Understand the words that I’m about to speak to you. So stand up, for I’ve now been sent to you.” When he said this to me, I stood up shaking. 12 Then he said to me, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel, for from the very first day you applied your mind to understand and to humble yourself before your deity, your words were heard. I’ve come in response to your words. 13 However, the prince of the reign of Persia was opposing me for twenty-one days. But Michael, one of the leading princes, came to help me, because I was left there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I’ve come to help you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to future days.” 15 While he was saying this to me, I was flat on the ground and unable to speak. 16 Then one who appeared to be a human being was touching my lips. I opened my mouth and started to speak, saying to the one who was standing before me, “Sir, due to the vision, anxiety has gripped me and I’ve no strength. 17 How, sir, am I able to speak with you? My strength is gone, and I’m breathless.” 18 Then the one who appeared to be a human being touched me again and strengthened me. 19 He said to me, “Don’t be afraid, you who are valued. Peace be to you! Be strong! Be really strong!” When he spoke to me, I was strengthened. I said, “Sir, you may speak now, for you have given me strength.” 20 He said, “Do you know why I’ve come to you? Now I’m about to return to engage in battle with the prince of Persia. When I go, the prince of Greece is coming. 21 However, I’ll first tell you what is written in a dependable book. (There is no one who strengthens me against these princes, except Michael your prince.

Daniel 11

1 And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood to strengthen him and to provide protection for him.) 2 Now I’ll tell you the truth. “Three more kings will arise for Persia. Then a fourth king will be unusually rich, more so than all who preceded him. When he has amassed power through his riches, he’ll stir up everyone against the reign of Greece. 3 Then a powerful king will arise, exercising great authority and doing as he pleases. 4 Shortly after his rise to power, his reign will be broken up and distributed toward the four winds of the sky – but not to his posterity or with the authority he exercised, for his reign will be uprooted and distributed to others besides these. 5 “Then the king of the south and one of his subordinates will grow strong. His subordinate will resist him and will rule a reign greater than his. 6 After some years have passed, they’ll form an alliance. Then the daughter of the king of the south will come to the king of the north to make an agreement, but she’ll not retain her power, nor will he continue in his strength. She, together with the one who brought her, her child, and her benefactor will all be delivered over at that time. 7 “There will arise in his place one from her family line who will come against their army and will enter the stronghold of the king of the north and will move against them successfully. 8 he’ll also take their deities into captivity to Egypt, along with their cast images and prized utensils of silver and gold. Then he’ll withdraw for some years from the king of the north. 9 Then the king of the north will advance against the empire of the king of the south, but will withdraw to his own land. 10 His sons will wage war, mustering a large army which will advance like an overflowing river and carrying the battle all the way to the enemy’s fortress. 11 “Then the king of the south will be enraged and will march out to fight against the king of the north, who will also muster a large army, but that army will be delivered into his hand. 12 When the army is taken away, the king of the south will become arrogant. he’ll be responsible for the death of thousands and thousands of people, but he’ll not continue to prevail. 13 For the king of the north will again muster an army, one larger than before. At the end of some years he’ll advance with a huge army and enormous supplies. 14 “In those times many will oppose the king of the south. Those who are violent among your own people will rise up in confirmation of the vision, but they’ll falter. 15 Then the king of the north will advance and will build siege mounds and capture a well-fortified city. The forces of the south will not prevail, not even his finest contingents. They’ll have no strength to prevail. 16 The one advancing against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to stand before him. he’ll prevail in the beautiful land, and its annihilation will be witlitrehis power. 17 His intention will be to come with the strength of his entire reign, and he’ll form alliances. he’ll give the king of the south a daughter in marriage in order to destroy the reign, but it will not turn out to his advantage. 18 Then he’ll turn his attention to the coastal regions and will capture many of them. But a instruct er will bring his shameful conduct to a halt; in addition, he’ll make him pay for his shameful conduct. 19 he’ll then turn his attention to the fortresses of his own land, but he’ll stumble and fall, not to be found again. 20 There will arise after him one who will send out an exactor of tribute to enhance the splendor of the reign, but after a few days he’ll be destroyed, though not in anger or battle. 21 “Then there will arise in his place a despicable person to whom the royal honor has not been rightfully conferred. he’ll come on the scene in a time of prosperity and will seize the reign through deceit. 22 Armies will be suddenly swept away in defeat before him; both they and a agreement leader will be destroyed. 23 After entering into an alliance with him, he’ll behave treacherously; he’ll ascend to power with only a small force. 24 In a time of prosperity for the most productive areas of the province he’ll come and accomplish what neither his fathers nor their fathers accomplished. he’ll distribute loot, spoils, and property to his followers, and he’ll devise plans against fortified cities, but not for long. 25 he’ll rouse his strength and enthusiasm against the king of the south with a large army. The king of the south will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he’ll not be able to prevail because of the plans devised against him. 26 Those who share the king’s fine food will attempt to destroy him, and his army will be swept away; many will be killed in battle. 27 These two kings, their minds filled with bad intentions, will trade lies with one another at the same table. But it will not succeed, for there is still an end at the appointed time. 28 Then the king of the north will return to his own land with much property. His mind will be set against the sacred covenant. he’ll take action, and then return to his own land. 29 At an appointed time he’ll again invade the south, but this latter visit will not turn out the way the former one did. 30 The ships of Kittim will come against him, leaving him disheartened. he’ll turn back and direct his indignation against the sacred covenant. he’ll return and honor those who forsake the sacred covenant. 31 His forces will rise up and profane the fortified sanctuary, stopping the daily sacrifice. In its place they’ll set up the abomination that causes desolation. 32 Then with smooth words he’ll defile those who have rejected the covenant. But the people who are loyal to their Supermights will act valiantly. 33 These who are wise among the people will teach the masses. However, they’ll fall by the sword and by the flame, and they’ll be imprisoned and plundered for some time. 34 When they stumble, they’ll be granted some help. But many will unite with them deceitfully. 35 Even some of the wise will stumble, resulting in their refinement, purification, and cleansing until the time of the end, for it is still for the appointed time. 36 “Then the king will do as he pleases. he’ll exalt and magnify himself above every deity and he’ll utter presumptuous things against the Supermights of Deities. he’ll succeed until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been decreed must occur. 37 he’ll not respect the deities of his fathers – not even the Supermights loved by women. he’ll not respect any Supermights ; he’ll elevate himself above them all. 38 What he’ll honor is a Supermights of fortresses – a Supermights his fathers did not acknowledge he’ll honor with gold, silver, valuable stones, and treasured commodities. 39 he’ll attack mighty fortresses, aided by a foreign deity. To those who recognize him he’ll grant considerable honor. he’ll place them in authority over many people, and he’ll parcel out land for a price. 40 “At the time of the end the king of the south will attack him. Then the king of the north will storm against him with chariots, horsemen, and a large armada of ships. he’ll invade lands, passing through them like an overflowing river. 41 Then he’ll enter the beautiful land. Many will fall, but these will escape: Edom, Moab, and the Ammonite leadership. 42 he’ll extend his power against other lands; the land of Egypt will not escape. 43 he’ll have control over the hidden stores of gold and silver, as well as all the treasures of Egypt. Libyans and Ethiopians will submit to him. 44 But reports will trouble him from the east and north, and he’ll set out in a tremendous rage to destroy and wipe out many. 45 he’ll pitch his royal tents between the seas toward the beautiful sacred mountain. But he’ll come to his end, with no one to help him.

Daniel 12

1 ​​​​​​​“At that time Michael, the great prince who watches over your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress unlike any other from the nation’s beginning up to that time. But at that time your own people, all those whose names are found written in the book, will escape. 2 ​​​​​​​Many of those who sleep in the dusty ground will awake – some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting abhorrence. 3 ​​​​​​​But the wise will shine like the brightness of the celestial space. And those bringing many to rightness will be like the stars forever and ever. 4 “But you, Daniel, close up these words and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will dash about, and knowledge will increase.” 5 I, Daniel, watched as two others stood there, one on each side of the river. 6 One said to the man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the river, “When will the end of these wondrous events occur?” 7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen who was over the waters of the river as he raised both his right and left hands to the sky and made an oath by the one who lives forever: “It is for a time, times, and half a time. Then, when the power of the one who shatters the sacred people has been exhausted, all these things will be finished.” 8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I said, “Sir, what will happen after these things?” 9 He said, “Go, Daniel. For these matters are closed and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many will be purified, made clean, and refined, but the wicked will go on being wicked. None of the wicked will understand, though the wise will understand. 11 From the time that the daily sacrifice is removed and the abomination that causes desolation is set in place, there are 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is the one who waits and attains to the 1,335 days. 13 But you should go your way until the end. You’ll rest and then at the end of the days you’ll arise to receive what you have been allotted.”

HOSEA

Hosea 1

1 This is the word of Lifegiver which was revealed to Hosea son of Beeri during the time when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ruled Judah, and during the time when Jeroboam son of Joash ruled Israel. 2 When Lifegiver first spoke through Hosea, he said to him, “Go marry a prostitute who will bear illegitimate children conceived through prostitution, because the nation continually commits spiritual prostitution by turning away from Lifegiver.” 3 So Hosea married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim. Then she conceived and gave birth to a son for him. 4 Then Lifegiver said to Hosea, “Name him ‘Jezreel,’ because in a little while I’ll punish the dynasty of Jehu on account of the bloodshed in the valley of Jezreel, and I’ll put an end to the reign of Israel. 5 At that time, I’ll destroy the military power of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.” 6 She conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then Lifegiver said to him, “Name her ‘No Pity’ (Lo-Ruhamah) because I’ll no longer have pity on the nation of Israel. For I’ll certainly not forgive their guilt. 7 But I’ll have pity on the nation of Judah. I’ll deliver them by Lifegiver their Supermights ; I’ll not deliver them by the warrior’s bow, by sword, by military victory, by chariot horses, or by chariots.” 8 When she had weaned ‘No Pity’ (Lo-Ruhamah) she conceived again and gave birth to another son. 9 Then Lifegiver said: “Name him ‘Not My People’ (Lo-Ammi), because you are not my people and I’m not your deity.” 10 (2:1) However, in the future the number of the people of Israel will be like the sand of the sea which can be neither measured nor numbered. Although it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it will be said to them, “You are children of the living Supermights !” 11 Then the people of Judah and the people of Israel will be gathered together. They’ll appoint for themselves one leader, and will flourish in the land. Certainly, the day of Jezreel will be great!

Hosea 2

1 Then you’ll call your brother, “My People” (Ammi)! You’ll call your sister, “Pity” (Ruhamah)! 2 ​​​​​​​Plead earnestly with your mother (for she is not my wife, and I’m not her husband), so that she might put an end to her adulterous lifestyle, and turn away from her sexually immoral behavior. 3 ​​​​​​​Otherwise, I’ll strip her naked, and expose her like she was when she was born. I’ll turn her land into a desert and make her country a parched land, so that I might kill her with thirst. 4 ​​​​​​​I’ll have no pity on her children, because they are children conceived in adultery. 5 ​​​​​​​For their mother has committed adultery; she who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, “I’ll seek out my lovers; they are the ones who give me my bread and my water, my wool, my flax, my olive oil, and my wine. 6 ​​​​​​​Therefore, I’ll soon fence her in with thorns; I’ll wall her in so that she cannot find her way. 7 ​​​​​​​Then she’ll pursue her lovers, but she’ll not catch them; she’ll seek them, but she’ll not find them. Then she’ll say, “I’ll go back to my husband, because I was better off then than I’m now.” 8 ​​​​​​​Yet until now she has refused to acknowledge that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil; and that it was I who lavished on her the silver and gold – which they used in worshiping Baal! 9 ​​​​​​​Therefore, I’ll take back my grain during the harvest time and my new wine when it ripens; I’ll take away my wool and my flax which I had provided in order to clothe her. 10 ​​​​​​​Soon I’ll expose her lewd nakedness in front of her lovers, and no one will be able to rescue her from me! 11 ​​​​​​​I’ll put an end to all her celebration: her annual religious festivals, monthly new moon celebrations, and weekly Sabbath festivities – all her appointed festivals. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy her vines and fig trees, about which she said, “These are my wages for prostitution that my lovers gave to me!” I’ll turn her cultivated vines and fig trees into an uncultivated thicket, so that wild animals will devour them. 13 ​​​​​​​“I’ll punish her for the festival days when she burned incense to the Baal idols; she adorned herself with earrings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but she forgot me!” says Lifegiver. 14 ​​​​​​​However, in the future I’ll allure her; I’ll lead her back into the desert, and speak tenderly to her. 15 ​​​​​​​From there I’ll give back her vineyards to her, and turn the “Valley of Trouble” into an “Opportunity for Hope.” There she’ll sing as she did when she was young, when she came up from the land of Egypt. 16 ​​​​​​​“At that time,” declares Lifegiver, “you’ll call, ‘My husband’; you’ll never again call me, ‘My master.’ 17 ​​​​​​​For I’ll remove the names of the Baal idols from your lips, so that you’ll never again utter their names!” 18 ​​​​​​​“At that time I’ll make a agreement for them with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creatures that crawl on the ground. I’ll abolish the warrior’s bow and sword – that is, every weapon of warfare – from the land, and I’ll allow them to live securely.” 19 ​​​​​​​I’ll commit myself to you forever; I’ll commit myself to you in rightness and justice, in steadfast love and tender compassion. 20 ​​​​​​​I’ll commit myself to you in faithfulness; then you’ll acknowledge Lifegiver.” 21 ​​​​​​​“At that time, I’ll willingly respond,” declares Lifegiver. “I’ll respond to the sky, and the sky will respond to the ground; 22 ​​​​​​​then the ground will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil; and they’ll respond to ‘Supermights Plants’ (Jezreel)! 23 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll plant her as my own in the land. I’ll have pity on ‘No Pity’ (Lo-Ruhamah). I’ll say to ‘Not My People’ (Lo-Ammi), ‘You are my people!’ And he’ll say, ‘You are my Supermights !’”

Hosea 3

1 Lifegiver said to me, “Go, show love to your wife again, even though she loves another man and continually commits adultery. Likewise, Lifegiver loves the Israelites although they turn to other deities and love to offer raisin cakes to idols.” 2 So I paid fifteen shekels of silver and about seven bushels of barley to purchase her. 3 Then I told her, “You must live with me many days; you must not commit adultery or have sexual intercourse with another man, and I also will wait for you.” 4 For the Israelites must live many days without a king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred fertility pillar, without priestly cape or idols. 5 Afterward, the Israelites will turn and seek Lifegiver their Supermights and their Davidic king. Then they’ll submit to Lifegiver in fear and receive his blessings in the future.

Hosea 4

1 ​​​​​​​Hear the word of Lifegiver, you Israelites! For Lifegiver has a agreement lawsuit against the people of Israel. For there is neither faithfulness nor loyalty in the land, nor do they acknowledge Supermights. 2 ​​​​​​​There is only cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and adultery. They resort to violence and bloodshed. 3 ​​​​​​​Therefore the land will mourn, and all its inhabitants will perish. The wild animals, the birds of the sky, and even the fish in the sea will perish. 4 ​​​​​​​Do not let anyone accuse or contend against anyone else: for my case is against you priests!

5 ​​​​​​​You fall day and night,

and the fake spokespersons fall with you -

you have destroyed your own people!

6 ​​​​​​​You have destroyed my people

through lack of knowledge!

Because you have rejected knowledge,

I’ll reject you as my priests.

Because you disregard the law of your deity,

I’ll neglect your descendants.

7 ​​​​​​​The more the priests increased in numbers, the more they rebelled against me. They have turned their glorious calling into a shameful disgrace! 8 ​​​​​​​They feed on the sin offerings of my people; their appetites long for their iniquity! 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll deal with the people and priests together: I’ll punish them both for their ways, and I’ll repay them for their deeds. 10 ​​​​​​​They’ll eat, but not be satisfied; they’ll engage in prostitution, but not increase in numbers; because they have abandoned Lifegiver by pursuing other Deities. 11 ​​​​​​​Old and new wine take away the understanding of my people. 12 ​​​​​​​They consult their wooden idols, and their diviner’s staff answers with an oracle. The wind of prostitution blows them astray; they commit spiritual adultery against their Supermights. 13 ​​​​​​​They sacrifice on the mountaintops, and burn offerings on the hills; they sacrifice under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is so pleasant. As a result, your daughters have become cult prostitutes, and your daughters-in-law commit adultery! 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll not punish your daughters when they commit prostitution, nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery. For the men consort with harlots, they sacrifice with temple prostitutes. It is true: “A people that lacks understanding will come to ruin!” 15 ​​​​​​​Although you, O Israel, commit adultery, do not let Judah become guilty! Do not journey to Gilgal! Do not go up to Beth Aven! Do not swear, “As surely as Lifegiver lives!” 16 ​​​​​​​Israel has rebelled like a stubborn heifer! Soon Lifegiver will put them out to pasture like a lamb in a broad field! 17 ​​​​​​​Ephraim has attached himself to idols; Do not go near him! 18 ​​​​​​​They consume their alcohol, then engage in cult prostitution; they dearly love their shameful behavior. 19 ​​​​​​​A whirlwind has wrapped them in its wings; they’ll be brought to shame because of their idolatrous worship.

Hosea 5

1 ​​​​​​​Hear this, you priests! Pay attention, you Israelites! Listen closely, O king! For judgment is about to overtake you! For you were like a trap to Mizpah, like a net spread out to catch Tabor. 2 ​​​​​​​Those who revolt are knee-deep in slaughter, but I’ll discipline them all. 3 ​​​​​​​I know Ephraim all too well; the bad of Israel is not hidden from me. For you have engaged in prostitution, O Ephraim; Israel has defiled itself. 4 ​​​​​​​Their wicked deeds do not allow them to return to their Supermights ; because a spirit of idolatry controls their heart, and they do not acknowledge Lifegiver. 5 ​​​​​​​The arrogance of Israel testifies against it; Israel and Ephraim will be overthrown because of their iniquity. Even Judah will be brought down with them. 6 ​​​​​​​Although they bring their flocks and herds to seek the favor of Lifegiver, They’ll not find him – he has withdrawn himself from them! 7 ​​​​​​​They have committed treason against Lifegiver, because they bore illegitimate children. Soon the new moon festival will devour them and their fields. 8 ​​​​​​​Blow the ram’s horn in Gibeah! Sound the trumpet in Ramah! Sound the alarm in Beth Aven! Tremble in fear, O Benjamin! 9 ​​​​​​​Ephraim will be ruined in the day of judgment! What I’m declaring to the tribes of Israel will certainly take place! 10 ​​​​​​​The princes of Judah are like those who move boundary markers. I’ll pour out my rage on them like a torrential flood! 11 ​​​​​​​Ephraim will be oppressed, crushed under judgment, because he was determined to pursue worthless idols. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll be like a moth to Ephraim, like wood rot to the house of Judah. 13 ​​​​​​​When Ephraim saw his sickness and Judah saw his wound, then Ephraim turned to Assyria, and begged its great king for help. But he’ll not be able to heal you! He cannot cure your wound! 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll be like a lion to Ephraim, like a young lion to the house of Judah. I myself will tear them to pieces, then I’ll carry them off, and no one will be able to rescue them! 15 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll return again to my lair until they have suffered their punishment. Then they’ll seek me; in their distress they’ll earnestly seek me.

Hosea 6

1 ​​​​​​​“Come on! Let’s return to Lifegiver! He himself has torn us to pieces, but he’ll heal us! He has injured us, but he’ll bandage our wounds! 2 ​​​​​​​He will restore us in a very short time; he’ll heal us in a little while, so that we may live in his presence. 3 ​​​​​​​So let us acknowledge him! Let us seek to acknowledge Lifegiver! he’ll come to our rescue as certainly as the appearance of the dawn, as certainly as the winter rain comes, as certainly as the spring rain that waters the land.” 4 ​​​​​​​What am I going to do with you, O Ephraim? What am I going to do with you, O Judah? For your faithfulness is as fleeting as the morning mist; it disappears as quickly as dawn’s dew! 5 ​​​​​​​Therefore, I’ll certainly cut you into pieces at the hands of the prophets; I’ll certainly kill you in fulfillment of my oracles of judgment; for my judgment will come forth like the light of the dawn. 6 ​​​​​​​I delight in mercy and not in slaughter, the understanding of Supermights more than incinerated sacrifice. 7 ​​​​​​​At Adam they broke the covenant; Oh how they were unfaithful to me! 8 ​​​​​​​Gilead is a city full of evildoers; its streets are stained with bloody footprints! 9 ​​​​​​​The company of priests is like a gang of robbers, lying in ambush to pounce on a victim. They commit murder on the road to Shechem; they have done heinous crimes! 10 ​​​​​​​I’ve seen a disgusting thing in the temple of Israel: there Ephraim practices temple prostitution and Judah defiles itself. 11 ​​​​​​​I’ve appointed a time to reap judgment for you also, O Judah! ​​​​​​Whenever I want to restore the fortunes of my people,

Hosea 7

1 ​​​​​​​whenever I want to heal Israel, the sin of Ephraim is revealed, and the bad deeds of Samaria are exposed. For they do what is wrong; thieves break into houses, and gangs rob people out in the streets. 2 ​​​​​​​They do not realize that I remember all of their wicked deeds. Their bad deeds have now surrounded them; their sinful deeds are always before me. 3 ​​​​​​​The royal advisers delight the king with their bad schemes, the princes make him glad with their lies. 4 ​​​​​​​They are all like bakers, they are like a smoldering oven; they are like a baker who does not stoke the fire until the kneaded dough is ready for baking. 5 ​​​​​​​At the celebration of their king, his princes become inflamed with wine; they conspire with evildoers. 6 ​​​​​​​They approach him, all the while plotting against him. Their hearts are like an oven; their anger smolders all night long, but in the morning it bursts into a flaming fire. 7 ​​​​​​​All of them are blazing like an oven; they devour their rulers. All of their kings fall – and none of them call on me! 8 ​​​​​​​Ephraim has mixed itself like flour among the nationalities; Ephraim is like a ruined cake of bread that is scorched on one side. 9 ​​​​​​​Foreigners are consuming what his strenuous labor produced, but he does not recognize it! His head is filled with gray hair, but he does not realize it! 10 ​​​​​​​The arrogance of Israel testifies against him, yet they refuse to return to Lifegiver their Supermights ! In spite of all this they refuse to seek him! 11 ​​​​​​​Ephraim has been like a dove, easily deceived and lacking discernment. They called to Egypt for help; they turned to Assyria for protection. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll throw my bird net over them while they are flying, I’ll bring them down like birds in the sky; I’ll discipline them when I hear them flocking together. 13 ​​​​​​​Woe to them! For they have fled from me! Destruction to them! For they have rebelled against me! I want to deliver them, but they have lied to me. 14 ​​​​​​​They do not pray to me, but howl in distress on their beds; They slash themselves for grain and new wine, but turn away from me. 15 ​​​​​​​Although I trained and strengthened them, they plot bad against me! 16 ​​​​​​​They turn to Baal; they are like an unreliable bow. Their leaders will fall by the sword because their prayers to Baal have made me angry. So people will disdain them in the land of Egypt.

Hosea 8

1 ​​​​​​​Sound the alarm! An eagle looms over the temple of Lifegiver! For they have broken their agreement with me, and have rebelled against my law. 2 ​​​​​​​Israel cries out to me, “My Supermights , we acknowledge you!” 3 ​​​​​​​But Israel has rejected what is morally good; so an enemy will pursue him. 4 ​​​​​​​They enthroned kings without my consent! They appointed princes without my approval! They made idols out of their silver and gold, but they’ll be destroyed! 5 ​​​​​​​O Samaria, he has rejected your calf idol! My anger burns against them! They’ll not survive much longer without being punished, even though they are Israelites! 6 ​​​​​​​That idol was made by a workman – it is not Supermights ! The calf idol of Samaria will be broken to bits. 7 ​​​​​​​They sow the wind, and so they’ll reap the whirlwind! The stalk does not have any standing grain; it will not produce any flour. Even if it were to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it all up. 8 ​​​​​​​Israel will be swallowed up among the nationalities; they’ll be like a worthless piece of pottery. 9 ​​​​​​​They have gone up to Assyria, like a wild donkey that wanders off. Ephraim has hired prostitutes as lovers. 10 ​​​​​​​Even though they have hired lovers among the nationalities, I’ll soon gather them together for judgment. Then they’ll begin to waste away under the oppression of a mighty king. 11 ​​​​​​​Although Ephraim has built many altars for sin offerings, these have become altars for sinning! 12 ​​​​​​​I spelled out my law for him in great detail, but they regard it as something totally unknown to them! 13 ​​​​​​​They offer up sacrificial gifts to me, and eat the meat, but Lifegiver does not accept their sacrifices. Soon he’ll remember their wrongdoing, he’ll punish their sins, and they’ll return to Egypt. 14 ​​​​​​​Israel has forgotten his Maker and built royal palaces, and Judah has built many fortified cities. But I’ll send fire on their cities; it will consume their royal citadels.

Hosea 9

1 ​​​​​​​O Israel, do not rejoice jubilantly like the nationalities, for you are unfaithful to your deity. You love to receive a prostitute\’s wages on all the floors where you thresh your grain. 2 ​​​​​​​Threshing floors and wine vats will not feed the people, and new wine only deceives them. 3 ​​​​​​​They’ll not remain in Lifegiver’s land. Ephraim will return to Egypt; they’ll eat ritually unclean food in Assyria. 4 ​​​​​​​They’ll not pour out drink offerings of wine to Lifegiver; they’ll not please him with their sacrifices. Their sacrifices will be like bread eaten while in mourning; all those who eat them will make themselves ritually unclean. For their bread will be only to satisfy their appetite; it will not come into the temple of Lifegiver. 5 ​​​​​​​So what will you do on the festival day, on the festival days of Lifegiver? 6 ​​​​​​​Look! Even if they flee from the destruction, Egypt will take hold of them, and Memphis will bury them. The weeds will inherit the silver they treasure – thorn bushes will occupy their homes. 7 ​​​​​​​The time of judgment is about to arrive! The time of retribution is imminent! Let Israel know! ​​​​​​The prophet is considered a fool – the inspired man is viewed as a madman – because of the multitude of your sins and your intense animosity. 8 ​​​​​​​The prophet is a watchman over Ephraim on behalf of Supermights , yet traps are laid for him along all of his paths; animosity rages against him in the land of his Supermights. 9 ​​​​​​​They have sunk deep into corruption as in the days of Gibeah. he’ll remember their wrongdoing. he’ll repay them for their sins. 10 ​​​​​​​When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert. I viewed your ancestors like an early fig on a fig tree in its first season. Then they came to Baal-Peor and they dedicated themselves to shame – they became as detestable as what they loved. 11 ​​​​​​​Ephraim will be like a bird; what they value will fly away. They’ll not bear children – they’ll not enjoy pregnancy – they’ll not even conceive! 12 ​​​​​​​Even if they raise their children, I’ll take away every last one of them. Woe to them! For I’ll turn away from them. 13 ​​​​​​​Just as lion cubs are born predators, so Ephraim will bear his sons for slaughter. 14 ​​​​​​​Give them, O Lifegiver – what will you give them? Give them wombs that miscarry, and breasts that cannot nurse! 15 ​​​​​​​Because of all their bad in Gilgal, I hate them there. On account of their bad deeds, I’ll drive them out of my land. I’ll no longer love them; all their rulers are rebels. 16 ​​​​​​​Ephraim will be struck down – their root will be dried up; they’ll not yield any fruit. Even if they do bear children, I’ll kill their precious offspring. 17 ​​​​​​​My Supermights will reject them, for they have not obeyed him; so they’ll be fugitives among the nationalities.

Hosea 10

1 ​​​​​​​Israel was a fertile vine that yielded fruit. As his fruit multiplied, he multiplied altars to Baal. As his land prospered, they adorned the fertility pillars. 2 ​​​​​​​Their heart is slipping; soon they’ll be punished for their guilt. Lifegiver will break their altars; he’ll completely destroy their fertility pillars. 3 ​​​​​​​Very soon they’ll say, “We’ve no king since we did not fear Lifegiver. But what can a king do for us anyway?” 4 ​​​​​​​They utter empty words, taking false oaths and making empty agreements. Therefore legal disputes sprout up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of a plowed field. 5 ​​​​​​​The inhabitants of Samaria will lament over the calf idol of Beth Aven. Its people will mourn over it; its idolatrous priests will wail over it, because its splendor will be taken from them into exile. 6 ​​​​​​​Even the calf idol will be carried to Assyria, as tribute for the great king. Ephraim will be disgraced; Israel will be put to shame because of its wooden idol. 7 ​​​​​​​Samaria and its king will be carried off like a twig on the surface of the waters. 8 ​​​​​​​The high places of the “House of Wickedness” will be destroyed; it is the place where Israel sins. Thorns and thistles will grow up over its altars. Then they’ll say to the mountains, “Cover us!” and to the hills, “Fall on us!” 9 ​​​​​​​O Israel, you have sinned since the time of Gibeah, and there you have remained. Did not war overtake the evildoers in Gibeah? 10 ​​​​​​​When I please, I’ll discipline them; I’ll gather nationalities together to attack them, to bind them in chains for their two sins. 11 ​​​​​​​Ephraim was a well-trained heifer who loved to thresh grain; I myself put a fine yokeon her neck. I’ll harness Ephraim. Let Judah plow! Let Jacob break up the unplowed ground for himself! 12 ​​​​​​​Sow rightness for yourselves, reap unfailing love. Break up the unplowed ground for yourselves, for it is time to seek Lifegiver, until he comes and showers deliverance on you. 13 ​​​​​​​But you have plowed wickedness; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your chariots; you have relied on your many warriors. 14 ​​​​​​​The roar of battle will rise against your people; all your fortresses will be devastated, just as Shalman devastated Beth Arbel on the day of battle, when mothers were dashed to the ground with their children. 15 ​​​​​​​So will it happen to you, O Bethel, because of your great wickedness! When that day dawns, the king of Israel will be destroyed.

Hosea 11

1 ​​​​​​​ When Israel was young, I loved him and out of Egypt I called my child.

2 ​​​​​​​But the more I summoned them, the farther they departed from me. They sacrificed to the Baal idols and burned incense to effigies. 3 ​​​​​​​Yet it was I who led Ephraim, I took them by the arm; but they did not acknowledge that I had healed them. 4 ​​​​​​​I led them with leather cords, with leather ropes; I lifted the yoke from their neck, and gently fed them. 5 ​​​​​​​They’ll return to Egypt! Assyria will rule over them because they refuse to repent! 6 ​​​​​​​A sword will flash in their cities, it will destroy the bars of their city gates, and will devour them in their fortresses. 7 ​​​​​​​My people are obsessed with turning away from me; they call to Baal, but he’ll never exalt them! 8 ​​​​​​​How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? I’ve had a change of heart! All my tender compassions are aroused! 9 ​​​​​​​I cannot carry out my fierce anger! I cannot totally destroy Ephraim! Because I’m Supermights , and not man – the Holy One among you – I’ll not come in wrath! 10 ​​​​​​​He will roar like a lion, and they’ll follow Lifegiver; when he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. 11 ​​​​​​​They’ll return in fear and trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria, and I’ll settle them in their homes,” declares Lifegiver. 12 ​​​​​​​(12:1) Ephraim has surrounded me with lies; the house of Israel has surrounded me with deceit. But Judah still roams about with Supermights ; he remains faithful to the Holy One.

Hosea 12

1 ​​​​​​​Ephraim continually feeds on the wind; he chases the east wind all day; he multiplies lies and violence. They make treaties with Assyria, and send olive oil as tribute to Egypt. 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver also has a agreement lawsuit against Judah; he’ll punish Jacob according to his ways and repay him according to his deeds. 3 ​​​​​​​In the womb he attacked his brother; in his manly vigor he struggled with Supermights. 4 ​​​​​​​He struggled with a messenger and prevailed; he wept and begged for his favor. He found Supermights at Bethel, and there he spoke with him! 5 ​​​​​​​As for Lifegiver the Supermights deity, Lifegiver is the name by which he is remembered! 6 ​​​​​​​But you must return to your deity, by maintaining love and justice, and by waiting for your deity to return to you. 7 ​​​​​​​The businessmen love to cheat; they use dishonest scales. 8 ​​​​​​​Ephraim boasts, “I’m very rich! I’ve become wealthy! In all that I’ve done to gain my wealth, no one can accuse me of any offense that is actually sinful.” 9 ​​​​​​​“I’m Lifegiver your deity who brought you out of Egypt; I’ll make you live in tents again as in the days of old. 10 ​​​​​​​I spoke to the prophets; I myself revealed many visions; I spoke in parables through the prophets.” 11 ​​​​​​​Is there idolatry in Gilead? Certainly its inhabitants will come to nothing! Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal? Surely their altars will be like stones heaped up on a plowed field! 12 ​​​​​​​Jacob fled to the country of Aram, then Israel worked to acquire a wife; he tended sheep to pay for her. 13 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver brought Israel out of Egypt by a prophet, and due to a prophet Israel was preserved alive. 14 ​​​​​​​But Ephraim bitterly provoked him to anger; so he’ll hold him accountable for the blood he has shed, his Lord will repay him for the contempt he has shown.

Hosea 13

1 ​​​​​​​When Ephraim spoke, there was terror; he was exalted in Israel, but he became guilty by worshiping Baal and died. 2 ​​​​​​​Even now they persist in sin! They make metal effigies for themselves, idols that they skillfully fashion from their own silver; all of them are nothing but the work of craftsmen! There is a saying about them: “Those who sacrifice to the calf idol are calf kissers!” 3 ​​​​​​​Therefore they’ll disappear like the morning mist, like early morning dew that evaporates, like chaff that is blown away from a threshing floor, like smoke that disappears through an open window. 4 ​​​​​​​But I’m Lifegiver your deity, who brought you out of Egypt. Therefore, you must not acknowledge any Supermights but me; except me there is no Savior. 5 ​​​​​​​I cared for you in the desert, in the dry desert where no water was. 6 ​​​​​​​When they were fed, they became satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; as a result, they forgot me! 7 ​​​​​​​So I’ll pounce on them like a lion; like a leopard I’ll lurk by the path. 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll attack them like a bear robbed of her cubs – I’ll rip open their chests. I’ll devour them there like a lion – like a wild animal would tear them apart. 9 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy you, O Israel! Who is there to help you? 10 ​​​​​​​Where then is your king, that he may save you in all your cities? Where are your rulers for whom you asked, saying, “Give me a king and princes”? 11 ​​​​​​​I granted you a king in my anger, and I’ll take him away in my wrath! 12 ​​​​​​​The punishment of Ephraim has been decreed; his punishment is being stored up for the future. 13 ​​​​​​​The labor pains of a woman will overtake him, but the baby will lack wisdom; when the time arrives, he’ll not come out of the womb! 14 ​​​​​​​Will I deliver them from the power of Sheol? No, I’ll not! Will I repurchase them from death? No, I’ll not! O Death, bring on your plagues! O Sheol, bring on your destruction! My eyes will not show any compassion! 15 ​​​​​​​Even though he flourishes like a reed plant, a scorching east wind will come, a wind from Lifegiver rising up from the desert. As a result, his spring will dry up; his well will become dry. That wind will spoil all his delightful foods in the containers in his storehouse. 16 ​​​​​​​(14:1) Samaria will be held guilty, because she rebelled against her Supermights. They’ll fall by the sword, their infants will be dashed to the ground – their pregnant women will be ripped open.

Hosea 14

1 ​​​​​​​Return, O Israel, to Lifegiver your deity, for your sin has been your downfall! 2 ​​​​​​​Return to Lifegiver and repent! Say to him: “Completely forgive our iniquity; accept our penitential prayer, that we may offer the praise of our lips as sacrificial bulls. 3 ​​​​​​​Assyria cannot save us; we’ll not ride warhorses. We’ll never again say, ‘Our Deities’ to what our own hands have made. For only you’ll show compassion to Orphan Israel!” 4 ​​​​​​​“I’ll heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger will turn away from them. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll be like the dew to Israel; he’ll blossom like a lily, he’ll send down his roots like a cedar of Lebanon. 6 ​​​​​​​His young shoots will grow; his splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. 7 ​​​​​​​People will reside again in his shade; they’ll plant and harvest grain in abundance. They’ll blossom like a vine, and his fame will be like the wine from Lebanon. 8 ​​​​​​​O Ephraim, I do not want to have anything to do with idols anymore! I’ll answer him and care for him. I’m like a luxuriant cypress tree; your fruitfulness comes from me! 9 ​​​​​​​Who is wise? Let him discern these things! Who is discerning? Let him understand them! For the ways of Lifegiver are right; the Supermights ly walk in them, but in them the rebellious stumble.

JOEL

Joel 1

1 ​​​​​​​This is Lifegiver’s message that was given to Joel the son of Pethuel: 2 ​​​​​​​Listen to this, you elders; pay attention, all inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your whole life or in the lifetime of your ancestors? 3 ​​​​​​​Tell your children about it, have your children tell their children, and their children the following generation. 4 ​​​​​​​What the gazam-locust left the ‘arbeh-locust consumed, what the ‘arbeh-locust left the yeleq-locust consumed, and what the yeleq-locust left the hasil-locust consumed! 5 ​​​​​​​Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you wine drinkers, because the sweet wine has been taken away from you. 6 ​​​​​​​For a nation has invaded our land. There are so many of them they are too numerous to count. Their teeth are like those of a lion; they tear apart their prey like a lioness. 7 ​​​​​​​They have destroyed our vines; they have turned our fig trees into mere splinters. They have completely stripped off the bark and thrown them aside; the twigs are stripped bare. 8 ​​​​​​​Wail like a young virgin clothed in sackcloth, lamenting the death of her husband-to-be. 9 ​​​​​​​No one brings grain offerings or drink offerings to the temple of Lifegiver anymore. So the priests, those who serve Lifegiver, are in mourning. 10 ​​​​​​​The crops of the fields have been destroyed. The ground is in mourning because the grain has perished. The fresh wine has dried up; the olive oil languishes. 11 ​​​​​​​Be distressed, farmers; wail, vinedressers, over the wheat and the barley. For the harvest of the field has perished. 12 ​​​​​​​The vine has dried up; the fig tree languishes – the pomegranate, date, and apple as well. In fact, all the trees of the field have dried up. Indeed, the joy of the people has dried up! 13 ​​​​​​​Get dressed and lament, you priests! Wail, you who minister at the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you servants of my Supermights , because no one brings grain offerings or drink offerings to the temple of your deity anymore. 14 ​​​​​​​Announce a sacred fast; proclaim a sacred assembly. Gather the seniors and all the inhabitants of the land to the temple of Lifegiver your deity, and cry out to Lifegiver. 15 ​​​​​​​How awful that day will be! For the day of Lifegiver is near; it will come as destruction from the self-sufficient one. 16 ​​​​​​​Our food has been cut off right before our eyes! There is no longer any joy or gladness in the temple of our Supermights ! 17 ​​​​​​​The grains of seed have shriveled beneath their shovels. Storehouses have been decimated and granaries have been torn down, for the grain has dried up. 18 ​​​​​​​Listen to the cattle groan! The herds of livestock wander around in confusion because they have no pasture. Even the flocks of sheep are suffering. 19 ​​​​​​​To you, O Lifegiver, I call out for help, for fire has burned up the grassy pastures, flames have razed all the trees in the fields. 20 ​​​​​​​Even the wild animals cry out to you; for the river beds have dried up; fire has destroyed the grassy pastures.

Joel 2

1 ​​​​​​​Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm signal on my sacred mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land shake with fear, for the day of Lifegiver is about to come. Indeed, it is near! 2 ​​​​​​​It will be a day of dreadful darkness, a day of foreboding storm clouds, like blackness spread over the mountains. It is a huge and powerful army – there has never been anything like it ever before, and there will not be anything like it for many generations to come! 3 ​​​​​​​Like fire they devour everything in their path; a flame blazes behind them. The land looks like the Garden of Eden before them, but behind them there is only a desolate desert – for nothing escapes them! 4 ​​​​​​​They look like horses; they charge ahead like war horses. 5 ​​​​​​​They sound like chariots rumbling over mountain tops, like the crackling of blazing fire consuming stubble, like the noise of a mighty army being drawn up for battle. 6 ​​​​​​​People writhe in fear when they see them. All of their faces turn pale with fright. 7 ​​​​​​​They charge like warriors; they scale walls like soldiers. Each one proceeds on his course; they do not alter their path. 8 ​​​​​​​They do not jostle one another; each of them marches straight ahead. They burst through the city defenses and do not break ranks. 9 ​​​​​​​They rush into the city; they scale its walls. They climb up into the houses; they go in through the windows like a thief. 10 ​​​​​​​The Earth quakes before them; the sky reverberates. The sun and the moon grow dark; the stars refuse to shine. 11 ​​​​​​​The voice of Lifegiver thunders as he leads his army. Indeed, his warriors are innumerable; Surely his instruct is carried out! Yes, the day of Lifegiver is awesome and very terrifying – who can survive it? 12 ​​​​​​​“Yet even now,” Lifegiver says, “return to me with all your heart – with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your garments!” 13 ​​​​​​​Return to Lifegiver your deity, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and boundless in loyal love – often relenting from calamitous punishment. 14 ​​​​​​​Who knows? Perhaps he’ll be compassionate and grant a reprieve, and leave blessing in his wake – a meal offering and a drink offering for you to offer to Lifegiver your deity ! 15 ​​​​​​​Blow the trumpet in Zion. Announce a sacred fast; proclaim a sacred assembly! 16 ​​​​​​​Gather the people; sanctify an assembly! Gather the elders; gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out from his bedroom and the bride from her private quarters. 17 ​​​​​​​Let the priests, those who serve Lifegiver, weep from the vestibule all the way back to the altar. Let them say, “Have pity, O Lifegiver, on your people; please do not turn over your inheritance to be mocked, to become a proverb among the nationalities. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their Supermights ?” 18 ​​​​​​​Then Lifegiver became zealous for his land; he had compassion on his people. 19 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver responded to his people, “Look! I’m about to restore your grain as well as fresh wine and olive oil. You’ll be fully satisfied. I’ll never again make you an object of mockery among the nationalities. 20 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove the one from the north far from you. I’ll drive him out to a dry and desolate place. Those in front will be driven eastward into the Dead Sea, and those in back westward into the Mediterranean Sea. His stench will rise up as a foul smell.” Indeed, Lifegiver has accomplished great things. 21 ​​​​​​​Do not fear, my land! Rejoice and be glad, because Lifegiver has accomplished great things! 22 ​​​​​​​Do not fear, wild animals! For the pastures of the desert are again green with grass. Indeed, the trees bear their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield to their fullest. 23 ​​​​​​​Citizens of Zion, rejoice! Be glad because of what Lifegiver your deity has done! For he has given to you the early rains as vindication. He has sent to you the rains – both the early and the late rains as formerly. 24 ​​​​​​​The threshing floors are full of grain; the vats overflow with fresh wine and olive oil. 25 ​​​​​​​I’ll make up for the years that the ‘arbeh-locust consumed your crops – the yeleq-locust, the hasil-locust, and the gazam-locust – my great army that I sent against you. 26 ​​​​​​​You’ll have plenty to eat, and your hunger will be fully satisfied; you’ll praise the name of Lifegiver your deity, who has acted wondrously in your behalf. My people will never again be put to shame. 27 ​​​​​​​You’ll be convinced that I’m in the midst of Israel. I’m Lifegiver your deity ; there is no other. My people will never again be put to shame. 28 ​​​​​​​(3:1)

It will occur, afterwards that

I’ll pour and stream my Spirit on everybody -

then your sons and your daughters will prophesy,

your elderly will dream dreams,

and your youth will see dream visions.

29 ​​​​​​​I’ll even pour and stream my Spirit in those days

on the male servants and female servants.

30 I’ll issue portents

in the Celestial Bodies and on the Earth:

reddening and blackening, and columns of smoke.

31 The sunlight will be turned into darkness,

and the moon into the colour of blood

before the great and dreadful day of Lifegiver arrives.

32 ​​​​​​​It will be that whoever calls on Lifegiver’s name will be saved

because on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be an escaping remnant

just as Lifegiver has promised,

even among the rest whom the Lord will call.

Joel 3

1 Yes, look, in those days and at that time,

when I restore the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I’ll gather and marshal all the nations

and take them to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

I’ll enter into dispute with them there

on behalf of my people, my inheritance Israel.

The nations who have dispersed the Israelites

in foreign countries

and divided up my land.

3 ​​​​​​​They threw dices for my people;

they traded a boy for a prostitute

and bartered a girl for drinking wine.

4 ​​​​​​​Why are you doing these things to me, Tyre and Sidon? Are you trying to get even with me, land of Philistia? I’ll very quickly repay you for what you have done! 5 ​​​​​​​For you took my silver and my gold and brought my precious valuables to your own palaces. 6 ​​​​​​​You sold Judeans and Jerusalemites to the Greeks, removing them far from their own country. 7 ​​​​​​​Look! I’m rousing them from that place to which you sold them. I’ll repay you for what you have done! 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah. They’ll sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away. Indeed, Lifegiver has spoken! 9 ​​​​​​​Proclaim this among the nationalities: “Prepare for a sacred war! Call out the warriors! Let all these fighting men approach and attack! 10 ​​​​​​​Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears! Let the weak say, ‘I too am a warrior!’ 11 ​​​​​​​Lend your aid and come, all you surrounding nationalities, and gather yourselves to that place.” Bring down, O Lifegiver, your warriors! 12 ​​​​​​​Let the nationalities be roused and let them go up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I’ll sit in judgment on all the surrounding nationalities. 13 ​​​​​​​Rush forth with the sickle, for the harvest is ripe! Come, stomp the grapes, for the winepress is full! The vats overflow. Indeed, their bad is great! 14 ​​​​​​​Crowds, great crowds are in the valley of decision, for the day of Lifegiver is near in the valley of decision! 15 ​​​​​​​The sun and moon are darkened; the stars withhold their brightness. 16 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver roars from Zion; from Jerusalem his voice bellows out. The Celestial Bodies and the Earth shake. But Lifegiver is a refuge for his people; he is a stronghold for the citizens of Israel. 17 ​​​​​​​You’ll be convinced that I Lifegiver am your deity, dwelling on Zion, my sacred mountain. Jerusalem will be sacred – conquering armies will no longer pass through it. 18 ​​​​​​​On that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk. All the dry stream beds of Judah will flow with water. A spring will flow out from the temple of Lifegiver, watering the Valley of Acacia Trees. 19 ​​​​​​​Egypt will be desolate and Edom will be a desolate desert, because of the violence they did to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood. 20 ​​​​​​​But Judah will reside securely forever, and Jerusalem will be secure from one generation to the next. 21 ​​​​​​​I’ll avenge their blood which I had not previously acquitted. It is Lifegiver who dwells in Zion!

AMOS

Amos 1

1 The following is a record of what Amos prophesied. He was one of the herdsmen from Tekoa. These prophecies about Israel were revealed to him during the time of King Uzziah of Judah and King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel, two years before the Earth quake. 2 ​​​​​​​Amos said: “Lifegiver comes roaring out of Zion; from Jerusalem he comes bellowing! The shepherds’ pastures wilt; the summit of Carmel withers.” 3 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because Damascus has committed three crimes – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. They ripped through Gilead like threshing sledges with iron teeth. 4 ​​​​​​​So I’ll set Hazael’s house on fire; fire will consume Ben Hadad’s fortresses. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll break the bar on the gate of Damascus. I’ll remove the ruler from Wicked Valley, the one who holds the royal scepter from Beth Eden. The people of Aram will be deported to Kir.” Lifegiver has spoken! 6 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because Gaza has committed three crimes – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. They deported a whole community and sold them to Edom. 7 ​​​​​​​So I’ll set Gaza’s city wall on fire; fire will consume her fortresses. 8 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove the ruler from Ashdod, the one who holds the royal scepter from Ashkelon. I’ll strike Ekron with my hand; the rest of the Philistines will also die.” The supreme Lifegiver has spoken! 9 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because Tyre has committed three crimes – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. They sold a whole community to Edom; they failed to observe a treaty of brotherhood. 10 ​​​​​​​So I’ll set fire to Tyre’s city wall; fire will consume her fortresses.” 11 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because Edom has committed three crimes – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. He chased his brother with a sword; he wiped out his allies. In his anger he tore them apart without stopping to rest; in his fury he relentlessly attacked them. 12 ​​​​​​​So I’ll set Teman on fire; fire will consume Bozrah’s fortresses.” 13 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because the Ammonites have committed three crimes – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. They ripped open Gilead’s pregnant women so they could expand their territory. 14 ​​​​​​​So I’ll set fire to Rabbah’s city wall; fire will consume her fortresses. War cries will be heard on the day of battle; a strong gale will blow on the day of the windstorm. 15 ​​​​​​​Ammon’s king will be deported; he and his officials will be carried off together.” Lifegiver has spoken!

Amos 2

1 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because Moab has committed three crimes – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. They burned the bones of Edom’s king into lime. 2 ​​​​​​​So I’ll set Moab on fire, and it will consume Kerioth’s fortresses. Moab will perish in the heat of battle amid war cries and the blaring of the ram’s horn. 3 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove Moab’s leader; I’ll kill all Moab’s officials with him.” Lifegiver has spoken!

4 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because Judah has committed three agreement transgressions – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. They rejected Lifegiver’s law; they did not obey his instructions. Their false Deities, to which their fathers were loyal, led them astray. 5 ​​​​​​​So I’ll set Judah on fire, and it will consume Jerusalem’s fortresses.” 6 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Because Israel has committed three agreement transgressions – make that four! – I’ll not revoke my decree of judgment. They sold the innocent for silver, the needy for a pair of sandals. 7 ​​​​​​​They trample on the dirt-covered heads of the poor; they push the destitute away. A man and his father go to the same girl; in this way they show disrespect for my moral purity. 8 ​​​​​​​They stretch out on clothing seized as collateral; they do so right beside every altar! They drink wine bought with the fines they have levied; they do so right in the temple of their Supermights ! 9 ​​​​​​​For Israel’s sake I destroyed the Amorites. They were as tall as cedars and as strong as oaks, but I destroyed the fruit on their branches and their roots in the ground. 10 ​​​​​​​I brought you up from the land of Egypt; I led you through the desert for fourty years so you could take the Amorites’ land as your own. 11 ​​​​​​​I made some of your sons prophets and some of your young men Nazirites. Is this not true, you Israelites?” Lifegiver is speaking! 12 ​​​​​​​“But you made the Nazirites drink wine; you instructed the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy!’ 13 ​​​​​​​Look! I’ll press you down, like a cart loaded down with grain presses down. 14 ​​​​​​​Fast runners will find no place to hide; strong men will have no strength left; warriors will not be able to save their lives. 15 ​​​​​​​Archers will not hold their ground; fast runners will not save their lives, nor will those who ride horses. 16 ​​​​​​​Bravehearted warriors will run away naked in that day.” Lifegiver is speaking!

Amos 3

1 ​​​​​​​Listen, you Israelites, to this message which Lifegiver is proclaiming against you! This message is for the entire clan I brought up from the land of Egypt: 2 ​​​​​​​“I’ve Designated you alone from all the clans of the Earth . Therefore I’ll punish you for all your sins.” 3 ​​​​​​​Do two walk together without having met? 4 ​​​​​​​Does a lion roar in the woods if he has not cornered his prey? Does a young lion bellow from his den if he has not caught something? 5 ​​​​​​​Does a bird swoop down into a trap on the ground if there is no bait? Does a trap spring up from the ground unless it has surely caught something? 6 ​​​​​​​If an alarm sounds in a city, do people not fear? If disaster overtakes a city, is Lifegiver not responsible?

7 ​​​​​​​Certainly the supreme Lifegiver does nothing

without revealing his mysterious plan

to his servants the spokespersons.

8 ​​​​​​​A lion has roared! Who is not afraid? The supreme Lifegiver has spoken! Who can refuse to prophesy? 9 ​​​​​​​Make this announcement in the fortresses of Ashdod and in the fortresses in the land of Egypt. Say this: “Gather on the hills around Samaria! Observe the many acts of violence taking place witlitrethe city, the oppressive deeds occurring in it.” 10 ​​​​​​​“They do not know how to do what is right.” (Lifegiver is speaking.) “They store up the spoils of destructive violence in their fortresses. 11 ​​​​​​​Therefore,” says the supreme Lifegiver, “an enemy will encircle the land. he’ll take away your power; your fortresses will be looted.” 12 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Just as a shepherd salvages from the lion’s mouth a couple of leg bones or a piece of an ear, so the Israelites who live in Samaria will be salvaged. They’ll be left with just a corner of a bed, and a part of a couch.” 13 ​​​​​​​Listen and warn the family of Jacob! The supreme Lifegiver, the Supermights who instructions armies, is speaking! 14 ​​​​​​​“Certainly when I punish Israel for their agreement transgressions, I’ll destroy Bethel’s altars. The horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy both the winter and summer houses. The houses filled with ivory will be ruined, the great houses will be swept away.” Lifegiver is speaking!

Amos 4

1 ​​​​​​​Listen to this message, you cows of Bashan who live on Mount Samaria! You oppress the poor; you crush the needy. You say to your husbands, “Bring us more to drink!” 2 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver confirms this oath by his own sacred character: “Certainly the time is approaching when you’ll be carried away in baskets, every last one of you in fishermen’s pots. 3 ​​​​​​​Each of you’ll go straight through the gaps in the walls; you’ll be thrown out toward Harmon.” Lifegiver is speaking! 4 ​​​​​​​“Go to Bethel and rebel! At Gilgal rebel some more! Bring your sacrifices in the morning, your tithes on the third day! 5 ​​​​​​​Burn a thank offering of bread made with yeast! Make a public display of your voluntary offerings! For you love to do this, you Israelites.” The supreme Lifegiver is speaking! 6 ​​​​​​​“But surely I gave you no food to eat in any of your cities; you lacked food everywhere you live. Still you did not come back to me.” Lifegiver is speaking! 7 ​​​​​​​“I withheld rain from you three months before the harvest. I gave rain to one city, but not to another. One field would get rain, but the field that received no rain dried up. 8 ​​​​​​​People from two or three cities staggered into one city to get water, but remained thirsty. Still you did not come back to me.” Lifegiver is speaking! 9 ​​​​​​​“I destroyed your crops with blight and disease. Locusts kept devouring your orchards, vineyards, fig trees, and olive trees. Still you did not come back to me.” Lifegiver is speaking! 10 ​​​​​​​“I sent against you a plague like one of the Egyptian plagues. I killed your young men with the sword, along with the horses you had captured. I made the stench from the corpses rise up into your nostrils. Still you did not come back to me.” Lifegiver is speaking! 11 ​​​​​​​“I overthrew some of you the way Supermights overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. You were like a burning stick snatched from the flames. Still you did not come back to me.” Lifegiver is speaking! 12 ​​​​​​​“Therefore this is what I’ll do to you, Israel. Because I’ll do this to you, prepare to meet your deity, Israel! 13 ​​​​​​​For here he is! He formed the mountains and created the wind. He reveals his plans to men. He turns the dawn into darkness and marches on the heights of the Earth . Lifegiver, the Supermights who instructions armies, is his name!”

Amos 5

1 ​​​​​​​Listen to this funeral song I’m ready to sing about you, family of Israel: 2 ​​​​​​​“The virgin Israel has fallen down and will not get up again. She is abandoned on her own land with no one to help her get up.” 3 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver says this: “The city that marches out with a thousand soldiers will have only a hundred left; the town that marches out with a hundred soldiers will have only ten left for the family of Israel.” 4 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says this to the family of Israel: “Seek me so you can live! 5 ​​​​​​​Do not seek Bethel! Do not visit Gilgal! Do not journey down to Beer Sheba! For the people of Gilgal will certainly be carried into exile; and Bethel will become a place where disaster abounds.” 6 ​​​​​​​Seek Lifegiver so you can live! Otherwise he’ll break out like fire against Joseph’s family; the fire will consume and no one will be able to quench it and save Bethel. 7 ​​​​​​​The Israelites turn justice into bitterness; they throw what is fair and right to the ground. 8 ​​​​​​​(But there is one who made the constellations Pleiades and Orion; he can turn the darkness into morning and daylight into night. He summons the water of the seas and pours it out on the Earth ’s surface. Lifegiver is his name! 9 ​​​​​​​He flashes destruction down upon the strong so that destruction overwhelms the fortified places.) 10 ​​​​​​​The Israelites hate anyone who arbitrates at the city gate; they despise anyone who speaks honestly. 11 ​​​​​​​Therefore, because you make the poor pay taxes on their crops and exact a grain tax from them, you’ll not live in the houses you built with chiseled stone, nor will you drink the wine from the fine vineyards you planted. 12 ​​​​​​​Certainly I’m aware of your many rebellious acts and your numerous sins. You torment the innocent, you take bribes, and you deny justice to the needy at the city gate. 13 ​​​​​​​For this reason whoever is smart keeps quiet in such a time, for it is an bad time. 14 ​​​​​​​Seek good and not bad so you can live! Then Lifegiver, the Supermights who instructions armies, just might be with you, as you claim he is. 15 ​​​​​​​Hate what is wrong, love what is right! Promote justice at the city gate! Maybe Lifegiver, the Supermights who instructions armies, will have mercy on those who are left from Joseph. 16 ​​​​​​​Because of Israel’s sins this is what Lifegiver, the Supermights who instructions armies, the supreme One, says: “In all the squares there will be wailing, in all the streets they’ll mourn the dead. They’ll tell the field workers to lament and the professional mourners to wail. 17 ​​​​​​​In all the vineyards there will be wailing, for I’ll pass through your midst,” says Lifegiver. 18 ​​​​​​​Woe to those who wish for the day of Lifegiver! Why do you want Lifegiver’s day of judgment to come? It will bring darkness, not light. 19 ​​​​​​​Disaster will be inescapable, as if a man ran from a lion only to meet a bear, then escaped into a house, leaned his hand against the wall, and was bitten by a poisonous snake. 20 ​​​​​​​Don’t you realize Lifegiver’s day of judgment will bring darkness, not light – gloomy blackness, not bright light? 21 ​​​​​​​“I absolutely despise your festivals! I get no pleasure from your religious assemblies! 22 ​​​​​​​Even if you offer me burnt and grain offerings, I’ll not be satisfied; I’ll not look with favor on your peace offerings of fattened calves. 23 ​​​​​​​Take away from me your noisy songs; I don’t want to hear the music of your stringed instruments. 24 ​​​​​​​Justice must flow like torrents of water, righteous actions like a stream that never dries up. 25 ​​​​​​​You did not bring me sacrifices and grain offerings during the fourty years you spent in the desert, family of Israel. 26 ​​​​​​​You’ll pick up your effigies of Sikkuth, your king, and Kiyyun, your star Supermights , which you made for yourselves, 27 ​​​​​​​and I’ll drive you into exile beyond Damascus,” says Lifegiver. He is called the Supermights who instructions armies!

Amos 6

1 ​​​​​​​Woe to those who live in ease in Zion, to those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. They think of themselves as the elite class of the best nation. The family of Israel looks to them for leadership. 2 ​​​​​​​They say to the people: “Journey over to Calneh and look at it! Then go from there to Hamath-Rabbah! Then go down to Gath of the Philistines! Are they superior to our two reigns? Is their territory larger than yours?” 3 ​​​​​​​You refuse to believe a day of disaster will come, but you establish a reign of violence. 4 ​​​​​​​They lie around on beds decorated with ivory, and sprawl out on their couches. They eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the middle of the pen. 5 ​​​​​​​They sing to the tune of stringed instruments; like David they invent musical instruments. 6 ​​​​​​​They drink wine from sacrificial bowls, and pour the very best oils on themselves. Yet they are not concerned over the ruin of Joseph. 7 ​​​​​​​Therefore they’ll now be the first to go into exile, and the religious banquets where they sprawl on couches will end. 8 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver confirms this oath by his very own life. Lifegiver, the Supermights who instructions armies, is speaking: “I despise Jacob’s arrogance; I hate their fortresses. I’ll hand over to their enemies the city of Samaria and everything in it.” 9 ​​​​​​​If ten men are left in one house, they too will die. 10 ​​​​​​​When their close relatives, the ones who will burn the corpses, pick up their bodies to remove the bones from the house, they’ll say to anyone who is in the inner rooms of the house, “Is anyone else with you?” he’ll respond, “Be quiet! Don’t invoke Lifegiver’s name!” 11 ​​​​​​​Indeed, look! Lifegiver is giving the instruct . he’ll smash the large house to bits, and the small house into little pieces. 12 ​​​​​​​Can horses run on rocky cliffs? Can one plow the sea with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into a poisonous plant, and the fruit of righteous actions into a bitter plant. 13 ​​​​​​​You are happy because you conquered Lo-Debar. You say, “Did we not conquer Karnaim by our own power?” 14 ​​​​​​​“Look! I’m about to bring a nation against you, family of Israel.” Lifegiver, the Supermights who instructions armies, is speaking. “They’ll oppress you all the way from Lebo-Hamath to the Stream of the Arabah.”

Amos 7

1 The supreme Lifegiver showed me this: I saw him making locusts just as the crops planted late were beginning to sprout. (The crops planted late sprout after the royal harvest.) 2 When they had completely consumed the Earth ’s vegetation, I said, “Supreme Lifegiver, forgive Israel! How can Jacob survive? He is too weak!” 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver decided not to do this. “It will not happen,” Lifegiver said. 4 The supreme Lifegiver showed me this: I saw the supreme Lifegiver summoning a shower of fire. It consumed the great deep and devoured the fields. 5 ​​​​​​​I said, “Supreme Lifegiver, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is too weak!” 6 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver decided not to do this. The supreme Lifegiver said, “This will not happen either.” 7 He showed me this: I saw the supreme One standing by a tin wall holding tin in his hand. 8 Lifegiver said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” I said, “Tin.” The supreme One then said, “Look, I’m about to place tin among my people Israel. I’ll no longer overlook their sin. 9 ​​​​​​​Isaac’s centers of worship will become desolate; Israel’s sacred places will be in ruins. I’ll attack Jeroboam’s dynasty with the sword.” 10 Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent this message to King Jeroboam of Israel: “Amos is conspiring against you in the very heart of the reign of Israel! The land cannot endure all his prophecies. 11 As a matter of fact, Amos is saying this: ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly be carried into exile away from its land.’” 12 Amaziah then said to Amos, “Leave, you visionary! Run away to the land of Judah! Earn your living and prophesy there! 13 Don’t prophesy at Bethel any longer, for a royal temple and palace are here!” 14 Amos replied to Amaziah, “I was not a prophet by profession. No, I was a herdsman who also took care of sycamore fig trees. 15 Then Lifegiver took me from tending flocks and gave me this commission, ‘Go! Prophesy to my people Israel!’ 16 So now listen to Lifegiver’s message! You say, ‘Don’t prophesy against Israel! Don’t preach against the family of Isaac!’ 17 ​​​​​​​“Therefore this is what Lifegiver says: ‘Your wife will become a prostitute in the streets and your sons and daughters will die violently. Your land will be given to others and you’ll die in a foreign land. Israel will certainly be carried into exile away from its land.’”

Amos 8

1 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver showed me this: I saw a basket of summer fruit. 2 He said, “What do you see, Amos?” I replied, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then Lifegiver said to me, “The end has come for my people Israel! I’ll no longer overlook their sins. 3 ​​​​​​​The women singing in the temple will wail in that day.” The supreme Lifegiver is speaking. “There will be many corpses littered everywhere! Be quiet!” 4 ​​​​​​​Listen to this, you who trample the needy, and do away with the destitute in the land. 5 ​​​​​​​You say, “When will the new moon festival be over, so we can sell grain? When will the Sabbath end, so we can open up the grain bins? We’re eager to sell less for a higher price, and to cheat the buyer with rigged scales! 6 ​​​​​​​We’re eager to trade silver for the poor, a pair of sandals for the needy! We want to mix in some chaff with the grain!” 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver confirms this oath by the arrogance of Jacob: “I swear I’ll never forget all you have done! 8 ​​​​​​​Because of this the Earth will quake, and all who live in it will mourn. The whole Earth will rise like the River Nile, it will surge upward and then grow calm, like the Nile in Egypt. 9 ​​​​​​​In that day,” says the supreme Lifegiver, “I’ll make the sun set at noon, and make the Earth dark in the middle of the day. 10 ​​​​​​​I’ll turn your festivals into funerals, and all your songs into funeral dirges. I’ll make everyone wear funeral clothes and cause every head to be shaved bald. I’ll make you mourn as if you had lost your only son; when it ends it will indeed have been a bitter day. 11 ​​​​​​​Be certain of this, the time is coming,” says the supreme Lifegiver, “when I’ll send a drought through the land – not a shortage of food or water but an end to divine revelation! 12 ​​​​​​​People will stagger from sea to sea, and from the north around to the east. They’ll wander about looking for a revelation from Lifegiver, but they’ll not find any. 13 ​​​​​​​In that day your beautiful young women and your young men will faint from thirst. 14 ​​​​​​​These are the ones who now take oaths in the name of the sinful idol Supermights dess of Samaria. They vow, ‘As surely as your deity lives, O Dan,’ or ‘As surely as your beloved one lives, O Beer Sheba!’ But they’ll fall down and not get up again.”

Amos 9

1 ​​​​​​​I saw the supreme One standing by the altar and he said, “Strike the tops of the support pillars, so the thresholds shake! Knock them down on the heads of all the people, and I’ll kill the survivors with the sword. No one will be able to run away; no one will be able to escape. 2 ​​​​​​​Even if they could dig down into the netherworld, my hand would pull them up from there. Even if they could climb up to the sky, I would drag them down from there. 3 ​​​​​​​Even if they were to hide on the top of Mount Carmel, I would hunt them down and take them from there. Even if they tried to hide from me at the bottom of the sea, from there I would instruct the Sea Serpent to bite them. 4 ​​​​​​​Even when their enemies drive them into captivity, from there I’ll instruct the sword to kill them. I’ll not let them out of my sight; they’ll experience disaster, not prosperity.” 5 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver who instructions armies will do this. He touches the Earth and it dissolves; all who live on it mourn. The whole Earth rises like the River Nile, and then grows calm like the Nile in Egypt. 6 ​​​​​​​He builds the upper rooms of his palace in Heaven and sets its foundation supports on the Earth . He summons the water of the sea and pours it out on the Earth ’s surface. Lifegiver is his name. 7 ​​​​​​​“You Israelites are just like the Ethiopians in my sight,” says Lifegiver. “Certainly I brought Israel up from the land of Egypt, but I also brought the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir. 8 ​​​​​​​Look, the supreme Lifegiver is watching the sinful nation, and I’ll destroy it from the face of the Earth . But I’ll not completely destroy the family of Jacob,” says Lifegiver. 9 ​​​​​​​“For look, I’m giving a instruct and I’ll shake the family of Israel together with all the nationalities. It will resemble a sieve being shaken, when not even a pebble falls to the ground. 10 ​​​​​​​All the sinners among my people will die by the sword – the ones who say, ‘Disaster will not come near, it will not confront us.’ 11 ​​​​​​​“In that day I’ll rebuild the collapsing hut of David. I’ll seal its gaps, repair its ruins, and restore it to what it was like in days gone by. 12 ​​​​​​​As a result they’ll conquer those left in Edom and all the nationalities subject to my rule.” Lifegiver, who is about to do this, is speaking! 13 ​​​​​​​“Be sure of this, the time is coming,” says Lifegiver, “when the plowman will catch up to the reaper and the one who stomps the grapes will overtake the planter. Juice will run down the slopes, it will flow down all the hillsides. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll bring back my people, Israel; they’ll rebuild the cities lying in rubble and settle down. They’ll plant vineyards and drink the wine they produce; they’ll grow orchards and eat the fruit they produce. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll plant them on their land and they’ll never again be uprooted from the land I’ve given them,” says Lifegiver your deity.

OBADIAH

Obadiah 1

1 ​​​​​​​The vision that Obadiah saw. ​​​​​​Lifegiver Supermights says this concerning Edom: ​​​​​​We’ve heard a report from Lifegiver. An envoy was sent among the nationalities, saying, “Arise! Let us make war against Edom!” 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver says, “Look! I’ll make you a weak nation; you’ll be greatly despised! 3 ​​​​​​​Your presumptuous heart has deceived you – you who reside in the safety of the rocky cliffs, whose home is high in the mountains. You think to yourself, ‘No one can bring me down to the ground!’ 4 ​​​​​​​Even if you were to soar high like an eagle, even if you were to make your nest among the stars, I can bring you down even from there!” says Lifegiver. 5 ​​​​​​​“If thieves came to rob you during the night, they would steal only as much as they wanted! If grape pickers came to harvest your vineyards, they would leave some behind for the poor! But you’ll be totally destroyed! 6 ​​​​​​​How the people of Esau will be thoroughly plundered! Their hidden valuables will be ransacked! 7 ​​​​​​​All your allies will force you from your homeland! Your treaty partners will deceive you and overpower you. Your trusted friends will set an ambush for you that will take you by surprise! 8 ​​​​​​​At that time,” Lifegiver says, “I’ll destroy the wise sages of Edom! the advisers from Esau’s mountain! 9 ​​​​​​​Your warriors will be shattered, O Teman, so that everyone will be destroyed from Esau’s mountain! 10 ​​​​​​​“Because you violently slaughtered your relatives, the people of Jacob, shame will cover you, and you’ll be destroyed forever. 11 ​​​​​​​You stood aloof while strangers took his army captive, and foreigners advanced to his gates. When they cast lots over Jerusalem, you behaved as though you were in league with them. 12 ​​​​​​​You should not have gloated when your relatives suffered calamity. You should not have rejoiced over the people of Judah when they were destroyed. You should not have boasted when they suffered adversity. 13 ​​​​​​​You should not have entered the city of my people when they experienced distress. You should not have joined in gloating over their misfortune when they suffered distress. You should not have looted their wealth when they endured distress. 14 ​​​​​​​You should not have stood at the fork in the road to slaughter those trying to escape. You should not have captured their refugees when they suffered adversity. 15 ​​​​​​​“For the day of Lifegiver is approaching for all the nationalities! Just as you have done, so it will be done to you. You’ll get exactly what your deeds deserve. 16 ​​​​​​​For just as you have drunk on my sacred mountain, so all the nationalities will drink continually. They’ll drink, and they’ll gulp down; they’ll be as though they had never been. 17 ​​​​​​​But on Mount Zion there will be a remnant of those who escape, and it will be a sacred place once again. The descendants of Jacob will conquer those who had conquered them. 18 ​​​​​​​The descendants of Jacob will be a fire, and the descendants of Joseph a flame. The descendants of Esau will be like stubble. They’ll burn them up and devour them. There will not be a single survivor of the descendants of Esau!” Indeed, Lifegiver has spoken it. 19 ​​​​​​​The people of the Negev will take possession of Esau’s mountain, and the people of the Shephelah will take possession of the land of the Philistines. They’ll also take possession of the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, and the people of Benjamin will take possession of Gilead. 20 ​​​​​​​The exiles of this fortress of the people of Israel will take possession of what belongs to the people of Canaan, as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will take possession of the towns of the Negev. 21 ​​​​​​​Those who have been delivered will go up on Mount Zion in order to rule over Esau’s mountain. Then Lifegiver will reign as King!

JONAH

Jonah 1

1 Lifegiver said to Jonah son of Amittai, 2 “Go immediately to Nineveh, that large capital city, and announce judgment against its people because their wickedness has come to my attention.” 3 Instead, Jonah immediately headed off to Tarshish to escape from the commission of Lifegiver. He traveled to Joppa and found a merchant ship heading to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went aboard it to go with them to Tarshish far away from Lifegiver. 4 But Lifegiver hurled a powerful wind on the sea. Such a violent tempest arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break up! 5 The sailors were so afraid that each cried out to his own Supermights and they flung the ship’s cargo overboard to make the ship lighter. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold below deck, had lain down, and was sound asleep. 6 The ship’s captain approached him and said, “What are you doing asleep? Get up! Cry out to your deity ! Perhaps your deity might take notice of us so that we might not die!” 7 The sailors said to one another, “Come on, let’s cast lots to find out whose fault it is that this disaster has overtaken us.” So they cast lots, and Jonah was singled out. 8 They said to him, “Tell us, whose fault is it that this disaster has overtaken us? What’s your occupation? Where do you come from? What’s your country? And who are your people?” 9 He said to them, “I’m a Hebrew! And I worship Lifegiver, the Supermights of Heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” 10 Hearing this, the men became even more afraid and said to him, “What have you done?” (The men said this because they knew that he was trying to escape from Lifegiver, because he had previously told them.) 11 Because the storm was growing worse and worse, they said to him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” 12 He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea to make the sea quiet down, because I know it’s my fault you are in this severe storm.” 13 Instead, they tried to row back to land, but they were not able to do so because the storm kept growing worse and worse. 14 So they cried out to Lifegiver, “Oh, please, Lifegiver, don’t let us die on account of this man! Don’t hold us guilty of shedding innocent blood. After all, you, Lifegiver, have done just as you pleased.” 15 So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging. 16 The men feared Lifegiver greatly, and earnestly vowed to offer lavish sacrifices to Lifegiver. 17 (2:1)Lifegiver sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2

1 Jonah prayed to Lifegiver his Supermights from the stomach of the fish 2 and said, “I called out to Lifegiver from my distress, and he answered me; from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help, and you heard my prayer. 3 ​​​​​​​You threw me into the deep waters, into the middle of the sea; the ocean current engulfed me; all the mighty waves you sent swept over me. 4 ​​​​​​​I thought I had been banished from your sight, that I would never again see your sacred temple! 5 ​​​​​​​Water engulfed me up to my neck; the deep ocean surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. 6 ​​​​​​​I went down to the very bottoms of the mountains; the gates of the netherworld barred me in forever; but you brought me up from the Pit, O Lifegiver, my Supermights. 7 ​​​​​​​When my life was ebbing away, I called out to Lifegiver, and my prayer came to your sacred temple. 8 ​​​​​​​Those who worship worthless idols forfeit the mercy that could be theirs. 9 ​​​​​​​But as for me, I promise to offer a sacrifice to you with a public declaration of praise; I’ll surely do what I’ve promised. Salvation belongs to Lifegiver!” 10 Then Lifegiver instructed the fish and it disgorged Jonah on dry land.

Jonah 3

1 Lifegiver said to Jonah a second time, 2 “Go immediately to Nineveh, that large city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah went immediately to Nineveh, as Lifegiver had said. (Now Nineveh was an enormous city – it required three days to walk through it!) 4 When Jonah began to enter the city one day’s walk, he announced, “At the end of fourty days, Nineveh will be overthrown!” 5 The people of Nineveh believed in Supermights , and they declared a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. 7 He issued a proclamation and said, “In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, cattle or sheep, is to taste anything; they must not eat and they must not drink water. 8 Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to Supermights , and everyone must turn from their bad way of living and from the violence that they do. 9 Who knows? Perhaps Supermights might be willing to change his mind and relent and turn from his fierce anger so that we might not die.” 10 When Supermights saw their actions – they turned from their bad way of living! – Supermights relented concerning the judgment he had threatened them with and he did not destroy them.

Jonah 4

1 This displeased Jonah terribly and he became very angry. 2 He prayed to Lifegiver and said, “Oh, Lifegiver, this is just what I thought would happen when I was in my own country. This is what I tried to prevent by attempting to escape to Tarshish! – because I knew that you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and one who relents concerning threatened judgment. 3 So now, Lifegiver, kill me instead, because I would rather die than live!” 4 Lifegiver said, “Are you really so very angry?” 5 Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made a shelter for himself there and sat down under it in the shade to see what would happen to the city. 6 Lifegiver the Supermights appointed a little plant and caused it to grow up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to rescue him from his misery. Now Jonah was very delighted about the little plant. 7 So Supermights sent a worm at dawn the next day, and it attacked the little plant so that it dried up. 8 When the sun began to shine, Supermights sent a hot east wind. So the sun beat down on Jonah’s head, and he grew faint. So he despaired of life, and said, “I would rather die than live!” 9 Supermights said to Jonah, “Are you really so very angry about the little plant?” And he said, “I’m as angry as I could possibly be!” 10 Lifegiver said, “You were upset about this little plant, something for which you have not worked nor did you do anything to make it grow. It grew up overnight and died the next day. 11 Should I not be even more concerned about Nineveh, this enormous city? There are more than one hundred twenty thousand people in it who do not know right from wrong, as well as many animals!”

MICAH

Micah 1

1 This is the prophetic message that Lifegiver gave to Micah of Moresheth. He delivered this message during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. The prophecies pertain to Samaria and Jerusalem. 2 ​​​​​​​Listen, all you nationalities! Pay attention, all inhabitants of Earth ! The supreme Lifegiver will testify against you; Lifegiver will accuse you from his majestic palace. 3 ​​​​​​​Look, Lifegiver is coming out of his dwelling place! he’ll descend and march on the Earth ’s mountaintops!

4 ​​​​​​​The mountains will disintegrate beneath him, and the valleys will be split in two. The mountains will melt like wax in a fire, the rocks will slide down like water cascading down a steep slope. 5 ​​​​​​​All this is because of Jacob’s rebellion and the sins of the nation of Israel. How has Jacob rebelled, you ask? Samaria epitomizes their rebellion! Where are Judah’s pagan worship centers, you ask? They are right in Jerusalem! 6 ​​​​​​​“I’ll turn Samaria into a heap of ruins in an open field – vineyards will be planted there! I’ll tumble the rubble of her stone walls down into the valley, and tear down her fortifications to their foundations. 7 ​​​​​​​All her carved idols will be smashed to pieces; all her metal cult statues will be destroyed by fire. I’ll make a waste heap of all her effigies. Since she gathered the metal as a prostitute collects her wages, the idols will become a prostitute’s wages again.” 8 ​​​​​​​For this reason I’ll mourn and wail; I’ll walk around barefoot and without my outer garments. I’ll howl like a wild dog, and screech like an owl. 9 ​​​​​​​For Samaria’s disease is incurable. It has infected Judah; it has spread to the leadership of my people and has even contaminated Jerusalem! 10 ​​​​​​​Don’t spread the news in Gath! Don’t shed even a single tear! In Beth Leaphrah sit in the dust! 11 ​​​​​​​Residents of Shaphir, pass by in nakedness and humiliation! The residents of Zaanan can’t leave their city. Beth Ezel mourns, “He takes from you what he desires.” 12 ​​​​​​​Indeed, the residents of Maroth hope for something good to happen, though Lifegiver has sent disaster against the city of Jerusalem. 13 ​​​​​​​Residents of Lachish, hitch the horses to the chariots! You influenced Daughter Zion to sin, for Israel’s rebellious deeds can be traced back to you! 14 ​​​​​​​Therefore you’ll have to say farewell to Moresheth Gath. The residents of Achzib will be as disappointing as a dried up well to the kings of Israel. 15 ​​​​​​​Residents of Mareshah, a conqueror will attack you, the leaders of Israel shall flee to Adullam. 16 ​​​​​​​Shave your heads bald as you mourn for the children you love; shave your foreheads as bald as an eagle, for they are taken from you into exile.

Micah 2

1 ​​​​​​​Those who devise sinful plans are as good as dead, those who dream about doing bad as they lie in bed. As soon as morning dawns they carry out their plans, because they have the power to do so. 2 ​​​​​​​They confiscate the fields they desire, and seize the houses they want. They defraud people of their homes, and deprive people of the land they have inherited. 3 ​​​​​​​Therefore Lifegiver says this: “Look, I’m devising disaster for this nation! It will be like a yoke from which you cannot free your neck. You’ll no longer walk proudly, for it will be a time of catastrophe. 4 ​​​​​​​In that day people will sing this taunt song to you – they’ll mock you with this lament: ‘We are completely destroyed; they sell off the property of my people. How they remove it from me! They assign our fields to the conqueror.’ 5 ​​​​​​​Therefore no one will assign you land in Lifegiver’s community. 6 ​​​​​​​‘Don’t preach with such impassioned rhetoric,’ they say excitedly. ‘These prophets should not preach of such things; we’ll not be overtaken by humiliation.’ 7 ​​​​​​​Does the family of Jacob say, ‘Lifegiver’s patience can’t be exhausted – he would never do such things’? To be sure, my instructions bring a reward for those who obey them, 8 ​​​​​​​but you rise up as an enemy against my people. You steal a robe from a friend, from those who pass by peacefully as if returning from a war. 9 ​​​​​​​You wrongly evict widows among my people from their cherished homes. You defraud their children of their prized inheritance. 10 ​​​​​​​But you are the ones who will be forced to leave! For this land is not secure! Sin will thoroughly destroy it! 11 ​​​​​​​If a lying windbag should come and say, ‘I’ll promise you blessings of wine and beer,’ he would be just the right preacher for these people! 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll certainly gather all of you, O Jacob, I’ll certainly assemble those Israelites who remain. I’ll bring them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in the middle of a pasture; they’ll be so numerous that they’ll make a lot of noise. 13 ​​​​​​​The one who can break through barriers will lead them out they’ll break out, pass through the gate, and leave. Their king will advance before them, Lifegiver himself will lead them.

Micah 3

1 ​​​​​​​I said, “Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the nation of Israel! You ought to know what is just, 2 ​​​​​​​yet you hate what is good, and love what is evil. You flay my people’s skin and rip the flesh from their bones. 3 ​​​​​​​You devour my people’s flesh, strip off their skin, and crush their bones. You chop them up like flesh in a pot – like meat in a kettle. 4 ​​​​​​​Someday these sinners will cry to Lifegiver for help, but he’ll not answer them. he’ll hide his face from them at that time, because they have done such wicked deeds.” 5 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “The prophets who mislead my people are as good as dead. If someone gives them enough to eat, they offer an oracle of peace. But if someone does not give them food, they are ready to declare war on him. 6 ​​​​​​​Therefore night will fall, and you’ll receive no visions; it will grow dark, and you’ll no longer be able to read the omens. The sun will set on these prophets, and the daylight will turn to darkness over their heads. 7 ​​​​​​​The prophets will be ashamed; the omen readers will be humiliated. All of them will cover their mouths, for they’ll receive no divine oracles.” 8 ​​​​​​​But I’m full of the courage that Lifegiver’s Spirit gives, and have a strong commitment to justice. This enables me to confront Jacob with its rebellion, and Israel with its sin. 9 ​​​​​​​Listen to this, you leaders of the family of Jacob, you rulers of the nation of Israel! You hate justice and pervert all that is right. 10 ​​​​​​​You build Zion through bloody crimes, Jerusalem through unjust violence. 11 ​​​​​​​Her leaders take bribes when they decide legal cases, her priests proclaim rulings for profit, and her prophets read omens for pay. Yet they claim to trust Lifegiver and say, “Lifegiver is among us. Disaster will not overtake us!” 12 ​​​​​​​Therefore, because of you, Zion will be plowed up like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, and the Temple Mount will become a hill overgrown with brush!

Micah 4

1 ​​​​​​​In the future Lifegiver’s Temple Mount will be the most important mountain of all; it will be more prominent than other hills. People will stream to it. 2 ​​​​​​​Many nationalities will come, saying, “Come on! Let’s go up to Lifegiver’s mountain, to the temple of Jacob’s Supermights , so he can teach us his instructions and we can live by his laws.” For Zion will be the source of instruction; Lifegiver’s teachings will proceed from Jerusalem. 3 ​​​​​​​He will arbitrate between many peoples and settle disputes between many distant nationalities. They’ll beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. nationalities will not use weapons against other nationalities, and they’ll no longer train for war. 4 ​​​​​​​Each will sit under his own grapevine or under his own fig tree without any fear. Lifegiver who instructions armies has decreed it. 5 ​​​​​​​Though all the nationalities follow their respective Deities, we’ll follow Lifegiver our Supermights forever. 6 ​​​​​​​“In that day,” says Lifegiver, “I’ll gather the lame, and assemble the outcasts whom I injured. 7 ​​​​​​​I’ll transform the lame into the nucleus of a new nation, and those far off into a mighty nation. Lifegiver will reign over them on Mount Zion, from that day forward and forevermore.” 8 ​​​​​​​As for you, watchtower for the flock, fortress of Daughter Zion – your former dominion will be restored, the sovereignty that belongs to Daughter Jerusalem. 9 ​​​​​​​Jerusalem, why are you now shouting so loudly? Has your king disappeared? Has your wise leader been destroyed? Is this why pain grips you as if you were a woman in labor? 10 ​​​​​​​Twist and strain, Daughter Zion, as if you were in labor! For you’ll leave the city and live in the open field. You’ll go to Babylon, but there you’ll be rescued. There Lifegiver will deliver you from the power of your enemies. 11 ​​​​​​​Many nationalities have now assembled against you. They say, “Jerusalem must be desecrated, so we can gloat over Zion!” 12 ​​​​​​​But they do not know what Lifegiver is planning; they do not understand his strategy. He has gathered them like stalks of grain to be threshed at the threshing floor. 13 ​​​​​​​“Get up and thresh, Daughter Zion! For I’ll give you iron horns; I’ll give you bronze hooves, and you’ll crush many nationalities.” You’ll devote to Lifegiver the spoils you take from them, and dedicate their wealth to the supreme Ruler of the whole Earth .

Micah 5

1 ​​​​​​​(4:14) But now slash yourself, daughter surrounded by soldiers! We are besieged! With a scepter they strike Israel’s ruler on the side of his face.

2 ​​​​​​​(5:1) You Bethlehem, place of fruitfulness,

though you have become least among the troops of Judah;

from you will emerge on my behalf a Ruler over Israel.

His origins are from before time, from interminable eternity.

3 ​​​​​​​So Lifegiver will hand the people of Israel over to their enemies until the time when the woman in labor gives birth. Then the rest of the king’s countrymen will return to be reunited with the people of Israel. 4 ​​​​​​​He will assume his post and shepherd the people by Lifegiver’s strength, by the supreme authority of Lifegiver his Supermights. They’ll live securely, for at that time he’ll be honored even in the distant regions of the Earth . 5 ​​​​​​​He will give us peace. Should the Assyrians try to invade our land and attempt to set foot in our fortresses, we’ll send against them seven shepherd-rulers, make that eight instruct ers. 6 ​​​​​​​They’ll rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with a drawn sword. Our king will rescue us from the Assyrians should they attempt to invade our land and try to set foot in our territory. 7 ​​​​​​​Those survivors from Jacob will live in the midst of many nationalities. They’ll be like the dew Lifegiver sends, like the rain on the grass, that does not hope for men to come or wait around for humans to arrive. 8 ​​​​​​​Those survivors from Jacob will live among the nationalities, in the midst of many peoples. They’ll be like a lion among the animals of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep, which attacks when it passes through; it rips its prey and there is no one to stop it. 9 ​​​​​​​Lift your hand triumphantly against your adversaries; may all your enemies be destroyed! 10 ​​​​​​​“In that day,” says Lifegiver, “I’ll destroy your horses from your midst, and smash your chariots. 11 ​​​​​​​I’ll destroy the cities of your land, and tear down all your fortresses. 12 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove the sorcery that you practice, and you’ll no longer have omen readers living among you. 13 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove your idols and sacred pillars from your midst; you’ll no longer worship what your own hands made. 14 ​​​​​​​I’ll uproot your effigies of Asherah from your midst, and destroy your idols. 15 ​​​​​​​I’ll angrily seek vengeance on the nationalities that do not obey me.”

Micah 6

1 ​​​​​​​Listen to what Lifegiver says: “Get up! Defend yourself before the mountains! Present your case before the hills!” 2 ​​​​​​​Hear Lifegiver’s accusation, you mountains, you enduring foundations of the Earth ! For Lifegiver has a case against his people; he has a dispute with Israel! 3 ​​​​​​​“My people, how have I wronged you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! 4 ​​​​​​​In fact, I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I delivered you from that place of slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to lead you. 5 ​​​​​​​My people, recall how King Balak of Moab planned to harm you, how Balaam son of Beor responded to him. Recall how you journeyed from Shittim to Gilgal, so you might acknowledge that Lifegiver has treated you fairly.” 6 ​​​​​​​With what should I enter Lifegiver’s presence? With what should I bow before the supreme Supermights ? Should I enter his presence with sacrifices, with year-old calves? 7 ​​​​​​​Will Lifegiver accept a thousand rams, or ten thousand streams of olive oil? Should I give him my firstborn child as payment for my rebellion, my offspring – my own flesh and blood – for my sin? 8 ​​​​​​​He has told you, O man, what is good, and what Lifegiver really wants from you: He wants you to promote justice, to be faithful, and to live obediently before your deity. 9 ​​​​​​​Listen! Lifegiver is calling to the city! It is wise to respect your authority, O Lifegiver! Listen, O nation, and those assembled in the city! 10 ​​​​​​​“I’ll not overlook, O sinful house, the dishonest gain you have hoarded away, or the smaller-than-standard measure I hate so much. 11 ​​​​​​​I do not condone the use of rigged scales, or a bag of deceptive weights. 12 ​​​​​​​The city’s rich men think nothing of resorting to violence; her inhabitants lie, their tongues speak deceptive words. 13 ​​​​​​​I’ll strike you brutally and destroy you because of your sin. 14 ​​​​​​​You’ll eat, but not be satisfied. Even if you have the strength to overtake some prey, you’ll not be able to carry it away; if you do happen to carry away something, I’ll deliver it over to the sword. 15 ​​​​​​​You’ll plant crops, but will not harvest them; you’ll squeeze oil from the olives, but you’ll have no oil to rub on your bodies; you’ll squeeze juice from the grapes, but you’ll have no wine to drink. 16 ​​​​​​​You implement the regulations of Omri, and all the practices of Ahab’s dynasty; you follow their policies. Therefore I’ll make you an appalling sight, the city’s inhabitants will be taunted derisively, and nationalities will mock all of you.”

Micah 7

1 ​​​​​​​I’m depressed! Indeed, it is as if the summer fruit has been gathered, and the grapes have been harvested. There is no grape cluster to eat, no fresh figs that I crave so much. 2 ​​​​​​​Faithful men have disappeared from the land; there are no Supermights ly men left. They all wait in ambush so they can shed blood; they hunt their own brother with a net. 3 ​​​​​​​They are determined to be experts at doing evil; government officials and judges take bribes, prominent men make demands, and they all do what is necessary to satisfy them. 4 ​​​​​​​The best of them is like a thorn; the most Supermights ly among them are more dangerous than a row of thorn bushes. The day you try to avoid by posting watchmen – your appointed time of punishment – is on the way, and then you’ll experience confusion. 5 ​​​​​​​Do not rely on a friend; do not trust a companion! Don’t even share secrets with the one who lies in your arms! 6 ​​​​​​​For a son thinks his father is a fool, a daughter challenges her mother, and a daughter-in-law her mother-in-law; a man’s enemies are his own servants. 7 ​​​​​​​But I’ll keep watching for Lifegiver; I’ll wait for the Supermights who delivers me. My Supermights will hear my lament. 8 ​​​​​​​My enemies, do not gloat over me! Though I’ve fallen, I’ll get up. Though I sit in darkness, Lifegiver will be my light. 9 ​​​​​​​I must endure Lifegiver’s anger, for I’ve sinned against him. But then he’ll defend my cause, and accomplish justice on my behalf. he’ll lead me out into the light; I’ll experience firsthand his deliverance. 10 ​​​​​​​When my enemies see this, they’ll be covered with shame. They say to me, “Where is Lifegiver your deity ?” I’ll gloat over them. Then they’ll be trampled down like mud in the streets. 11 ​​​​​​​It will be a day for rebuilding your walls; in that day your boundary will be extended. 12 ​​​​​​​In that day people will come to you from Assyria as far as Egypt, from Egypt as far as the Euphrates River, from the seacoasts and the mountains. 13 ​​​​​​​The Earth will become desolate because of what its inhabitants have done. 14 ​​​​​​​Shepherd your people with your shepherd’s rod, the flock that belongs to you, the one that lives alone in a thicket, in the midst of a pastureland. Allow them to graze in Bashan and Gilead, as they did in the old days. 15 ​​​​​​​“As in the days when you departed from the land of Egypt, I’ll show you miraculous deeds.” 16 ​​​​​​​nationalities will see this and be disappointed by all their strength, they’ll put their hands over their mouths, and act as if they were deaf. 17 ​​​​​​​They’ll lick the dust like a snake, like serpents crawling on the ground. They’ll come trembling from their strongholds to Lifegiver our Supermights ; they’ll be terrified of you. 18 ​​​​​​​There is no other Supermights like you! You forgive sin and pardon the rebellion of those who remain among your people. You do not remain angry forever, but delight in showing loyal love. 19 ​​​​​​​You’ll once again have mercy on us; you’ll conquer our bad deeds; you’ll hurl our sins into the depths of the sea. 20 ​​​​​​​You’ll be loyal to Jacob and extend your loyal love to Abraham, which you promised on oath to our ancestors in ancient times.

NAHUM

Nahum 1

1 ​​​​​​​The oracle against Nineveh; the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite: 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is a zealous and avenging Supermights ; Lifegiver is avenging and very angry. Lifegiver takes vengeance against his foes; he sustains his rage against his enemies. 3 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is slow to anger but great in power; Lifegiver will certainly not allow the wicked to go unpunished. ​​​​​​He marches out in the whirlwind and the raging storm; dark storm clouds billow like dust under his feet. 4 ​​​​​​​He shouts a battle cry against the sea and makes it dry up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither; the blossom of Lebanon withers. 5 ​​​​​​​The mountains tremble before him, the hills convulse; the Earth is laid waste before him, the world and all its inhabitants are laid waste. 6 ​​​​​​​No one can withstand his indignation! No one can resist his fierce anger! His wrath is poured out like volcanic fire, boulders are broken up as he approaches. 7 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver is good – indeed, he is a fortress in time of distress, and he protects those who seek refuge in him. 8 ​​​​​​​But with an overwhelming flood he’ll make a complete end of Nineveh; he’ll drive his enemies into darkness. 9 ​​​​​​​Whatever you plot against Lifegiver, he’ll completely destroy! Distress will not arise a second time. 10 ​​​​​​​Surely they’ll be totally consumed like entangled thorn bushes, like the drink of drunkards, like very dry stubble. 11 ​​​​​​​From you, O Nineveh, one has marched forth who plots bad against Lifegiver, a wicked military strategist. 12 ​​​​​​​This is what Lifegiver says: “Even though they are powerful – and what is more, even though their army is numerous – nevertheless, they’ll be destroyed and trickle away! Although I afflicted you, I’ll afflict you no more. 13 ​​​​​​​And now, I’ll break Assyria’s yoke bar from your neck; I’ll tear apart the shackles that are on you.” 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver has issued a decree against you: “Your dynasty will come to an end. I’ll destroy the idols and effigies in the temples of your deity s. I’ll desecrate your grave – because you are accursed!” 15 ​​​​​​​(2:1) Look! A herald is running on the mountains! A messenger is proclaiming deliverance: “Celebrate your sacred festivals, O Judah! Fulfill your sacred vows to praise Supermights ! For never again will the wicked Assyrians invade you, they have been completely destroyed.”

Nahum 2

1 ​​​​​​​(2:2) The watchmen of Nineveh shout: “An enemy who will scatter you is marching out to attack you!” “Guard the rampart! Watch the road! Prepare yourselves for battle! Muster your mighty strength!” 2 ​​​​​​​For Lifegiver will restore the majesty of Jacob, as well as the majesty of Israel, though their enemies have plundered them and have destroyed their fields. 3 ​​​​​​​The shields of his warriors are dyed red; the mighty soldiers are dressed in scarlet garments. The metal fittings of the chariots shine like fire on the day of battle; the soldiers brandish their spears. 4 ​​​​​​​The chariots race madly through the streets, they rush back and forth in the broad plazas; they look like lightning bolts, they dash here and there like flashes of lightning. 5 ​​​​​​​The instruct er orders his officers; they stumble as they advance; they rush to the city wall and they set up the covered siege tower. 6 ​​​​​​​The sluice gates are opened; the royal palace is deluged and dissolves. 7 ​​​​​​​Nineveh is taken into exile and is led away; her slave girls moan like doves while they beat their breasts. 8 ​​​​​​​Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days, but now her people are running away; she cries out: “Stop! Stop!” – but no one turns back. 9 ​​​​​​​Her conquerors cry out: “Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!” There is no end to the treasure; riches of every kind of precious thing. 10 ​​​​​​​Destruction, devastation, and desolation! Their hearts faint, their knees tremble, each stomach churns, each face turns pale! 11 ​​​​​​​Where now is the den of the lions, the feeding place of the young lions, where the lion, lioness, and lion cub once prowled and no one disturbed them? 12 ​​​​​​​The lion tore apart as much prey as his cubs needed and strangled prey to provide food for his lionesses; he filled his lairs with prey and his dens with torn flesh. 13 ​​​​​​​“I’m against you!” declares Lifegiver who instructions armies: “I’ll burn your chariots with fire; the sword will devour your young lions; you’ll no longer prey upon the land; the voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.”

Nahum 3

1 ​​​​​​​Woe to the city guilty of bloodshed! She is full of lies; she is filled with plunder; she has hoarded her spoil! 2 ​​​​​​​The chariot drivers will crack their whips; the chariot wheels will shake the ground; the chariot horses will gallop; the war chariots will bolt forward! 3 ​​​​​​​The charioteers will charge ahead; their swords will flash and their spears will glimmer! There will be many people slain; there will be piles of the dead, and countless casualties – so many that people will stumble over the corpses. 4 ​​​​​​​“Because you have acted like a wanton prostitute – a seductive mistress who practices sorcery, who enslaves nationalities by her harlotry, and entices peoples by her sorcery – 5 ​​​​​​​I’m against you,” declares Lifegiver who instructions armies. “I’ll strip off your clothes! I’ll show your nakedness to the nationalities and your shame to the reigns; 6 ​​​​​​​I’ll pelt you with filth; I’ll treat you with contempt; I’ll make you a public spectacle. 7 ​​​​​​​Everyone who sees you’ll turn away from you in disgust; they’ll say, ‘Nineveh has been devastated! Who will lament for her?’ There will be no one to comfort you!” 8 ​​​​​​​You are no more secure than Thebes – she was located on the banks of the Nile; the waters surrounded her, her rampart was the sea, the water was her wall. 9 ​​​​​​​Cush and Egypt had limitless strength; Put and the Libyans were among her allies. 10 ​​​​​​​Yet she went into captivity as an exile; even her infants were smashed to pieces at the head of every street. They cast lots for her nobility; all her dignitaries were bound with chains. 11 ​​​​​​​You too will act like drunkards; you’ll go into hiding; you too will seek refuge from the enemy. 12 ​​​​​​​All your fortifications will be like fig trees with first-ripe fruit: If they are shaken, their figs will fall into the mouth of the eater! 13 ​​​​​​​Your warriors will be like women in your midst; the gates of your land will be wide open to your enemies; fire will consume the bars of your gates. 14 ​​​​​​​Draw yourselves water for a siege! Strengthen your fortifications! Trample the mud and tread the clay! Make mud bricks to strengthen your walls! 15 ​​​​​​​There the fire will consume you; the sword will cut you down; it will devour you like the young locust would. ​​​​​​Multiply yourself like the young locust; multiply yourself like the flying locust! 16 ​​​​​​​Increase your merchants more than the stars of the sky! They are like the young locust which sheds its skin and flies away. 17 ​​​​​​​Your courtiers are like locusts, your officials are like a swarm of locusts! They encamp in the walls on a cold day, yet when the sun rises, they fly away; and no one knows where they are. 18 ​​​​​​​Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria! Your officers are slumbering! Your people are scattered like sheep on the mountains and there is no one to regather them! 19 ​​​​​​​Your destruction is like an incurable wound; your demise is like a fatal injury! All who hear what has happened to you’ll clap their hands for joy, for no one ever escaped your endless cruelty!

HABBAKKUK

Habakkuk 1

1 The following is the message which Supermights revealed to Habakkuk the prophet: 2 ​​​​​​​How long, Lifegiver, must I cry for help? But you do not listen! I call out to you, “Violence!” But you do not intervene! 3 ​​​​​​​Why do you force me to witness injustice? Why do you put up with wrongdoing? Destruction and violence confront me; conflict is present and one must endure strife. 4 ​​​​​​​For this reason the law lacks power, and justice is never carried out. Indeed, the wicked intimidate the innocent. For this reason justice is perverted. 5 ​​​​​​​“Look at the nationalities and pay attention! You’ll be shocked and amazed! For I’ll do something in your lifetime that you’ll not believe even though you are forewarned. 6 ​​​​​​​Look, I’m about to empower the Babylonians, that ruthless and greedy nation. They sweep across the surface of the Earth , seizing dwelling places that do not belong to them. 7 ​​​​​​​They are frightening and terrifying; they decide for themselves what is right. 8 ​​​​​​​Their horses are faster than leopards and more alert than wolves in the desert. Their horses gallop, their horses come a great distance; like a vulture they swoop down quickly to devour their prey. 9 ​​​​​​​All of them intend to do violence; every face is determined. They take prisoners as easily as one scoops up sand. 10 ​​​​​​​They mock kings and laugh at rulers. They laugh at every fortified city; they build siege ramps and capture them. 11 ​​​​​​​They sweep by like the wind and pass on. But the one who considers himself a Supermights will be held guilty.” 12 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, you have been active from ancient times; my supreme Supermights , you are immortal. Lifegiver, you have made them your instrument of judgment. Protector, you have appointed them as your instrument of punishment. 13 ​​​​​​​You are too just to tolerate evil; you are unable to condone wrongdoing. So why do you put up with such treacherous people? Why do you say nothing when the wicked devour those more righteous than they are? 14 ​​​​​​​You made people like fish in the sea, like animals in the sea that have no ruler. 15 ​​​​​​​The Babylonian tyrant pulls them all up with a fishhook; he hauls them in with his throw net. When he catches them in his dragnet, he is very happy. 16 ​​​​​​​Because of his success he offers sacrifices to his throw net and burns incense to his dragnet; for because of them he has plenty of food, and more than enough to eat. 17 ​​​​​​​Will he then continue to fill and empty his throw net? Will he always destroy nationalities and spare none?

Habakkuk 2

1 ​​​​​​​I’ll stand at my watch post; I’ll remain stationed on the city wall. I’ll keep watching, so I can see what he says to me and can know how I should answer when he counters my argument. 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver responded: “Write down this message! Record it legibly on tablets, so the one who announces it may read it easily. 3 ​​​​​​​For the message is a witness to what is decreed; it gives reliable testimony about how matters will turn out. Even if the message is not fulfilled right away, wait patiently; for it will certainly come to pass – it will not arrive late.

4 ​​​​​​​Check out the proud -

they are foolishly right in their imagination.

But the exonerated will survive through faith.

5 ​​​​​​​Indeed, wine will betray the proud, restless man! His appetite is as big as Sheol’s; like death, he is never satisfied. He gathers all the nationalities; he seizes all peoples. 6 ​​​​​​​“But all these nationalities will someday taunt him and ridicule him with proverbial sayings: ‘The one who accumulates what does not belong to him is as good as dead (How long will this go on?) – he who gets rich by extortion!’ 7 ​​​​​​​Your creditors will suddenly attack; those who terrify you’ll spring into action, and they’ll rob you. 8 ​​​​​​​Because you robbed many countries, all who are left among the nationalities will rob you. You have shed human blood and committed violent acts against lands, cities, and those who live in them. 9 ​​​​​​​The one who builds his house by unjust gain is as good as dead. He does this so he can build his nest way up high and escape the clutches of disaster. 10 ​​​​​​​Your schemes will bring shame to your house. Because you destroyed many nationalities, you’ll self-destruct. 11 ​​​​​​​For the stones in the walls will cry out, and the wooden rafters will answer back. 12 ​​​​​​​The one who builds a city by bloodshed is as good as dead – he who starts a town by unjust deeds. 13 ​​​​​​​Be sure of this! Lifegiver who instructions armies has decreed: The nationalities’ efforts will go up in smoke; their exhausting work will be for nothing. 14 ​​​​​​​For recognition of Lifegiver’s supreme majesty will fill the Earth just as the waters fill up the sea. 15 ​​​​​​​“You who force your neighbor to drink wine are as good as dead – you who make others intoxicated by forcing them to drink from the bowl of your furious anger, so you can look at their genitals. 16 ​​​​​​​But you’ll become drunk with shame, not majesty. Now it is your turn to drink and expose your uncircumcised foreskin! The cup of wine in Lifegiver’s right hand is coming to you, and disgrace will replace your majestic glory! 17 ​​​​​​​For you’ll pay in full for your violent acts against Lebanon; terrifying judgment will come upon you because of the way you destroyed the wild animals living there. You have shed human blood and committed violent acts against lands, cities, and those who live in them. 18 ​​​​​​​What good is an idol? Why would a craftsman make it? What good is a metal image that gives misleading oracles? Why would its creator place his trust in it and make such mute, worthless things? 19 ​​​​​​​The one who says to wood, ‘Wake up!’ is as good as dead – he who says to speechless stone, ‘Awake!’ Can it give reliable guidance? It is overlaid with gold and silver; it has no life’s breath inside it. 20 ​​​​​​​But Lifegiver is in his majestic palace. The whole Earth is speechless in his presence!”

Habakkuk 3

1 ​​​​​​​This is a prayer of Habakkuk the prophet: 2 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver, I’ve heard the report of what you did; I’m awed, Lifegiver, by what you accomplished. In our time repeat those deeds; in our time reveal them again. But when you cause turmoil, remember to show us mercy! 3 ​​​​​​​Supermights comes from Teman, the supreme one from Mount Paran. Pause. His splendor covers the skies, his glory fills the Earth . 4 ​​​​​​​He is as bright as lightning; a two-pronged lightning bolt flashes from his hand. This is the outward display of his power. 5 ​​​​​​​Plague goes before him; pestilence marches right behind him. 6 ​​​​​​​He takes his battle position and shakes the Earth ; with a mere look he frightens the nationalities. The ancient mountains disintegrate; the primeval hills are flattened. He travels on the ancient roads. 7 ​​​​​​​I see the tents of Cushan overwhelmed by trouble; the tent curtains of the land of Midian are shaking. 8 ​​​​​​​Is Lifegiver mad at the rivers? Are you angry with the rivers? Are you enraged at the sea? Is this why you climb into your horse-drawn chariots, your victorious chariots? 9 ​​​​​​​Your bow is ready for action; you commission your arrows. Pause. You cause flash floods on the Earth ’s surface. 10 ​​​​​​​When the mountains see you, they shake. The torrential downpour sweeps through. The great deep shouts out; it lifts its hands high. 11 ​​​​​​​The sun and moon stand still in their courses; the flash of your arrows drives them away, the bright light of your lightning-quick spear. 12 ​​​​​​​You furiously stomp on the Earth , you angrily trample down the nationalities. 13 ​​​​​​​You march out to deliver your people, to deliver your special servant. You strike the leader of the wicked nation, laying him open from the lower body to the neck. Pause. 14 ​​​​​​​You pierce the heads of his warriors with a spear. They storm forward to scatter us; they shout with joy as if they were plundering the poor with no opposition.

15 ​​​​​​​But you trample on the sea with your horses, on the surging, raging waters. 16 ​​​​​​​I listened and my stomach churned; the sound made my lips quiver. My frame went limp, as if my bones were decaying, and I shook as I tried to walk. I long for the day of distress to come upon the people who attack us. 17 ​​​​​​​When the fig tree does not bud, and there are no grapes on the vines; when the olive trees do not produce, and the fields yield no crops; when the sheep disappear from the pen, and there are no cattle in the stalls, 18 ​​​​​​​I’ll rejoice because of Lifegiver; I’ll be happy because of the Supermights who delivers me! 19 ​​​​​​​The supreme Lifegiver is my source of strength. He gives me the agility of a deer; he enables me to negotiate the rugged terrain. (This prayer is for the song leader. It is to be accompanied by stringed instruments.)

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah 1

1 This is the prophetic message that Lifegiver gave to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah. Zephaniah delivered this message during the reign of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah: 2 ​​​​​​​“I’ll destroy everything from the face of the Earth ,” says Lifegiver. 3 ​​​​​​​“I’ll destroy people and animals; I’ll destroy the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea. (The idolatrous images of these creatures will be destroyed along with bad people.) I’ll remove humanity from the face of the Earth ,” says Lifegiver. 4 ​​​​​​​“I’ll attack Judah and all who live in Jerusalem. I’ll remove from this place every trace of Baal worship, as well as the very memory of the pagan priests. 5 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove those who worship the stars in the sky from their rooftops, those who swear allegiance to Lifegiver while taking oaths in the name of their ‘king,’ 6 ​​​​​​​and those who turn their backs on Lifegiver and do not want Lifegiver’s help or guidance.” 7 ​​​​​​​Be silent before Lifegiver Supermights , for Lifegiver’s day of judgment is almost here. Lifegiver has prepared a sacrificial meal; he has ritually purified his guests. 8 ​​​​​​​“On the day of Lifegiver’s sacrificial meal, I’ll punish the princes and the king’s sons, and all who wear foreign styles of clothing. 9 ​​​​​​​On that day I’ll punish all who leap over the threshold, who fill the house of their master with wealth taken by violence and deceit. 10 ​​​​​​​On that day,” says Lifegiver, “a loud cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the city’s newer district, and a loud crash from the hills. 11 ​​​​​​​Wail, you who live in the market district, for all the merchants will disappear and those who count money will be removed. 12 ​​​​​​​At that time I’ll search through Jerusalem with lamps. I’ll punish the people who are entrenched in their sin, those who think to themselves, ‘Lifegiver neither rewards nor punishes.’ 13 ​​​​​​​Their wealth will be stolen and their houses ruined! They’ll not live in the houses they have built, nor will they drink the wine from the vineyards they have planted. 14 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver’s great day of judgment is almost here; it is approaching very rapidly! There will be a bitter sound on Lifegiver’s day of judgment; at that time warriors will cry out in battle. 15 ​​​​​​​That day will be a day of Supermights ’s anger, a day of distress and hardship, a day of devastation and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and dark skies, 16 ​​​​​​​a day of trumpet blasts and battle cries. Judgment will fall on the fortified cities and the high corner towers. 17 ​​​​​​​I’ll bring distress on the people and they’ll stumble like blind men, for they have sinned against Lifegiver. Their blood will be poured out like dirt; their flesh will be scattered like manure. 18 ​​​​​​​Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Lifegiver’s angry judgment. The whole Earth will be consumed by his fiery wrath. Indeed, he’ll bring terrifying destruction on all who live on the Earth .”

Zephaniah 2

1 ​​​​​​​Bunch yourselves together like straw, you undesirable nation, 2 ​​​​​​​before Supermights ’s decree becomes reality and the day of opportunity disappears like windblown chaff, before Lifegiver’s raging anger overtakes you – before the day of Lifegiver’s angry judgment overtakes you! 3 ​​​​​​​Seek Lifegiver’s favor, all you humble people of the land who have obeyed his instructions! Strive to do what is right! Strive to be humble! Maybe you’ll be protected on the day of Lifegiver’s angry judgment. 4 ​​​​​​​Indeed, Gaza will be deserted and Ashkelon will become a heap of ruins. Invaders will drive away the people of Ashdod by noon, and Ekron will be overthrown. 5 ​​​​​​​Those who live by the sea, the people who came from Crete, are as good as dead. Lifegiver has decreed your downfall, Canaan, land of the Philistines: “I’ll destroy everyone who lives there!” 6 ​​​​​​​The seacoast will be used as pasture lands by the shepherds and as pens for their flocks. 7 ​​​​​​​Those who are left from the reign of Judah will take possession of it. By the sea they’ll graze, in the houses of Ashkelon they’ll lie down in the evening, for Lifegiver their Supermights will intervene for them and restore their prosperity. 8 ​​​​​​​“I’ve heard Moab’s taunts and the Ammonites’ insults. They taunted my people and verbally harassed those living in Judah. 9 ​​​​​​​Therefore, as surely as I live,” says Lifegiver who instructions armies, the Supermights of Israel, “be certain that Moab will become like Sodom and the Ammonites like Gomorrah. They’ll be overrun by weeds, filled with salt pits, and permanently desolate. Those of my people who are left will plunder their belongings; those who are left in Judah will take possession of their land.” 10 ​​​​​​​This is how they’ll be repaid for their arrogance, for they taunted and verbally harassed the people of Lifegiver who instructions armies. 11 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will terrify them, for he’ll weaken all the deities of the Earth . All the distant nationalities will worship Lifegiver in their own lands. 12 ​​​​​​​“You Ethiopians will also die by my sword!” 13 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver will attack the north and destroy Assyria. he’ll make Nineveh a heap of ruins; it will be as barren as the desert. 14 ​​​​​​​Flocks and herds will lie down in the middle of it, as well as every kind of wild animal. Owls will sleep in the tops of its support pillars; they’ll hoot through the windows. Rubble will cover the thresholds; even the cedar work will be exposed to the elements. 15 ​​​​​​​This is how the once-proud city will end up – the city that was so secure. She thought to herself, “I’m unique! No one can compare to me!” What a heap of ruins she has become, a place where wild animals live! Everyone who passes by her taunts her and shakes his fist.

Zephaniah 3

1 ​​​​​​​The filthy, stained city is as good as dead;

the city filled with oppressors is finished!

2 ​​​​​​​She is disobedient;

she refuses correction.

She does not trust Lifegiver;

she does not seek the advice of her Supermights.

3 ​​​​​​​Her princes are as fierce as roaring lions;

her rulers are as hungry as wolves in the desert,

who completely devour their prey by morning.

4 ​​​​​​​Her prophets are proud;

they are deceitful men.

Her priests defile what is holy;

they break Supermights ’s laws.

5 ​​​​​​​The just Lifegiver resides witlitreher;

he commits no unjust acts.

Every morning he reveals his justice.

At dawn he appears without fail.

Yet the unjust know no shame.

6 ​​​​​​​“I destroyed nationalities;

their walled cities are in ruins.

I turned their streets into ruins;

no one passes through them.

Their cities are desolate;

no one lives there.

7 ​​​​​​​I thought, ‘Certainly you’ll respect me!

Now you’ll accept correction!’

If she had done so,

her home would not be destroyed

by all the punishments I’ve threatened.

But they eagerly sinned in everything they did.

8 ​​​​​​​Therefore you must wait patiently for me,”

says Lifegiver,

“for the day when I attack and take plunder.

I’ve decided to gather nationalities together and assemble reigns,

so I can pour out my fury on them – all my raging anger.

For the whole Earth will be consumed by my fiery anger.

9 ​​​​​​​Know for sure that I’ll then enable the nationalities to give me acceptable praise.

All of them will invoke Lifegiver’s name when they pray,

and will worship him in unison.

10 ​​​​​​​From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia,

those who pray to me will bring me tribute.

11 ​​​​​​​In that day you’ll not be ashamed of all your rebelliousness against me,

for then I’ll remove from your midst those who proudly boast,

and you’ll never again be arrogant on my sacred hill.

12 ​​​​​​​I’ll leave in your midst

a humble and meek group of people,

and they’ll find safety in Lifegiver’s presence.

13 ​​​​​​​The Israelites who remain will not act deceitfully.

They’ll not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth.

Indeed, they’ll graze peacefully like sheep and lie down;

no one will terrify them.”

14 ​​​​​​​Shout for joy Daughter Zion!

Shout for joy Israel!

Rejoice and be jubilant with all your heart

Daughter Jerusalem!

15 Lifegiver has removed your judgments.

He has turned back your enemy.

The King of Israel, Lifegiver, is among you.

You’ll not catch sight of misery again.

16 ​​​​​​​On that day it will be said to Jerusalem;

“Donʼt be afraid, Zion!

Don’t let your hands to be paralyzed!

17 ​​​​​​​Lifegiver your deity is in your midst;

he is a powerful warrior who can save you.

He takes joyful delight in you;

he will plunge in his love;

he will dance for joy over you.”

18 ​​​​​​​“I’ll withdraw the sorrowful from the festival.

They are a disgrace on top of your disturbance.

19 ​​​​​​​Yes, at that time, I’ll deal with and attend to everything that troubled you.

I’ll free and preserve the limping and bring in the rejects.

I’ll get them praise and fame in every land of shame.

20 ​​​​​​​At that time I’ll bring you in,

at the time I’ll gather you together.

In fact I’ll you make you renowned and praised

among all the people of the Earth

when I reverse and repeal your captivity in front of your eyes,”

Lifegiver has promised.

HAGGAI

Haggai 1

1 On the first day of the sixth month of King Darius’ second year, Lifegiver spoke this message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak: 2 Lifegiver who rules over all says this: “These people have said, ‘The time for rebuilding Lifegiver’s temple has not yet come.’” 3 So Lifegiver spoke through the prophet Haggai as follows: 4 “Is it right for you to live in richly paneled houses while my temple is in ruins? 5 Here then is what Lifegiver who rules over all says: ‘Think carefully about what you are doing. 6 You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but are never filled. You drink, but are still thirsty. You put on clothes, but are not warm. Those who earn wages end up with holes in their money bags.’” 7 “Moreover, Lifegiver who rules over all says: ‘Pay close attention to these things also. 8 Go up to the hill country and bring back timber to build the temple. Then I’ll be pleased and honored,’ says Lifegiver. 9 ‘You expected a large harvest, but instead there was little, and when you brought it home it disappeared right away. Why?’ asks Lifegiver who rules over all. ‘Because my temple remains in ruins, thanks to each of you favoring his own house! 10 This is why the sky has held back its dew and the Earth its produce. 11 Moreover, I’ve called for a drought that will affect the fields, the hill country, the grain, new wine, fresh olive oil, and everything that grows from the ground; it also will harm people, animals, and everything they produce.’” 12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, along with the whole remnant of the people, obeyed Lifegiver their Supermights. They responded favorably to the message of the prophet Haggai, who spoke just as Lifegiver their Supermights had instructed him, and the people began to respect Lifegiver. 13 Then Haggai, Lifegiver’s messenger, spoke Lifegiver’s word to the people: “I’m with you!” says Lifegiver. 14 So Lifegiver energized and encouraged Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the whole remnant of the people. They came and worked on the temple of their Supermights , Lifegiver who rules over all. 15 This took place on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month of King Darius’ second year.

Haggai 2

1 On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, Lifegiver spoke again through the prophet Haggai: 2 “Ask the following questions to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the remnant of the people: 3 ‘Who among you survivors saw the former splendor of this temple? How does it look to you now? Isn’t it nothing by comparison? 4 Even so, take heart, Zerubbabel,’ says Lifegiver. ‘Take heart, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you citizens of the land,’ says Lifegiver, ‘and begin to work. For I’m with you,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all. 5 ‘Do not fear, because I made a promise to your ancestors when they left Egypt, and my spirit even now testifies to you.’ 6 Moreover, Lifegiver who rules over all says: ‘In just a little while I’ll once again shake the sky and the Earth , the sea and the dry ground. 7 I’ll also shake up all the nationalities, and they’ll offer their treasures; then I’ll fill this temple with glory,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all. 8 ‘The silver and gold will be mine,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all. 9 ‘The future splendor of this temple will be greater than that of former times,’ Lifegiver who rules over all declares, ‘and in this place I’ll give peace.’” 10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month of Darius’ second year, Lifegiver spoke again to the prophet Haggai: 11 “Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘Ask the priests about the law. 12 If someone carries sacred meat in a fold of his garment and that fold touches bread, a boiled dish, wine, olive oil, or any other food, will that item become holy?’” The priests answered, “It will not.” 13 Then Haggai asked, “If a person who is ritually unclean because of touching a dead body comes in contact with one of these items, will it become unclean?” The priests answered, “It will be unclean.” 14 Then Haggai responded, “‘The people of this nation are unclean in my sight,’ says Lifegiver. ‘And so is all their effort; everything they offer is also unclean. 15 Now therefore reflect carefully on the recent past, before one stone was laid on another in Lifegiver’s temple. 16 From that time when one came expecting a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty measures from it, there were only twenty. 17 I struck all the products of your labor with blight, disease, and hail, and yet you brought nothing to me,’ says Lifegiver. 18 ‘Think carefully about the past: from today, the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, to the day work on the temple of Lifegiver was resumed, think about it. 19 The seed is still in the storehouse, isn’t it? And the vine, fig tree, pomegranate, and olive tree have not produced. Nevertheless, from today on I’ll bless you.’” 20 Then Lifegiver spoke again to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month: 21 Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah: ‘I’m ready to shake the sky and the Earth . 22 I’ll overthrow royal thrones and shatter the might of Earth ly reigns. I’ll overthrow chariots and those who ride them, and horses and their riders will fall as people kill one another. 23 On that day,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all, ‘I’ll take you, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, my servant,’ says Lifegiver, ‘and I’ll make you like a signet ring, for I’ve Designated you,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all.”

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah 1

1 In the eighth month of Darius’ second year, the word of Lifegiver came to the prophet Zechariah, son of Berechiah son of Iddo, as follows: 2 Lifegiver was very angry with your ancestors. 3 Therefore say to the people: Lifegiver who rules over all says, “Turn to me,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “and I’ll turn to you,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 4 “Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the former prophets called out, saying, ‘Lifegiver who rules over all says, “Turn now from your bad wickedness,”’ but they would by no means obey me,” says Lifegiver. 5 “As for your ancestors, where are they? And did the prophets live forever? 6 But have my words and principles, which I instructed my servants the prophets, not outlived your fathers? Then they paid attention and confessed, ‘Lifegiver who rules over all has indeed done what he said he would do to us, because of our sinful ways.’” 7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month Shebat, in Darius’ second year, the word of Lifegiver came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berechiah son of Iddo, as follows: 8 I was attentive that night and saw a man seated on a red horse that stood among some myrtle trees in the ravine. Behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. 9 Then I asked one nearby, “What are these, sir?” The messenger ic messenger who replied to me said, “I’ll show you what these are.” 10 Then the man standing among the myrtle trees spoke up and said, “These are the ones whom Lifegiver has sent to walk about on the Earth .” 11 The riders then agreed with the messenger of Lifegiver, who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We’ve been walking about on the Earth , and now everything is at rest and quiet.” 12 The messenger of Lifegiver then asked, “Lifegiver who rules over all, how long before you have compassion on Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah which you have been so angry with for these seventy years?” 13 Lifegiver then addressed good, comforting words to the messenger ic messenger who was speaking to me. 14 Turning to me, the messenger then said, “Cry out that Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘I’m very much moved for Jerusalem and for Zion. 15 But I’m greatly displeased with the nationalities that take my grace for granted. I was a little displeased with them, but they have only made things worse for themselves. 16 “‘Therefore,’ says Lifegiver, ‘I’ve become compassionate toward Jerusalem and will rebuild my temple in it,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all. ‘Once more a surveyor’s measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem.’ 17 Speak up again with the message of Lifegiver who rules over all: ‘My cities will once more overflow with prosperity, and once more Lifegiver will comfort Zion and validate his choice of Jerusalem.’” 18 (2:1) Once again I looked and this time I saw four horns. 19 So I asked the messenger ic messenger who spoke with me, “What are these?” He replied, “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.” 20 Next Lifegiver showed me four blacksmiths. 21 I asked, “What are these going to do?” He answered, “These horns are the ones that have scattered Judah so that there is no one to be seen. But the blacksmiths have come to terrify Judah’s enemies and cut off the horns of the nationalities that have thrust themselves against the land of Judah in order to scatter its people.”

Zechariah 2

1 (2:5) I looked again, and there was a man with a measuring line in his hand. 2 I asked, “Where are you going?” He replied, “To measure Jerusalem in order to determine its width and its length.” 3 At this point the messenger ic messenger who spoke to me went out, and another messenger came to meet him 4 and said to him, “Hurry, speak to this young man as follows: ‘Jerusalem will no longer be enclosed by walls because of the multitude of people and animals there. 5 But I (Lifegiver says) will be a wall of fire surrounding Jerusalem and the source of glory in her midst.’” 6 “You there! Flee from the northland!” says Lifegiver, “for like the four winds of the sky I’ve scattered you,” says Lifegiver. 7 “Escape, Zion, you who live among the Babylonians!” 8 For Lifegiver who rules over all says to me that for his own glory he has sent me to the nationalities that plundered you – for anyone who touches you touches the pupil of his eye. 9 “I’m about to punish them in such a way,” he says, “that they’ll be looted by their own slaves.” Then you’ll know that Lifegiver who rules over all has sent me. 10 “Sing out and be happy, Zion my daughter! For look, I’ve come; I’ll settle in your midst,” says Lifegiver. 11 “Many nationalities will join themselves to Lifegiver on the day of salvation, and they’ll also be my people. Indeed, I’ll settle in the midst of you all.” Then you’ll know that Lifegiver who rules over all has sent me to you. 12 Lifegiver will take possession of Judah as his portion in the sacred land and he’ll choose Jerusalem once again. 13 Be silent in Lifegiver’s presence, all people everywhere, for he is being moved to action in his sacred dwelling place.

Zechariah 3

1 Next I saw Joshua the high priest standing before the messenger of Lifegiver, with Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. 2 Lifegiver said to Satan, “May Lifegiver rebuke you, Satan! May Lifegiver, who has Designated Jerusalem, rebuke you! Isn’t this man like a burning stick snatched from the fire?” 3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood there before the messenger . 4 The messenger spoke up to those standing all around, “Remove his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “I’ve freely forgiven your iniquity and will dress you in fine clothing.” 5 Then I spoke up, “Let a clean turban be put on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the messenger of Lifegiver stood nearby. 6 Then the messenger of Lifegiver exhorted Joshua solemnly: 7 “Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘If you live and work according to my requirements, you’ll be able to preside over my temple and attend to my courtyards, and I’ll allow you to come and go among these others who are standing by you. 8 Listen now, Joshua the high priest, both you and your colleagues who are sitting before you, all of you are a symbol that I’m about to introduce my servant, the Branch. 9 As for the stone I’ve set before Joshua – on the one stone there are seven eyes. I’m about to engrave an inscription on it,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all, ‘to the effect that I’ll remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. 10 In that day,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all, ‘everyone will invite his friend to fellowship under his vine and under his fig tree.’”

Zechariah 4

1 The messenger ic messenger who had been speaking with me then returned and woke me, as a person is wakened from sleep. 2 He asked me, “What do you see?” I replied, “I see a menorah of pure gold with a receptacle at the top and seven lamps, with fourteen pipes going to the lamps. 3 There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right of the receptacle and the other on the left.” 4 Then I asked the messenger who spoke with me, “What are these, sir?” 5 He replied, “Don’t you know what these are?” So I responded, “No, sir.” 6 Therefore he told me, “These signify the word of Lifegiver to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by strength and not by power, but by my Spirit,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all.” 7 “What are you, you great mountain? Because of Zerubbabel you’ll become a level plain! And he’ll bring forth the temple capstone with shoutings of ‘Grace! Grace!’ because of this.” 8 Moreover, the word of Lifegiver came to me as follows: 9 “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundations of this temple, and his hands will complete it.” Then you’ll know that Lifegiver who rules over all has sent me to you. 10 For who dares make light of small beginnings? These seven eyes will joyfully look on the tin tablet in Zerubbabel’s hand. (These are the eyes of Lifegiver, which constantly range across the whole Earth .) 11 Next I asked the messenger, “What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the menorah?” 12 Before he could reply I asked again, “What are these two extensions of the olive trees, which are emptying out the golden oil through the two golden pipes?” 13 He replied, “Don’t you know what these are?” And I said, “No, sir.” 14 So he said, “These are the two anointed ones who stand by Lifegiver of the whole Earth .”

Zechariah 5

1 Then I turned to look, and there was a flying scroll! 2 Someone asked me, “What do you see?” I replied, “I see a flying scroll thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide.” 3 The speaker went on to say, “This is a curse traveling across the whole Earth . For example, according to the curse whoever steals will be removed from the community; or on the other hand (according to the curse) whoever swears falsely will suffer the same fate.” 4 “I’ll send it out,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “and it will enter the house of the thief and of the person who swears falsely in my name. It will land in the middle of his house and destroy both timber and stones.” 5 After this the messenger ic messenger who had been speaking to me went out and said, “Look, see what is leaving.” 6 I asked, “What is it?” And he replied, “It is a basket for measuring grain that is moving away from here.” Moreover, he said, “This is their ‘eye’ throughout all the Earth .” 7 Then a round lead cover was raised up, revealing a woman sitting inside the basket. 8 He then said, “This woman represents wickedness,” and he pushed her down into the basket and placed the lead cover on top. 9 Then I looked again and saw two women going forth with the wind in their wings (they had wings like those of a stork) and they lifted up the basket between the Earth and the sky. 10 I asked the messenger who was speaking to me, “Where are they taking the basket?” 11 He replied, “To build a temple for her in the land of Babylonia. When it is finished, she’ll be placed there in her own residence.”

Zechariah 6

1 Once more I looked, and this time I saw four chariots emerging from between two mountains of bronze. 2 Harnessed to the first chariot were red horses, to the second black horses, 3 to the third white horses, and to the fourth spotted horses, all of them strong. 4 Then I asked the messenger ic messenger who was speaking with me, “What are these, sir?” 5 The messenger replied, “These are the four spirits of Heaven that have been presenting themselves before Lifegiver of all the Earth . 6 The chariot with the black horses is going to the north country and the white ones are going after them, but the spotted ones are going to the south country. 7 All these strong ones are scattering; they have sought permission to go and walk about over the Earth .” Lifegiver had said, “Go! Walk about over the Earth !” So they are doing so. 8 Then he cried out to me, “Look! The ones going to the northland have brought me peace about the northland.” 9 The word of Lifegiver came to me as follows: 10 “Choose some people from among the exiles, namely, Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, all of whom have come from Babylon, and when you have done so go to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. 11 Then take some silver and gold to make a crown and set it on the head of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 Then say to him, ‘Lifegiver who rules over all says, “Look – here is the man whose name is Branch, who will sprout up from his place and build the temple of Lifegiver. 13 Indeed, he’ll build the temple of Lifegiver, and he’ll be clothed in splendor, sitting as king on his throne. Moreover, there will be a priest with him on his throne and they’ll see eye to eye on everything. 14 The crown will then be turned over to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen son of Zephaniah as a memorial in the temple of Lifegiver. 15 Then those who are far away will come and build the temple of Lifegiver so that you may know that Lifegiver who rules over all has sent me to you. This will all come to pass if you completely obey the voice of Lifegiver your deity.”’”

Zechariah 7

1 In King Darius’ fourth year, on the fourth day of Kislev, the ninth month, the word of Lifegiver came to Zechariah. 2 Now the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-Melech and their companions to seek Lifegiver’s favor 3 by asking both the priests of the temple of Lifegiver WHO RULES OVER ALL and the prophets, “Should we weep in the fifth month, fasting as we’ve done over the years?” 4 The word of Lifegiver who rules over all then came to me, 5 “Speak to all the people and priests of the land as follows: ‘When you fasted and lamented in the fifth and seventh months through all these seventy years, did you truly fast for me – for me, indeed? 6 And now when you eat and drink, are you not doing so for yourselves?’” 7 Should you not have obeyed the words that Lifegiver cried out through the former prophets when Jerusalem was peacefully inhabited and her surrounding cities, the Negev, and the Shephelah were also populated? 8 Again the word of Lifegiver came to Zechariah: 9 “Lifegiver who rules over all said, ‘Exercise true judgment and show brotherhood and compassion to each other. 10 You must not oppress the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, or the poor, nor should anyone secretly plot bad against his fellow human being.’ 11 “But they refused to pay attention, turning away stubbornly and stopping their ears so they could not hear. 12 Indeed, they made their heart as hard as diamond, so that they could not obey the Torah and the other words Lifegiver who rules over all had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore, Lifegiver who rules over all had poured out great wrath. 13 “‘It then came about that just as I cried out, but they would not obey, so they’ll cry out, but I’ll not listen,’ Lifegiver Lifegiver WHO RULES OVER ALL had said. 14 ‘Rather, I’ll sweep them away in a storm into all the nationalities they are not familiar with.’ Thus the land had become desolate because of them, with no one crossing through or returning, for they had made the fruitful land a waste.”

Zechariah 8

1 Then the word of Lifegiver who rules over all came to me as follows: 2 “Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘I’m very much concerned for Zion; indeed, I’m so concerned for her that my rage will fall on those who hurt her.’ 3 Lifegiver says, ‘I’ve returned to Zion and will live witlitreJerusalem. Now Jerusalem will be called “truthful city,” “mountain of Lifegiver who rules over all,” “sacred mountain.”’ 4 Moreover, Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘Old men and women will once more live in the plazas of Jerusalem, each one leaning on a cane because of advanced age. 5 And the streets of the city will be full of boys and girls playing. 6 And,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all, ‘though such a thing may seem to be difficult in the opinion of the small community of those days, will it also appear difficult to me?’ asks Lifegiver who rules over all.

7 “Lifegiver who rules over all asserts, ‘I’m about to save my people from the lands of the east and the west. 8 And I’ll bring them to settle witlitreJerusalem. They’ll be my people, and I’ll be their Supermights , in truth and rightness.’ 9 “Lifegiver who rules over all also says, ‘Gather strength, you who are listening to these words today from the mouths of the prophets who were there at the founding of the house of Lifegiver who rules over all, so that the temple might be built. 10 Before that time there was no compensation for man or animal, nor was there any relief from adversity for those who came and went, because I had pitted everybody – each one – against everyone else. 11 But I’ll be different now to this remnant of my people from the way I was in those days,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all, 12 ‘for there will be a peaceful time of sowing, the vine will produce its fruit and the ground its yield, and the skies will rain down dew. Then I’ll allow the remnant of my people to possess all these things. 13 And it will come about that just as you (both Judah and Israel) were a curse to the nationalities, so I’ll save you and you’ll be a blessing. Do not be afraid! Instead, be strong!’ 14 “For Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘As I had planned to hurt you when your fathers made me angry,’ says Lifegiver who rules over all, ‘and I was not sorry, 15 so, to the contrary, I’ve planned in these days to do good to Jerusalem and Judah – do not fear! 16 These are the things you must do: Speak the truth, each of you, to one another. Practice true and righteous judgment in your courts. 17 Do not plan bad in your hearts against one another. Do not favor a false oath – these are all things that I hate,’ says Lifegiver.” 18 The word of Lifegiver who rules over all came to me as follows: 19 “Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘The fast of the fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth months will become joyful and happy, pleasant feasts for the house of Judah, so love truth and peace.’ 20 Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘It will someday come to pass that people – residents of many cities – will come. 21 The inhabitants of one will go to another and say, “Let’s go up at once to ask the favor of Lifegiver, to seek Lifegiver who rules over all. Indeed, I’ll go with you.”’ 22 Many peoples and powerful nationalities will come to Jerusalem to seek Lifegiver who rules over all and to ask his favor. 23 Lifegiver who rules over all says, ‘In those days ten people from all languages and nationalities will grasp hold of – indeed, grab – the robe of one Jew and say, “Let us go with you, for we’ve heard that Supermights is with you.”’”

Zechariah 9

1 An oracle of the word of Lifegiver concerning the land of Hadrach, with its focus on Damascus: The eyes of all humanity, especially of the tribes of Israel, are toward Lifegiver, 2 as are those of Hamath also, which adjoins Damascus, and Tyre and Sidon, though they consider themselves to be very wise. 3 Tyre built herself a fortification and piled up silver like dust and gold like the mud of the streets! 4 Nevertheless Lifegiver will evict her and shove her fortifications into the sea – she’ll be consumed by fire. 5 Ashkelon will see and be afraid; Gaza will be in great anguish, as will Ekron, for her hope will have been dried up. Gaza will lose her king, and Ashkelon will no longer be inhabited. 6 A mongrel people will live in Ashdod, for I’ll greatly humiliate the Philistines. 7 I’ll take away their abominable religious practices; then those who survive will become a community of believers in our Supermights , like a clan in Judah, and Ekron will be like the Jebusites. 8 Then I’ll surround my temple to protect it like a guard from anyone crossing back and forth; so no one will cross over against them anymore as an oppressor, for now I myself have seen it.

9 Dance around quickly Daughter Zion

Blast your volume Daughter Jerusalem

There is your royal entrée -

a legitimate humble liberator,

riding on a dun jack donkey

- a colt, an infant of a jennet donkey.

. 10 ​​​​​​​I’ll remove the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be removed. Then he’ll announce peace to the nationalities. His dominion will be from sea to sea and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the Earth. 11 Moreover, as for you, because of our agreement relationship secured with blood, I’ll release your prisoners from the waterless pit. 12 Return to the stronghold, you prisoners, with hope; today I declare that I’ll return double what was taken from you. 13 I’ll bend Judah as my bow; I’ll load the bow with Ephraim, my arrow! I’ll stir up your sons, Zion, against yours, Greece, and I’ll make you, Zion, like a warrior’s sword. 14 Then Lifegiver will appear above them, and his arrow will shoot forth like lightning; Lifegiver Supermights will blow the trumpet and will sally forth on the southern storm winds. 15 Lifegiver who rules over all will guard them, and they’ll prevail and overcome with sling stones. Then they’ll drink, and will become noisy like drunkards, full like the sacrificial basin or like the corners of the altar. 16 On that day Lifegiver their Supermights will deliver them as the flock of his people, for they are the precious stones of a crown sparkling over his land. 17 How precious and fair! Grain will make the young men flourish and new wine the young women.

Zechariah 10

1 Ask Lifegiver for rain in the season of the late spring rains – Lifegiver who causes thunderstorms – and he’ll give everyone showers of rain and green growth in the field. 2 For the household deities have spoken wickedness, the soothsayers have seen a lie, and as for the dreamers, they have disclosed emptiness and give comfort in vain. Therefore the people set out like sheep and become scattered because they have no shepherd. 3 I’m enraged at the shepherds and will punish the lead-goats. For Lifegiver who rules over all has brought blessing to his flock, the house of Judah, and will transform them into his majestic warhorse. 4 From him will come the cornerstone, the wall peg, the battle bow, and every ruler. 5 And they’ll be like warriors trampling the mud of the streets in battle. They’ll fight, for Lifegiver will be with them, and will defeat the enemy cavalry. 6 “I (says Lifegiver) will strengthen the reign of Judah and deliver the people of Joseph and will bring them back because of my compassion for them. They’ll be as though I had never rejected them, for I’m Lifegiver their Supermights and therefore I’ll hear them. 7 The Ephraimites will be like warriors and will rejoice as if they had drunk wine. Their children will see it and rejoice; they’ll celebrate in the things of Lifegiver. 8 I’ll signal for them and gather them, for I’ve already repurchaseed them; then they’ll become as numerous as they were before. 9 Though I scatter them among the nationalities, they’ll remember in far-off places – they and their children will sprout forth and return. 10 I’ll bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I’ll bring them to the lands of Gilead and Lebanon, for there will not be enough room for them in their own land. 11 Lifegiver will cross the sea of storms and will calm its turbulence. The depths of the Nile will dry up, the pride of Assyria will be humbled, and the domination of Egypt will be no more. 12 Thus I’ll strengthen them by my power, and they’ll walk about in my name,” says Lifegiver.

Zechariah 11

1 ​​​​​​​Open your gates, Lebanon, so that the fire may consume your cedars. 2 ​​​​​​​Howl, fir tree, because the cedar has fallen; the majestic trees have been destroyed. Howl, oaks of Bashan, because the impenetrable forest has fallen. 3 ​​​​​​​Listen to the howling of shepherds, because their magnificence has been destroyed. Listen to the roaring of young lions, because the thickets of the Jordan have been devastated. 4 Lifegiver my deity says this: “Shepherd the flock set aside for slaughter. 5 Those who buy them slaughter them and are not held guilty; those who sell them say, ‘Blessed be Lifegiver, for I’m rich.’ Their own shepherds have no compassion for them. 6 Indeed, I’ll no longer have compassion on the people of the land,” says Lifegiver, “but instead I’ll turn every last person over to his neighbor and his king. They’ll devastate the land, and I’ll not deliver it from them.” 7 So I began to shepherd the flock destined for slaughter, the most afflicted of all the flock. Then I took two staffs, calling one “Pleasantness” and the other “Binders,” and I tended the flock. 8 Next I eradicated the three shepherds in one month, for I ran out of patience with them and, indeed, they detested me as well. 9 I then said, “I’ll not shepherd you. What is to die, let it die, and what is to be eradicated, let it be eradicated. As for those who survive, let them eat each other’s flesh!” 10 Then I took my staff “Pleasantness” and cut it in two to annul my agreement that I had made with all the people. 11 So it was annulled that very day, and then the most afflicted of the flock who kept faith with me knew that that was the word of Lifegiver. 12 Then I said to them, “If it seems good to you, pay me my wages, but if not, forget it.” So they weighed out my payment – thirty pieces of silver. 13 Lifegiver then said to me, “Throw to the potter that exorbitant sum at which they valued me!” So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the temple of Lifegiver. 14 Then I cut the second staff “Binders” in two in order to annul the agreement of brotherhood between Judah and Israel. 15 Again Lifegiver said to me, “Take up once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd. 16 Indeed, I’m about to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not take heed to the sheep headed to slaughter, will not seek the scattered, and will not heal the injured. Moreover, he’ll not nourish the one that is healthy but instead will eat the meat of the fat sheep and tear off their hooves. 17 ​​​​​​​Woe to the worthless shepherd who abandons the flock! May a sword fall on his arm and his right eye! May his arm wither completely away, and his right eye become completely blind!”

Zechariah 12

1 The revelation of the word of Lifegiver concerning Israel: Lifegiver – he who stretches out the Celestial Bodies and lays the foundations of the Earth , who forms the human spirit witlitrea person – says, 2 “I’m about to make Jerusalem a cup that brings dizziness to all the surrounding nationalities; indeed, Judah will also be included when Jerusalem is besieged. 3 Moreover, on that day I’ll make Jerusalem a heavy burden for all the nationalities, and all who try to carry it will be seriously injured; yet all the peoples of the Earth will be assembled against it. 4 In that day,” says Lifegiver, “I’ll strike every horse with confusion and its rider with madness. I’ll pay close attention to the house of Judah, but will strike all the horses of the nationalities with blindness. 5 Then the leaders of Judah will say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem are a means of strength to us through their Supermights , Lifegiver who rules over all.’ 6 On that day I’ll make the leaders of Judah like an igniter among sticks and a burning torch among sheaves, and they’ll burn up all the surrounding nationalities right and left. Then the people of Jerusalem will settle once more in their place, the city of Jerusalem. 7 Lifegiver also will deliver the homes of Judah first, so that the splendor of the kingship of David and of the people of Jerusalem may not exceed that of Judah. 8 On that day Lifegiver himself will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the weakest among them will be like mighty David, and the dynasty of David will be like Supermights , like the messenger of Lifegiver before them. 9 So on that day I’ll set out to destroy all the nationalities that come against Jerusalem.” 10 “I’ll pour out on the kingship of David and the population of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication so that they’ll look to me, the one they have pierced. They’ll lament for him as one laments for an only son, and there will be a bitter cry for him like the bitter cry for a firstborn. 11 On that day the lamentation in Jerusalem will be as great as the lamentation at Hadad-Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. 12 The land will mourn, clan by clan – the clan of the royal household of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the clan of the family of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves; 13 the clan of the descendants of Levi by itself and their wives by themselves; and the clan of the Shimeites by itself and their wives by themselves – 14 all the clans that remain, each separately with their wives.”

Zechariah 13

1 “In that day there will be a fountain opened up for the dynasty of David and the people of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and impurity. 2 And also on that day,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “I’ll remove the names of the idols from the land and they’ll never again be remembered. Moreover, I’ll remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land. 3 Then, if anyone prophesies in spite of this, his father and mother to whom he was born will say to him, ‘You cannot live, for you lie in the name of Lifegiver.’ Then his father and mother to whom he was born will run him through with a sword when he prophesies. 4 “Therefore, on that day each prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies and will no longer wear the hairy garment of a prophet to deceive the people. 5 Instead he’ll say, ‘I’m no prophet – indeed, I’m a farmer, for a man has made me his indentured servant since my youth.’ 6 Then someone will ask him, ‘What are these wounds on your chest?’ and he’ll answer, ‘Some that I received in the house of my friends.’ 7 ​​​​​​​“Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is my associate,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. Strike the shepherd that the flock may be scattered; I’ll turn my hand against the insignificant ones. 8 ​​​​​​​It will happen in all the land, says Lifegiver, that two-thirds of the people in it will be cut off and die, but one-third will be left in it. 9 ​​​​​​​Then I’ll bring the remaining third into the fire; I’ll refine them like silver is refined and will test them like gold is tested. They’ll call on my name and I’ll answer; I’ll say, ‘These are my people,’ and they’ll say, ‘Lifegiver is my Supermights.’”

Zechariah 14

1 A day of Lifegiver is about to come when your possessions will be divided as plunder in your midst. 2 For I’ll gather all the nationalities against Jerusalem to wage war; the city will be taken, its houses plundered, and the women raped. Then half of the city will go into exile, but the remainder of the people will not be taken away. 3 Then Lifegiver will go to battle and fight against those nationalities, just as he fought battles in ancient days. 4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which lies to the east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, leaving a great valley. Half the mountain will move northward and the other half southward. 5 Then you’ll escape through my mountain valley, for the mountains will extend to Azal. Indeed, you’ll flee as you fled from the Earth quake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then Lifegiver my Supermights will come with all his sacred ones with him. 6 On that day there will be no light – the sources of light in the Celestial Bodies will freeze. 7 It will happen in one day (a day known to Lifegiver); not in the day or the night, but in the evening there will be light. 8 Moreover, on that day living waters will flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea; it will happen both in summer and in winter. 9 Lifegiver will then be king over all the Earth . In that day Lifegiver will be seen as one with a single name. 10 All the land will change and become like the Arabah from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem; and Jerusalem will be raised up and will stay in its own place from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate and on to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses. 11 And people will settle there, and there will no longer be the threat of divine extermination – Jerusalem will dwell in security. 12 But this will be the nature of the plague with which Lifegiver will strike all the nationalities that have fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will decay while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot away in their sockets, and their tongues will dissolve in their mouths. 13 On that day there will be great confusion from Lifegiver among them; they’ll seize each other and attack one another violently. 14 Moreover, Judah will fight at Jerusalem, and the wealth of all the surrounding nationalities will be gathered up – gold, silver, and clothing in great abundance. 15 This is the kind of plague that will devastate horses, mules, camels, donkeys, and all the other animals in those camps. 16 Then all who survive from all the nationalities that came to attack Jerusalem will go up annually to worship the King, Lifegiver who rules over all, and to observe the Feast of Booth s. 17 But if any of the nationalities anywhere on Earth refuse to go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Lifegiver who rules over all, they’ll get no rain. 18 If the Egyptians will not do so, they’ll get no rain – instead there will be the kind of plague which Lifegiver inflicts on any nationalities that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booth s. 19 This will be the punishment of Egypt and of all nationalities that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booth s. 20 On that day the bells of the horses will bear the inscription “HOLY TO Lifegiver.” The cooking pots in Lifegiver’s temple will be as sacred as the bowls in front of the altar. 21 Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and Judah will become sacred in the sight of Lifegiver who rules over all, so that all who offer sacrifices may come and use some of them to boil their sacrifices in them. On that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of Lifegiver who rules over all.

MALACHI

Malachi 1

1 What follows is divine revelation. The word of Lifegiver came to Israel through Malachi: 2 “I’ve shown love to you,” says Lifegiver, but you say, “How have you shown love to us?” “Esau was Jacob’s brother,” Lifegiver explains, “yet I chose Jacob 3 and rejected Esau. I turned Esau’s mountains into a deserted wasteland and gave his territory to the wild jackals.” 4 Edom says, “Though we are devastated, we’ll once again build the ruined places.” So Lifegiver who rules over all responds, “They indeed may build, but I’ll overthrow. They’ll be known as the land of evil, the people with whom Lifegiver is permanently displeased. 5 Your eyes will see it, and then you’ll say, ‘May Lifegiver be magnified even beyond the border of Israel!’” 6 “A son naturally honors his father and a slave respects his master. If I’m your father, where is my honor? If I’m your master, where is my respect? Lifegiver who rules over all asks you this, you priests who make light of my name! But you reply, ‘How have we made light of your name?’ 7 You are offering improper sacrifices on my altar, yet you ask, ‘How have we offended you?’ By treating the table of Lifegiver as if it is of no importance! 8 For when you offer blind animals as a sacrifice, is that not wrong? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not wrong as well? Indeed, try offering them to your governor! Will he be pleased with you or show you favor?” asks Lifegiver who rules over all. 9 But now plead for Supermights ’s favor that he might be gracious to us. “With this kind of offering in your hands, how can he be pleased with you?” asks Lifegiver who rules over all. 10 “I wish that one of you would close the temple doors, so that you no longer would light useless fires on my altar. I’m not pleased with you,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “and I’ll no longer accept an offering from you. 11 For from the east to the west my name will be great among the nationalities. Incense and pure offerings will be offered in my name everywhere, for my name will be great among the nationalities,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 12 “But you are profaning it by saying that the table of Lifegiver is common and its offerings despicable. 13 You also say, ‘How tiresome it is.’ You turn up your nose at it,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “and instead bring what is stolen, lame, or sick. You bring these things for an offering! Should I accept this from you?” asks Lifegiver. 14 “There will be harsh condemnation for the pretender who has a valuable male animal in his flock but vows and sacrifices something inferior to Lifegiver. For I’m a great king,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “and my name is awesome among the nationalities.”

Malachi 2

1 “Now, you priests, this commandment is for you. 2 If you do not listen and take seriously the need to honor my name,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “I’ll send judgment on you and turn your blessings into curses – indeed, I’ve already done so because you are not taking it to heart. 3 I’m about to discipline your children and will spread offal on your faces, the very offal produced at your festivals, and you’ll be carried away along with it. 4 Then you’ll know that I sent this commandment to you so that my agreement may continue to be with Levi,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 5 “My agreement with him was designed to bring life and peace. I gave its principles to him to fill him with awe, and he indeed revered me and stood in awe before me. 6 He taught what was true; sinful words were not found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and integrity, and he turned many people away from sin. 7 For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge of sacred things, and people should seek instruction from him because he is the messenger of Lifegiver who rules over all. 8 You, however, have turned from the way. You have caused many to violate the law; you have corrupted the agreement with Levi,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 9 “Therefore, I’ve caused you to be ignored and belittled before all people to the extent to which you are not following after me and are showing partiality in your instruction.” 10 Do we not all have one father? Did not one Supermights create us? Why do we betray one another, in this way making light of the agreement of our ancestors? 11 Judah has become disloyal, and unspeakable sins have been committed in Israel and Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sacred things that Lifegiver loves and has turned to a foreign Supermights ! 12 May Lifegiver cut off from the community of Jacob every last person who does this, as well as the person who presents improper offerings to Lifegiver who rules over all! 13 You also do this: You cover the altar of Lifegiver with tears as you weep and groan, because he no longer pays any attention to the offering nor accepts it favorably from you. 14 Yet you ask, “Why?” Lifegiver is testifying against you on behalf of the wife you married when you were young, to whom you have become unfaithful even though she is your companion and wife by law. 15 No one who has even a small portion of the Spirit in him does this. What did our ancestor do when seeking a child from Supermights ? Be attentive, then, to your own spirit, for one should not be disloyal to the wife he took in his youth. 16 “I hate divorce,” says Lifegiver the Supermights of Israel, “and the one who is guilty of violence,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. “Pay attention to your conscience, and do not be unfaithful.” 17 You have wearied Lifegiver with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” Because you say, “Everyone who does bad is good in Lifegiver’s opinion, and he delights in them,” or “Where is the Supermights of justice?”

Malachi 3

1 “I’m about to send my messenger, who will clear the way before me. Indeed, Lifegiver you are seeking will suddenly come to his temple, and the messenger of the covenant, whom you long for, is certainly coming,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 2 Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can keep standing when he appears? For he’ll be like a refiner’s fire, like a launderer’s soap. 3 he’ll act like a refiner and purifier of silver and will cleanse the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then they’ll offer Lifegiver a proper offering. 4 The offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to Lifegiver as in former times and years past. 5 “I’ll come to you in judgment. I’ll be quick to testify against those who practice divination, those who commit adultery, those who break promises, and those who exploit workers, widows, and orphans, who refuse to help the immigrant and in this way show they do not fear me,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 6 “Since, I, Lifegiver, do not go back on my promises, you, sons of Jacob, have not perished. 7 From the days of your ancestors you have ignored my commandments and have not kept them! Return to me, and I’ll return to you,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. “But you say, ‘How should we return?’ 8 Can a person rob Supermights ? You indeed are robbing me, but you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In tithes and contributions! 9 You are bound for judgment because you are robbing me – this whole nation is guilty. 10 “Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “to see if I’ll not open for you the windows of the sky and pour out for you a blessing until there is no room for it all. 11 Then I’ll stop the plague from ruining your crops, and the vine will not lose its fruit before harvest,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 12 “All nationalities will call you happy, for you indeed will live in a delightful land,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 13 “You have criticized me sharply,” says Lifegiver, “but you ask, ‘How have we criticized you?’ 14 You have said, ‘It is useless to serve Supermights. How have we been helped by keeping his requirements and going about like mourners before Lifegiver who rules over all? 15 So now we consider the arrogant to be happy; indeed, those who practice bad are successful. In fact, those who challenge Supermights escape!’” 16 Then those who respected Lifegiver spoke to one another, and Lifegiver took notice. A scroll was prepared before him in which were recorded the names of those who respected Lifegiver and honored his name. 17 “They’ll belong to me,” says Lifegiver who rules over all, “in the day when I prepare my own special property. I’ll spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you’ll see that I make a distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves Supermights and the one who does not.

Malachi 4

1 (3:19) “For indeed the day is coming, burning like a furnace, and all the arrogant evildoers will be chaff. The coming day will burn them up,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. “It will not leave even a root or branch. 2 But for you who respect my name, the sun of vindication will rise with healing wings, and you’ll skip about like calves released from the stall. 3 You’ll trample on the wicked, for they’ll be like ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I’m preparing,” says Lifegiver who rules over all. 4 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, to whom at Horeb I gave rules and regulations for all Israel to obey. 5 Look, I’ll send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Lifegiver arrives.

Look, I’m going to send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes.

6 he’ll encourage fathers and their children to return to me, so that I’ll not come and strike the Earth with judgment.”

Matthew 1

LIFESAVIOUR’S FAMILY TREE

1 This is the biography of Lifesaviour, the messianic descendant of David, the descendant of Abraham:

2 Abraham fathered Isaac. Isaac fathered Jacob.

Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers.

3 Then Judah fathered Perez and Zerah through Tamar.

Then Perez fathered Hezron.

Then Hezron fathered Ram.

4 Ram then fathered Amminadab.

Amminadab then fathered Nahshon.

Nahshon then fathered Salmon.

5 Salmon fathered Boaz through Rahab.

Boaz fathered Obed through Ruth.

Obed then fathered Jesse,

6 Jesse then fathered David, the king.

King David then fathered Solomon through Uriah’s wife.

7 Solomon then fathered Rehoboam.

Rehoboam then fathered Abijah.

Abijah then fathered Asa.

8 Asa then fathered Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat then fathered Joram.

Joram then fathered Uzziah.

9 Uzziah then fathered Jotham.

Jotham then fathered Ahaz.

Ahaz then fathered Hezekiah.

10 Hezekiah then fathered Manasseh.

Manasseh then fathered Amon.

Amon then fathered Josiah.

11 Then Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers,

just before the Babylonian captivity.

12 During the Babylonian captivity,

Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel.

Shealtiel then fathered Zerubbabel.

13 Zerubbabel then fathered Abiud.

Abiud then fathered Eliakim.

Then Eliakim fathered Azor.

14 Azor then fathered Zadok.

Zadok then fathered Achim.

Achim then fathered Eliud.

15 Eliud then fathered Eleazar.

Eleazar then fathered Matthan.

Matthan then fathered Jacob.

16 Jacob then fathered Joseph, the husband of Mary,

through whom was born Lifesaviour, the one designated the Designated.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations. From David to the Babylonian captivity, there were also are fourteen generations, and from the Babylonian captivity to the Designated, there were fourteen generations.

LIFESAVIOUR’ DIVINE CREDENTIALS

18 Forthwith the birth of Lifesaviour the Designated was this way: While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph before they could come together, she was discovered to have conceived through the Holy Spirit. 19 Joseph, her fiancé, being a decent man, and because he did not want to embarrass her, intended to break up with her privately.

20 But while he contemplated this, Lifegiver's messenger appeared to him in a dream saying, “Joseph, kin of David, don't be afraid to marry Mary as your wife, because what is conceived through her is by the Holy Spirit. 21 She’ll birth a son, and you’ll call his name Lifesaviour because he’ll save his people from their sins.”

22 This then all happened, demonstratively fulfilling what was spoken by Lifegiver through the prophet saying:

23 “Watch! A virgin girl will conceive and birth a son,

and his name will be called Emmanuel,”

which translates as “Supermights with us.”

24 When Joseph woke up from sleep, he did what Lifegiver's messenger had instructed him. Indeed he married the woman. 25 But he did not have sexual intimacy with her until she had birthed her firstborn child. Then he called his name Lifesaviour.

Matthew 2

ORIENTAL SCIENTISTS RESEARCH LIFESAVIOUR’ BIRTH

1 After Lifesaviour’s birth in Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod, scientists from the East came to Jerusalem 2 inquiring, “Where is the one that is born King of the Jews? We’ve since observed his star as it was rising, now we’ve come to pay homage to him.”

3 When King Herod heard the news, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem as a result of him. 4 So he gathered all the chief priests and the learned from his own populace, demanding from them the place of the Designated’s birth. 5 They replied; “In Bethlehem of Judea, because it is described this way through the prophet:

6 ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are in no way insignificant among the leaders of Judah,

because from you will emerge a Leader

who will shepherd my own people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod privately called the scientists from the East to ascertain for himself precisely what time the star had appeared. 8 Then he directed them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and thoroughly search for the exact location of the child, and as soon as you find him, report to me so that I can also go and pay him homage.”

9 After they had listened to the king, they travelled on. There, once again, the star they had seen in the East, led them until it stopped above the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they ecstatically rejoiced.

11 When they reached the family and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and paid him homage. They they opened their treasure packages and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

12 After being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they travelled back to their country by a different route.

LIFESAVIOUR’ ASYLUM IN AFRICA

13 After they had gone, Lifegiver's messenger appeared to Joseph through a dream and said, “Wake up, take the infant and his mother and flee to Egypt, and stay there until I speak to you, because Herod intends to search for the child to kill him.” 14 Then he woke up, took the child and his mother during the night, and travelled to Egypt, 15 and he was there until Herod died, demonstratively fulfilling what Lifegiver described through the prophet: “from Egypt, I’ve called my child.”

HEROD’S INSECURITY MASSACRE TO KILL LIFESAVIOUR

16 When Herod realised that the oriental scientists had tricked him, he was deeply enraged. He decreed and killed all the boys in Bethlehem and throughout the region from the age of two and under, down to the time he had conferred with the Asian scientists.

17 Then what was stated through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,

sobbing and wailing,

Rachel lamenting for her children,

and would not be consoled,

because they are no more.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ MIGRATION FROM AFRICA & SETTLEMENT IN NAZARETH

19 After Herod had died, there appeared Lifegiver's messenger to Joseph in a dream in Egypt 20 saying, “Wake up, take the child and his mother, travel back to the country of Israel, for those who were trying to plot against the child’s life are dead.” 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and returned to the country of Israel. 22 But when he discovered that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being divinely warned in a dream, he resorted to the coasts of Galilee.

23 Then he went to live in a town called Nazareth, demonstratively fulfilling what was spoken through the prophets; he would be called a Nazarene.

Matthew 3

LIFESAVIOUR’ FORERUNNER

1 During those days, John the Baptiser came to the desert of Judea advocating and 2 preaching; “Repent, because the reign of Heaven is approaching.” 3 No doubt he was the one about whom Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

“The voice of one shouting in the desert,

‘Prepare Lifegiver's way,

make his paths straight.’”

4 At this point, John wore clothing from camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was carob and wild honey. 5 Then everyone in Jerusalem, and all Judea and the vicinity of the Jordan, would go out to him, 6 and would be baptised backwards under the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

7 But when he noticed many Separatists and Sacerdotalists coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who has warned you to run away from the imminent wrath? 8 Then produce fruit fitting repentance, 9 and don’t think you can boast witlitreyourselves, ‘We’ve Abraham as our ancestor’ because I tell you that Supermights can raise children for Abraham from these stones! 10 Even now, the axe is laid at the root of every tree, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped off and thrown into the fire. 11 I, in fact, baptise you with water for repentance but the one coming after me is more powerful than me. His shoes I’m not fit to carry. he’ll baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His sifter is in his hand, and he’ll thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor and will garner his wheat into the barn but the chaff he’ll burn with inextinguishable fire.”

JOHN BAPTISES LIFESAVIOUR

13 At that time, Lifesaviour arrived in Jordan from Galilee to be baptised by John. 14 But John stopped him, saying, “I need to be baptised by you, and yet you come to me?” 15 But Lifesaviour replied and said to him, “Let go now because it is fitting that way for us to fulfil whatever is right.” Then he allowed him.

16 Once Lifesaviour was baptised, he rose out of the water. Then the sky was seen opened backwards. Then he saw Supermights' Spirit descending like a dove that was settling over him. 17 Then there was a loud voice from the sky saying; “This is my dearly loved Kin upon whom I’ve my accreditation.”

Matthew 4

SATAN TEMPTS LIFESAVIOUR

1 Then Lifesaviour was led through the Spirit to the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After he had not eaten for forty days and forty nights, he was eventually starving. 3 Then the tempter approached him and proposed, “If you are Supermights’ Kin say to these stones become bread.”

4 But he began to speak and said, “It is written, ‘Humanity does not survive by bread alone but by every word that comes from Lifegiver's mouth.’”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the Sanctuary, 6 and said to him, “If you are the Supermights’ Kin, throw yourself down. For it is written,

‘He will instruct his messengers about you’

and ‘with their hands, they’ll lift you up,

so that you’ll not injure

your foot against a stone.’”

7 Lifesaviour said to him, “Once again it is written: ‘You are not to put Lifegiver your deity to the test.’”

8 Once again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and he showed him all the realms of the world and their splendour. 9 And he said to him, “I’ll bring you all these things if you prostrate yourself to worship me.”

10 Then Lifesaviour said to him, “Go away, Satan because it is written: ‘You are to worship Lifegiver your deity and serve him alone.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and the messengers came and began attending to his needs.

LIFESAVIOUR’ RETREAT

12 Now when Lifesaviour heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 While in Galilee, he moved from Nazareth to live in Capernaum near the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. 14 That resulted in the fulfilment of what was spoken through Isaiah, the prophet saying:

15 “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,

the way by the sea, beyond the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles –

16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light,

and on those who live in the region

and shadow of death a light has dawned.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ EARLY MINISTRY & DISCIPLES

17 From then on, Lifesaviour began to preach, also saying; “Repent, for the reign of Heaven is near.”

18 As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he noticed two brothers, Simon, called Peter, and Andrew his brother, throwing a fishing net into the sea because they were fishers. 19 He said to them, “Come, follow me, and I’ll make you people fishers.” 20 Then they immediately left their seine nets and accompanied him.

21 Then, walking further from there, he spotted two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee and John, his brother. They were in a vessel with Zebedee their father, mending their seine nets. Then he called them. 22 They then immediately left the boat and their father and followed him.

23 Lifesaviour walked around throughout the entire Galilee, teaching in their assemblies, proclaiming the good news of the reign, and healing all kinds of illnesses and diseases among the people.

24 His fame also spread throughout Syria. They then brought to him all the sick that were suffering from various diseases and ailments - demon-possessed, crazy, paralytic - then he healed them. 25 Then large crowds accompanied him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and across the Jordan River.

Matthew 5

LIFESAVIOUR’ ULTIMATE SAINTLINESS

1 Then, seeing the crowds, he climbed up the mountain and settled down. His disciples came close to him. 2 Then he opened his mouth and taught them, saying;

3 “Blessed are the spiritually poor because those belong in the reign of Heaven.

4 Blessed are those who grieve because they’ll be comforted.

5 Blessed are the humble because they’ll inherit the world.

6 Blessed are those who crave and thirst for rightness because they’ll be filled.

7 Blessed are the compassionate because they’ll be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure-hearted because they’ll see Supermights.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers because they’ll be called Supermights’ children.

10 Blessed are those who are harassed because of rightness because Heaven's reign belongs to them.

11 Blessed are you whenever you are insulted and harassed, and they say all kinds of hurtful words against you falsely because of me. 12 Rejoice and be very glad because your reward is great in Heaven. No doubt they harassed the prophets before you in the same way.

BELIEVERS AS WORLD INFLUENCERS

13 “You are the salt of the world. Now if salt becomes desalted, through what will it be re-salted? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled by people.

14 “You are the world's light. A city set on a mountain cannot be kept secret. 15 People do not light an illuminator and place it under a pile but on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before people so that they can see your good works and give honour to your Patron in Heaven.

LIFESAVIOUR AND THE ULTIMACY OF THE LAW AND PROPHECIES

17 “Do not suppose that I’ve come to nullify the Law or the prophets. I’ve not come to nullify these but to realise them. 18 Indeed I assure you until Heaven and Earth pass away not one iota or piece will ever disappear from the Law until everything takes place. 19 Whoever breaks one of the least of these precepts and teaches people to do so will be called least in the reign of Heaven, but whoever observes them and teaches these will be called great in the reign of Heaven.

20 Indeed I tell you unless your rightness greatly supersedes that of the learned and the Separatists, you’ll never enter Heaven's reign.

SIN BEGINS IN THE HEART

21 “You have heard is said in ancient time, ‘Never murder,’ and ‘whoever murders will be liable for condemnation.’ 22 But I tell you; "Anyone angry with his brother without reason will be liable for condemnation. Then whoever says to his brother, ‘Worthless’ will be liable to the tribunal, and whoever says ‘Stupid’ will be liable for fiery hell. 23 “Now, if you bring your gift before the altar and there recall that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift in front of the altar and withdraw. First, go and reconcile with your brother and then come and present your gift. 25 Be reconciled without delay with your accuser while on the way with him, in case your accuser parades you in front of the judge, and the judge hands you over to the officer, and you’ll be thrown into prison. 26 But I assure you, you’ll never get out of there until you have paid the last coin!

27 “You have heard it said in ancient time, ‘Never commit adultery.’ 28 But whoever pays attention to a woman lusting after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye scandalises you, isolate it or pluck it off yourself. No doubt it is better for you to lose one of your limbs than your whole body to be thrown into the valley of incineration. 30 If your right hand scandalises you, frustrate it or throw it off yourself. No doubt it is better for you to lose one of your limbs than your whole body to be thrown into the valley of incineration.

DIVORCE AND ADULTERY

31 “Moreover it was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written divorce decree.’ 32 But I say to you whoever divorces his wife, except because of adultery, makes her commit adultery. So whoever marries a divorcee commits adultery.

AUTHENTIC OATHS

33 “Again, you have heard it said in ancient time, ‘Do not foreswear, but fulfil your vows to Lifegiver.’ 34 But I say to you, never swear at all – not by Heaven, because it is Supermights’ throne, 35 not by the Earth because it is his footrest and not even by Jerusalem because it is the city of a great king. 36 Never swear by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black. 37 Let your talk be real yes or worthy no. More than this is from mischief.

RESPONDING TO ILL-TREATMENT

38 “You have heard it said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, do not stand against the wicked. But for whoever slaps you on the right cheek, turn the other one as well. 40 Even if they intend to sue you to strip you of your shirt, give them your coat too. 41 If anyone forces you to go a thousand steps, go with them twice. 42 Give the one who begs you, and never turn away the one who wishes to borrow from you.

DEALING WITH ENEMIES AND HARASSERS

43 “You have heard it said, ‘You’ll love your fellow and dislike your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemy and praise those who harass you 45 in a manner that comports with the children of your Patron in Heaven, who causes the sun to rise on the wicked and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

46 Why cherish those who love you? What benefit do you gain? Do not the tax collectors also do that? 47 So when you only embrace your fellows, what more are you achieving? Do not the tax collectors also do that? 48 So then you are to be just as perfect as your Patron who is in Heaven is perfect.

Matthew 6

LIFESAVIOUR AND SOCIAL RELIGIOSITY

1 “Be careful that you don't perform your charity in front of people to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward from your Patron who is in Heaven. 2 So when you do your charitable deed do not blow your own trumpet as pretenders do in the congregation and the streets, so that they may be praised by people. Indeed, I tell you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do your charity do not let your left hand know what your right hand is giving 4 so that your gift may be in private. Then your Patron, who sees in secret, will himself reward you.

PRAYER GUIDANCE AND PRAYER SAMPLE

5 “Likewise, when you pray, don't be like the pretenders because they are fond of praying standing in the congregation and the corners of the streets so that they may show people. I assure you, they have their reward. 6 But whenever you pray you are to go into your private rooms and when you have shut your door pray to the Patron who is in secret, and your Patron who sees in secret will reward you in public. 7 Now when praying, do not use useless repetitions as the heathens do because they think that they’ll be heard because of their prolific speaking. 8 Do not be like them, because your Patron knows what you need before you ask him.

9 “Then pray like this:

‘Our Patron in Heaven,

may your name be made sacred.

10 May your reign grow,

may your purpose be realised

on Earth as in Heaven.

11 Give us today our survival food.

12 Moreover, forgive us our faults

as we even forgive those who fail us.

13 But do not bring us into trying experience.

Instead, rescue us from evil.’

14 Indeed if you forgive people their errors, your Heavenly Patron will likewise forgive you. 15 But if you don't forgive people their mistakes, your Patron will not forgive your sins.

PRIVATE FASTING

16 “Moreover, whenever you fast do not be gloomy as the pretenders because they cloud their faces so that they may show people they are not eating. I assure you, they have their reward. 17 When you fast, oil your head and wash your face 18 so that you do not show people you are fasting but only your Patron who is in secret. Then your Patron, who sees in secret, will reward you in public.

SPIRITUAL INVESTMENT

19 “Do not accumulate wealth for yourselves on Earth, where moth and rust spoils and where thieves burgle in and steal. 20 But accumulate wealth for yourselves in Heaven where no moth and no rust destroys, and where thieves cannot penetrate and cannot steal. 21 No doubt, where your wealth is, is where your heart will be too.

22 “The light of the body is the eye. If your vision is clear, your whole body will be filled with light. 23 But if your eye is ill, your entire body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 “No one can serve two masters. No doubt they’ll either hate the one and love the other, or they’ll support the one and despise the other. You cannot serve Supermights and avarice. 25 By this I mean this to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you’ll eat or drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body apparel? 26 Look at the birds in the atmosphere: They don’t sow or harvest or collect into granaries, yet your Heavenly Patron feeds them. Aren’t you much better more than these things? 27 But who of you by worrying adds even one moment to their lifetime? 28 “Why do you worry about clothing? Think about how the wild lilies grow. They don’t work or spin. 29 Yet I tell you not even Solomon in all his luxury was dressed up like one of them. 30 But if this is how Supermights dresses wild vegetation, which is here today and tomorrow is dumped in the inferno, are you not worth more? Incredulous! 31 So then, don’t stress asking, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For all these things infidels clamour for. In fact, your Heavenly Patron understands that you need all these things. 33 But prioritise Supermights' reign and his justification, and all these things will be supplied to you. 34 So then don’t worry about the next day because tomorrow will take care of itself. Enough is today's trouble!”

Matthew 7

LIFESAVIOUR TEACHES AGAINST NITPICKING

1 “Don't judge so that you’ll not be judged. 2 No doubt, by whatever judgement you judge, you’ll be questioned, and by whatever standard you measure, it will be measured to you in return. 3 But why do you notice a twig that is in your brother’s eyes but you do not perceive the beam that is in your own eye. 4 ‘Or how do you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the twig from your eye and yet there is a beam in your own eyes?’ 5 You pretender! First, remove the beam from your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the twig from your brother’s eye.

6 “Don't give what is sacred to the dogs. Don't throw your pearls in front of pigs in case they’ll trample them under their feet and in turn, tear you up.

LIFESAVIOUR ENCOURAGES ASKING

7 “Ask and you’ll receive. Seek, and you’ll find. Knock, and it will be opened up for you. 8 For everyone who asks gets. Likewise, the one who seeks gets, and for the one who knocks, it is opened for them. 9 Or what human being from among you who when their son asks for a loaf of bread will give him nothing else but a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake? 11 If you then being depraved know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Patron give good things to those who ask him?

LIFESAVIOUR’ GOLDEN RULE

12 “Now, in everything as much as you possibly wish that people should do to you, you are to do it also in this way to them because this is the Law and the prophets.

LIFESAVIOUR URGES FOLLOWING STRINGENT RELIGIOSITY

13 “Enter through the narrow gate because broad is the gate and wide the highway that leads to destruction but many go through it. 14 Though strait is the gate and narrow the path, it leads to life, yet few find it.

LIFESAVIOUR CAUTIONS AGAINST PSEUDOPROPHETS

15 “Be careful of pseudoprophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inside are rapacious wolves. 16 You’ll recognise them by their fruits. Does anyone ever collect grapes from thorns or figs from caltrop? 17 In this way, every good tree produces intrinsic fruit. But a corrupt tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree is not able to produce bad fruit. No bad tree can produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped off and thrown in the fire. 20 So by their fruits, you’ll recognise them.

21 “Not all who call me, ‘Master! Master!’ will enter into the realm of Heaven but the one that observes the purpose of my Patron who is in Heaven.

22 “Many will ask me on that day; ‘Master, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and in your name exorcised demons, and in your name performed many miracles?’ 23 Indeed, I’ll assent to them, ‘Not any time have I known you. Go away from me illegitimate toilers!

24 “But whoever hears these words of mine and practises them I equate him to a wise person who built their house on a rock. 25 Then the rain fell. Then the floods gushed. Then the winds blew and rushed against their house. But it did not collapse because it was erected on a rock. 26 Then everyone that hears these words of mine and does not practise them is like a foolish person who built their house on the sand. 27 The rain then fell, and the floods gushed. Then the winds blew and rushed against their house. But it collapsed because it was built on sand, and great was its crash.”

28 Then it happened that when Lifesaviour had finished these words, the crowd was highly impressed by his teaching 29 because he had taught them authoritatively, not as their learned.

Matthew 8

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A LEPER

1 After he had descended from the mountain, big crowds followed him. 2 Then there appeared a leper prostrating himself saying; “Sir if you are willing, you can clean me.” 3 Then Lifesaviour stretched his hand and touched him, saying, “I’m willing. Be clean!” Instantly his leprosy was scrubbed.

4 Lifesaviour then said to him; “See that you do not speak to anyone. But go show yourself to the high priest and present the gift that Moses prescribed as proof to them.”

LIFESAVIOUR REMOTELY HEALS A COMMANDER’S CHILD

5 When Lifesaviour also arrived in Capernaum, there approached towards him one troop commander begging him: 6 “Master my child is lying at home paralysed in terrible pain.” 7 Then Lifesaviour said to him; “I’ll come and attend him.” 8 But the troop commander responded and said; “Master, I’m not worthy that you should come under my roof. Just say the word and my boy will be healed! 9 Because I’m also a person of authority, counting soldiers under me, I say to this; ‘Go,’ then he goes. To another; ‘Come,’ and he comes and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does.” 10 When Lifesaviour heard this, he was surprised, and he said to those who followed him; “I assure you, I’ve not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11 I tell you that many will come from the east and west and will sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the reign of Heaven, 12 yet the children of the reign will be thrown into outer darkness - there will follow wailing and grinding of teeth.” 13 Then Lifesaviour said to the troop commander, “Go. Just as you have believed, it will be done for you.” And the boy was healed at that moment.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS PETER’S MOTHER-IN-LAW AND MANY

14 When Lifesaviour entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law sleeping down, very sick with a fever. 15 He then touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and served them.

16 When evening arrived, they brought to him many that were traumatised by demons. He exorcised the demons with his word and healed all that were severely diseased. 17 In this way, what was stated by Isaiah, the prophet was fulfilled:

“He embraced our weaknesses

and carried our diseases.”

LIFESAVIOUR DETERS AND TESTS DISCIPLES

18 Now when Lifesaviour looked at the massive crowd around him, he urged them to go across. 19 Then a specific learned person said to him, “Teacher, I’ll follow you wherever you go!” 20 Lifesaviour said to him, “Foxes have burrows, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Kin of Humanity has no place to lay his head.” 21 Then one of the disciples said to him; “Master, allow me first to go and bury my father.” 22 But Lifesaviour replied to him; “Follow me and let the dead bury their dead.”

LIFESAVIOUR QUELLS A STORM

23 Then he embarked on a vessel. His disciples travelled with him. 24 Then there erupted a strong earthquake in the sea that the vessel was swamped with the waves. But he was asleep. 25 Then his disciples approached him to wake him up. They were shouting; “Master, save us. We are perishing!” 26 But he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Incredulous!” Then he came up and stopped the winds and the sea. Then there was great tranquility. 27 Then the people marveled, asking; “Who is this? Why do the winds and the sea submit to him?”

LIFESAVIOUR, TWO DEMONIACS AND THE HOG BUSINESS COMMUNITY

28 Then when he had come across to the shore of the Gadarenes, he encountered two men possessed with demons emerging from tombs. They were extremely fierce that no one was able to pass through that route. 29 Then they both cried out, asking; “What do you have to do with us Lifesaviour, Supermights’ Kin? Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” 30 Then there was at a distance from there a large herd of hogs feeding. 31 So the demons begged him, saying; “If your exorcise us, allow us to go into the herd of hogs.” 32 Then he said to them; “Go!” Then when they came out, they ran into the herd of hogs. When they were in, the entire herd of pigs rushed down a cliff into the sea and drowned in the water. 33 Then the herders ran away and returned to the city and reported everything that had been done to the demon-possessed. 34 Then the entire town came out to meet Lifesaviour. When they saw him, they begged him to leave their shores.

Matthew 9

LIFESAVIOUR FORGIVES SINS

1 He then boarded the vessel, sailed across until he reached his hometown.

2 Then they brought him a bed-ridden paralytic. When Lifesaviour perceived their faith, he said to the person with paralysis, “You be of courage, son. Your sins are forgiven!” 3 Then some of the learned that were there said among themselves, “This man is blaspheming!” 4 Perceiving their thoughts, Lifesaviour then said; “Why do you think wickedness in your minds? 5 seeing that none is better to say; ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or ‘Stand up and walk.’ 6 But this is so that you may realise that the Kin of Humanity has the power on Earth to forgive sins.” At that time he said to the person with paralysis; “Stand up, pick up your couch and go to your house.” 7 Then he stood up and went to his house. 8 Then when the crowds saw this, they marvelled and glorified Supermights who had given such capacity to humanity.

LIFESAVIOUR CALLS MATTHEW AND DINES WITH SOCIAL OUTCASTS

9 Then as Lifesaviour left from that place, he spotted a man named Matthew, sitting at the revenue receptacle and he said to him; “Follow me,” and he stood up and followed him.

10 It occurred that as Lifesaviour sat at the table in the house that many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with him and his disciples. 11 Then when the Separatists became aware, they said to his disciples; “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 But when Lifesaviour heard it, he said; “The mighty healthy have no need of the treatment of a doctor but those that are badly sick do. 13 Rather go and understand what this means: ‘I delight in mercy and not in slaughter hence I’ve not come to call the innocent but sinners.’”

LIFESAVIOUR’ QUESTIONED ABOUT FASTING

14 Then John’s disciples approached Lifesaviour and asked, “Why do the Separatists and we fast frequently, but your disciples do not fast?” 15 Then Lifesaviour spoke to them; “It is impossible for the bridal kin to mourn as long the bridegroom is with them. But the days are coming when the bridegroom will be removed from them, and then at that time, they’ll fast. 16 But no one stitches a patch of a new garment over an old dress because the patch will lift off from the garment and the gap will be made worse. 17 Also, no one pours fresh wine into old skin bottles; otherwise, the bottles burst, and the wine spills out, and the bottles are destroyed. Instead, they put fresh wine into new skin bottles, and both are preserved.”

LIFESAVIOUR CALLED TO HEAL A DEAD DAUGHTER

18 While he was saying that to them, there came a certain ruler that prostrated himself and said; “My daughter just died but come and lay your hand on her, and she’ll live.” 19 Lifesaviour and his disciples stood up and followed him.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BLEEDING WOMAN

20 Just there and then, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years approached from the rear and fastened the fringes of his clothes 21 because she kept saying witlitreherself; “If I may only touch his clothes, I’ll be delivered.” 22 But Lifesaviour then turned around, and when he saw her, he said; “You be of courage, daughter, your faith has healed you.” Then the woman was healed from that moment.

LIFESAVIOUR RESURRECTS THE DEAD GIRL

23 Then when Lifesaviour arrived at the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, 24 he said, “Go because the girl is not dead but fallen asleep.” They then began to deride him. 25 But when the people were sent outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl rose again. 26 Then this news spread abroad throughout that entire region.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS BLIND MEN

27 Just as Lifesaviour was leaving from there, two blind men reached him, exclaiming, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” 28 Then when he had come into the house, the blind men came to him. Then Lifesaviour asked them; “Do you believe that I can do this?” They replied to him; “Yes, sir!” 29 Then he touched their eyes, saying, “Let it happen to you through your faith.” 30 Then their eyes were opened. But Lifesaviour strictly warned them, “Be careful. No one must know!” 31 But when they got out, they went out and spread the news throughout that entire region.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A DUMB DEMONIAC

32 Just as they were going away, they also brought him a deaf and demon-possessed person. 33 After the demon was exorcised, the man who had been speechless spoke. The crowds marvelled and said, “Never was there such a thing seen in Israel!” 34 But the Separatists said; “He exorcises demons through the prince of demons.”

LIFESAVIOUR THE COMPASSIONATE SHEPHERD

35 Then Lifesaviour went around all the towns and hamlets, teaching in their assemblies, preaching the gospel of the reign, and healing every disability and disease among the people. 36 In addition, when he looked at the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were helpless and scattered as sheep trembling without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plenty but workers are few. 38 Therefore ask the Master of the harvest to send workers for his harvest.”

Matthew 10

DISCIPLES EMPOWERED AND CHARGED FOR MINISTRY

1 When he had called his twelve disciples forward, he gave them power over impure spirits to exorcise them and to heal every disability and every disease. 2 So these are the names of the twelve apostles; first, Simon called Peter, then Andrew, his brother; James, son of Zebedee, then John, his brother, 3 Phillip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax trader, James Jacobus of Alphaeus, then Labbaeus also known as Thaddeus, 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas from Kerioth who sold and betrayed him. 5 Lifesaviour set these twelve apart and commissioned them saying; “Do not go into the highway of the nationalities and do not yet enter into any Samaritan town. 6 Instead, travel to a greater degree among the lost sheep of the family of Israel. 7 But as you travel, preach and say; ‘The reign of Heaven is imminent!’ 8 Relieve the sick, purify lepers, raise the dead, exorcise demons. Freely you received, freely serve. 9 Do not acquire gold, silver, or copper in your pockets. 10 No wallet for the journey. No two jackets. No shoes. No sticks. No doubt, the worker deserves his nourishment.

11 “So whenever you enter whatever town or village, search for whoever is worthy and stay there until you leave. 12 Whenever you enter a residence, greet it. 13 Then in case the house is indeed proven worthy, let your peace rest on it, but if it is proven not worthy, let your peace revert to you. 14 For whoever will not welcome you or give audience to your message, as you leave their residence and that city, shake the dust off your feet. 15 I surely promise you, it will be bearable for the city of Sodom and Gomorrah on the judgment day than for that city.

HAZARDS OF MINISTRY

16 “Be careful! I’m sending you away as sheep among wolves. Be as cautious as snakes and as harmless as doves. 17 So be cautious of people because they’ll hand you over to the tribunals and they’ll flog you in their assemblies. 18 Indeed you’ll also be brought before rulers and kings because of me, as a witness to them and the nationalities. 19 Whenever they put you in prison, do not be anxious about how or what you’ll say because what you are to say will be given to you at that instant. 20 Indeed it will not be you speaking, but your Patron's Spirit speaking through you. 21 In addition, a brother will surrender a brother to death and a father his child. Children will attack parents and have them killed. 22 You’ll also be hatefully harassed by everyone because of my name. But the one who perseveres till the end will be saved. 23 But whenever they harass you in one town, flee to another. Indeed, I surely promise you, you would not have even finished all the cities of Israel before the Kin of Humanity appears.

24 “A disciple is not superior to their teacher, not even the servant superior to their master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to become like their teacher and the servant as their master. If they have called the head of the house ‘Beelzebul,’ how much more will they defame those of his household!

26 “Do not fear them then because nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and private that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in secret, speak it in the light, and what you hear in the ear, proclaim on the rooftops. 28 But do not be afraid before those that kill the body but are not able to kill life. Instead, be more afraid of the one that can destroy life and body in hell. 29 Aren’t two sparrows sold for a coin, yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father? 30 In addition, all the hairs of your head are daily counted. 31 Do not be afraid; therefore, you are more valuable than many sparrows.

32 “Then whoever acknowledges me openly before people wherever, that one I’ll also acknowledge in the presence my Patron that is in Heaven. 33 But whoever denies me before people, that one I’ll also deny before my Patron who is in Heaven.

34 “Do not presume that I’ve come to seal peace in the world. I’ve come not to secure peace but war. 35 I’ve also come to alienate

a man from his father,

a daughter from her mother,

and a daughter-in-law from her mother-in-law.

36 A person’s enemies will also be their relatives.

37 The one that loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. Moreover, whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Then whoever does not take up his stake and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever preserves their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake, will find it.

40 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of the prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. Whoever receives a righteous person in the name of the righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. 42 Then whoever gives one of these little ones a cup of cold water, merely in the name of a disciple, I surely promise you, they’ll not lose their reward at all.”

Matthew 11

LIFESAVIOUR RECEIVES A DELEGATION FROM JOHN

1 When Lifesaviour had finished charging his twelve disciples, he moved from that place to teach and to preach in their towns. 2 But when John in prison heard the activities of the Designated, he assigned two of his disciples 3 to ask him; “Are you the one who was to come or should we anticipate another one?” 4 Lifesaviour replied and said to them; “Go and tell John what you hear and see. 5 The blind see and the crippled walk. The lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear. The dead are raised, and the poor have good news proclaimed to them. 6 But glad is anyone who never finds an occasion to stumble because of me.”

LIFESAVIOUR COMMENDS JOHN AS ELIJAH

7 But as they were leaving, Lifesaviour began to say to the crowds about John; “What did you go to see in the desert? A reed moved by the wind? 8 What did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? Look, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces! 9 What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you indeed, much greater than a prophet. 10 But this is the one about whom it is written:

‘See, I’m sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.’

11 I assure you, among those born of women, none has emerged that is greater than John the Baptiser. Yet the one who is least in the reign of Heaven is greater than he is. 12 But since the days of John the Baptiser until now, the reign of Heaven has been gaining power as the energetic take it by force 13 - just as all the Prophets and Law prophesied up to John. 14 Yet, if you are willing to accept it, this is the Elijah who was intended to come. 15 The one who has ears to hear should understand.

16 “But to what will I liken this generation? It's like little boys sitting in the market squares addressing their peers, 17 and they say;

‘We've played the flute to you

but you didn't dance.

We've sung a lament to you,

But you have not beaten your breasts in grief.’

18 “When John came not eating or drinking, then they say, ‘He’s demon-possessed!’ 19 The Kin of Humanity came eating and drinking, they then say, ‘Look, a gluttonous person and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is proved by its results.”

LIFESAVIOUR CONDEMNS IMPENITENT CITIES

20 Then Lifesaviour began to denounce the cities in which he had done most of his miracles because they did not repent: 21 “Shame to you Chorazin! Shame to you Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented a great while ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I promise you, it will be endurable for Tyre and Sidon on the judgement day than for you!

23 “Capernaum, though you are exalted to the sky, you’ll be rushed to unseen depths because of the miracles which have been performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained until today. 24 But I tell you, it will be more endurable for the region of Sodom on the judgement day than for you!”

LIFESAVIOUR INVITES THE WEARY

25 At that point, Lifesaviour began to conclude and said; “I praise you Patron, Owner of Heaven and Earth because you have hidden these secrets from the wise and intelligent yet you have revealed them to the simple-minded. 26 Yes, Patron because this is the way it seemed good to you.

27 “The Patron has entrusted all things to me, and no one knows the Kin except the Patron, and no one knows the Patron except the Kin and anyone to whom the Kin is willing to reveal him.

28 "Come to me all of you that feel fatigued and are overburdened, and I’ll give you rest. 29 Take up my servitude on yourselves and learn from me because I’m gentle and humble in heart. You’ll discover rest for your lives 30 because my servitude is pleasantly beneficial and my task is easy.”

Matthew 12

SABBATH CONTROVERSIES

1 During that season Lifesaviour passed through some grainfields on a Sabbath. His disciples were hungry. So they started plucking and eating ears of grain. 2 But when the Separatists noticed it they retorted to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not legal to do on the Sabbath day.” 3 But he asked them; “Have you not severally read what David did when he and those that were with him were hungry: 4 how he entered into the house of Supermights and ate the display bread which was not right for him or those who were with him to eat except the priests only? 5 Or have you not severally read in the Law that though the priests in the temple on Sabbath days desecrate the Sabbath, they are exonerated? 6 But I tell you that someone greater than the Sanctuary is here. 7 If you'd have known what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have criticised the innocent 8 because the Kin of Humanity is also the owner of the Sabbath.”

9 In addition, when Lifesaviour had left that place and had entered their local congregation, 10 there was then a man who had a shriveled hand.

So at that point, they asked him whether it is legal to heal on the Sabbath so that they could incriminate him. 11 But he answered them; “What person among you that will have one sheep that by chance falls into a pit on Sabbath will not lay his hand on it and pick it out? 12 How much more valuable then is a human being than a sheep? So then, is it legal to do good on the Sabbath?”

13 He then said to the man, “Stretch your hand.” He stretched it, and it was restored, as healthy as the other. 14 But the Separatists went away and held a conference on how they could kill him. 15 But when Lifesaviour became aware of it, he withdrew from that place. Then great crowds followed him, and he healed them of everything.

16 But he warned them not to make it known. 17 This fulfilled what was predicted through Isaiah, the prophet, saying:

18 “Here’s my minister that I’ve Designated,

my esteemed one in whom my life is preferred.

I’ll commit my Spirit on him,

and he’ll preach justice to the nations.

19 He’ll not quarrel or clamour.

No one will hear his voice in the street.

20 A bruised reed he’ll not break

and extinguish a smouldering candle

until he brings justice to victory.

21 So in his name,

the nations will put their confidence.”

LIFESAVIOUR RESPONDS TO UNSPOKEN ACCUSATIONS

22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed, blind and deaf person. Then he healed him so much that the blind and deaf person could both speak and see. 23 Then all the people were amazed and asked; “Is not this the relative of David?”

24 When the Separatists heard it, they said, “He does not cast out demons except through Beelzebul, the prince of demons!” 25 Aware of their thoughts, Lifesaviour said; “Every realm divided against itself is brought to nothingness, and every city or house divided against itself won't stand. 26 So if Satan exorcises Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his reign stand? 27 Now, if through Beelzebul I exorcise demons, by whom do your children exorcise them? They’ll be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons through Supermights’ Spirit, then Supermights’ reign has already arrived upon you. 29 How else can someone enter a strong person’s house and plunder his stuff, unless he first ties up the strong person? Then he can plunder the house. 30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters away. 31 For that reason, I’m telling you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Whoever speaks a word against the Kin of Humanity will be forgiven. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or the expected one.

TREES AND THEIR INTRINSIC FRUIT

33 “Rather make a tree good and its fruit will be good or else make the tree corrupt, and its fruit will be rotten because a tree is known by its fruit. 34 You offspring of vipers! In what way, being evil, are you able to speak well because from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good person from the good wealth of the heart brings out good things, and an evil person from the evil treasure brings hurtful things. 36 But I promise you that for every useless word that people speak, they’ll give an account on the judgement day. 37 For through your words, you’ll be justified, and through your words, you’ll be condemned.”

NO BETTER SIGN WILL BE GIVEN

38 Then some of the learned and the Separatists retorted, saying; “Teacher, we wish to see a miracle from you.” 39 But he responded to them and said; “A depraved and adulterous generation demands a miracle and no miracle will be given to it except the miracle of the prophet Jonah. 40 Just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s stomach, so the Kin of Humanity will be in the heart of the Earth for three days and three nights. 41 The people of Nineveh will stand in accusation against this generation and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah - yet someone greater than Jonah is here! 42 The queen of the South will stand at the judgment against this generation and condemn it because she came across the Earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon – yet someone greater than Solomon is here!

A RETURNING DEMONIC SPIRIT IS WORST

43 “When a demonic spirit escapes out of a person, it roams throughout dried up places searching for rest but does not find any. 44 Then it says, ‘I’ll return to my habitat from where I escaped.’ When it enters, it finds it unoccupied, swept clean, and decorated. 45 Then it goes and brings with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself. They then go in and reside permanently there. As a result, the latest condition of that person is worse than the first. It will also be this way with this wicked generation.”

LIFESAVIOUR’S TRUE RELATIVES

46 While he was still speaking to the crowd, there stood outside his mother and brothers wanting to talk to him. 47 Then someone told him; “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside wanting to talk to you.” 48 But to the one who had told him this, he replied; “Who is my mother and who are my brothers?” 49 Then pointing toward his disciples he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Patron in Heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 13

THE SOWER’S PARABLE

1 That same day Lifesaviour went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 But a huge crowd gathered around him so much that he had to step into the ship while the crowd stood on the beach. 3 Then he taught them many things in parables, saying: “There was a sower that went out to sow 4 then as he sowed, some seeds fell along the way, the birds came and devoured them. 5 Then other seeds fell on the stony surface where they did not have much soil. They sprung up shortly because they had no soil depth. 6 But when the sun came, they were scorched, and because they did not have sufficient root, they dried up. 7 Then other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns sprung up and stifled them. 8 But other seeds fell on good soil and fructified, some a hundred percent, some sixty, and some thirty. 9 The one who has ears to hear should understand.

LIFESAVIOUR ASKED ABOUT USE OF PARABLES

10 Then later, the disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” 11 He replied, “It is because it has been given to you to understand the mysteries of the reign of Heaven, but to them, it has not been given. 12 For whoever can grasp will be given more, but whoever does not conceive even what that one has will be taken away. 13 For this reason, I speak to them in parables, though they have sight they do not see, though they have hearing they do not hear - they just do not understand. 14 So through them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which says;

‘You’ll ever hear,

but you’ll not understand.

Though you’ll ever see yet,

you’ll not discern.

15 No doubt the heart of these people

has become hardened,

and their ears have become deafened.

They have also shut down their eyes.

Otherwise, they would see.

They would hear with their ears.

Then they would understand

with their hearts and be converted,

and I would make them whole.’

16 But your eyes are glad because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 I assure you, many prophets and righteous people yearned to understand what you are seeing but have never seen it and to hear what you are hearing but have never heard it.

18 “You must then understand the parable of the sower: 19 when someone hears the message of the reign and does not understand it, then the devil comes and snatches away the seed that is in their heart - this is the seed scattered along the way. 20 But the one that is sown on stony surfaces, this is the person that hears the message at once and takes it in with joy. 21 But it has no root in him, but it remains for a while. But when trouble and persecution occur because of the word, he immediately stumbles. 22 But the seed sown among the thorns is the person that hears the word then the distractions of the world and the lure of riches drowns the message, and it becomes fruitless. 23 But the seed sown on good soil is the person that hears the message and understands it and then bears fruit - in fact producing a hundred percent, sixty times and thirty times.”

24 He presented them with another parable: “The reign of Heaven is like a person who sowed good seed in their field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, the enemy came and sowed darnel among the wheat and left. 26 So when the garden sprouted and the fruit germinated, then the darnel also appeared. 27 So the servants of the household owner came and asked him, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your farm? Then where did the darnel come from?’ 28 Then he said to them; ‘An enemy must have done this.’ The servants proposed to him; ‘Do you then want us to go and uproot them?’ 29 But he replied; ‘No, just in case while you gather the darnel, you also uproot the grain with it. 30 Leave both to grow together until the harvest. Then in the time of harvest, I’ll say to the harvesters; ‘Gather the darnel first and bind it into bundles to burn it, then after that gather the grain into my barn.”

31 He presented another parable to them: “The reign of Heaven is similar to a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his farm. 32 Though it is the tiniest of all the seeds whenever it is grown, it is the largest herb that becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

33 He told them another parable: “The reign of Heaven is like yeast which a woman takes and mixes it in three portions of flour until the entire mixture is raised.”

34 Lifesaviour spoke all these things to the crowds through parables and did not say anything to them without parables. 35 This fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I’ll open my mouth in parables;

I’ll announce things which had been kept secret

from the foundation of the world.”

36 Then Lifesaviour left the crowds and resorted to the house, and his disciples approached him saying to him; “Explain to us the parable of the darnel of the farm.” 37 He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Kin of Humanity.” 38 Then he responded and said to them; “The one that sows the good seed means the Kin of Humanity and the farm is the world. Its good seed is the people of the reign, but the darnel is the people of the devil. 39 So the adversary that sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the messengers. 40 Just as the darnels are gathered and burned in the fire, it will be the same way at the end of this age. 41 The Kin of Humanity will send his messengers, and they’ll clear out of his reign everything that traps as well as perpetrators of wickedness. 42 They’ll throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. 43 Then the innocent will shine brightly as the sun in the reign of their Patron. The one who has ears to listen should understand!

44 “The reign of Heaven is like a hidden treasure in a field. When a person found it, they covered it. Then because of their joy, they went away and sold all that they had and bought that field.

45 “Again the kingdom of Heaven is like a business person searching for precious pearls 46 who when they had found one pearl of great worth, went away and sold everything that they possessed and bought it.

47 “Again, the reign of Heaven is similar to a trawl net that was flung into the sea from where it caught different species. 48 When that was full, they dragged it to the shore and sat down to gather the worthy ones into the vessel but the worthless ones they threw away. 49 It will be the same at the end of the age. The messengers will spread abroad, and they’ll separate the wicked from among the innocent. 50 They also will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. 51 Lifesaviour asked them; “Have you understood everything?” They replied, “Yes, Sir!” 52 Then he said to them, “For that reason, every disciple learning towards the reign of Heaven is like a person who is an owner of a house who brings out of themselves new and old treasures.” 53 As soon as Lifesaviour had concluded these parables, he left that place.

HEROD FEARED LIFESAVIOUR MIGHT BE JOHN HE HAD BEHEADED

54 Then when he came to his native town, he taught them in their local congregation so much that they were amazed. They then asked; “From where did this person absorb such wisdom and power? 55 Is this not the artisan’s son? Is not his mother called Mary and his brothers James and Joseph, Simon and Judas too? 56 Are not all his sisters with us? Where then did he get all these things?” 57 They were offended because of him. Lifesaviour then retorted; “A prophet is less honoured only in his native town and in his own home.” 58 So he did not perform many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Matthew 14

UNBELIEF IN LIFESAVIOUR’S HOMETOWN

1 During that time Herod the tetrarch heard reports about Lifesaviour, 2 and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptiser. He has been resurrected from the dead. That is why the same miracles are effected through him.” 3 It's because Herod had arrested John, bound him, and imprisoned him because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, 4 because John had been telling him, “It is not right for you to have her.” 5 Though he had wanted to kill him, he feared people’s revolt because they upheld him as a prophet. 6 But while Herod’s birthday ceremony was going on, Herod’s daughter had danced before them. She had delighted Herod 7 upon which he had promised with an oath to give her whatever she would ask. 8 Then she, being primed by her mother, said; “Give me John the Baptiser’s head on a platter.” 9 Though it distressed the king, because of the oath and the guests, he urged it to be granted. 10 So he had sent for the head of John to be cut off in prison. 11 Then his head was brought on a platter and was given to the girl. Then she carried it to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came and took the body away and buried it. Then they went to tell Lifesaviour.

LIFESAVIOUR FEEDS A CROWD OF FIVE THOUSAND PLUS

13 When Lifesaviour heard it, he went away from there by vessel into a solitary place by himself. When the people heard, they followed him by foot out of the towns.

14 When Lifesaviour came out to see the big crowd, he had compassion on them, and he healed their sick. 15 When the evening came, his disciples came to him saying, “This is an isolated place and time is already gone. Dismiss the people so that they can go away to the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Lifesaviour replied; “They cannot be required to go. You give them something to eat.” 17 Then they answered to him; “We’ve nothing here except five loaves and two fish.” 18 But he said; “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he directed the crowd to sit down on the grass and took the five loaves and two fish, looked towards Heaven. He invoked a blessing then broke it and gave the loaves to the disciples and the disciples to the crowd. 20 Then they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the leftover pieces, twelve full baskets. 21 But those who ate were about five thousand men besides women and children.”

LIFESAVIOUR WALKS TO HIS DISCIPLES ON WATER

22 Immediately Lifesaviour urged the disciples to board the vessel and to travel ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

23 After he had dismissed the people, he climbed up the mountain to pray privately. When late evening came, he was there alone. 24 But this time the vessel was already in the middle of the sea, tossed by waves because the wind was against it. 25 But during the fourth quarter of the night, Lifesaviour went to them walking on the sea.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified saying; “It’s a ghost.” They screamed because of fear. 27 Then Lifesaviour spoke to them saying; “Courage! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.” 28 Peter responded to him, “Master if it is you, order me to come to you on the water.” 29 So he said, “Come.” Peter disembarked from the vessel, walked on water, and came towards Lifesaviour. 30 But when he saw the boisterous wind, he was frightened and, starting to plunge, he screamed, “Master, save me!” 31 Lifesaviour immediately stretched out his hand and held him up, saying to him, “Incredulous, why did you doubt?” 32 When they went into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 Then those that were on board the vessel came to worship him, “Truly, you are the Supermights' Kin!”

LIFESAVIOUR WELL RECEIVED

34 After they had crossed over, they landed in the region of Gennesaret. 35 When the people there recognised him, they sent word throughout that entire vicinity, and they brought all their sick to him. 36 They begged him if they could only touch the tip of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Matthew 15

RULE-BASED INSINCERITY

1 The learned and Separatists who were from Jerusalem came to Lifesaviour to ask; 2 “Why do your disciples violate the tradition of the elders because they don’t wash their hands when they eat food.” 3 He answered them, “And why do you violate Supermights' instruction through your tradition? 4 For Supermights has instructed and said, ‘Respect your father and mother’ and ‘Whoever reviles his father or mother must be put to death.’ 5 Yet you say; ‘Whoever may say to his father or mother; ‘I’ve sacrificed whatever you may have benefitted from me’ 6 does not value his father or his mother.’ You have invalidated Supermights' principle through your tradition. 7 Pretenders! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you when he said,

8 ‘These people approach me with their mouths,

and they prize me with their lips,

but their hearts are far away from me,

9 and they worship me to no purpose,

teaching as doctrines human rules.’”

10 Then he invited the crowd to himself and said to them, “Listen and be wise. 11 It is not what enters the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what flows from the mouth that defiles a person.”

12 Then the disciples came and said to him; “Did you realise that the Separatists were offended when they listened to this statement?” 13 And he replied, “Every plant that my Heavenly Patron did not plant will be uprooted. 14 Leave them to themselves! They are blind leaders. So if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a ditch.” 15 But Peter said to him, “Explain this metaphor to us.” 16 Lifesaviour said, “Are you still also foolish? 17 Do you not yet understand that everything that enters through the mouth goes to the stomach and is ejected into the privy. 18 But the things that come from the mouth come from the heart, and these things defile a person 19 because from the heart comes evil ideas, murder, adultery, idolatry, stealing, false testimony, blasphemy. 20 These are the things that defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands, that does not defile a person.”

A FOREIGNER SHOWS TENACIOUS FAITH IN LIFESAVIOUR

21 After that Lifesaviour left from that place and went away to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Then there came a Canaanite woman from the same, and she cried out to him saying; “Have mercy on me, Sir, son of David. My daughter is terribly demon-possessed!” 23 But he did not utter a word to her. Then his disciples came and requested him, saying, “Send her away because she keeps screaming after us.” 24 So he began to speak, “I was only sent to the dying sheep of the family of Israel.” 25 But she came to bow before him, pleading; “Sir, help me! 26 It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the puppies,” he said. 27 She replied; “Yes, Sir. But even the puppies eat from the crumbs that drop from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Lifesaviour answered her, “O woman! Great is your faith! May it be as you wish!” Then her daughter was healed from that instant.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS AND FEEDS THE SICK AND HUNGRY CROWDS

29 When Lifesaviour had left that place, he then went past the sea of Galilee up to the mountain and sat there. 30 Then many crowds came near him carrying with them the limping, the blind, the dumb, the disabled and many others. They offloaded them at Lifesaviour’ feet. So he healed them.

31 As a result, the people were amazed when they saw the deaf speaking, the disabled cured, the crippled walking and the blind seeing. Then they glorified Israel's Supermights.

32 “I’ve compassion for the people because they have already stayed with me three days and have had nothing to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry in case they faint along the way.” 33 The disciples said to him, “Where can we get enough bread in this desert to supply such a crowd?”

34 Lifesaviour asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They replied, “Seven and a few small fish.” 35 Then he directed the people to sit down on the ground. 36 He took the seven loaves and the fish, and gave thanks. He broke them and began giving them to the disciples, the disciples to the crowds. 37 They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments that were left over, seven baskets full. 38 But those who ate were four thousand men besides the women and children. 39 After sending the crowd away, he got on a vessel and went to the region of Magadan.

Matthew 16

FAILURE TO READ THE SIGNS OF THE TIME

1 After that, the Separatists and the Rightists approached him. They asked him to show them a miracle from Heaven. 2 But he responded by saying to them; “When it is evening, you say; ‘Fine weather!’ because the sky is red 3 and in the morning, ‘Stormy weather today!’ because the sky is red and overcast.’ You can, in fact, differentiate the appearance of the sky, but you do not discern the signs of the time. 4 A depraved and adulterous generation demands a sign and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” Then he left them and went away.

LIFESAVIOUR CAUTIONS ABOUT THE PHARISAIC YEAST

5 When the disciples crossed to the other side, they forgot to bring bread. 6 Then Lifesaviour said to them; “Watch out and be careful of the yeast of the Separatists and the Rightists!” 7 So they began to discuss this among themselves, murmuring, “It is because we did not bring bread.” 8 When Lifesaviour realised this, he said, “Incredulous! Why do you argue among yourselves because you did no bring bread? 9 Do you still not understand? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you received afterwards? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many baskets you received afterwards? 11 How do you not understand that I was not speaking about bread? Be careful of the yeast of the Separatists and the Rightists.” 12 They then understood that he was not telling them to be careful of the yeast of bread but of the teaching of the Separatists and the Rightists.

LIFESAVIOUR IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE DESIGNATED

13 When Lifesaviour reached the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples; “What do people describe me, the Kin of Humanity, to be?” 14 They then answered, “Some, ‘This is John the Baptiser’ and others ‘Elijah!’ Then others ‘Jeremiah!’ or one of the prophets.” 15 He asked them, “But who do you say I’m?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You're the Designated, the Kin of the living Supermights.” 17 Then Lifesaviour answered him, “You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Patron who is in Heaven! 18 So I tell you now because you are Peter [rock] and upon this rock, I’ll establish my church and the gates of death will not prevail against it. 19 I’ll commit to you the keys of the reign of Heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you release on earth will be released in Heaven.”

20 Then he instructed his disciples not to tell anyone that he was Lifesaviour, the Designated.

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS HIS MESSIANIC SUFFERING

21 From that time Lifesaviour started to show his disciples why it was necessary to go to Jerusalem and to suffer many things from the elders and the chief priests and the learned, and be killed and on the third day be resurrected. 22 So Peter took him aside and started to reprimand him: “Far from you, my Master, should this happen!” 23 Then he turned around and said to Peter, “Back off Satan! You are a snare to me because you entertain human agenda rather than Supermights’.”

24 Then Lifesaviour said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to come after me, he must deny himself and carry his stake and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to preserve their life will ruin it, but whoever relinquishes their life for my sake will regain it. 26 For what does it benefit a person if they win the whole world yet forfeit their life? Or what can a person give in exchange for their life?

27 "For the Kin of Humanity will appear in the glory of his Patron with his messengers, and then he’ll reward each one according to their deeds. 28 I assure you, some are standing here who will not experience death until they see the Kin of Humanity growing his reign throughout.”

Matthew 17

LIFESAVIOUR TRANSFIGURED

1 Then after six days, Lifesaviour took Peter and James as well as John, his brother and privately brought them to a high mountain. 2 Then he was transfigured in front of them - both his appearance was as radiant as the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

3 Then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah conversing with him. 4 Then Peter began to speak and told Lifesaviour; “Master, it is better for us to be here. If you please, let us secure three shelters - one for you, then one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 5 Suddenly, while he was still speaking, a transparent cloud enveloped them, and there was a voice from the cloud which said; “This is my dear Kin upon whom I’ve my accreditation. Hear him.” 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces. They were greatly frightened.

7 Then Lifesaviour came and touched them and said; “Wake up and don't be afraid!” 8 When they lifted their eyes, they saw no one except Lifesaviour, alone.

9 As they were descending from the mountain, Lifesaviour instructed them, saying; “Do not tell anyone about the vision until the Kin of Humanity is resurrected from the dead.” 10 The disciples asked him, “Why then do the learned say that Elijah must come first?” 11 He answered, “In fact, Elijah does come first and reforms everything. 12 But I tell you though, Elijah has already come, but they did not recognise him. But they did to him whatever they decided. In the same way, too, the Kin of Humanity will suffer through them.” 13 Then the disciples understood it as though he was telling them about John the Baptiser.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BOY THE DISCIPLES COULD NOT HEAL

14 When they re-appeared to the crowd, a man approached him. Kneeling down, he then said; 15 “Master, have mercy on my son because he is a lunatic and feels so sick that he frequently falls into the fire and frequently into the water. 16 Then I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” 17 Then Lifesaviour responded and said; “You unbelieving and perverse generation! How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him here to me.” 18 Then Lifesaviour rebuked the demon, and it went away from him, and the boy was healed from that instant.

19 Then the disciples came to Lifesaviour privately and asked, “Why could we not exorcise it?” 20 He told them, “Through your unbelief. For indeed I assure you, if you have faith as a kernel of mustard seed, you’ll tell this mountain to move from here to there, and it will move. So nothing will be impossible for you. 21 Moreover, this kind does not leave except by earnest prayer and fasting. [ALTHOUGH THIS VERSE IS NOT THERE IN THE EARLIEST MANUSCRIPTS]

LIFESAVIOUR AGAIN REVEALS HIS MESSIANIC DEATH AND RESURRECTION

22 When they passed through Galilee, Lifesaviour told them, “The Kin of Humanity is going to be handed over to the hands of human beings. 23 They’ll then kill him, and on the third day, he’ll be resurrected.” They were terribly distraught.

LIFESAVIOUR PAYS TRIBUTE FOR HIMSELF AND THE DISCIPLES

24 When they came to Capernaum tribute collectors approached Peter and asked; “Does your teacher not pay tribute?”

25 Then when he had come into the house, Lifesaviour augured him, asking; “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect levies or taxes, from their own kin or from outsiders?” 26 Peter suggested to him; “From outsiders.” Lifesaviour affirmed it; “Therefore, the kins people are exempted. 27 In spite of that, so that we do not offend them, walk to the sea and throw a hook to pick up the fish that comes up first. When you open its mouth, you’ll find a piece of money. Take it and give it to them for me and you.”

Matthew 18

GREATNESS QUESTION

1 At that time, the disciples came to Lifesaviour asking, “Who is the greatest in the reign of Heaven?” 2 Then Lifesaviour called a child, and brought him among of them. 3 Then he said; “I assure you unless you are converted and become like children, you’ll never ever enter the reign of Heaven! 4 Certainly whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the reign of Heaven. 5 Further, whoever embraces a child like this in my name, embraces me. 6 But whoever ensnares any of these little ones who believe in me, it will be better for them that a large millstone was around their neck and that they were plunged into the depth of the sea. 7 Shame that scandals must occur in the world but shame to the person through whom the scandal happens. 8 But if your hand or foot scandalises you, strike them off and throw them away yourself. It is better for you to enter into life lame or crippled than be thrown into fiery perpetuity having two hands and two feet.

9 “Indeed, if your eye scandalises you, pluck it out yourself and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye than being thrown into fiery perpetuity having two eyes. 10 Be careful that you do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that in Heaven, their messengers always look into the face of my Patron who is in Heaven.

METAPHOR OF SINGLE HUMAN VALUE

11 “Indeed the Kin of Humanity has come to recover what was lost. [ALTHOUGH THIS VERSE IS NOT THERE IN SOME MANUSCRIPTS]

12 “What do you think? If a person owns a hundred sheep, then one of them strays away, does he not leave the ninety-nine and journey into the mountains to look for the one that went astray? 13 Then whenever they find it, to tell you the truth, they’ll rejoice more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. 14 In the same way, it is not the desire of your Patron who is in Heaven that any of these little ones be lost.

SETTLING DIFFERENCES

15 “But if your fellow errs against you, go and reprove them while you and they are alone. If they listen to you, you have won your fellow. 16 But if they don't listen, take one or two others with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every statement may be confirmed. 17 But if they refuse to listen to them, bring word to the church. If they refuse to listen to the church, let them be like a pagan or a tax trader. 18 I assure you, whatever you bind together on earth will be bound together in Heaven, and whatever you resolved on earth will have been resolved in Heaven. 19 “Again, I assure you, if two of you on earth agree about whatever you ask, my Patron in Heaven will do it for you. 20 For where two or three convene together in my name, I’m there among them.”

PETER’S FORGIVENESS QUESTION

21 At that time, Peter approached him and asked; “Sir, how many times must my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Lifesaviour answered him; “I would not say to you ‘up to seven times’ but up to seventy times seven! 23 Briefly, the reign of Heaven is like a certain king who intended to settle accounts with his servants. 24 Then as he began settling his accounts, the one who was brought to him owed ten thousand rands. 25 But he was not able to repay. His master ordered him to be sold together with his wife and children and everything he possessed so that repayment would be made. 26 This servant then fell down and prostrated himself pleading; ‘Sir, be patient with me and I’ll repay you everything.’ 27 Then that servant’s master pitied and freed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out and found one of his colleagues who owed him a hundred rand. So he grabbed and strangled him demanding; “Repay whatever you owe me!” 29 But his colleague fell down at his feet and begged him saying; ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll repay you everything.’ 30 But he did not relent. Instead, he went ahead and threw him into prison until he repaid the debt. 31 But when his colleagues realised what had happened, they were greatly disturbed, and they went and told their master all that had happened.

32 “When his master had summoned him, he lambasted him; ‘Malicious servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your colleague, just as I had shown mercy to you?’ 34 Then, enraged, his master surrendered him to the torturers until he repaid everything he owed him. 35 My Heavenly Patron will also do it this way to you if each of you does not forgive a fellow from your hearts.”

Matthew 19

LIFESAVIOUR ON MARITAL ISSUES

1 So, it happened that as soon as Lifesaviour had finished these messages, he went away from Galilee and went to the region of Judea across the Jordan.

2 Then large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. 3 The Separatists also came to him. Testing him, they asked him if it was right for a man to divorce his wife for any reason. 4 Then he answered them, “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator created them male and female, 5 ‘then said, ‘That is why a man leaves his father and mother behind and sticks with his wife, and the two become one body.’’ 6 So, they are no longer two but one body. So what Supermights has joined together, let no human being separate.” 7 They said to him, “Why then did Moses instruct us to give a certificate of divorce to divorce her?” 8 He explained to them, “Moses, because of your hard-heartedness, permitted you to divorce your wives, but originally it was no this way. 9 But I tell you, whoever will divorce his wife except for illicit sex, and marries another one, commits adultery.”

10 His disciples said to him; “If the case of the husband is this way after his wife, it is better not to marry.” 11 He said to them, “Not everyone can accept this statement, except those to whom it has been given. 12 But there are some unmarried people who were born so from their mother’s wombs. Then there are unmarried people who are desexed by human beings. Some unmarried people have made themselves live unmarried for the sake of the reign of Heaven.”

LIFESAVIOUR LAYS HANDS ON CHILDREN

13 At that time, children were brought to him that he may lay hands on them and pray. But the disciples prevented them. 14 But Lifesaviour said; “Leave the children and do not prevent them from coming to me because the reign of Heaven is for this kind.” 15 Then he laid hands on them and left from that place.

LIFESAVIOUR RESPONDS TO A RICH INQUIRER

16 Them someone approached asking him; “Good Teacher, what good must I do so that I may have eternal life?” 17 He asked him, “Why do you call me good? Nobody is good except one, Supermights! But if you desire to enter into life, observe the commandments.” 18 “Which ones?” he asked. Lifesaviour replied, “Never murder, never commit adultery, never steal, never testify as an untrue witness, 19 respect your father and mother, and love your fellow as yourself.” 20 The young man said to him, “I’ve observed all of these since my youthfulness. What do I still lack?” 21 Lifesaviour said to him, “If you want to be ultimate, go sell your possessions and donate to the poor and you’ll have wealth in Heaven. Then come, follow me.” 22 But when the young man heard that statement, he went away distressed because he possessed a huge estate. 23 Then Lifesaviour said to his disciples, “I assure you, for the wealthy, it will be impractical to enter the reign of Heaven! 24 But on the other hand, I tell you, it is less of a struggle for a camel to squeeze through the needle’s eye than for the wealthy to enter into the reign of Supermights.” 25 When his disciples heard this, they were shocked. They were wondering; “Who will then be saved?” 26 But Lifesaviour perceived it and answered; “With human beings, this is impossible, but with Supermights, all things are possible.” 27 Then Peter said to him, “Here we are, we’ve left everything to follow you, what will we’ve then?” 28 Lifesaviour said to them, “I promise you that those of you that have followed me through regeneration, till the Kin of Humanity sits on his glorious throne, you’ll also sit on the twelve thrones, judging Israel's twelve tribes. 29 Indeed, anyone that has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands because of me will be compensated a hundred percent as well as be an inheritor of everlasting life. 30 But many that are foremost will be farthest, and the last will be first.

Matthew 20

DAY LABOURERS PARABLE

1 “For sure the reign of Heaven is like a family estate owner who went out some time at dawn to hire labourers for his vineyard. 2 Then after negotiating with the labourers for a full day’s pay he sent them into his vineyard. 3 Then he went out around the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the town square. 4 He said to them, ‘You too may go to the vineyard, and I’ll give you whatever is fair.’ 5 So they went. Again, when he went out around the sixth and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 He even went out around the eleventh hour. He found others standing unemployed and asked them; “Why are you standing here the whole day inactive?” 7 They said to him, ‘It’s because nobody hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go and work in the vineyard.’

8 “Then when evening arrived, the vineyard owner said to his manager, ‘Call the labourers and pay them wages starting with the last until the first.’

9 “So when those hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a full day’s pay. 10 But when the first came, they assumed they would receive more. Instead, they each received a full day’s pay. 11 But when they had received it, they began to complain against the family estate owner. 12 They were saying; ‘These last ones worked one, and you have made them equal to us who have endured the burden and heat of the day.’ 13 But he answered each of them; ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a day’s pay? 14 Take yours and go. Now I want to give to this last man the same as I gave to you. 15 Is it not permissible to do what I please with what is mine? Is your eye envious because I’m generous?’ 16 This is how the foremost will be farthest, and the last will be first.”

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS THE MESSIANIC SUFFERING THE THIRD TIME

17 As Lifesaviour was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve together privately along the journey and said to them; 18 “Look, we are going to Jerusalem, and the Kin of Humanity will be handed over to the chief priests and the learned. They’ll sentence him to death. 19 They’ll also commit him to the foreigners to jeer and flog and crucify. But on the third day, he’ll be raised.”

LIFESAVIOUR ARTICULATES SUBVERSIVE GREATNESS

20 At that time, there came to him the mother of Zebedee’s children with her sons prostrating to ask him for something. 21 He said to her, “What do you want?” She replied, “May you grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and the other one at your left, in your reign.”

22 Lifesaviour answered, “You do realise what you are aspiring for! Are you able to drink the cup that I’ll be drinking and be baptised with the baptism that I’ll be baptised with?” They said to him; “We are able.” 23 He told them, “You’ll drink my cup, yes, but to sit at my right and at my left is not mine to grant. Rather, it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Patron.” 24 When the ten heard this, they were displeased with the two brothers. 25 So Lifesaviour called them and said, “You know that the people’s rulers subordinate them and the powerful ones exercise authority over them. 26 It must not be this way among you. Instead whoever wants to be great among you must become your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be best among you must be your servant – 28 just as the Kin of Humanity did not come to be served but to serve, and to give up his life as a ransom for many.”

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS TWO BLIND MEN

29 Just as they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. 30 Then there were two blind men sitting en route. When they heard Lifesaviour was passing by, they screamed as they were calling, “Sir, Kin of David, have mercy on us!” 31 Then the crowd reprimanded them because they wanted to silence them, but they screamed louder saying; “Sir, Kin of David, have mercy on us!” 32 Lifesaviour stood still, addressed them, and asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” 33 They said to him, “Sir, may our eyes be opened?” 34 Then, Lifesaviour moved with compassion, touched their eyes and immediately they recovered their sight. They followed him.

Matthew 21

LIFESAVIOUR’ ROYAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

1 After that, as they were approaching Jerusalem, they then came to Bethphage, towards the Mount of Olives. At that time, Lifesaviour sent two disciples. 2 He told them; “Go into the town ahead of you, and you’ll immediately find a donkey and a colt also tied with her. Unleash them and drive them to me. 3 If someone says anything to you, you are to say, ‘The Master needs them,’ and he’ll send them immediately.”

4 All of this also happened to fulfil what was predicted through the prophet saying; 5 “Say this daughter of Zion;

‘There is your King coming to you.

Humble, even riding on a donkey.

And on a colt, a foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Lifesaviour had instructed them.

7 They led the donkey and the colt and set their clothes on them, and he mounted on. 8 A huge crowd scattered their clothes on the way and others broke branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 Then the crowd that led ahead and those that followed kept shouting;

“Hosanna to the Kin of David.

Blessed is he who comes in Supermights' name!

Hosanna to the Supreme!”

10 Then as he came to Jerusalem, the entire city broke its silence and vibrated; “Who is this?” 11 Then the crowd responded; “This is Lifesaviour, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

12 Then Lifesaviour went into the Supermights' Sanctuary and drove out everyone that was trading and marketing in the sacred place, turning over both the tables of the coin dealers and the cages of pigeon hawkers. 13 Then he said to them, “It is written, ‘My Sanctuary will be designated a house of worship, but you are turning it into a haven of gangsters!”

14 The blind and lame came to him in the Sanctuary, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the learned saw the miracles he performed and heard the children shouting in the Sanctuary, “Hosanna to the Kin of David,” they were enraged. 16 They then asked him, “Do you hear what they are saying?” Lifesaviour said to them, “Yes. Have you not sometimes read,

‘‘From the mouths of

infants and babies you have prepared praise’?”

17 Then he left them and went away from the city to Bethany, and he spent the night there.

18 But early in the morning, as he was returning to the city, he was hungry.

19 So when he saw a fig tree along the road, he went to it but found nothing but leaves only on it. Then he said to it; “May fruit never grown on you ever!” Then the fig tree instantly dried up. 20 When the disciples saw it, they were shocked given the instant manner the fig tree dried up. 21 But Lifesaviour responded saying; “I assure you, if you have faith and you do not doubt, you’ll not do only this to the fig tree. But if you’ll say to this mountain ‘Move and be plunged into the sea’ it will happen too.’ 22 So whatever you’ll request in prayer believing, you’ll get.

LIFESAVIOUR’ ALTERCATION WITH THE SPIRITUAL LEADERS

23 Then when he arrived in the Sanctuary, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him as he was teaching and asked; “By whose authority do you do these things? Really, who gave you this authority?” 24 Lifesaviour responded and said to them; “I’ll also ask you one question. If you answer me, then I’ll also tell you by whose authority do I do these things. 25 Where was John’s baptism from, from Heaven or from human beings? Then they deliberated among themselves saying, ‘If we say ‘from Heaven’ he’ll rebut to us; ‘Why did you not believe him then?’ 26 But if we say, ‘From human beings,’ we fear the crowd’s reaction because they all considered John to be a prophet.” 27 So they answered Lifesaviour, “We don’t know.” Then he said to them, “I’ll also not tell you by what authority I do these things. 28 But what do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work in the vineyard today.’ 29 He responded, ‘I’ll not.’ But afterwards, he regretted and went. 30 Then he approached the second son and said the same thing. Though he responded, ‘I’ll, sir,’ he did not go. 31 Which of the two carried out his father’s instruction?” They said to him, “The first.” Lifesaviour said to them, “I assure you, tax collectors and prostitutes will go ahead of you into the reign of Supermights! 32 In fact, John came to you the right way, and you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Although you saw it, you did not eventually repent and believe him.”

33 “Listen to another parable: There was a family estate manager who planted a vineyard. He hedged it with a fence around. Then he dug a wine vat witlitreit. Then he built a castle on it, and he leased it to tenant farmers and went abroad. 34 Then when the grape season drew near, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his grape share. 35 But the tenant farmers seized his servants, flayed one, killed the other, and stoned another.

36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did the same to them. 37 Then he eventually sent his son to them saying; ‘They’ll respect my son.’ 38 But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and retain his inheritance!’ 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.40 When the manager of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?” 41 They said to him, “He will kill and destroy those depraved men! Then he’ll lease the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him his grapes by their seasons.” 42 Lifesaviour said to them, ‘Did you not at some time read in the Scriptures;

‘The stone the house builders rejected

has become the principal cornerstone.

This was Supermights's doing,

and it is wonderful in our eyes’?

43 “Through this, I’m telling you that Supermights’ reign will be taken away from you and given to people who will produce its fruits. 44 So the one who falls on this stone will be shattered, but whoever it will fall on will be crushed to powder.” 45 When the chief priests and the Separatists understood his parables, they realised that he was describing them. 46 Though they plotted to lay their hands on him, they feared the people because they considered him a prophet.

Matthew 22

1 Lifesaviour responded and spoke back to them in parables and said; 2 “Supermights's reign is like a certain king who organised a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He then sent his servants to invite those who were listed for the wedding, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent out other servants saying; ‘Tell the invited; “Look, my luncheon is ready and fattened steers have been slaughtered. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding.”’ 5 But they disregarded it and went away, one to his farm, and another to his business. 6 But the rest arrested his servants, abused and killed them. 7 When the king heard it, he was enraged, and he dispatched his troops and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is, in fact, ready, but the invited did not deserve it. 9 Now go then into squares and highways and invite as many as you’ll find to the wedding.’ 10 So those servants went out to the streets and gathered all they found both bad and good. So the wedding was filled with guests.

11 But when the king came in to inspect the guests, he noticed there was a person who was not wearing the wedding attire. 12 So he said to him; ‘Fellow, how did you enter here without having the wedding attire?’ But he was tongue-tied.

13 Then the king said to his waiters, ‘Bind him up hand and foot and take him away and throw him into outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.’ 14 Indeed many are invited, but few make a choice.” 15 At that time, the Separatists went away and held a conference so that they might trap him in his speeches.

16 Then they sent him their apprentices with the Herodians to say; “Teacher, we acknowledge that you are genuine and you teach Supermights’ way authentically. You do not have a preference for anyone because you do not regard the appearance of persons. 17 Tell us then, what do you think? Is it right to pay tribute to Caesar or not?” 18 But Lifesaviour perceived their strategies and said, “Pretenders! Why are you testing me? 19 Show me the coin used for the tribute.” So they brought him a coin. 20 Lifesaviour said to them, “Whose image and whose inscription is this?” 21 They replied, “Caesar’s.” He said to them, “Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to Supermights the things that are Supermights’.” 22 When they understood this, they were stumped, and they left him and went away.

LIFESAVIOUR RESPONDS TO SACERDOTALIST

23 That same day Sacerdotalists, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him, 24 “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without having children, his brother must marry his wife and raise up a seed for his brother.’ 25 But then there was among us seven brothers. Then the first one that was married died having no descendants. He left his wife to his brother. 26 In the same way, the second one too as well as the third up to the seventh. 27 Then eventually, the woman also died. 28 But then in the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven since they all had her?” 29 But Lifesaviour responded and said to them; “You are mistaken in not understanding Scriptures or Supermights's power. 30 For in the resurrection, they do not remarry. They are not married off; instead, they are like messengers in Heaven. 31 But with regards to the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was communicated to you by Supermights saying; 32 ‘I’m the Abraham's Supermights, Isaac's Supermights, and Jacob's Supermights? Is Supermights not the Supermights of the dead and also of the living ones?”

33 When the crowds heard this, they were surprised at his teaching.

LIFESAVIOUR MUFFLES THE SEPERATISTS AGAIN

34 But when the Separatists heard that he had muzzled the Sacerdotalists, they reconvened among themselves. 35 Then one of them, a legalist, asking to test him, said; 36 “Teacher, which instruction in the law is the greatest?” 37 Lifesaviour said to him, “‘Love Lifegiver your deity with all your heart, with all your passion, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 The second is similar to it: ‘Love your fellow as yourself.’ 40 On these two principles hangs the complete law and the prophets.”

41 While the Separatists were convening together, Lifesaviour asked them 42 saying; “What do you think about the Designated? Whose son is he?” They said, “David’s” 43 He asked them, “How then does David by the Spirit call him ‘Supreme,’ saying,

44 ‘Lifegiver said to my Master,

‘Sit at my right hand

until I bring your adversaries as your footrest’?

45 If David then calls him ‘master,’ in what way is he his son?” 46 But no one was able to answer his question and as much as no one dared to question him anymore.

Matthew 23

LIFESAVIOUR CONDEMNS THE LEARNED AND THE SEPARATISTS

1 Lifesaviour then spoke to the crowds and to his disciples saying; 2 “The learned and the Separatists sit on Moses’ seat. 3 Then whatever they tell you to observe, you must note and practise. But do not do according to their actions because they say, but they do not practise. 4 Indeed they tie up heavy loads so difficult to carry, and they impose them on people’s shoulders, but they are not willing to lift a finger themselves.

5 Now they do all their works to be seen by people. In addition, they increase their tefillins and decorate the hems of their garments. 6 They are also fond of preeminence at banquets as well as preeminent seats in the local congregations 7 as well as salutations in the public squares and people hailing them as ‘My Great One, My Honourable Sir.’ 8 But be not called ‘The Great One’ since you have one Master, and you are all brothers. 9 Also, do not call anyone else ‘Patron’ since you have one Patron who is in Heaven. 10 Do not even be titled ‘teachers,’ since you belong to one Teacher, the Designated. 11 So the greatest among you’ll be your servant. 12 And whoever elevates themselves will be humbled, and whoever humbles themselves will be lifted up.

13 “But shame on you the learned and the Separatists, pretenders! You shut the reign of Supermights in front of the people because you do not enter. You do not even allow those who are trying to go in. 14 Shame on you the learned and Separatists, pretenders! You squander widows’ wealth even under the pretext of offering long prayers. For this reason, you’ll receive greater judgement. [ALTHOUGH THIS VERSE IS OMITTED IN EARLIER MANUSCRIPTS]

15 “You go round the sea and land to secure one convert, and when they follow, you make them twice the candidate of hell as yourselves.

16 “Shame on you myopic leaders who say; ‘Anyone may swear by the temple. It means nothing but whoever will swear by the gold of the temple is under obligation.’ 17 Absurd and myopic! Which is greater then, the gold or the temple that makes the gold sacred? 18 Then, ‘Anyone may swear by the altar, it means nothing but whoever swears by the gift that is on it is under obligation.’ 19 Absurd and myopic! Which is greater then, the gift or the altar that makes the gold sacred? 20 Certainly to swear by the altar is to swear by it and by everything on it. 21 To swear by the temple is to swear by it and by everything in it. 22 So to swear by Heaven is to swear by Supermights' throne and the one who sits on it.

23 “Shame on you the learned and the Separatists, pretenders! Even though you give the tithe of mint, anise, and cumin yet you have neglected the weightier aspects of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. These you should observe yet without neglecting the others you have omitted. 24 Myopic leaders! You filter a gnat but swallow a camel.

25 “Shame on you the learned and the Separatists, pretenders! Though you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish inside, they are full of excessive dirt. 26 Blind Separatist! First, clean what is inside the cup and dish so that its exterior may be clean too.

27 “Shame on you the learned and the Separatists, pretenders! You are as whitewashed tombs which in fact appear beautiful on the outside but inside are full of dead bones and all the filth. 28 In the same way, you also appear righteous to people outwardly, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and unrightness.

29 “Shame on you the learned and the Separatists, pretenders! Why do you rebuild the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous?

30 Then you say; ‘If we had been in the days of our forebears, we would not have been co-participants in the bloodshed of the prophets.’ 31 That too testifies against you because you belong to the descendants of the murderers of the prophets. 32 You also meet the standard of your forebears. 33 You serpents, you offspring of vipers. How will you escape from the judgement of hell?

34 “Look, I’m therefore sending to you prophets as well as intelligent and learned ones whereas some of them you’ll kill and crucify. Then some of them you’ll whip in your local assemblies and persecute from city to city. 35 In that way on you’ll fall all the innocent blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zachariah, son of Barchiah who you murdered between the Sanctuary and the altar. 36 I assure you, all these will come against this generation. 37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kills the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I’ve yearned to gather your children together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 Realise, your home is left to you desolate! 39 Hence I say to you, you’ll not at all see me from now until you are supposed to say; ‘Blessed is the one who comes in Supermights' name!’”

Matthew 24

LIFESAVIOUR FORETELLS THE END TIMES

1 Just as Lifesaviour was going to leave from the temple, his disciples came to show him the architecture of the Sanctuary. 2 But Lifesaviour said to them; “Do you not understand all these things? I assure you, there will be not one stone here put on top of another that will not be disintegrated.”

3 After that, as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him privately asking; “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the signs of your return - when will be the end of the age?”

4 Lifesaviour answered them, “Be careful that no one deceives you. 5 Indeed many will come in my name claiming; ‘I’m the Designated’ and will deceive many. 6 You’ll also hear of wars and rumours of wars. Make sure that you are not frightened because everything must happen, but the end is not yet. 7 Indeed, a nation will rise against nation and royalty against royalty. There will be the scarcity of food too, diseases and earthquakes in various places. 8 But all these are the first pains. 9 At that time, they’ll put you in prison to be tortured, and they’ll kill you. You’ll be hated by all nationalities because of my name. 10 Indeed, many will be enticed to sin and will betray one another and harass one another. 11 Many pseudoprophets will also rise and deceive many. 12 Moreover, iniquity will increase the freezing of the love of many.

13 "But the one that will persevere to the end, that person will be saved. 14 Then this gospel of Supermights's reign will be preached throughout the whole globe as a witness to all nationalities. Then the end will come.

LIFESAVIOUR FORETELLS THE GREATEST TRAUMA

15 “When you certainly see the horror of devastation communicated by Daniel the prophet stanch up the sacred place, the reader should understand.

16 "At that time, let the ones in Judea flee to the mountains 17 and the one on the roof must not come down to pick something from the house 18 not even the one who is in the field should return back to pick up their clothes. 19 But pity those that are pregnant and breastfeeding during those days.

20 “Pray that your escape may not be in winter or on Sabbath. 21 For indeed, at that time, there will be the most significant trauma such as never was since the inception of the world until now or will ever happen.

22 “But unless those days are shortened, no human being would be saved. But because of the Designated, those days will be reduced.

23 “At that time, if anyone says to you, ‘Look, there is the Designated!’ or ‘He is in that place’ do not believe him.

24 “No doubt there will increase pseudo-Designateds and pseudoprophets and will show great miracles and wonders so much that if it were possible, they would seduce the Designated too. 25 Beware, I’ve told you beforehand 26 so that if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the desert, do not go out, or ‘Look, he is in the secret chambers,’ do not believe them. 27 For indeed just as lightning emerges from the east and flashes to the west, in this same way will the return of the Kin of Humanity occur. 28 No doubt wherever there is a corpse, there vultures will be gathered.

29 “Directly after the ordeal of those days the sun will be obscured, and the moon will not give its light then the stars will fall from the sky and the forces of Heaven will be incited.

30 “At that time the sign of the Kin of Humanity will also flash in the sky, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They’ll then watch from a distance the Kin of Humanity coming in the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 Then he’ll dispatch his messengers with a loud trumpet blast, and they’ll fetch his elect from the four quarters of the earth, from one end of the sky to the other end.

32 “Learn also this similitude from the fig tree: Whenever its twigs become tender, and it sprouts up its buds, you realise that summer is ready. 33 So in the same way, when you’ll see all these things, realise that he is ready, at the door.

34 “I assure you, this generation will not pass away until many of these things occur.

35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not go away.

LIFESAVIOUR SAYS NO ONE KNOWS THE TIME

36 “But concerning that day and its time, nobody knows, not even the messengers of Heaven except my Patron only. 37 But just as the days of Noah were, the return of the Kin of Humanity will be the same way too. 38 Just as it was then in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and marrying off until the day that Noah came into the ship. 39 They too did not understand until the flood came and swept everyone. The return of the Kin of Humanity will also be that way.

40 “At that time, there will be two people in the field. One will be taken, and the other one will be left alone. 41 Two people will be grinding at the mill factory. The one will be taken and the other one left alone.

42 “Keep alert, therefore, since you don't know what time your Master will come. 43 But understand this: If the estate owner knew what time of the night the thief would come, he would keep alert and would not let his residence to be burglarised. 44 Hence you are to be prepared too because the Kin of Humanity will come at a time you do not imagine.

45 “Who then is the trustworthy and wise servant, whom his master has appointed him over his household to give the other servants their salaries at the proper time? 46 Fortunate is the servant who when his master comes, will find him doing it that way. 47 I assure you, his master will appoint him over his entire estate. 48 But if the other depraved servant should say in his heart ‘My master is taking too long to come’ 49 then he begins to beat co-servants and to eat and drink with the drunkards. 50 Then the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect it, and at a time he is not aware, 51 and will rip him and assign him a share among the pretenders. There will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

Matthew 25

1 “The reign of Heaven will at that time be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went away to meet the bridegroom. 2 But five of the virgins were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Whereas the foolish ones brought their lamps, they brought no oil with them. 4 But the wise ones brought oil in their containers with their lamps. 5 But the bridegroom delayed. They were drowsy and slept. 6 Then at midnight, there was a loud broadcast; ‘Here comes the bride. Come out to meet him!’ 7 At that point all those virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 But the foolish ones said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise ones replied ‘Not at all. There will not be enough for you and for us. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were gone to buy, the bridegroom came. So those who were prepared went inside with him to the wedding. Then the door was shut. 11 Then later the other virgins came pleading; ‘Sir, sir, open for us.’12 But he responded; ‘Surely, I do not know you!’ 13 Therefore be alert, as you do not know the day or the time.

14 “Indeed, it is just like a man travelling abroad. He called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 In fact, when he had given one five amounts, to another two, and to another one - to every one according to their strength - he then went abroad. 16 Then the one who had received five amounts travelled and invested that and made other five amounts. 17 In the same way too, the one who had two gained two more. 18 But the one who had received one amount went away and dug it into the ground and hid his master’s money. 19 Then after a long time, the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 So the one who had received the five amounts approached and brought five more, saying, ‘Sir, you entrusted five amounts to me. Here, I’ve gained five more amounts in addition to these ones.’ 21 Then his master said to him; “Well done, good and trustworthy servant. You have been faithful over a few matters. I’ll appoint you over big things. You may enter into the celebration of your master.’

22 “Then the one who had received two amounts came and said; ‘Sir, you entrusted two amounts to me. Here, I’ve gained two more amounts in addition to these. 23 His master answered, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy servant! You have been faithful in little things. I’ll appoint you over big things. You may enter into the celebration of your master.’

24 “Then the one who had received the one amount came too saying, ‘Sir, I knew that you were an exacting man, harvesting where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow, 25 so I was afraid. Then I went away and stashed your amount in the ground. Here, you recovered what is yours.’ 26 But his master replied saying; ‘Malicious and lazy servant. You knew that I harvest where I did not sow and gather where I’ve not winnowed. 27 Then you should have invested my money with the bankers and, on my coming, I would have received my money back with interest. 28 So take the amount from him and give it to the one who has ten amounts. 29 No doubt, everyone who has will be given so much more. But the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away from him. 30 So the unprofitable servant will be thrown into the darkness outside where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’

31 “When the Kin of Humanity comes in his glory and all the messengers with him, then he’ll sit on his glorious throne. 32 Then before him will be gathered all nationalities and he’ll separate them from another as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats. 33 So he’ll make the sheep stand on his right side and the goats on the left.

34 “At that time, the King will speak to those on his right side, ‘Come, blessed of my Patron, inherit the reign made ready for you from the inception of the world 35 because I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you entertained me, 36 naked you dressed me up, sick, and you relieved me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

37 “Then the righteous will respond to him asking; “Sir, when did we see you hungry and fed you or thirsty and we gave you something to drink? 38 When did we also see you a stranger and we entertained you or naked, and we dressed you up? 39 When did we also see you sick or in prison and we came out to you?’ 40 Then the King will respond and say; ‘I assure you, while you were doing the least of these for my fellows, you were doing it for me.’

41 “After that, he’ll then say to those on the left, ‘Go away from me, you are cursed to the perpetual fire that has been prepared for the devil and his messengers! 42 Because I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. 43 I was a stranger, and you did not entertain me, naked, and you did not dress me up, sick and in prison, and you did not visit me.’ 44 At that time they too will respond to him and ask; ‘Sir, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not attend to you?’ 45 After that he’ll respond to them saying; ‘I assure you, while you did not do the least of these for my brothers, you did not do it for me.’ 46 Then these will go to perpetual punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Matthew 26

THE PLOT TO KILL LIFESAVIOUR ADVANCES

1 It then happened after Lifesaviour had finished all these speeches that he told his disciples, 2 “Remember that after two days it will be Passover. Then the Kin of Humanity will be handed over to be crucified.”

3 At that time, the chief priests and the learned, as well as the elders of the people convened at the mansion of the high priest named Caiaphas. 4 Then they consulted to trap and arrest Lifesaviour and put him to death. 5 But they decided it will be not during the Festival in case there would be a reaction among the people.

LIFESAVIOUR ANOINTED AT BETHANY

6 But Lifesaviour was in Bethany in leper Simon’s residence. 7 A woman came to him, holding an alabaster vase of costly perfume, she then poured it on his head as he sat at the table. 8 But when the disciples saw this, they were displeased and said; “What is this waste for? 9 For indeed the perfume could have been sold for a great deal and donated to the poor.” 10 When Lifesaviour realised this, he reprimanded them; “Why are you harassing the woman? Indeed she has committed worthy labour on me. 11 No doubt you’ll always have the poor among you, but you’ll not always have me! 12 As she poured this ointment on my body, she was doing it for my burial. 13 I assure you, wherever this gospel will be preached in the entire world, what this woman has done will be told as her memorial.”

JUDAS CONTRACTED TO BETRAY LIFESAVIOUR

14 At that time, one of the twelve named Judas from Kerioth, went to the chief priests, 15 and said; “What will you pay me to deliver him to you?” Then they offered him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time, he began plotting for an occasion to betray him.

17 Then at the inception of the Passover, the disciples came to Lifesaviour and asked him; “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

18 Then he said, “Go to the city to such a person and say to the person, ‘The Teacher says, ‘My time is near. I’ll observe the Passover festival with my disciples at your house.'’’

19 So the disciples did as Lifesaviour had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. 20 When evening came, he sat at the table with the twelve.

21 So as they were eating, he said, “I assure you, one of you’ll betray me.” 22 So they became greatly distressed, and each one of them began to ask him; “Sir, is it me?” 23 Then he responded and said; “The one who dips his hand with mine in the same dish will give me over. 24 The Kin of Humanity will go just as it is written about him, but shame to that human being by whom the Kin of Humanity is betrayed! It would have been good for that person if he had never been born.” 25 Judas, the one who gave him over, also said, “My Master, is it me?” Lifesaviour replied, “You have said it.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ NEW COVENANT

26 While they were eating, Lifesaviour picked up bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, distributed it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat, this is the way my body will be.”

27 Then he took the cup then gave thanks. He distributed it to them saying; “Drink, all of you 28 because this is the way my blood is shed for the new agreement on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 But I tell you, I’ll not drink this produce of the vine after this day until that day when I’ll drink it afresh with you in my Patron’s reign.”

30 So after singing a song, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

LIFESAVIOUR PREDICTS DESERTION BY THE DISCIPLES

31 Then Lifesaviour said to them, “Tonight you’ll all have an occasion to fall because of me, as it is written: ‘I’ll strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I’m resurrected, I’ll go ahead to Galilee.”

33 But Peter responded and said to him; “Though everyone will stumble because of you, I’ll not stumble at any time!” 34 Lifesaviour said to him, “I assure you, tonight, though, before cockcrow, you’ll have denied me three times.”

35 Peter vaunted to him, “Even if I must die with you, I’ll never deny you.” Similarly, all the disciples also vouched.

LIFESAVIOUR PRAYS INTENSELY WHILE THE DISCIPLES SLEEP

36 After that, Lifesaviour went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to the disciples; “Sit in this place while I go and pray there.” 37 Then he took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along. He began to be too heavily distraught. 38 Then he said to them, “My heart is intensely grieved to the point of death. Stay here and watch with me.”

39 Then he went on a little further. He collapsed on his face and prayed earnestly pleading; “My Patron, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me yet not in the way I decide but as you do.”

40 Then he returned to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter; “So you could not watch with me one hour! 41 Watch and pray so that you do not fall into temptation. The spirit is, in fact, eager but the body is weak.” 42 He went away again from there a second time and prayed, pleading; “My Patron, if this cup cannot be taken away from me unless I drink it, your purpose must be fulfilled.” 43 Then he came and found them sleeping again because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them. He went away again to pray for the third time, repeating the same words. 45 Then he came towards his disciples and said to them, “You are still sleeping and resting now? Look, the time has drawn close, and the Kin of Humanity is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Wake up to go! Look! My traitor is approaching!”

LIFESAVIOUR IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED

47 While he was still speaking, there was Judas, one of the twelve, appearing, and with him was a large crowd with swords and sticks, dispatched by the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 His traitor had given them a sign saying; “Whoever I’ll kiss is the one. Arrest him!”

49 So immediately he approached Lifesaviour and said; “Greetings, my master!” Then he kissed him. 50 Lifesaviour said to him, “Fellow, do whatever you are up to!” Those nearer clasped Lifesaviour on their hands and dragged him.

51 But there was one of them associated with Lifesaviour stretched out his hand and unsheathed his sword. He then struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his earlobe. 52 Then Lifesaviour said to him, “Return your sword to its sheath because all that take up a sword will die with a sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot right away pray to my Patron that he should readily give me more than twelve regiments of messengers? 54 In what way then would the Scriptures that say it must happen this way be fulfilled?” 55 In that same instance, Lifesaviour said to the mob; “Have you come out to arrest me in the way of a super gangster, with swords and sticks? Daily I sat down tamely with you teaching in the Sanctuary, yet you did not arrest me. 56 But all of this has happened that the prophetic scriptures would be fulfilled.”

At that time, all the disciples left him and ran away.

LIFESAVIOUR IS TRIED BY THE COUNCIL TRIBUNAL

57 But the ones who had arrested Lifesaviour led him off to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the learned and the elders had convened. 58 But Peter was following him from a distance to the high priest’s mansion. He too went in and sat with the servants to see the conclusion.

59 But the chief priests and the whole joint tribunal were trying to find false evidence against Lifesaviour so that they could kill him. 60 But they found nothing. Though many false witnesses came up, they found nothing. But eventually, two false witnesses came up. 61 They claimed, “It was him who said; ‘I’m able to demolish Supermights's Sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.’”

62 Then the high priest stood up and demanded from him; “You are not disputing what these witnesses are alleging against you.” 63 But Lifesaviour kept silent. Then the high priest charged and demanded; “I invoke you by the living Supermights that you tell us if you are the Designated, Supermights's Kin.” 64 Lifesaviour said to him, “You have said it. But I tell you, after this time you’ll see the Kin of Humanity sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and riding on the clouds of Heaven.” 65 At that moment, the high priest ripped his robe saying; “Blasphemy! How much more witnesses do we still need? Here, you have now heard his blasphemy! 66 What do you think now? They began to speak and said; “He deserves death!” 67 At that moment, they spat on his face and punched him, and others slapped him with the palms of their hands 68 deriding; “Divine for us, Designated. Who hit you?”

PETER DENIES LIFESAVIOUR AS PREDICTED

69 But Peter was sitting outside witlitrethe mansion, and a servant girl approached him saying; “You were also with Lifesaviour of Galilee!” 70 But he denied it in front of everyone saying; “I do not know what you are saying!”

71 When he went out to the veranda, another one saw him and said to the people there, “He was also with Lifesaviour of Nazareth.” 72 But again he denied it with an oath; “I do not know the person!”

73 But after a little while, bystanders came up to him and said to Peter; “Surely you are from there because your dialect reveals you clearly.” 74 At that moment he started cursing and swearing; “I do not know the person!” Then immediately, the rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered Lifesaviour’ prediction, which said to him; “Before cockcrow, you’ll have denied me three times.” So he dashed out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27

LIFESAVIOUR HANDED OVER AS PREDICTED

1 But when the morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people had taken a decision against Lifesaviour to have him executed. 2 So they had him tied up. They led him away and delivered him to Pontious Pilate, the governor.

JUDAS COMMITS SUICIDE

3 At that time, Judas who had betrayed him realised that he was sentenced, he regretted and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders. 4 He confessed; “I’ve made a mistake. I’ve betrayed innocent blood.” But they replied; “How does that concern us? You sort it out.” 5 Then he flung the pieces of silver into the Sanctuary and left and hanged himself.

LAND OF BLOODSHED BOUGHT WITH BLOOD MONEY

6 Though the chief priests took the pieces of silver, they said; “It is not right to deposit it into the offering coffer because it is blood money.” 7 After they took a decision, they bought with it the Potter’s Plot to bury foreigners in it. 8 Hence, to this day, that ground was called the Plot of Bloodshed. 9 Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty silver coins, the price of the one whose price had been set by the people of Israel, 10 and they gave them for the potter’s field, as Lifegiver instructed me.”

LIFESAVIOUR BEFORE PILATE

11 Then Lifesaviour stood before the governor. Then the governor questioned him, saying, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Lifesaviour said, “You say it.” 12 But when the plaintiffs were from the chief priests and elders, he did not respond. 13 At some point, Pilate asked him; “Do you not understand the many charges against you?” 14 But he did not respond, not even to one accusation. The governor was amazed.

LIFESAVIOUR BECOMES A CRIMINAL’S SUBSTITUTE

15 But it was the governor’s practice during the Festival to release to the people one prisoner that they chose. 16 At that time, they also had a popular prisoner named Barabbas. 17 Following that, Pilate said to them when they had reconvened; “Who do you want me to release to you? Barabbas or Lifesaviour called the Designated?” 18 No doubt he had realised that they had handed him over for spite. 19 Further, while he was sitting in the tribunal his wife had sent him a message; “You are to have nothing to do with that innocent man because last night I experienced a great deal through a dream about him.” 20 But the chief priests and the elders had convinced the mob to call for Barabbas and to have Lifesaviour killed. 21 When the governor began to speak and asked them; “Which of the two do you want to be released to you?” They called for Barabbas. 22 Pilate asked them, “Then what should I do with Lifesaviour who is called the Designated?” All said, “Crucify him!” 23 But the governor asked; “Why? What crime has he committed?” But they shouted louder saying; “Crucify him.”

24 Pilate realised that he could not prevail. As the outcry was sustained, he took water and washed his hands before the mob declaring; “I’m innocent of this innocent person’s blood. You see to it!” 25 Then in response, all the people said; “His blood is on our children and us!” 26 Then he released Barabbas to them. But after he had Lifesaviour lashed, he surrendered him so to be crucified.

LIFESAVIOUR IS FLOGGED, RIDICULED, MOCKED AND CRUCIFIED

27 Then the governor’s soldiers took Lifesaviour into the general’s tent and gathered the entire squad around him. 28 They then stripped him and put a purplish robe around him, 29, and after braiding a crown of thorns, they thrust it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt down before him. They mocked him saying: “Hail, king of the Jews!” 30 They spat on him continually and seized the reed and caned him repeatedly on the head. 31 After they had mocked him, they stripped the robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. 32 But as they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene, named Simon. They forced him to carry his cross.

33 Then they reached a place called Golgotha, that is to say, the Cranium Hill. 34 They offered him vinegar mixed with bile to drink. But after tasting it, he declined to drink it.

35 They then crucified him and shared his clothes by throwing a dice. 36 Then they sat down and guarded him there. 37 Then above his head, they nailed his crime description; “THIS IS LIFESAVIOUR, THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

38 At that time two gangsters were crucified with him, one on the right side and one on his left. 39 Those that travelled nearer teased him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, “You who can destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, rescue yourself! If you are Supermights’s Kin, walk down from the cross!” 41 In the same way, the chief priests jeered him too with the learned and elders; 42 “He saved others, but he can't save himself! If he is the king of Israel, let him walk down from the cross, and we’ll believe in him! 43 He trusted Supermights. Let Supermights rescue him now if he wants him because he had claimed, ‘I’m Supermights’ Kin!’” 44 The gangsters who were crucified with him also taunted him.

LIFESAVIOUR’ DEATH AFFECTS THE SANCTUARY & THE TOMBS

45 But from twelve noon till three o’clock there was darkness over the entire land. 46 But at about three o’clock Lifesaviour cried out with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My Supermights, my Supermights, why have you deserted me?” 47 But when some of the bystanders there heard it, they said, “This man is crying for Elijah.” 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, dunked it with vinegar, put it on a stick, and made him drink. 49 But the rest said, “Leave him alone! Let’s see if Elijah will come to save him.”

50 Lifesaviour then cried out again with a loud voice and yielded his breath. 51 There and then the curtain of the Sanctuary was torn into two, and the earth trembled, and the rocks were ripped. 52 The tombs were opened too, and many bodies of the righteous ones who had died were raised. 53 Then they emerged from the tombs after his resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many.

54 When the centurion and the ones that were guarding Lifesaviour with him saw the earthquake and the things that happened, they were terrified. They were saying; “Truly, this was Supermights's Kin.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ FOLLOWERS SUPPORT AND BURY HIM

55 Many women who had also followed and attended Lifesaviour from Galilee were there with him, watching from a distance. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

57 When evening came, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph that had himself become a disciple of Lifesaviour. 58 He is the one who had gone to Pilate and had asked for the body of Lifesaviour. Then Pilate had given orders for the body to be given. 59 So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in clean fine linen, 60 and laid it in his own new tomb that he had quarried into the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone to the portal of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were also sitting there, in front of the tomb.

LIFESAVIOUR’ TOMB IS SECURED

62 Then the following day since it was preparation day, the chief priests and the Separatists came together before Pilate, 63 and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor, while he was still alive, had said, ‘After three days I’ll rise again.’ 64 So then give orders that the tomb may be secured until the third day, in case his disciples come and steal him away and claim to the people he has risen from the dead. Then the last fraud will be worse than the first. 65 Pilate also suggested to them; “You take a guard. Go make it as secure as you see fit.” 66 They then went away, secured the tomb by sealing the stone and putting scouts.

Matthew 28

LIFESAVIOUR IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

1 Then long after the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn towards the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to view the tomb.

2 Then there had occurred a tremendous earthquake because Supermights's messenger had descended from Heaven to roll away the stone from the portal. Then he had sat on it. 3 His appearance was like a bright shine, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards had shivered and had passed out as dead men because they were so terrified of him. 5 But the messenger began to speak and said to the women, “Don't be afraid because I know you are looking for Lifesaviour who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, just as he had promised. Come and see the spot where he was lying. 7 Then go quickly, tell his disciples that he is raised from the dead. ‘There he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You’ll see him there!’ There’s my message to you.”

8 So they left from the tomb without delay with fear and great joy. They rushed to tell his disciples. 9 They too met Lifesaviour saying to them; “Greetings!” Then they came near and laid hold of him by the feet and worshipped him. 10 Then Lifesaviour said to them; “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. I’ll see them in that place.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ RESURRECTION REPORT IS FRAUDULENTLY DISTORTED

11 As they were travelling, some of the guards that were there arrived in the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 After they had convened with the elders and had taken a decision, they gave enough money to the soldiers 13 telling them, “Say ‘His disciples came at night and stole his body while we slept.’ 14 Then if this comes to the governor’s ears, we’ll convince him and make sure you are secured. 15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed. So this story is rumoured among the Jews to this day.

LIFESAVIOUR’ PARTING MESSAGE TO HIS DISCIPLES

16 But the eleven disciples travelled to Galilee to the mountain Lifesaviour had designated to them. 17 So when they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted.

18 Then Lifesaviour came up and said to them, “All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 So, as you go, disciple all nationalities - baptising them in the name of the Patron, and the Kin, and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe whatever I instructed you. Look, I’ll definitely be with you all the time until the end of the world.”

MARK

Mark 1

JOHN IS LIFESAVIOUR’S FORERUNNER

1 This is the original gospel of Lifesaviour the Designated, Supermights's Kin.

2 Just like it is written in the prophets,

“Note, I’ll send a messenger before your appearance,

the one to prepare your way ahead of you.

3 There is a voice of one calling in the desert;

‘Make ready the way of Lifegiver, make his paths straight.’”

4 John began baptising in the desert as he was preaching the baptism of reformation with the forgiveness of sins. 5 Then there came to him the entire region of Judea as well as Jerusalem. They were then all baptised by him in the River Jordan, as they were confessing their sins. 6 John was dressed in a camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and he ate pods and wild honey. 7 Then he preached the message; “There is coming after me one more powerful than I’m, one whose shoes straps I’m not fit to bend and untie. 8 I’ve in fact baptised you with water, but he’ll baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

JOHN BAPTISES LIFESAVIOUR

9 Then it happened in those days that Lifesaviour came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan.

10 Immediately, as Lifesaviour was coming out of the water, he saw the sky split open, and the Spirit, as if a dove, was descending on him. 11 Then there came a voice from Heaven; “You are my dear Kin on you I’ve my accreditation."

LIFESAVIOUR TEMPTED IN THE DESERT

12 Then immediately, the Spirit urged him to the desert. 13 Then he was there in the desert forty days, tempted by Satan, and he was also among the wild animals, but the messengers attended him.

LIFESAVIOUR BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

14 But after John was imprisoned, Lifesaviour came to Galilee to preach the gospel of Supermights's reign. 15 So he said; “The time has fully come, and the reign of Supermights has come. Repent and believe the gospel.”

16 As he walked along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon’s brother, throwing fishing nets into the sea as they were fishers.

17 So Lifesaviour said to them; “Come after me, and I’ll turn you to be fishers of people.” 18 They then immediately left their seine nets and followed him. 19 Similarly, when he had walked briefly from there, he saw James of Zebedee and John, his brother who were also in the vessel, mending their seine nets. 20 Then immediately he called them, they too left their father Zebedee in the vessel with the wage labourers and came after him.

21 As soon as it was the Sabbath, he went into the local congregation to teach. 22 They were so amazed at his teaching because he was teaching them as one that had authority yet not like the learned. 23 Then there was in their local congregation a man with a demonic spirit, and he screamed up, 24 pleading; “Leave us alone, Lifesaviour of Nazareth! Have you come to destroy us? I know you — who you are — the Holy One of Supermights!”

25 Then Lifesaviour rebuked him: “Quiet! Come out of him!” 26 After the demonic spirit had convulsed him and he had cried with the loudest voice, he came out of him. 27 They were so surprised that they discussed among themselves, asking; “What kind of teaching is this that discharges such power that even demonic spirits also obey him.” 28 Immediately after that, his fame spread throughout the entire region around Galilee.

29 Soon after they left the local congregation, they went with James and John to the house of Simon and Andrew. 30 But Simon’s mother-in-law was lying down, fever sick. So they immediately told him about her. 31 So he took her one hand and lifted her, and the fever left her. Then she served them.

32 In the evening, when the sun had set, they brought to him everyone that was severely diseased and demon-possessed. 33 So the whole town was gathered at the portal.

34 Then he healed many that were badly sick with various diseases, and he exorcised many demons. But he did not allow the demons to utter a word because they recognised him.

35 Then Lifesaviour got up very early in the morning to go to a remote place that he may pray there.

36 Simon and those that were with him searched for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him; “Everyone is looking for you.” 38 Then he said to them; “Let’s pass to the next towns that I may preach there too because that is why I came out.”

39 So he was preaching in their local congregations throughout the entire Galilee, also exorcising demons.

40 Then there came a leper to him begging him. Bowing down, he said to him, “If you are willing, you can purify me.” 41 Feeling sympathy, Lifesaviour then stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him; “I’m willing. Be clean!” 42 Then as soon as he had spoken, leprosy left him, and he was purified. 43 He immediately sent the man away with a very stern warning. 44 He told him, “Ensure that you don’t tell anyone but go away to show yourself to the priest and tender for your purification what Moses instructed as evidence to them.”

45 Instead, as he was leaving, he started publicising and broadcasting the incident widely. As a result, Lifesaviour was no longer able to enter any city publicly. Instead, he had to be in remote places. Yet they came to him from all directions.

Mark 2

1 He then returned to Capernaum after some days, and it was reported that he was at home.

2 So many immediately gathered, as a result, there was no space, not even by the gate, and he preached the word to them.

3 There then came to him a person with paralysis that was carried by four. 4 But when they were not able to come close to him because of the crowd, they unroofed the thatch where he was. Then when they had burrowed it, they lowered the mattress that the person with paralysis laid on. 5 When Lifesaviour realised their faith, he said to the person with paralysis, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

6 But some of the learned were sitting there too, debating in their minds: 7 “Why does he speak so irreverently? Who is able to forgive sins except for Supermights only?” 8 So immediately when Lifesaviour intuitively sensed that they were musing witlitrethemselves, he asked them; “Why do you think these things in your minds? 9 Which is simpler to say to the paralytic; ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or to say, ‘Stand up, pick up your mattress and walk?’ 10 But so that you may know that the Kin of Humanity has the capacity on earth to forgive sins.” He said to the person with paralysis – 11 “I say to you, stand up, pick up your mattress, and go home.” 12 Then immediately he stood up, picked up his mattress, and got away in full view of everyone such that everyone was amazed and they glorified Supermights, saying, “We’ve never at any time seen anything like this!”

LIFESAVIOUR CALLS MATTHEW TO BE HIS DISCIPLE

13 Then once again, he went along the sea, and the entire crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 14 So as he went along, he saw Levi of Alpheus sitting at the tax booth. Then he said to him; “Follow me.” Then he stood and followed him. 15 Then it happened while Lifesaviour was sitting down in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were sitting at the table with Lifesaviour and his disciples as well for there were many that accompanied him. 16 Then when the learned and the Separatists saw him eat with the tax collectors and sinners, they asked his disciples; “Why though does he eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?” 17 When Lifesaviour heard this, he said to them, “The healthy have no need of a physician, but the diseased and sick do. I've have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

LIFESAVIOUR CONFRONTS TRADITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

18 Both John’s disciples and the Separatists used to fast, and they came and asked him; “Why do John’s disciples and even the Separatists fast yet your disciples never fast?” 19 Lifesaviour answered them; “The bridal kin can't fast while the bridegroom is with them. As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they can't fast. 20 But the days are coming when the bridegroom will be removed from them, and at that time they’ll fast throughout those days. 21 No one stitches a patch of a new garment over an old dress; otherwise, the new patch that fills it up will lift off from the old garment, and the gap will be made worse. 22 Also, no one pours fresh wine into old skin bottles; otherwise, the new wine bursts the bottles, and the wine spills out, and the bottles are destroyed. Instead, new wine is put into new skin bottles.”

23 Then it occurred that as he was going through planted fields one Sabbath, his disciples then started to pluck stalks of grain, as they continued with the journey. 24 The Separatists then asked him; “Look, why are they doing what is not right on Sabbath?” 25 Then he said to them; “Have you not at some stage read what David did when he had a need, and he and those who were with him were hungry?

26 How he went into the house of Supermights in the time Abiathar was high priest and ate the display bread, which is not right for any but the priests to eat. He also gave it to those that came with him?” 27 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for humanity, not humanity for the Sabbath. 28 This is the reason the Kin of Humanity is even the Supermights of the Sabbath.”

Mark 3

1 On the other hand, when Lifesaviour entered the local congregation, there was a man who had a shrivelled hand. 2 So they watched him whether he would heal him on Sabbath so that they could accuse him. 3 Then he said to the man who had a shrivelled hand, “Stand up.” 4 Then he said to them, “Is it right to do good or evil on Sabbath, to save life or destroy it?” But they were stumped. 5 After he had looked all around them with anger, grieved by the stupidity of their thoughts, he said to the man; “Stretch your hand!” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored entirely like the other one.

LIFESAVIOUR SELECTS THE TWELVE FROM THE CROWD

6 After that, the Separatists went out immediately to confer and plot with the Herodians against him so that they could assassinate him.

7 Then Lifesaviour withdrew himself with his disciples by the sea, and a great crowd from Galilee followed him. Then from Judea, 8 Jerusalem, Idumea, and across the Jordan River, and around Tyre and Sidon, a great crowd came to him when they heard the great things he was doing. 9 Then he spoke to his disciples to have a boat waiting for him in case the people would crowd him. 10 Since he had healed many, whoever had diseases pushed towards him to touch him. 11 But whenever demonic spirits saw him, they rushed on him and cried out saying; “You are the Kin of Supermights.” 12 But he had sternly prohibited them not make him known.

13 Then Lifesaviour ascended the mountain and called for those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they would be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have the power to heal the sickness and exorcise demons.

16 So it was Simon, nicknamed Peter, 17 and James of Zebedee, both John and his brother James together dubbed as Boanerges, that is to say, sons of thunder. 18 Then it was Andrew and Phillip, also Bartholomew and Matthew. Then it was Thomas and James of Alpheus, as well as Thaddeus and Simon the Canaanite 19 including Judas from Kerioth who betrayed him. After that, they went home.

ATTEMPTS TO FRUSTRATE LIFESAVIOUR’ MINISTRY

20 But the crowd re-gathered so much that they could not even eat bread. 21 Then when those that were close to him heard it, they went to fetch him because they said he is insane. 22 The learned who came down from Jerusalem suggested, “He is Beelzebul possessed,” and, “By the prince of demonic beings he exorcises demons.” 23 But he called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan exorcise Satan? 24 If a realm is divided against itself, that realm will not be able to stand. 25 If a family is divided against itself, that family will not be able to stand. 26 So if Satan stands against his own, then he is divided. he’ll not be able to stand as a result. 27 Nobody can enter into a strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he’ll first bind the strong man. Only after that will he plunder his house. 28 I assure you, every sin will be forgiven the children of humanity, even all blasphemies they may blaspheme with. 29 But whoever will blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is not able to be forgiven forever but is in the risk of eternal judgement.” 30 This was because they had said he possessed a demonic spirit.

31 Then there came his brothers and his mother. Standing outside, they then sent someone to call him. 32 While the crowd sat around him, they said to him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are looking for you outside.” 33 He answered them and said, “Who are my mother or my brothers?”34 Then, looking around those who sat around him, he said; “Here are my mother and my brothers 35 Whoever observes Supermights’s purpose, that one is my brother and my sister, and mother.”

Mark 4

LIFESAVIOUR’ TEACHING MINISTRY IN PARABLES

1 Then again, he began to teach along the sea. So a huge crowd gathered towards him so much that he mounted a vessel and remained in the sea, while the entire crowd stood on the seashore. 2 But he taught them in parables mostly. He said to them in his discourse; 3 “Listen! There was a sower that went out to sow. 4 Then, as he was sowing that some fell on the road, and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

5 "So some fell on rocky ground where it did not have much soil. But it quickly sprouted because it had no soil depth. 6 But when the sun intensified, it was scorched, and it was not able to be rooted, it dried up. 7 Yet others fell among thorns, then the thorns increased and choked it, and it produced unworthy fruit. 8 Then more fell on good soil and produced fruit that sprouted and grew and yielded some thirty and some sixty, and some hundred percent abundantly.” 9 Then he challenged them; “Whoever has ears to hear, must understand.”

10 Then when they were alone, those that were in his company with the twelve interrogated him about the parables. 11 Then he said to them, “To you has been given the understanding of the secret of the reign of Supermights but those that are outside, things are presented in parables 12 so that, although they may be ever seeing they may never perceive, and although they may be ever hearing though they never understand otherwise they may repent, and their sins be forgiven.” 13 Then he asked them; “Do you not understand this parable? But how will you comprehend any parable? 14 The sower sows the word.

15 "Then there are those that are by the roadside wherever the word is sown. But while they understand, Satan comes immediately and snatches the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 So these are the ones that are like the ones sown on the rocky ground which when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 Yet it does not take root in them, even though they endure for a while. After that, when pressure or persecution arises because of the word, they immediately stumble. 18 So the others are the ones sown among thorns. They hear the word 19 but the distractions of this world and the delusion of wealth as well as longing for the rest of things come in and choke the word, and it produces nothing.

20 "Then there are those sown on good soil who hear the word, and receive it, and become abundantly fruitful, even thirty, some sixty and some hundred.”

21 He also said to them; “Is a light ever brought to be placed under a bushel or under a table, not setting it on a lampstand? 22 No doubt, there is nothing that is hidden which will not somewhat be revealed. Nothing would be kept secret except that it will come into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him understand.”

24 He also said to them; “Take care. By whatever measure you hear, you’ll be assessed. It will be your measure. Then according to your perception, more will be given. 25 Whoever has will be given. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

26 He also said; “This is the way Supermights's reign is: It is as though someone plants seed into the soil. 27 But he sleeps and gets up night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows up, though he does not know how. 28 But the earth becomes fruitful spontaneously, first the blade, then the stalk, after that the full grain in the stalk. 29 But as soon as the produce is ripe, the sickle is straight away applied because the harvest has come.” 30 He also said; “To what can we compare Supermights's reign, or with what similitude will we liken it? 31 It is like a mustard seed which until sown in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds that are on the earth. 32 Yet whenever it is sown, it grows up and becomes the greatest of all vegetables, and produces large branches so much that the birds of the sky can rest under its shade.”

33 So with many such parables, he spoke the word to them, as much as they were able to understand.

34 Furthermore, he no longer spoke to them without a parable, but whenever they were on their own privately, he explained everything to his disciples.

LIFESAVIOUR CALMS A RAGING STORM

35 Then that same day when evening came, he said to them; “Let us go abroad to the other side.” 36 So when they left the crowd, they took him just as he was into the vessel, and there were other boats with him.

37 But a strong windy storm came up, and the waves gushed against the vessel. As a result, it was nearly swamped. 38 But he was asleep on a pillow in the stern. They woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are drowning.”

39 So he woke up interdicted the wind. He said to the sea; “Be calm! Be quiet!” Then the wind relaxed, and there was great tranquility.”

40 Then he said to them; “Why are you terrified! How is it you have no faith.” 41 They were too frightened with great fear so much that they said to each other; “What kind of a person is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Mark 5

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A DEMONIAC

1 So they came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.

2 But just as he was disembarking from the vessel, a man with a demonic spirit met him from the tombs. 3 He had lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him, not even with fetters. 4 He had often been bound with shackles and fetters, but he had broken the fetters apart and had shattered the shackles. No one was able to subdue him.

5 Every night and day he was in the mountains and in the tombs, screaming and lacerating himself with stones. 6 When he saw Lifesaviour from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him. 7 Then he shouted with a loud voice and said; “What have I to do with you Lifesaviour, Kin of the Supreme Supermights. I beg you by Supermights not to torture me!” 8 As Lifesaviour said to him; “Come out of this man you demonic spirit!” 9 Then Lifesaviour asked him “What is your name?” Then he responded saying; “My name is Legion because we are many.” 10 He profusely begged him that he must not chase them out of the region.

11 But towards the mountains, there was a large herd of hogs that were feeding. 12 So all the demons begged him suggesting; “Send us into the hogs so that we may enter them.” 13 So immediately Lifesaviour permitted them the demonic spirits went out and entered the hogs. Then they dashed down the cliff into the sea. There were about two thousand that were drowned in the sea.

14 Then those that kept the hogs ran and reported it in the city and throughout the region. Both came out to check what had happened.

15 They came towards Lifesaviour. When they saw the one who had multiple demon-possessions sitting down and dressed up, sober, they were terrified too.

16 Then those who witnessed it related it fully to them, in what way it happened to the demoniac, including the state of the hogs. 17 They then began to beg Lifesaviour to steer clear of their coasts.

18 But as he was getting into the vessel, the demoniac begged him that he could be with him. 19 Lifesaviour did not allow him but said to him; “Go home to your family and tell them the great things the Supermights has done for you, how he has had mercy on you.” 20 So he went back and began to publicise all that Lifesaviour had done for him throughout Decapolis, and everyone was amazed.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BLEEDING WOMAN AND RESURRECTS A DEAD GIRL

21 But when Lifesaviour had crossed over to the other side again by boat, many people gathered around him when he was still at sea. 22 Then, there came one of the directors of the local congregation called Jarius. When he saw him, he fell on his feet 23 and then begged him profusely saying, “My little daughter is sick to the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her so that she may be healed and live.” 24 He then went with him. Then many people followed him and jostled him.

25 Then there was a certain woman who had had blood discharge for twelve years. 26 So she had experienced pain. Through many doctors, she had also spent everything she had saved for herself, and nothing made her better. Instead of getting better, it intensified and became worse. 27 When she heard about Lifesaviour, she came to press behind and touched his clothes 28 as she kept saying; “If I may touch his clothes, I’ll be made whole.” 29 Then immediately, her gush of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was cured from the ordeal.

30 Then Lifesaviour, immediately realising miraculous power had gone from him, he turned around in the pushing and asked; “Who touched my clothes?” 31 The disciples then asked him; “Look at the crowds squeezing you yet you say ‘Who touched me?’” 32 But he looked all around to detect who had done this. 33 Then the woman, terrified and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell before him and told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace, and be healthy from your scourge.”

35 While he was talking, there came someone from the director’s local congregation with an announcement; “Your daughter has died. Why do you still bother the master?” 36 But as soon as Lifesaviour heard the news that was announced, he intimated to the director of the local congregation; “Don’t be afraid. Simply believe!” 37 But he did not allow anyone to follow him except Peter, then James, then John, James’ brother.

38 When he arrived at the local congregation director’s house, when he looked at the commotion, the sobbing and the loud wailing, 39 then he came in. He asked them; “Why this noise and weeping? The girl is not dead but asleep.” 40 Then they laughed to scorn him. But when he had put them out, he took the girl’s father and the mother and those that were with him, and he went to where the girl was lying. 41 Then, gently he picked up the girl by the hand and said to her; “Talitha koum!” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up.”

42 Then the girl got up immediately and began to walk around. She was twelve then. They were stunned with great amazement. 43 He strictly ordered them not to let anyone know about it, and he told them to give her something to eat.

Mark 6

LIFESAVIOUR’ MINISTRY REJECTED IN HIS HOMETOWN

1 Then he went out from there and came to his native town. His disciples followed him. 2 So when the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the local congregation, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked; “Where did this person source these things from and what kind of wisdom that has been given to this man that even such miraculous power is performed through his hands? 3 Is this not the artisan, the son of Mary, also James’ brother, Jose’s, Jude’s, and Simon’s, and are not his sisters here with us.” Then they took offence at him. 4 Lifesaviour then said to them; “A prophet is not less honoured except in his native town, among his fellows, and in his home.” 5 So he was not able to perform any miracle, except to lay his hands on a few sick people to relieve them. 6 But he marvelled because of their unbelief when he went around the villages teaching.

LIFESAVIOUR SENDS THE TWELVE IN PAIRS

7 He then called the twelve and began to commission them two by two, and gave them power over demonic spirits. 8 He also instructed them not to carry anything for their journey except a stick only - no wallet, no bread, no cash in their pockets 9 but to put on sandals and not to wear two shirts. 10 Then he said to them; “Whenever you enter into a house, stay there until you leave from that area. 11 But whoever will not receive you or listen to you, when you leave from the area, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them.” 12 They then went out and preached so that they would repent. 13 They also exorcised many demons and anointed many that were sick with oil to heal them too.

HEROD THINKS LIFESAVIOUR IS JOHN RESURRECTED

14 When King Herod also heard, as his name was becoming known, he then thought that John the baptiser was resurrected from the dead more so because miraculous power manifested itself in him. 15 Others suggested that it was Elijah. Others also indicated he is a prophet or like one of the prophets.

16 But when Herod heard it, he answered; “It is John who I beheaded. He is resurrected from the dead.”

17 Herod had himself given orders and arrested John and had bound him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Phillip’s wife because he had married her. 18 John had then told Herod; “It is not right for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 So Herodias had also kept a grudge against him and would have killed him but she could not 20 because Herod revered John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, so he preserved him. When he had listened to him, he had mostly agreed and gladly listened to him. 21 But an opportune day came, while Herod on his birthday had organised a banquet for his great grandees, colonels and leaders of Galilee. 22 When Herodias’ daughter came in and danced so pleasingly for Herod and those that sat at the table with him, the king promised the girl; “Whatever you want to ask me from me, I’ll give you.” 23 He swore to her, “Whatever you ask, I’ll give you, up to half my kingdom.”

24 She then went out to ask her mother; “What should I ask for?” Then she said; “The head of John the baptiser.”

25 She immediately hurried back to the king and called for her request; “I wish that you instantly give me the head of John the baptiser on a plate!” 26 Although the king was intensely grieved, for the sake of his oath and those who sat with him, he chose not to reject it. 27 So the king immediately sent an executioner and ordered his head to be brought. He then went to decapitate him in prison.

28 Then he brought his head on a plate and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.

29 When his disciples heard, they came and picked up his corpse and buried it in a tomb.

LIFESAVIOUR TRIES TO REST PRIVATELY BUT CROWDS FOLLOW HIM

30 Those that were sent then gathered around Lifesaviour and reported everything that they had done and what they had taught. 31 He then said to them, “Come by yourselves privately to an isolated place and rest briefly,” as there were many coming and going, and they could not spend time to eat.

32 So they privately went away by boat to some isolated place. 33 But the people spotted them going away, and many recognised him and ran there on foot from all the towns and went before them. They then came together to him.

34 When Lifesaviour came out, he saw so many people and felt pity for them because they were like sheep who had no shepherd. He then began to teach them many things.

LIFESAVIOUR FEEDS OVER FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE

35 When it had already become much late, his disciples came to him and suggested; “This is an isolated place and it is already very late. 36 Dismiss them so that they may go to the surrounding hamlet and into the villages to buy food for themselves since they have nothing to eat.”

37 But he answered and suggested to them; “You give them food.” They then asked him; “Must we go and buy two hundred rands worth of bread and give them to eat?” 38 Instead, he asked them; “How many loaves do you have? Go and check. When they were sure, they said; “Five and two fish.”

39 He then directed them to all sit down on the green vegetation in feast groups. 40 So they squatted in plot rows of several hundreds and several fifties.

41 When he had received the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up towards Heaven, invoked a blessing, then he broke the loaves and gave his disciples to distribute them. He then divided the two fish to everyone. 42 Then everyone ate and were satisfied too.

43 They then collected twelve full baskets of fragments and from the fish. 44 Those that ate those loaves were about five thousand men. 45 Lifesaviour then urged his disciples to get into the vessel immediately and go to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he was dismissing the crowd.

LIFESAVIOUR WALKS ON WATER

46 After sending them off, he went up to the mountain to pray. 47 So when evening came, the ship was already in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on the land. 48 About the fourth shift of the night, when he saw them struggling to row because the wind was against them, he came to them walking on the sea and almost passed them. 49 But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost, and they screamed. 50 As they saw him, they were so terrified. Then he directly spoke to them and said; “Have courage! It is me. Don’t be afraid.”

51 Then he went up to them in the vessel, and the wind subsided. But they were shocked witlitrethemselves beyond measure, and they marveled. 52 Yet they did not figure it out about the loaves because their minds were stupefied.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS MANY WHEREVER HE WENT

53 When they had sailed across, they came to the Plain of Gennesaret and docked there. 54 As soon as they came out of the vessel, they recognised him. 55 They rounded the whole region and began to bring the sick ones who were bedridden wherever he was reported to be. 56 So wherever he entered in villages or towns or hamlets, they placed the sick in the street and called for him so that they might just touch the hem of his clothes, and whoever touched him was healed.

Mark 7

LIFESAVIOUR CONFRONTS TRADITIONAL UNDERSTANDING AGAIN

1 There then came together to him the Separatists and some of the learned who came from Jerusalem. 2 Then they spotted some of his disciples eating bread unclean - that is, with unwashed hands. 3 This was because Separatists and all the Jews don’t eat unless they wash their hands with scrubbing, retaining the tradition of the elders.

4 So, from the marketplace, they don’t eat until they have washed, and there are many other things which they had learned that they observe: the washing of drinking utensils and cooking pots, dishes, as well as dining tables.

5 After that the Separatists and the learned asked him; “Why do your disciples not live according to the traditions of the elders but eat bread with unwashed hands?” 6 But he responded to them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you pretenders, as it is written:

‘These people revere me with their lips,

but their mind is far from me.

7 But they worship me in vain,

teaching as doctrine human rules.’

8 Indeed, disregarding the prescription of Supermights, you adhere to human tradition.” 9 Then he said to them; “Honestly, you reject the prescriptions of Supermights to uphold your tradition. 10 For Moses said, ‘Respect your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles his father or mother must be put to death.’ 11 But you say that if any person tells his father or mother, ‘Whatever help you would have benefitted from me is a sacrifice’ that is, a gift for Supermights, 12 and you permit him to no longer do something for his father or his father. 13 You invalidate the word of Supermights through your tradition which you have transmitted, and you have many such similar practices.”

14 When he had called all the people, he said to them; “Listen to me every one of you and understand: 15 There is nothing outside a person that enters into him to would pollute him but the things that come out of him. Those are the things that pollute a person. 16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him understand.”

17 Then when he had entered the house, away from the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 He then said to them; “Are you so unintelligent also? Don’t you understand that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him? 19 Since it does not enter inside his mind but into the stomach and proceeds into the secret, purging all food. 20 He also said; “That which comes out of a person is what profanes the person 21 because from inside, out of the thoughts of human beings, comes out evil ideas, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, fraud, depravity, deceit, licentiousness, malicious envy, blasphemy, pride, egotism. 23 All these evils come from within, and they defile a person.”

LIFESAVIOUR COMMENDS THE FOREIGNER’S FAITH

24 Then from there he stood up and went to the frontiers of Tyre and Sidon. He then entered a house wishing nobody would notice, but he could not be disguised. 25 But a woman whose little girl had demonic spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. 26 This was a Greek woman, of Syrophoenician origin too. But she requested him to exorcise the demon from her daughter. 27 But Lifesaviour said to her; “Let the children be fed first because it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to dogs.” 28 Then she responded and said to him; “True, Sir. Even so, the dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.” 29 So he said to her; “For that reason, you may go. The demon has left your daughter.” 30 When she came back to her house, she found the demon was gone, and her daughter was lying over her bed.

LIFESAVIOUR MAKE DEAF AND DUMB TO HEAR AND SPEAK

31 He then went away from the frontiers of Tyre and Sidon. He came towards the sea of Galilee, through the coastal route of the Decapolis. 32 They also brought to him someone deaf and dumb and asked him to place his hand on him.

33 He then took him aside from the crowd, thrust his fingers into his ears. Then he spat and touched his tongue. 34 Then he looked up to Heaven, sighed and said to him; “Ephphatha!” which means; “Be opened!” 35 Then immediately, his ears were opened and the connective tissue of his tongue loosened, and he began to speak properly. 36 He then ordered them so that they should not tell anyone. But the more he instructed them, the more they publicised it.

37 So they were amazed beyond measure saying; “He has done everything well - he makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak too!”

Mark 8

LIFESAVIOUR FEEDS ANOTHER CROWD

1 In those days, there came a vast crowd, and they had nothing to eat at all. Lifesaviour called his disciples and said to them; 2 “I feel pity for the people because they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. 3 But if I send them to their homes without eating, they’ll faint on the way because some of them came from far.” 4 Then his disciples answered him; “From where can someone supply them with bread in this desert?” 5 He then asked them; “How many loaves do you have?” Then they said; “Seven.” 6 So he directed the people to sit down on the ground and took the seven loaves and gave thanks. Then he broke them and gave them to his disciples to present them along with them. They then presented them to the people. 7 They also had a few small fish, and he blessed them and instructed them to distribute them too. 8 They then ate and were filled, and they collected the leftover fragments, seven baskets. 9 But there were about four thousand that ate. Then he released them.

LIFESAVIOUR CAUTIONS ABOUT PHARISAIC YEAST

10 Then he immediately got into a vessel with his disciples and went to the side of Dalmanutha. 11 The Separatists then came and began to debate with him, requiring from him a sign from Heaven to test him. 12 But he sighed deeply in his spirit and said; “Why does this generation demand a sign? I assure you, no sign will be given to this generation.” 13 He then left them. Entering a vessel again, he went off to the other side. 14 So they had forgotten to take bread. They had nothing with them in the vessel, except one loaf. 15 Then he urged them; “Be careful! Beware of the yeast of the Separatists and the yeast of Herodians.” 16 So they mused together on the side saying; “It is because we’ve no bread.” 17 When Lifesaviour realised it, he said to them; “Why do you think it is because you have no bread? Do you still not yet understand? Have your minds still been hardened? 18 Do you have eyes, yet you don’t see? Do you have ears, yet don’t hear and don’t you remember? 19 After I broke the five loaves among the five thousand, how many baskets full of leftover pieces did you collect?” They said to him; “Twelve.” 20 “Also, after I broke the seven among the four thousand, how many baskets of full fragments did you collect?” Then they said to him; “Seven.” 21 Then he asked them; “How is it you don’t understand?”

LIFESAVIOUR MAKES A BLIND MAN TO SEE

22 They then went to Bethsaida. They then brought a blind man to him and urged him to touch him.

23 So he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then he spat on his eyes and laid his hands on him. He asked him; “Do you see anything?” 24 Then, looking up, he said; “I see people like walking trees.”

25 After that, he laid his hands on his eyes again and caused him to receive sight, and he was restored. So he saw everything clearly. 26 He then sent him away to his house saying; “Don’t even go to the village.”

LIFESAVIOUR IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS the Designated

27 When Lifesaviour and his disciples were going to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he then asked them on the way; “Who do people say I’m?” 28 But they responded; “John the Baptiser, yet others say, Elijah, others also say, one of the prophets.” 29 Then he asked them; “But who do you say I’m?” But Peter answered saying to him; “You are the Designated!” 30 He then urged them not to tell anyone about him.

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS MESSIANIC SUFFERING

31 He then began to teach them that the Kin of Humanity must experience many painful things, and be rejected by the elders, as well as chief priests and the learned, then be killed and after three days be resurrected.

32 So he spoke frankly about this matter. But Peter led him aside and began to reprimand him. 33 But when he had turned about and was facing the disciples, he rebuked Peter saying; “Get behind me, Satan, because you don’t cherish divine things but human things.”

LIFESAVIOUR CALLS HIS FOLLOWERS TO SELF-DENIAL

34 So when he had called the people with his disciples, he also said to them; “Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his stake and follow me. 35 Certainly, whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever will lose his life for my sake and the gospel, that one will save it. 36 What benefit is it for a person if they’ll gain the entire world and lose their life? 37 Or what will a person give in exchange for their life? 38 Certainly, whoever is ashamed of me and my message in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Kin of Humanity will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Patron with the holy messengers.”

Mark 9

1 He then said to them; “I assure you, that there are some standing here who will not experience death until they have seen the reign of Supermights grow in power.”

LIFESAVIOUR IS TRANSFIGURED

2 Then after six days, Lifesaviour took Peter, as well as James and John, and privately brought them to a high mountain to be by themselves. Then he was transfigured in front of them 3, and his clothes became extremely white as snow in a way no launderer on earth could make them white. 4 Elijah then appeared with Moses, and they were conversing with Lifesaviour. 5 So Peter responded and said to Lifesaviour, “My Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three booths – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 6 He did not know what to say. It was absolutely out of awe.

7 Then there came a cloud that enveloped them, and a voice grew out of the cloud saying; “This is my beloved Kin, listen to him.” 8 When they looked around, suddenly they saw no one anymore with them, except Lifesaviour alone with them.

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, he instructed them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Kin of Humanity was resurrected from the dead.

10 So they kept the incident witlitrethemselves. Inquiring what the rising from the dead meant, 11 they then asked him, “Why do the learned say that Elijah must appear first?” 12 He said to them, “Elijah does indeed come first, and reform all things. But why is it written that the Kin of Humanity must suffer many things and be despised? 13 I tell you indeed that Elijah has indeed come, but they have done to him whatever they pleased, just as it is written about him.”

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BOY THE DISCIPLES HAD FAILED TO HEAL

14 When they reached the disciples, he saw a great crowd around them and the learned were questioning them. 15 When the entire crowd saw him, they were surprised, and they ran immediately to greet him. 16 He asked the learned; “What are you questioning them about?” 17 Then one of the people responded and said; “Teacher, I had brought to you my son who has the demon that mutes him. 18 Whenever it seizes him, he convulses then foams and grinds his teeth and passes out. So I spoke to your disciples so that they would exorcise it, but they did not succeed.”

19 But he addressed them and asked; “O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? Until what time must I tolerate you? Bring him to me.” 20 They then brought him to him. When he looked at him, the spirit immediately threw him into a convulsion, and he fell on the ground. He wallowed foaming. 21 Then he asked his father; “How long has this been happening like this?” And he said, “From infancy. 22 It has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if you can do something, have compassion on us and help us!” 23 But Lifesaviour said to him; “If you can believe, everything is possible for the believing one.” 24 Immediately then, the father of the boy cried. With tears, he said; “Master, I believe; help my unbelief!”

25 When Lifesaviour saw that the people were quickly gathering, he rebuked the demonic spirit saying to it; “Muting and speechlessness spirit, I order you to come out of him and never ever enter him again.”

26 So it screamed loud and threw him into a deadly convulsive escape, and he was as if he was dead so much that many said; “He's dead!” 27 But Lifesaviour took him by the hand and woke him up, and he stood up.

28 When he arrived at the house, his disciples asked him about it privately; “Why were we not able to exorcise it?” 29 Then he told them; “That type can come out through nothing but through earnest prayer.”

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS THE MESSIANIC SUFFERING AGAIN

30 Then they went out from there and passed through Galilee. He also did not want anybody to know 31 because he was still teaching his disciples. So he was telling them; “The Kin of Humanity will be handed over to human hands, and they’ll kill him, but after he is killed, he’ll be resurrected the third day.” 32 Although they did not understand that message, they were too afraid to ask him.

LIFESAVIOUR’ SUBVERSIVE GREATNESS

33 When they came to Capernaum, when they were in the house, he asked them; “What were you discussing among yourselves on the way?”

34 But they kept quiet, yet they had argued among themselves on the way about who was the greatest.

35 When he had settled down, he called the twelve and told them; “If anyone wants to be best, he’ll be the lowest of all, a servant of all too.”

36 Then he took a little child and brought him among them. Embracing him, he then said to them; 37 “Whoever truly welcomes others such as children in my name, welcomes me. But whoever will accept me does not just accept me but the one that sent me.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ OPEN VIEW TO MINISTRY

38 Then John began to speak to him; “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us exorcising demons in your name, and we stopped him because he was not one of us.” 39 But Lifesaviour said; “Don’t stop him because no one who performs a miracle in my name will then be able to speak against me readily. 40 No doubt, the one that is not against us is for us. 41 Whoever will give you a cup of water in my name, because you belong to the Designated, I assure you, will not lose his reward. 42 But whoever offends one of the little ones that believe in me, it would be better for them if a millstone were tied around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. 43 So if your hand causes you to stumble, remove it. It's better for you to enter life mutilated than having two hands go to hell into the inextinguishable fire. 44 where ‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not extinguishable.’” [ALTHOUGH THE TEXT IS OMITTED IN EARLY MANUSCRIPTS]

45 “If your foot also causes you to stumble, cut it off. It's better for you to enter life crippled than have your two feet were thrown into hell into the inextinguishable fire. 46 where ‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not extinguishable.’ [ALTHOUGH THE TEXT IS OMITTED IN EARLY MANUSCRIPTS]

47 “If your eye also causes you to stumble, rip it off. It's better for you to enter into the reign of Supermights with one eye than have two eyes thrown into hell fire 48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not extinguishable. 49 Everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is useful but if the salt loses its flavouring essence, in what way will you spice it up? Have prudence in yourselves and live peacefully with one another.”

Mark 10

LIFESAVIOUR’ RESPONSE TO DIVORCE QUESTION

1 Afterwards, he left from there and went to the Judean frontiers beyond Jordan. Then the people journeyed together to him. Then, once more, as it was his custom, he taught them again. 2 Then the Separatists approached to test him. They questioned him whether it is right for a man to divorce his wife.” 3 He answered them, “What did Moses instruct you?” 4 They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and to divorce her.”

5 But Lifesaviour said to them, “He wrote this prescription for you because of your hardheartedness. 6 But from the inception of creation Supermights had them made male and female. 7 For this reason, a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife. 8 The two then become one body. Therefore they are no longer two but one body. 9 So what Supermights has coupled together, let no one separate.”

10 When in the house, his disciples asked him again about that. 11 So he told them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another one commits adultery against her. 12 So in case a woman divorces her husband and marries another one, she commits adultery.”

LIFESAVIOUR BLESSES THE CHILDREN

13 When they brought children to him so that he would also touch them, the disciples reprimanded those who brought them. 14 But when Lifesaviour noticed it, he was agitated, and he said to them; “Leave the children to come to me and don’t prevent them because Supermights's reign is for this kind. 15 I assure you, whoever does not accept the reign of Supermights as a child will not enter it at all.” 16 So embracing the children, he placed his hands on them and blessed them.

LIFESAVIOUR RESPONDS TO A RICH INQUIRER

17 When he was going his way, there came someone running and kneeling towards him asking him; “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life.” 18 Lifesaviour then said to him; “Why do you call me good? No one is good unless one is Supermights.” 19 You know the commandments: ‘Never murder. Never commit adultery. Never steal. Never be an untrue testifier. Never defraud. Respect your father and mother.’” 20 But he responded by saying to him; “Teacher, I’ve obeyed all these since my youthfulness.” 21 Lifesaviour then looked at him, lovingly told him; “There’s one thing you fall short in. Go sell all you possess and donate to the poor, and you’ll hold wealth in Heaven. Then come and take up your stake and follow me.” 22 But he was depressed as a result of that message. He went away distressed because he owned a considerable estate. 23 Lifesaviour then looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it is for those that possess wealth to enter into the reign of Supermights!”

24 The disciples were also shocked at his statement, so Lifesaviour restated it to them; “Children, how difficult it is for those that rely on riches to come into the reign of Supermights! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye a needle than for the wealthy to enter into the reign of Supermights.” 26 They were shocked more. They asked among themselves; “Then who can be saved?”

27 Lifesaviour looking at them then replied; “Among human beings, it is impossible but not before Supermights because before Supermights all things are possible.” 28 Peter then began to challenge him; “Look at us, we left everything and followed you!” 29 Lifesaviour replied by saying, “I assure you, there is no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or farms for my sake and the gospel’s 30 that will not receive hundred percent as much in this present age - homes, brothers and sister, mothers and children as well as lands amid persecutions - and in the world to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are prominent will be farthest, and the farthest prominent.”

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS THE MESSIANIC SUFFERING AGAIN

32 As they were also on the road that goes up to Jerusalem, Lifesaviour went ahead of them. They were both amazed and simultaneously awestruck. Then Lifesaviour again took the twelve aside and started to tell them what should happen to him afterwards. 33 “Look, we are going to Jerusalem, and the Kin of Humanity will be handed over to the chief priests and the learned. They’ll then condemn him to death and give him over to the pagans. 34 They’ll deride him, and then flog him, spit on him, and they’ll kill him, but he’ll rise again three days later.”

LIFESAVIOUR RECEIVES A REQUEST FOR PROMINENCE IN THE REIGN

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, “Teacher, we would like you to do for us whatever we request.” 36 He said to them, “What would you like me to do for you?” 37 They then said to him; “Grant us to sit one on your right side and the other on your left side in your glory.” 38 But Lifesaviour said to them, “You don’t understand what you are asking for! Can you drink the cup that I drink and be baptised with the baptism that which I’m baptised with?” 39 They then said to him; “We can.” But Lifesaviour told them; “You’ll indeed drink the cup that I’ll drink, and you’ll be baptised with the baptism with which I’ll be baptised, 40 but to sit at my right or my left is not mine to grant, even those for whom it has been prepared.”

41 Then when the other ten heard this, they were very upset with James and John. 42 Lifesaviour called them and told them, “You notice that those that think they rule over the nationalities control them and their high ranking wield power over them. 43 But it must not be that way among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to be great among you’ll be your servant. 44 So whoever wants to be prominent among you must be everyone’s servant 45 since the Kin of Humanity also came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.”

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS BLIND BARTIMAEUS

46 They then came to Jericho. As he was leaving Jericho with his disciples, a massive contingent of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus sat by the highway begging. 47 When he heard that it was Lifesaviour of Nazareth, he started shouting and said; “Lifesaviour David’s Kin, have mercy on me.” 48 But many reprimanded him for being quiet, and the louder he shouted; “David’s kin, have mercy on me!” 49 Lifesaviour stopped and said he must be called. Then they addressed the blind man and told him; “Have courage. Stand up, he is calling you.” 50 Throwing off his coat, he stood up and came to Lifesaviour. 51 Then Lifesaviour said to him, “What do you want me to do for you now?” The blind man replied, “Sir, that I may recover my sight!” 52 Lifesaviour said to him, “You may go, your faith has healed you.” Immediately he recovered his sight, and he followed him on the journey.

Mark 11

LIFESAVIOUR’ ROYAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

1 After that, as they were approaching Jerusalem, through Bethphage, towards the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples. 2 So he said to them; “Go into the village directly opposite you, and as soon as you have entered it, you’ll find a colt tied up. Nobody has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you; ‘Why are you doing this?’ say that the Supermights needs to use it, immediately he’ll send it here.’”

4 They then went away and found the colt tied to a portal outside in a junction. They untied it. 5 So some of those that were standing there asked them; “Why are you untying the colt?” 6 But they replied just as Lifesaviour had instructed them, and they let them go.

7 They then brought the colt to Lifesaviour, and they threw their coats on it, and he sat on it. 8 Many also spread their clothes on the road. Others also chopped branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. 9 Both those that were leading and those that were following shouted saying;

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one that comes

in Supermights' name.”

10 Blessed is the reign

of our forefather David

Hosanna to the Supreme!”

11 Then Lifesaviour came into Jerusalem and into the Sanctuary. When he had inspected everything, he retired to Bethany with the twelve since it was already evening.

LIFESAVIOUR CURSES AN UNPRODUCTIVE TREE

12 So the next day, as they were coming out of Bethany, he was hungry. 13 Then, spotting a fig tree that was bearing leaves from a distance, he came hopeful that he would find something in it. But when he came to it, he saw nothing but leaves because it was not the season of figs. 14 Then Lifesaviour began to speak and said to it; “May no one ever eat fruit from you.” His disciples heard it too.

15 They then came to Jerusalem, and Lifesaviour went into the Sanctuary. He began to drive out those who were trading and marketing inside the temple. He toppled the tables of the coin dealers and the cages of the pigeon hawkers. 16 So he would not permit anyone to advertise any goods throughout the Sanctuary. 17 Then he began to teach by saying to them; “Is it not written: ‘My temple will be designated a house of worship? But you have turned it into a haven of gangsters!” 18 But the learned and the chief priests heard it, and they plotted how they could assassinate him, but they feared him because all the people were captivated by his teaching.

LIFESAVIOUR ILLUSTRATES FAITH FROM THE UNPRODUCTIVE TREE

19 Then, after the close of the day came, they went out of the city.

20 Then in the morning, as they travelled by, they noticed the fig tree had dried up from the roots.21r, later recalling, said to him; “My Master, look at the fig tree that you cursed has dried up!” 22 Lifesaviour then responded by saying to them; “Have faith in Supermights. 23 I assure you that whoever will say to this mountain, ‘Move up and sink into the sea’ without doubting it in his mind but believing that what he says will happen, will be whatever he asks. 24 For that reason I tell you, everything you desire when you pray for it, believe that you have received it, and you’ll have it. 25 So when you stand to pray, forgive, if you have anything against anyone so that your Patron who is in Heaven may also forgive you your sins. 26 But if you yourselves don’t forgive, neither will your Patron who is in Heaven forgive your failures. [ALTHOUGH THE TEXT IS OMITTED IN THE EARLIER MANUSCRIPTS].

LIFESAVIOUR IS CONFRONTED BY JEWISH LEADERSHIP

27 When they had returned to Jerusalem, as he was walking through the Sanctuary, the chief priests and the learned along with the elders came up to him. 28 They then asked him; “By what authority do you do these things and who gave you this authority to do these things?” 29 Lifesaviour said to them, “I’ll also ask you one question, and you must answer me. I’ll then tell you by what authority do I do these things: 30 John’s baptism – was it from Heaven or from human beings? Answer me.”

31 They debated with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From Heaven,’ he’ll say, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ 32 But if we say, ‘From human beings...’” They feared the people because they all considered John to have been a real prophet). 33 So they answered Lifesaviour, “We don’t know.” Then Lifesaviour said to them, “I’ll also not tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Mark 12

LIFESAVIOUR RESPONDS THROUGH PARABLES

1 Then he started to respond to them through parables: A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it. Then he dug a wine vat and built a castle. He then leased it out to tenant farmers and travelled abroad. 2 Then in due season, he sent out a servant to the tenant farmers so that he would collect from the tenant farmers a share of the vineyard produce. 3 But they seized and beat him, and they chased him away emptily. 4 So he again sent them another servant. In the same way, they threw stones and wounded his head. They ill-treated and chased him away too.

5 “So again he sent another one. They also killed him and many others, beating some and killing others. 6 So he now had one left, his dear son. He finally sent him to them too, saying; “They’ll respect my son.” 7 But those tenant farmers said to themselves; ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and the inheritance will be ours.’ 8 So they seized and killed him. Then they left him outside the vineyard. 9 What will the vineyard owner do then? he’ll come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others. 10 Have you not read this Scripture:

‘The stone which the house builders rejected

has turned to be the cornerstone.

11 This is from Lifegiver,

and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

12 Even though they had planned to arrest him, they feared the people. Although they realised he had spoken the parable against them, they still left him alone and went away.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS TRYING TO TRAP LIFESAVIOUR

13 They then sent some of the Separatists and Herodians to trap him in his speeches. 14 When they came, they said to him; “Teacher, we know that you are truthful and you don’t concern yourself with anyone because you don’t regard any person’s face. Instead, you teach the way of Supermights in truth. Is it right or not to remit the tax to Caesar?” 15 Do we to pay it or do we not pay it? But he perceived their pretense. He said to them; “Why do you test me? Bring me a coin that I may see it.” 16 Then they brought it, and he said to them; “Whose image and inscription is it?” Then they said to him; “Caesar’s.” 17 Lifesaviour then responded; “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to Supermights the things that are Supermights’.” They were so amazed at this.

18 Then there came to him the Sacerdotalists who say there is no resurrection. They then questioned him saying; 19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us: ‘If a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, that man must marry the widow and produce a remnant for his brother.’ 20 There were seven brothers. The first one married, and when he died with no offspring. 21 Then the second married her. He too died but did not leave any offspring, even the third one. 22 Though the seventh married her, he too left no offspring. At the end of it all, the woman died too. 23 In the resurrection then, when they are resurrected, whose wife will she be because the seven had married her?” 24 Lifesaviour then responding to them said; “Are you not going astray through this because you don’t understand the scriptures or the power of Supermights? 25 But when they are resurrected from the dead, they don’t wed. They are not even given to marriage, but they are like messengers that are in Heaven.

26 "Concerning the dead that are raised, have you also not read in the book of Moses how in the bramble Supermights spoke to him and said; ‘I’m Abraham's Supermights and Isaac's Supermights as well as Jacob's Supermights.’ 27 He is not the dead's Supermights but of the living. You are grossly mistaken!”

28 Then one of the learned approached and heard them discussing. When he realised that Lifesaviour was responding to them well, he asked him; “Which is the supreme commandment of all?” 29 Lifesaviour answered, “The most important is: ‘Listen, Israel, Lifegiver our Supermights, Lifegiver is one. 30 Love Lifegiver your deity with all your heart, with all your life, with all your intellect, and with all your energy.’ 31 The second is: ‘Love your fellow as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” 32 Then the learned said to him; “Honestly, you have answered truthfully because there’s one Supermights and there is no one else besides him. 33 To also love him with all the intellect and with all the energy, and to love your fellow as yourself is more important than all offerings and sacrifices.” 34 So when Lifesaviour realised that he had responded affirmatively he said to them; “You are not way off from the reign of Supermights.” Then no one dared to question him.

LIFESAVIOUR WARNS ABOUT RELIGIOUS TEACHERS

35 Then Lifesaviour began to speak while he was teaching in the temple. He asked; “In what way do the learned say that the Designated is David’s kin 36 because David himself, by the Holy Spirit, said,

‘Supermights said to my Master,

“Sit at my right hand

until I place your enemies under your feet.’

37 If David himself, therefore, calls him ‘Master,’ on what basis is he his son?” So many people understood him with delight. 38 In his instruction, Lifesaviour also warned them, “Watch out for the learned who like walking around in long robes and greetings in the marketplaces 39 as well as preeminent seats in the local congregations and prominent places in banquets, 40 devouring widows’ estates for a pretext of irrelevant prayer. These will receive greater punishment.

LIFESAVIOUR OBSERVES AND REMARKS ABOUT THE WIDOWS’ OFFERING

41 Lifesaviour then sat down directly opposite the treasure box and watched how the people deposited money into the treasure box. Many wealthy people deposited large sums. 42 Then there came a certain poor widow who put in two small coins which made a rand.

43 He then called his disciples and said to them, “I assure you, this poor widow has deposited more into the treasure box than all the others that deposited into the treasury. 44 Indeed they all deposited their excesses. But, she out of her poverty deposited all she had, her entire livelihood.”

Mark 13

LIFESAVIOUR PREDICTS FUTURE DEVASTATIONS AND END TIME REALITIES

1 While he was leaving from the Sanctuary, one of his disciples said to him; “Teacher, look at these stones and architecture!” 2 But Lifesaviour responded by saying; “Look at these magnificent buildings. Not one stone will be left upon a stone which will not be disintegrated.”

3 So while he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Sanctuary, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us when will these things happen and what will be the indicator that all these things are about to be fulfilled.” 5 Then Lifesaviour answering them began to say; “Be careful in case anyone misleads you. 6 No doubt many will come in my name saying; ‘I’m he,’ and they’ll deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, don’t be frightened because these things must happen, but the end is not yet. 8 A nation will still rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Then there will be a commotion in various places. Then there will be droughts and insurgencies. These are the preliminary pains. 9 But watch out for yourselves. You’ll be handed over to councils and be beaten in churches. You’ll be presented before governors and kings because of me, as witnesses to them. 10 So the gospel must first be preached among all nationalities. 11 But when they come and imprison you don’t worry in advance about what you’ll say. Don’t even premeditate that. Whatever will be given to you in that instant you are to speak because it is not you that will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit. 12 Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise against parents and have them put to death. 13 So you’ll be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one that perseveres to the end will be saved. 14 But when you see the horror of devastation communicated by Daniel the prophet stanch up where it should not, let the reader understand. At that time those in Judea must flee to the mountains. 15 Then the one that is on the rooftop must not climb down into the house or re-enter to pick up anything from his house. 16 Even the one that is in the field must not return to fetch a jacket. 17 But grief to those who are pregnant and breastfeeding during those days! 18 You must then pray that your escape may not be in bad weather 19 because in those days there will be so much distress as has never happened since the beginning of creation that Supermights created until now and as never will happen. 20 But unless Supermights shortens those days, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the eligible whom he has Designated, he’ll shorten the days. 21 Although someone at that time may say to you ‘Look, here is the Designated’ or ‘Look he is there’ don’t believe them.

22 “For sure spurious Designateds and pseudoprophets will spring up and perform miracles and wonders to deceive even the Designated, if possible. 23 But be careful seeing I’ve predicted everything for you.

24 “But in those days, amid the trouble, the sun will be eclipsed, and the moon will not give its light; 25 Then the stars from the sky will drop off, and the powers in the skies will be shaken.

26 “But then they’ll watch the Kin of Humanity appearing in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 Then he’ll send his messengers, and they’ll gather together his elect from the four quarters, from the fringes of the earth to the edges of the sky.

28 “Learn a proverbial lesson from the fig tree: Whenever its twigs grow tender and sprout up leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 In the same way, when you’ll see these things happening, realise that it is near, right at the door. 30 I assure you, this age will not pass by until as many of these things are fulfilled. 31 Heaven and earth will perish, but my predictions will not be averted at all.

32 “However, about that day and hour nobody knows, not even the messengers that are in Heaven, not even the Kin except the Patron.

33 “Watch out! Stay alert! For you don’t know when the time will come. 34 It is like an international traveller who left his house and delegated responsibility to his servants and assigned each one their work. He also instructed the gatekeeper to be watchful. 35 So keep alert since you don’t know when the owner of the house will come; in the evening or at midnight, at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 in case he finds you asleep when comes unexpectedly. 37 What I’m saying to you, I’m also saying to everyone: Keep alert!”

Mark 14

THE PLOT THICKENS

1 Two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unraised Bread, the chief priests and the learned were plotting to arrest him through a deadly trick. 2 But they agreed; “Not during the Festival in case there will be a people’s protest.”

LIFESAVIOUR ANOINTED BY A WOMAN

3 Meanwhile, as he came to Bethany to the house of Simon, the leper, as he sat down, there came a woman carrying an alabaster glass of costly genuine perfume. Then she broke the perfume bottle and poured it down his head. 4 But some that were present were upset and said among themselves; “Why was this waste of the perfume done? 5 It could have been sold for more than three thousand rands and given to the poor.” So, they charged against her.

6 But Lifesaviour retorted; “Leave her alone! Why are you troubling her? She has done excellent service for me. 7 No doubt, you’ll always have the poor among you, and you may decide to do them good any time. But you’ll not have me all the time. 8 She has done what she needed to do. In advance, she has embalmed my body for burial.

9 "I assure you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

JUDAS CONTRACTED TO BETRAY LIFESAVIOUR

10 Then Judas of Kerioth, one of the twelve went away to the chief priests with the intent to betray him to them. 11 When they heard this, they were glad. They then promised to pay him some money. So he began to plan an opportunity to betray him.

LIFESAVIOUR GIVES NEW MEANING TO THE PASSOVER

12 Meanwhile on the first day of Unraised Bread, when the Passover sacrifice is slaughtered, his disciples asked him; “Where do you want us to go to prepare so that we may eat the Passover Festival?”

13 So he sent two of his disciples and told them; “Go to the city, and you’ll meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him. 14 When he goes in, tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, ‘Where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover with my disciples?’ 15 he’ll then show you a big room upstairs furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

16 So the disciples left and arrived in the city. They then found it as he had told them and they prepared the Passover. 17 When evening came, he arrived with the twelve.

18 While they were seating and eating, Lifesaviour said; “I assure you, one of you eating with me will betray me.” 19 They then began to be distressed and asked him one by one; “Is it me at all?” Then to each other; “Is it me at all?” 20 Then he said to them, “One of the twelve dunking with me in the dish! 21 The Kin of Humanity will, in fact, go under, just as it is written about him, but shame on the person through whom the Kin of Humanity is handed over. It would have been better for that person if they had never been born.”

22 While they were eating, he took bread. Then after giving thanks, he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take it. This is my body.” 23 Then he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 Then he said to them; “This is my blood, that of the new agreement which is shed on behalf of many. 25 I assure you, I’ll no longer drink from the produce of the vine until that day when I’ll drink it afresh in the reign of Supermights.”

26 After they had sung a psalm, they went away to the Mount of Olives.

LIFESAVIOUR PREDICTS THE DISCIPLES DESERTIONS

27 Then Lifesaviour told them, “All of you’ll be embarrassed because of me throughout this night as it is written,

‘I’ll strike the shepherd,

and the sheep will be dispersed.’

28 But after I’m resurrected, I’ll go ahead of you to Galilee.” 29 Peter said to him, “Even if they all embarrassed are, I’ll not be!” 30 Lifesaviour said to him, “I assure you that today, witlitretonight, before the cock crows twice, you’ll have denied me three times.” 31 But Peter insisted more adamantly; “I would rather die with you. I’ll never deny you.” All of them said it in the same way too.

DISCIPLES FAIL LIFESAVIOUR IN THE MOMENT OF NEED

32 Then they went to a place called Gethsemane, and Lifesaviour said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 He then took with him Peter and James as well as John and began to be frightened and distraught. 34 Then he said to them, “My heart is intensely sad to death. Stay here and watch.”

35 Then, going a little further, he collapsed on the ground and prayed that if it is possible the hour would pass from him. 36 He then said; “Patron! Patron! You can do everything. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what pleases me but you.”

37 Then he returned and found them sleeping. So he asked Peter; “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray in case you fall into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the body is without strength.” 39 Then again, he went away to pray, repeating the same statement.

40 But when he came back again, again he found them sleeping, and their eyes were too heavy - none could look, none could respond to him.

41 Then he came a third time and said to them, “Are you still asleep. Refresh, it is enough! The time has come. Look, the Kin of Humanity is handed over into the hands of sinners. 42 Wake up. Go. My betrayer is approaching!”

JUDAS BETRAYS LIFESAVIOUR TO HIS ENEMIES

43 Then immediately while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve arrived, and with him, a large crowd with swords and sticks, sent by the chief priests and the learned as well as the elders. 44 The betrayer had also given them a signal, saying; “Whoever I’ll befriend, he is the one. Arrest him and take him away securely.”

45 So when Judas arrived, he directly approached him and said; “My Teacher, my Teacher!” Then he intensely kissed him. 46 Then they laid their hands on him and arrested him.

47 Then one of them standing by drew a sword struck a servant of the high priest and cut his earlobe off. 48 Lifesaviour then responded and asked them; “Have you come out with swords and sticks to arrest me as against a gangster? 49 I was with you daily in the Sanctuary to teach, yet you did not arrest me. Indeed, this is so that scriptures must be fulfilled.”

50 While everyone deserted him and fled, 51 a certain young man followed him covered in fine byssus cloth around his nudity. The younger men arrested him, 52 but he ran off naked, leaving the byssus behind.

53 They then led Lifesaviour to the high priest, and with him were convened all the chief priests and elders as well as the learned.

54 Peter also followed him from a distance until the high priest’s mansion, and he sat with the assistants and warmed himself around the fire.

55 The chief priests and the entire council were colluding evidence against Lifesaviour so that they could put him to death, but they found nothing. 56 Many even gave false testimonies against him, but their evidence was incoherent. 57 Some stood up to falsely testify against him saying; 58 “We heard him say; “I’ll demolish this Sanctuary of human construction and build a different one without hands witlitrethree days.” 59 Yet not even on this issue was their evidence similar.

60 Then the high priest stood in the centre, questioned Lifesaviour saying; “Don’t you respond to what they are testifying against you?” 61 But he was silent and did not respond. Again the high priest questioned him and asked him; “Are you the Designated, the Kin of the Blessed One?” 62 Then Lifesaviour replied; “I’m, and you’ll see the Kin of Humanity sitting on the right hand of the Mighty One, coming down on the clouds of the sky.” 63 Then the high priest ripped his tunic saying; “Why do we need more witnesses? 64 You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?” Then they all convicted him of being worthy of the death penalty.

65 Then some began to spit on him and to cover his face, punching him and said to him; “Prophesy!” Then the subordinates pummeled him with slaps.

PETER DENIES LIFESAVIOUR AS PREDICTED

66 While Peter was downstairs in the mansion, there came one of the maids of the high priest. 67 Then when she saw Peter warming himself, she noticed him and said; “You were also with Lifesaviour of Nazareth.” 68 But he denied it, saying; “I don’t know or understand what you are saying.” He then went outside to the veranda. Then the cock crowed! 69 When the maid spotted him again, she began to tell bystanders; “He is one of them.” 70 He then denied it again. Then a little later, a bystander again said to Peter; “Surely, you are from them because you are also a Galilean.” 71 At that time, he began to curse and swear; “I don’t know this man you are talking about.” 72 Then for the second time, the cock crowed. Peter then remembered the statement Lifesaviour had made to him; “Before the cock crows twice, you’ll deny me three times.” He then burst into tears.

Mark 15

LIFESAVIOUR IS SENTENCED BY JEWISH COUNCIL AND CIVIL COURT

1 Then as soon as it was daybreak, the chief priests convened a council with the elders and the learned. The entire council had Lifesaviour bound, led away and surrendered to Pilate. 2 Pilate then questioned him; “Are you the king of the Jews? He replied; “You say.” 3 The chief priest then accused him of many things. 4 Then Pilate asked him again; “Do you not respond to anything seeing how much they are testifying against you?” 5 But Lifesaviour did not respond anymore. Pilate was so surprised.

6 But during the Festival he would release to them one prisoner whoever they requested. 7 There was also one named Barabbas arrested with fellow rebels who had committed murder during the revolt. 8 Then the crowd began to shout, asking him to do as he had always done. 9 Pilate then responded by asking them; “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”10 It is because he realised that the chief priests handed him over for spite. 11 But the chief priests instigated the crowd so that he would release Barabbas to them instead.

12 Then Pilate responded by asking the again; “What do you want me to do with the one you call the king of the Jews?” 13 Then they shouted back; “Crucify him!” 14 But Pilate asked them; “What crime has he committed?” Then they shouted louder; “Crucify him!” 15 But Pilate was predisposed to pleasing the crowd. He released Barabbas, flogged and surrendered Lifesaviour to be crucified.

16 Then the soldiers led him away to the yard called the general’s tent, and they called the whole squad. 17 Then they dressed him in purple cloth. Then they platted a crown of thorns. They thrust it on him, 18 and they began to salute him; “Hail king of the Jews!” 19 They then repeatedly struck him on the head with a cane. They also spit on him. Then they bowed their knees in homage to him.

20 When they had mocked him, they stripped the purple cloth from him and dressed him in his own clothes. They then led him away to crucify him. 21 They also forced one Cyrenian, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, coming out of a farm, to carry his cross.

LIFESAVIOUR IS CRUCIFIED AND TAUNTED

22 They then brought him up to the top of Golgotha which is translated Cranium Hill. 23 They also offered him myrrh flavoured wine to drink, but he did not take it. 24 When they had crucified him, they divided his clothes by throwing dice over them as to which of them must take what. 25 It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him.

26 The inscription of his crime was also written: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 They had also crucified two gangsters with him, one on his right-hand side and the other on his left. 28 This then fulfilled what was written - “And he was counted with the lawbreakers [ALTHOUGH THIS IS OMITTED IN THE EARLIER MANUSCRIPTS].

29 Passersby also defamed him, shaking their heads and saying; “Ah! You that can demolish the Sanctuary and build it in three days, 30 rescue yourself and come down from the cross.” 31 Similarly, even the chief priests with the learned too, taunted him among themselves; “He saved others. He can't save himself. 32 Let the Designated, the king of Israel, come down from the cross immediately so that we may see and believe.” Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

LIFESAVIOUR DIES

33 Then when it was noon, darkness fell over the entire land until three in the afternoon. 34 Then at three o’clock, Lifesaviour cried out; “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachtani,” which is translated ‘My Supermights, My Supermights, why have you abandoned me?’” 35 When some bystanders heard it, they said; “Look, he is crying for Elijah.”

36 But someone ran and filled the sponge with vinegar and placed it on a reed stem and offered him to drink, saying; “Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down.” 37 But Lifesaviour cried out with a loud voice and died. 38 Then the curtain of the Sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

39 When the troop commander who stood directly opposite him saw the manner he cried out and died, he said; “Surely, this man was Supermights's son.” 40 Then there were also women watching from a distance among whom there was Mary Magdelene as well as Mary, the mother of the junior James and Joses, as well as Salome. 41 When he was in Galilee, these had accompanied and served him, including other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

LIFESAVIOUR IS BURIED DECENTLY

42 Just as early evening came, since it was Preparation Day, that is the day before the Sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, an esteemed member of the council who had also accepted the reign of Supermights, came. He boldly went to Pilate and requested Lifesaviour’ body. 44 But Pilate was surprised that he had already died. So he called the troop commander to ask him if he had died for some time.

45 When he had confirmed from the troop commander, he gave Joseph the body. 46 Then he bought a cloth and took the body down, wrapped it in the cloth and laid it in the tomb which was quarried on a rock. Then he rolled a stone over the portal of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joses, noted where the body was buried.

Mark 16

LIFESAVIOUR IS RESURRECTED

1 Then after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and Mary the one of James, along with Salome, went to aromatic spices market intending to go and anoint the body. 2 So very early on the first morning of the week, at sunrise, they arrived at the tomb. 3 They were then talking among themselves; “Who will roll the stone away for us from the entrance of the tomb?”

4 Just then, as they looked up, they realised the stone was rolled back, even though it was very big. 5 Then as they entered into the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; and they were shocked. 6 Then he said to them; “Don’t be afraid. You are looking for Lifesaviour of Nazareth who was crucified. He is resurrected. He is not here. Look at the spot where they had laid him. 7 Rather go tell his disciples, including Peter, that he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You’ll see him there, just as he had told you.”

8 They then dashed out immediately to run away from the tomb. They were trembling and gripped with fear and panic, and nobody said anything as they were too terrified.

9 When he was resurrected earlier, at dawn, he had first appeared to Mary Magdalene from whom he had exorcised seven demons. 10 She had gone to tell those that were with him as they were grieving and weeping. 11 When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe it.

12 After that, he showed himself to two of them in another form while they were preoccupied with the journey towards the village. 13 When they went back to report it to the rest, they did not even believe them. 14 Eventually, he appeared to the eleven as they were seating for a meal. Then he reprimanded their unbelief and hardheartedness because they had not believed those who had seen him after he was resurrected. 15 He then said to them; “Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 These will also be the signs that follow those that believe: In my name, they’ll exorcise demons. They’ll speak with new languages. 18 They’ll tackle snakes, and if they drink any poison, it will not harm them. They’ll lay hands on the sick, and they’ll recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken to them, he was taken into Heaven. Then he sat on the right-hand side of Supermights.

20 They then went and preached everywhere, the Lord collaborating with them and confirming their word by accompanying signs.

[ALTHOUGH MARK 16:9-20 IS OMITTED IN THE EARLIER MANUSCRIPTS]

LUKE

Luke 1

LUKE’S DEDICATORY PREFACE

1 Since many have undertaken to present a version of the things which are completely convincing among us, 2 just as much as those that transmitted these to us were eyewitnesses and ministers of the message from the beginning, 3 it still seemed reasonable to me too, having full knowledge of everything from the start, to write to you most excellent friend of Supermights. 4 This is so that you may be thoroughly acquainted with those things that you were taught.

LIFESAVIOUR’ FORERUNNER MIRACULOUSLY CONCEIVED

5 During the years of Herod, the king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zachariah from the lineage of Abijah. His wife was also from the descendants of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 They were both righteous before Supermights, walking in all Lifegiver's precepts and practices faultlessly. 7 But they didn't have a child because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were advanced in years.

8 But it occurred that while he was performing his priestly functions in Supermights's presence, in his normal routine, 9 according to the custom of the priestly office, his role being to burn incense by going into the sacred place of Lifegiver, 10 while the entire crowd of the people was praying outside during the time of incense, 11 there appeared Lifegiver's messenger standing on the right side of the incense altar.

12 When Zechariah saw him, he was nervous, and fear gripped him all over. 13 Then the messenger said to him; “Don't be afraid, Zechariah because your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will birth you a son, and you’ll call his name John. 14 You’ll also have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth 15 because he’ll be great in Lifegiver's sight. But he must drink no wine, no liquor at all. Instead, he’ll be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb. 16 he’ll turn many of Israelites to Lifegiver, their Supermights. 17 he’ll also precede before him in the spirit and power of Elijah - turning the hearts of the parents towards their children and the stubbornly disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to provide a people prepared for Lifegiver. 18 Then Zechariah said to the messenger; “How will I realise this since I’m an old man, besides my wife is well advanced in years?” 19 Then the messenger answering said to him; “I’m Gabriel who stands in the presence of Supermights, and I was sent to talk to you and bring you your good news. 20 But listen, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time, you’ll be dumb and be not able to speak until the day these things take place.” 21 But the people that were waiting for Zechariah then started to wonder why he took a long time in the sacred place. 22 When he came out, he could not speak to them. They then realised that he had experienced a vision in the Sanctuary because he was gesticulating to them, and he remained speechless.

23 When his days of public ministry were over, he soon retired to his own house. 24 Then after those days, his wife Elizabeth conceived and hid for five months. She said, 25 “Lifegiver has done this for me during the days he looked favourably at me, removing my shame among the people.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ CONCEPTION AND BIRTH TO BE THROUGH A VIRGIN

26 In the sixth month, the messenger Gabriel was sent off from Supermights to the city of Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, from the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 When the messenger reached her, he said; “Greetings you specially favoured. Supermights is with you.” 29 Then she looked, she was disturbed by his expression, and she wondered what kind of greeting this was.

30 So the messenger said to her; “Don’t be afraid Mary because you have found favour with Supermights. 31 Listen, you’ll conceive in your womb and birth a son. You’ll call his name Lifesaviour. 32 He’ll be extraordinary and will be called the Kin of the Supreme, and the Supermights Lifegiver will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He’ll rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.” 34 Mary then asked the messenger; “How will this happen, since I’m not intimate with a man.” 35 The messenger replied; “The Holy Spirit will supervene on you and the power of the Supreme Supermights will incubate you. Consequently then, the Holy One that will be birthed from you’ll be called the Kin of Supermights. 36 Look, your cousin - the one who was declared barren - has conceived a child in her old age as well, and this is her sixth month 37 because with Supermights there is totally nothing that is impossible.”

38 Mary then said; “Here am I, the servant of Lifegiver. Let it be to me according to your mandate.” Then the messenger went away from her.

LIFESAVIOUR AND JOHN’S PRE-BIRTH ENCOUNTER

39 Then in those days, Mary got up and quickly travelled to the highlands town of Judah. 40 She then entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 It so happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was then filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud voice and said; “You are blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But what caused it in me that the mother of my Supermights should come to me? 44 Yet look, as soon as the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby leapt for joy in my womb. 45 Blessed also is she that believed because what was spoken to her from Supermights will be realised.”

MARY’S PRAISE

46 Then Mary said;

“My heart magnifies Lifegiver,

47 and my spirit rejoices in Supermights my Saviour

48 because he has favourably regarded

the humble state of his servant.

Yet look, from now onwards

all generations will count me blessed

49 because the Mighty One has done wonderful things, and sacred is his name.

50 He is so merciful to those that revere him

from generation to generation.

51 He has demonstrated greatness through his arm.

He has winnowed the arrogant

in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has lowered the mighty from their seats

and elevated the humble.

53 He fills the hungry with good things

and the wealthy he dismisses emptily.

54 He has succoured his servant Israel

in remembrance of his compassion

55 just as he promised to our forefathers,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

56 But Mary stayed with her for three months and returned to her home.

JOHN IS BORN, CIRCUMCISED AND NAMED

57 When Elizabeth’s full term came that she should birth, she then birthed a son. 58 Her neighbours, including her relatives, heard how Lifegiver himself showed great mercy on her, and they congratulated her.

59 It then happened that on the eighth day, they came to circumcise the infant, and they named him Zechariah after his father’s name.

60 But his mother reacted and spoke; “No! he’ll rather be called John.” 61 They then said to her; “There is no one of your relatives that is called by this name.” 62 So they gesticulated to his father what he wished him to be named. 63 But he asked for a writing tablet. He scribbled saying; “His name is John.” They were then all amazed. 64 Then instantly, his mouth and his speech were unfastened, then he spoke and praised Supermights.

65 Then awe gripped all their neighbours, as this news was broadcast throughout the entire highlands of Judea. 66 Then all those it was reported to put it in their hearts. They asked; “What kind of a child will this become.” So Lifegiver's hand was with him.”

ZECHARIAH’S PROPHECY

67 Then his father was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he prophesied by saying;

68 “Praise be Lifegiver Supermights of Israel

because he has come to visit

and repurchase his people.

69 He has also raised the horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David,

70 just as he had promised through the mouth

of his holy spokepersons since ancient times;

71 to rescue us from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 He has shown mercy to our ancestors,

and has remembered his sacred agreement,

73 the oath that he swore to our forefather Abraham

74 that he’ll grant that we are released

from the hand of our enemies to serve him fearlessly 7

5 in holiness and rightness before him all the days of our life.

76 So you child will be called

the prophet of the Highest

because he’ll precede before the face of Lifegiver

to prepare his ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people

through the forgiveness of their sins.

78 Through the tender mercy of our Supermights

through whom the dawn from the highest has visited us

79 to shine to them that remain in darkness

and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

JOHN’S CONCEALED GROWTH

80 So the boy grew and became active spiritually, and was in the deserts till the time he was revealed to Israel.

Luke 2

LIFESAVIOUR IS BORN

1 Now in those days, a decree was issued from Caesar Augustus to register the entire empire for taxes. 2 This taxing was first required when Quirinus was the governor of Syria. 3 So everyone had to travel to be registered in one’s hometown.

4 Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth into Judea to David’s city, which is called Bethlehem because he was from the Davidic heritage and paternal descent 5 to be registered with Mary, his fiancée who had become pregnant. 6 So it happened that while they were there, the days of the full term came for her to give birth. 7 Then she birthed her firstborn son and wrapped him in tlitrestrips and placed him in a trough because there was no space for them in the guestroom.

SHEPHERDS VISIT LIFESAVIOUR

8 In the same vicinity, some shepherds camped out in the fields to watch over their flock by night. 9 Then Lifegiver's messenger stood before them, and Lifegiver's glory brightened them, and they were so terrified. 10 But the messenger said to them; “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to bring you good news of great joy that is for all the people 11 because tonight is born to you a Saviour in David’s town. He is the Designated Lifegiver. 12 This then will be the indicator for you: You’ll find a baby tightly wrapped up in tlitrecloth strips, lying in a cradle.” 13 Then suddenly there appeared with the messenger a massive heavenly parade also praising Supermights saying;

14 “Glory to Supermights in the highest,

and peacefulness on Earth

among humanity he has kindly intent towards.”

15 Then it happened that as soon as the messengers went away from them back to Heaven, the human shepherds said to each other; “Let’s go to Bethlehem now and see this thing that has happened that the Supermights has made known to us.” 16 So they quickly went to search and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby was lying in a cradle. 17 Then when they saw him, they told the story how they were told about this child. 18 Then all that heard it were amazed at the things they were told by the shepherds.

19 But Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her mind. 20 Then the shepherds went back glorifying and praising Supermights for all the things they had heard and seen - it was just as they had been told.

LIFESAVIOUR IS CIRCUMCISED, NAMED AND CONSECRATED

21 When the eight days came for the circumcision of the child, his name was announced as Lifesaviour, the name he was given by the messenger before he was conceived in the womb.

22 Similarly, when the days of purification came according to the law of Moses, they brought him to Jerusalem to present him before Lifegiver 23 just as it is written in Lifegiver's law, every male that opens the womb will be designated as consecrated to Lifegiver 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is specified in Lifegiver's law, a pair of doves or two young pigeons.

25 Then there was a certain man in Jerusalem that was named Simeon. He was a upright and devout man looking forward to the comfort of Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him, 26 and it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit he would not experience death before he had seen Lifegiver's Designated. 27 He was then brought by the Spirit to the Sanctuary when the parents had brought in the child Lifesaviour to do for him according to the conventional regulation. 28 He then took him up to himself in his arms. Praising Supermights he then said,

29 “Supermights, now release your servant in peace

as you had promised

30 because my eyes have glimpsed the avatar of your salvation

31 which you have prepared in advance in front of all people –

32 a light to brighten nations

and honour to your people Israel.”

33 But Joseph and his mother were surprised at this talk about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother; “Listen, he is destined to cause the downfall and uprising of many in Israel, and to be an object of contradiction. 35 Indeed, because of this, a sword will also pierce through your heart when the motives of many minds will be exposed.”

36 There was also a certain Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was very much advanced in age and had lived seven years with her husband from her bridehood. 37 She had then been a widow for some 84 years. She had never left the Sanctuary but had served with fasting and prayer. 38 She too came at that time, gave thanks to Lifegiver. Then she spoke about him to all that awaited redemption throughout Jerusalem.

39 When they had concluded everything according to Lifegiver's law, they resorted to Galilee to their hometown Nazareth. 40 Then the child grew up and became vigorous in life, filled with wisdom, and Supermights's favour was on him.

LIFESAVIOUR MISSING IN THE SANCTUARY

41 Every year during the Passover Festival, both his parents would travel to Jerusalem. 42 Exactly when he was twelve, they went up to Jerusalem for the Festival as usual. 43 But when the Festival days were over, as they returned, the boy Lifesaviour remained in Jerusalem. But Joseph and his mother did not realise it. 44 But, assuming he was in the group, they travelled a day’s journey. They then searched for him among the relatives and acquaintances. 45 So when they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

46 Then after three days, they eventually found him in the Sanctuary sitting among the teachers both listening to them and questioning them. 47 All that heard him were surprised at his intelligence and responses.

48 So when they saw him, they were surprised. Then his mother said; “Son, why have you dealt with us this way. Look, your father and I’ve been grievingly looking for you.” 49 Then he said to them; “Who is it that is looking for me? Do you not realise that it is necessary to be in this, my parent?”

50 But they did not understand the remark which he made them.

51 But he went down with them and travelled to Nazareth, as he was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these statements in her heart 52 as Lifesaviour progressively grew in intelligence and in age, and in favour with Supermights and people.

Luke 3

JOHN SERVES AS LIFESAVIOUR’ FORERUNNER

1 In the fifteenth year of the government of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, Supermights's word came through John the son of Zecharias in the desert.

3 He also went throughout the entire Jordan region preaching the baptism of repentance through the forgiveness of sins, 4 Just as it is described through the words in the scroll of Isaiah the prophet, it says,

“A voice shouting in the desert‘

Prepare the highway for the Lifegiver,

make his paths straight.

5 Every valley will be filled up

and every mountain and hill we be flattened;

the perverse will be straightened,

and the rough smoothened,

6 and everybody will see Supermights’ salvation.’”

7 So John would speak to the crowds that came to be baptised through him; “You breed of snakes, who warned you to run away from the coming fury. 8 Now yield fruits appropriate to transformation. Do not even begin saying to yourselves; ‘We’ve Abraham as our ancestor’ because to that I’ll then say to you; ‘Supermights can raise Abraham’s children from these stones.’ 9 But indeed even now the axe is laid at the root of the trees. Every tree that does not produce worthy fruit will be cut out and thrown into the fire.”

10 Then the people asked him a question saying; “What should we do then?” 11 Then John responded saying to them; “Whoever has two shirts, let them share with the one who has nothing. Whoever has food let them do so too.”

12 Tax collectors also came to be baptised, and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He then said to them; “Do not require more than what is prescribed for you.” 14 Then some soldiers also asked him the same question saying; “What should we do?” He then said to them; “Intimidate no one. Do not even defraud anyone but be content with your wages.”

15 But while the people were watching intently, many wondered in their hearts about John if he was not the Designated.

16 John began to speak to address everyone; “I indeed baptise you with water, but one more powerful than me is coming. I’m not competent to loosen the straps of his shoes. he’ll baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnower is in his hand, and he’ll thoroughly purge the threshing floor, and he’ll collect the wheat into his storehouse but the chaff he’ll burn up with unquenchable fire.”

18 So that is how he, in fact, mostly preached different things in his call to the people. 19 Herod was also reprimanded by him for Herodias, his brother Phillip’s wife, and for all the lewdness Herod had committed. 20 He then added this on top of everything - he also imprisoned John under guard.

JOHN BAPTISES LIFESAVIOUR

21 At the time all the people were baptised, Lifesaviour also came to be baptised, and as he was praying, the sky opened up. 22 Then the Holy Spirit descended in a physical form like a dove upon him. Then a voice thundered from Heaven saying; “You are my dear Kin, on you, I’ve my accreditation.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ LEGAL PEDIGREE

23 Lifesaviour by then was beginning to be about thirty years.

Legally he was the son of Joseph, of Heli,

24 of Matthat, of Levi,

of Melchi, of Jannai,

of Joseph, 25 of Mattathias,

of Amos, of Nahum,

of Esli, of Naggai,

26 of Maath, of Mattathias,

of Semein, of Josech,

of Joda, 27 of Joanan,

of Rhesa, of Zerubbabel,

of Shealtiel, of Neri,

28 of Melchi, of Addi,

of Cosam, of Elmadam,

the son of Er, 29 of Joshua,

of Eliezer, of Jorim,

of Matthat, of Levi,

30 of Simeon, of Judah,

of Joseph, of Jonam,

of Eliakim, 31 of Melea,

of Menna, of Mattatha,

of Nathan, of David,

32 of Jesse, of Obed,

of Boaz, of Salmon,

of Nahshon, 33 of Amminadab,

of Ram, of Hezron,

of Perez, of Judah,

34 of Jacob, of Isaac,

of Abraham, of Terah,

of Nahor, 35 of Serug,

of Reu, of Peleg,

of Eber, of Shelah,

36 of Cainan, of Arphaxad,

of Shem, of Noah,

of Lamech, 37 of Methuselah,

of Enoch, of Jared,

of Mahalalel, of Kenan,

38 of Enosh, of Seth,

of Adam, of Supermights.

Luke 4

LIFESAVIOUR’ TESTS AND TEMPTATIONS

1 Then Lifesaviour, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River and was led by the Spirit into the desert. 2 For forty days he was being tried by the devil, and during that period he ate nothing. So when it was eventually finished, he was craving for food. 3 So the devil suggested to him, “Since you are the Kin of Supermights, call on this stone to become bread.” 4 But Lifesaviour answered back to him saying; “It is written, ‘Humanity does not live by bread alone but by Supermights' word.’”

5 The devil, also leading him up to a high mountain, in a quick glimpse, showed him all the global realms. 6 He then said to him; “I’ll give you the entire jurisdiction and its glory because it has been surrendered to me and I can give it whoever I prefer 7 provided you’ll just worship me, everything will be yours.” 8 Lifesaviour answered him, “It is written, ‘You are to worship Lifegiver your deity and him alone you are to serve.’”

9 He then brought him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the Sanctuary. Then he said to him; “Since you are the Kin of Supermights, throw yourself down from here 10 because it is written;

‘He will order his messengers concerning you,

to protect you,’

11 and

‘through their powers they’ll support you

in case your foot stumbles against a stone.”

12 Then Lifesaviour, answering, said to him; “It is said, ‘You are not to test Lifegiver your deity.’”

13 When the devil had finished every temptation he withdrew from him for a while.

MIXED RECEPTION OF LIFESAVIOUR IN HIS PROVINCE

14 Lifesaviour then returned through the strength of the Spirit to Galilee, and news spread about him throughout the entire surrounding region as 15 he taught in their local congregations, esteemed by everyone.

16 Then he came to Nazareth where he had been raised, and as it was his custom, he went to the local congregation on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 So the book of prophet Isaiah was brought over to him, and when he had opened the book he got the place where it was written;

18 “Lifegiver's Spirit is on me

by whom he is using me

to proclaim the good news to the needy.

He has sent me to heal the heartbroken,

to preach freedom to the prisoners of war

and restoration of sight to the blind,

to send away the devasted through release from bondage,

19 to proclaim the year of Lifegiver’s favour.”

20 He then rolled the scroll and gave it back to the attendant to put it down. Then everyone’s eyes in the congregation were focused on him. 21 Then he began to speak to them; “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your audience.”

22 Then everyone witnessing it was so amazed at the palatable speech which came from his mouth. But they asked; “Is this not Joseph’s son?” 23 Lifesaviour then said to them; “You’ll certainly quote me this proverb; ‘Physician heal yourself: All that we heard was performed in Capernaum perform it here in your own hometown too.’” 24 He also added; “Truly speaking, with you no prophet is acceptable in his own hometown. 25 But let me tell you the untoward truth. There were many widows in Israel during Elijah's days when Heaven was shut up for three years and six months while the great drought was over the entire land. 26 But Elijah was sent to none of them except to Sarepta of Sidon, to a widowed woman. 27 Even though there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet, yet none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

28 When everyone inside the congregation understood these things, they were filled with rage. 29 So they jumped up to chase him out of the town. They then dragged him to the brink of the mountain on which their town was built to push him down the cliff. 30 But he passed in between them to escape.

31 He then left for Capernaum, the city of Galilee, and he used to teach them on Sabbath. 32 They too, were amazed by his teaching because his preaching was authoritative. 33 But in the local congregation, there was a certain man possessed by a foul demonic spirit. He then screamed with a loud voice, saying; 34 “Leave us alone. I’ve nothing of yours Lifesaviour of Nazareth. Have you come to destroy us? I know that you are Supermights’s holy one!” 35 But Lifesaviour reprimanded him saying; “Silence. Come out of him now.” When the demon had tossed him in the centre, he then came out of him without even injuring him. 36 So everyone around became stunned and talked witlitrethemselves wondering; “What kind of preacher is he because through authority and power, he orders the foul spirits and they go away?” 37 Then news about him spread to every coast of the region.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS PETER’S MOTHER-IN-LAW AND MANY PEOPLE

38 Afterwards, he stood from the congregation to go to Simon’s house. Simon’s mother-in-law was lying sick with painful inflammation, and they had invited him on her behalf. 39 He then stood above her and rebuked the inflammation, and it left her, and she instantly stood up to serve them.

40 As the sun was setting, everyone who had sick ones with various sicknesses brought them to him, and he laid his hands on each one of them to heal them. 41 Demons came out from many shrieking and saying; “You are the Designated, Supermights' Kin!” But he rebuked them to leave without speaking because they could tell he was the Designated.

LIFESAVIOUR GROWS A FOLLOWING

42 When it was daytime, he went away to take a journey towards the desert vicinity, but the people sought him. So they reached him and held him down not to go away from them. 43 But he said to them; “I must also preach the good news of the reign of Supermights to the different towns because this is my intended mission.” 44 So he continued to preach throughout the local congregations of Galilee.

Luke 5

LIFESAVIOUR SURPRISES AND CALLS FISHERS

1 The crowd then came to press upon him to hear the word of Supermights while he was standing near the lake of Gennesaret. 2 Just then he spotted two vessels docked near the lakeshore, but the fishers had disembarked, turned away to rinse fishnets. 3 Then, stepping into one of the vessels, which was Simon’s, he then requested him to propel it a bit off the land. Then he sat down and taught the people from the vessel.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” 5 Answering him Simon the said; “Sir, we’ve worked hard through the entire night without catching anything. But on your instruction, I’ll lower the fishnet.”

6 When they lightened the ship, they had trapped a massive school of fish, and their fishnets were beginning to tear. 7 So they beckoned partners who were in the other vessel to come to help them. When they arrived, they then filled both vessels so much that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon became aware, he prostrated himself at Lifesaviour’ knees saying; “Go away from me sir because I’m a sinful man!”

9 He was startled including everyone that was with him at the hauling of the fish which they had caught, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were Simon’s partners. Then Lifesaviour said to Simon; “Do not be afraid! From now on, you’ll be catching human beings.”

11 When they docked the vessels onshore, they yielded up everything to follow him.

LIFESAVIOUR’ HEALING MIRACLES

12 He then came to pass through another town too. There was a man full of leprosy. When he saw Lifesaviour, he fell on his face and begged him saying; “Sir, may you please cleanse me.” 13 He then stretched out his hand and touched him, saying; “Please be clean!” Immediately leprosy disappeared from him. 14 He then instructed him; “Do not tell anyone but go show yourself to the priest and give an offering your purification just as Moses instructed, as a testimony to them.”

15 But news about him went abroad, and huge crowds came together to listen and be healed by him from their diseases.

16 But he used to retreat to the desert and prayed.

17 It then occurred that on one of the days, while teaching, as usual, there also sat down Separatists and teachers of the law. Some had come from every town of Galilee and Judaea as well as Jerusalem. Then Lifegiver's power was there to heal. 18 Just then men were seen carrying on a couch a certain man who was paralysed. So they had planned to carry him inside and place him in front of him. 19 When they could not find a way through to carry him inside, avoiding the crowd, they climbed on the rooftop. They then lowered him through the tiles with his couch until he was halfway in sight of Lifesaviour.

20 When he realised their conviction, he said to him; “Man, you are forgiven your sins!” 21 Then the learned and the Separatists started to object. They asked; “Who is he? What blasphemies is he saying? Who is able to forgive sins except for Supermights alone?” 22 But Lifesaviour, becoming thoroughly acquainted with their objections, responded to them saying; “Why do you think objections in your minds? 23 Which is better to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you’ or ‘Rise and walk’? 24 But so that you may be sure that the Kin of Humanity has power on Earth to forgive sin.” He spoke to the person with paralysis; “I mean you must get up and pick up your little couch and go to your house.” 25 Then immediately he stood up before them, picked up whatever he had been lying on, went to his house glorifying Supermights. 26 Then everyone was taken by surprise, and they glorified Supermights. They were also filled with awe, admitting; “We’ve seen extraordinary things today!”

LIFESAVIOUR SOCIALISES WITH SOCIAL REJECTS

27 After this, he then went and visited a tax trader named Levi sitting at the tax receptacle, and he said to him; “Follow me!”28 Then, leaving everything behind, he stood up to follow him.

29 Levi then organised him a big party in his own house, and there was a considerable contingent of tax collectors and others that dined with them. 30 But the learned and Separatists complained regarding his disciples saying; “Why do you eat and drink with tax imposters and deviants.” 31 Then Lifesaviour answering them said to them; “The healthy do not need a physician unless they have the disease. 32 I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

LIFESAVIOUR IS QUESTIONED ABOUT FASTING

33 They also said to him; “Why do the disciples of John frequently fast and continue prayers, and similarly those of the Separatists but yours continue eating and drinking.” 34 But he said to them; “Can anyone make the bridal kin fast while the bridegroom is with them? 35 But days are coming soon when the bridegroom will be removed from them. At that time they’ll fast throughout those days.”

36 He also spoke a parable to them; “No one stitches a patch of the new garment over an old one otherwise the old one also tears, and the piece that was from the new will not match the old one. 37 So no one pours new wine into the old skin bottles; otherwise, the new wine will burst the skin bottles and will be spilt out. So the skin bottles will be damaged. 38 Instead, the new wine must be poured into new skin bottles, and both are preserved. 39 Indeed, no one having drunk the old shortly desires the fresh because they say; ‘The old is better.’”

Luke 6

LIFESAVIOUR CHALLENGES SABBATH PROHIBITIONS

1 Then it happened on the second Sabbath, the first of the seven Sabbaths after the Passover, he travelled through the corn farms, and his disciples plucked ears of grain and ate rubbing the kernels in their hands. 2 But some of the Separatists spoke to them; “Why are you doing what is not right, violating the law witlitrethe Sabbath?” 3 Lifesaviour then responded to them saying; “Have you not read where David violated the law when he was hungry with those that were with him also? 4 As it were, he went into the house of Supermights then took and ate the display bread and also gave it to those that were with him, something that was prohibited to eat except for the priests only.” 5 Then he told them; “Simply because the Kin of Humanity is the Master of the Sabbath too!” 6 Again it also happened on the next Sabbath he entered the local congregation and taught. Then there was also a certain man. His right hand was withered. 7 The learned and the Separatists watched him if he would heal on the Sabbath, to find something to accuse him. 8 But he realised their thinking, so he said to the man who had a shrivelled hand; “Rise and stand in the middle.” So he rose and stood up.

9 Lifesaviour then spoke to them; “I’ll ask you one thing; Is it right on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save a life or destroy it?” 10 Then he looked around all of them. He said to the man; “Stretch your hand!” As he did so, his hand was restored to health like the other. 11 But they were influenced by irrational rage. Instead, they conversed among themselves how they could frame Lifesaviour.

12 But it happened during those moments that he slipped out to the mountain to pray, and he was there throughout the night in prayer to Supermights.

LIFESAVIOUR SELECTS TWELVE DISCIPLES

13 As soon as the day came, he called his disciples, and from them, he selected twelve whom he also designated as apostles. 14 Simon (whom he even nicknamed Peter), and his brother Andrew; and James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 15 Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 Judas of James and Judas from Kerioth the one who became a traitor. 17 Then he came down between them to stand on a level plateau. By then a group of his disciples and a great crowd of people from all over Judea and Jerusalem, as well as the coastline of Tyre and Sidon, had come; some to hear him and be healed from their diseases. 18 There were also those who were persecuted by demonic spirits. They too waited to be relieved. 19 So the whole crowd tried to touch him because power was going out from him and healing everyone.

LIFESAVIOUR’ INAUGURAL SERMON

20 He then raised his eyes towards his disciples and began to speak; “Blessed are you that are distressed because Supermights’s reign is yours.

21 Blessed are you that are needy now

because you’ll be filled.

Blessed are you that are weeping now

because you’ll laugh.

22 Blessed are you when humanity hates you,

and they isolate you, and insult you

and slander your name as evil,

for the sake of the Kin of Humanity.

23 Rejoice on that day and jump for joy because great reward is yours in Heaven because that is the same way their parents treated the prophets.

24 But shame on you that are wealthy

because you have fully received your comfort.

25 Shame on you that are filled

because you’ll be hungry.

Shame on you that laugh now

because you’ll mourn and weep.

26 Shame on you

when all people speak well of you

because their ancestors did the same thing

to the false prophets.

27 Instead, I tell you that are listening; Love your enemies. Do good to your haters. 28 Bless those that curse you and pray for those that slander you. 29 To the one who punches you on the cheek, bring the other one too. Then from the one that removes your coat, do not withhold your shirt too. 30 Furthermore, give everyone that begs of you and do not demand back from him what is yours. 31 So just as you wish that other people would do to you, yield yourself likewise to others too. 32 Indeed, if you love those that love you what benefit do you have because sinners also love those that love them? 33 Indeed, if you do good to those that do good to you what benefit do you have because sinners also do the same too? 34 Indeed, if you loan from those from whom you expect to receive a reverse loan, what benefit do you have because sinners also loan to sinners to receive as much loan. 35 Rather love your enemies and do good, and lend expecting nothing, and your reward will be great, and you’ll be the Highest's children in that he is kind to the ungrateful and to the evil. 36 Therefore be compassionate as your Patron is also compassionate.

37 Do not judge, and you’ll not be judged. Do not condemn, and you’ll not be condemned. Forgive, and you’ll be forgiven. 38 Give, and a better portion will be given to you, packed up and topped up as well as overflowing, brimming over your bosom. With the very measure one apportions, it will be measured in return.”

39 He also told them proverbs: “Can the blind ever lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a ditch? 40 An apprentice is not superior to his instructor, but every one that is perfected will be like their instructor.

41 “But why do you look at the twig that is in your fellow’s eye but you do not perceive the beam that is in your own eye. 42 How can you say to your fellow; ‘Fellow, let me pluck out the twig that is in your eye,’? Do you not see the beam over your own eye? You pretender, first pluck out the beam over your own eye and then you’ll see clearly to pluck out the twig that is in your brother’s eye.

43 “Indeed, a good tree does not produce bad fruit; neither does a bad tree produce good fruit. 44 Surely every tree is recognised by its fruit. Indeed, no one gathers figs from thorns or grapes from a bramble shrub. 45 A good person from the good treasure of their heart brings forth good things, and an evil person brings forth from their evil treasure evil. No doubt, from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

46 “But why do you call me ‘Master, Master’ yet you do not do what I say? 47 I’ll show you what everyone who comes to me and hears my instructions and practises them is like 48 a person building a house, who dug deep and concretised the foundation on a rock. When the freshet occurred, the current gushed against that house but could not topple it because it was erected on a bedrock. 49 But the one that hears and does not practice it is like a person that built a house on the ground without foundation. That torrential freshet gushed, and it immediately collapsed, and the collapse of that house was so massive.

Luke 7

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS FOREIGNERS

1 Then when he had finished all his speeches to the audience of the people, he went to Capernaum. 2 But there was a certain man, a centurion’s servant that was highly esteemed. He was terribly sick to the point of dying. 3 But when he heard about Lifesaviour, he sent one of the elders of the Jews to him, requesting him to come and heal his servant. 4 When they approached Lifesaviour, they earnestly urged him suggesting that he was worthy that he should grant this: 5 “For indeed he loves our people. He had even built us a local congregation.”

6 Lifesaviour then walked with them. When he was still some distance, not far off from the house, the captain sent friends to him to say to him; “Sir, do not trouble yourself I’m not worthy that you should come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not think myself worthy to come to you. But just speak the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 As I’m also a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, I also say to one; ‘Come’, and he comes, and to my servant; ‘Do this’ then he does it.” 9 When Lifesaviour heard this, he marvelled at him and turned around and said to the people that were following him; “Let me tell you, I’ve not found such terrific faith, not even in Israel.”

10 When those that were dispatched were returning to the house, they found the feeble servant healed.

11 Then as soon as it was the next day, he travelled to a city called Nain, and many of his disciples journeyed together with him, ordinary people too. 12 But as soon as he came near the entrance of the city, there was also a dead man carried out, the only child of his mother, she was a widow too, and many people of the city were with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her; “Do not cry.”

14 Then he approached to touch the coffin and pallbearers stood still. Then he said; “Young man, I say to you rise.” 15 So the dead man sat up and started speaking. Then he presented him to his mother. 16 Then everyone was awestruck, and they glorified Supermights saying; “A mighty prophet is arising among us, and Supermights is visiting his people.”

17 Then the news about him spread abroad throughout Judea and throughout the entire surrounding region.

LIFESAVIOUR RECEIVES JOHN’S DISCIPLES

18 Then the disciples of John brought word to him about all these things. 19 He had sent them to Lifesaviour to ask, “Are you the coming one, or are we to expect another one?” 20 When the men came to Lifesaviour, they said, “John the Baptiser has sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the coming one, or we to expect another one?’”

21 But during that same hour, he healed many from their infirmities and diseases as well as vicious demons. To many blind, he gave sight.

22 Then Lifesaviour responded saying to them; “Go tell John what you have seen and heard - how the blind see, the crippled walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the distressed the gospel is preached. 23 Indeed, happy is whoever that is not offended against me.”

LIFESAVIOUR TESTIFIES ABOUT JOHN

24 When John’s messengers had gone away, Lifesaviour began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go to the desert to see? A reed blown by the wind? 25 Exactly what did you go to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? Look, those splendidly dressed and living in luxury are in palaces. 26 Exactly what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, a greater prophet too! 27 This is the one about whom it is written,

‘Look, I’m sending out my messenger ahead of you,

the one who will pave the way before you.’

28 "For indeed, I tell you, among those that are born of women, there is no greater prophet than John the Baptiser. But the least in Supermights's reign is greater than him. 29 So all the people that went to listen, even the tax collectors that were baptised through the baptism of John, vindicated Supermights.

30 "But the Separatists and the learned rejected the purpose of Supermights for them by being not baptised through him.”

31 The Lord also said; “To what then will I liken the people of this age? So what are they like? 32 They are like little children sitting in the market square, and calling and saying to one another;

‘We’ve played the flute for you,

and you didn’t dance.

We’ve lamented for you,

and you didn’t weep.

33 Even John the Baptiser came not even eating bread, not even drinking wine, and you say he is demon-possessed. 34 Then the Kin of Humanity has come eating and drinking, and you say; ‘Look at the gluttonous man and a tippler, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is vindicated from her products.”

A QUESTIONABLE WOMAN ANOINTS LIFESAVIOUR

36 But one of the Separatists invited him to dine with him. So he went to the Separatist's residence, and he sat at the table.

37 Then there was a woman in the city who was a sinner. Realising that he was a guest in the Separatists’ house, she brought an alabaster glass of perfumed oil. 38 She then laid beside his feet behind. Sobbing, she began to wash his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. She also kissed his feet and anointed them with the perfumed oil.

39 But the Separatist who had invited him saw this, he said witlitrehimself; “If this man were a prophet he would have known who and what kind of a woman that is touching him because that is a sinner!” 40 Then Lifesaviour responding said to him; “Simon, I’ve something to ask you.” But the Master illustrated his thoughts by saying; 41 “There was a certain lender who held two debtors. The one owed five hundred rands and the other fifty. 42 But when they had nothing to pay he kindly forgave both. Tell me then which of them will love him more?” 43 Simon then responded saying; “I suppose that the one he forgave the most.” Then he said to him; “You decided correctly!”

44 Then, turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house. You gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

45 You did not anoint my head with oil, but this woman has anointed my feet with oil. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfumed oil. 47 In favour of what I’m saying to you, her many sins are forgiven because of that she loves much, but the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” 48 He also said to her; “Your sins are forgiven!” 49 Then those that reclined at the table with him started asking among themselves; “Who is this that also forgives sins?” 50 Then he said to the woman; “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace!”

Luke 8

LIFESAVIOUR HAS A FOLLOWING FROM WOMEN

1 Then it happened after that that he also travelled throughout every town and village proclaiming and preaching the gospel of the reign of Supermights, and the twelve were with him.

2 There were certain women too who had been healed from evil spirits and diseases. Mary nicknamed Magdalene, from whom seven demons had come out, 3 as well as Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s bodyguard, and Susanna and many others who served him from their resources.

LIFESAVIOUR’ PLANTER PARABLE

4 When a large crowd would also gather together, and travel along with him downtown, he would speak through a parable: 5 “A planter went out to plant his seed, and as he was sowing, some landed on the highway, and it was trampled, and the flying creatures of the atmosphere devoured it. 6 Then some landed on a rocky mass. As it sprouted up, it dried, unable to hold moisture. 7 Then some landed in the middle of thorns, and thorns sprung up with it and stifled it. 8 But others landed on good soil and sprouted to bear fruit a hundred times.” As he said this, he would appeal, “The one who has ears to listen, let him understand!”

9 Then his disciples asked him to explain what this parable means. 10 Then he said to his disciples; “You are permitted to understand the mysteries of Supermights's reign, but for the rest, it is through parables so that they may look without seeing, and hear without comprehending. 11 But the parable’s meaning is: The seed is the word of Supermights. 12 But the ones on the highway are those that have heard it. Then the devil comes and snatches the word out of their hearts so that they should not believe to be saved. 13 But the ones on the rocky mass are those who whenever they hear it, receive the word with joy. Yet, it has no root because it is believed for a convenient season. But, during the season of adversity, it falls away. 14 But the ones landing among thorns are incidental hearers that are crowded with life’s distractions, even possessions and pleasures and they produce no ripe fruit. 15 But there are some that rest on good soil. Those are the ones who, through an honest and kind heart, will hear the word, retain it and bear fruit through endurance.

LIFESAVIOUR’ LIGHT PARABLE

16 “Nobody lights a lamp, cover it with stuff or place it under a bed. But it is hoisted on a lampstand so that whoever comes in may see the light. 17 As there is nothing secretive that must not be made public, so nothing treasured must not be known and come to broad light.

18 “Pay attention then how you listen because whoever has will be given and whoever does not have from that one will be taken away even what seems to count.”

LIFESAVIOUR REDEFINES MOTHER AND BROTHERS

19 Then his mother and brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the congestion. 20 Then a message was relayed to him; “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, intending to see you.” 21 But he responded saying to them; “My mother and my brothers are those that hear and practice the Supermights' word.”

LIFESAVIOUR CALMS A RAGING STORM

22 When he had finished that one day, he got into a ship with his disciples, and he said to them; “Let us cross to the other side of the lake.” So they sailed away. 23 But as they were plunging, he fell asleep. Then a stormy wind swooped on the lake. Then they swamped and were at risk. 24 They then approached him to wake him up, calling him; “Master, Master we are dying.” Then he got up, rebuked the wind and the raging water; so they died down, and there was tranquillity. 25 Then he said to them, “Where is your faith?” But terrified and awed, they said to each other; “What kind of a person is he? He orders the winds and the water too, and they obey him!”

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A DEMONIAC

26 So they landed on the coast of Gadarenes which is on the opposite side of Galilee. 27 But as he stepped out on shore, he was confronted by a certain man who was demon-possessed for many years. He also had not worn clothes and had not lived in a house except in the tombs. 28 When he saw Lifesaviour, he screamed up and rushed upon him, and with a loud voice screamed; “What do I yet have to do with you Lifesaviour Kin of the Supreme Supermights? I beg you, do not torture me.” 29 This was because he had started to instruct the demonic spirit to come out of the man. In reality, it had gripped him for many years, and he was kept shackled with chains and fetters. So he would break the shackles, would be driven by the demon to the desert. 30 Then Lifesaviour asked him to speak; “What is your name?” He then said; “Numerous,” because many demons had continually entered him. 31 They then began to beg him so that he would not order them to go off into the abyss. 32 But there was a herd of hogs feeding along the hill, and they begged him to permit them to come into them. So he permitted them. 33 But when the demons escaped from the man and entered into the hogs, the herd dashed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

34 When the herders realised what had happened, they ran away. Then they went to report throughout the town and throughout the countryside.

35 When they came out to check what had happened, they then went to Lifesaviour. They also found the man from whom demons had escaped sitting at Lifesaviour’ feet, dressed up and sane. So they were awed.

36 When the onlookers told them again in what way the demon-possessed was delivered 37 both the entire crowd in and around the region of Gedarenes requested him to go away from them because they were gripped with great terror. So he embarked into the vessel and went back.

38 The man out of whom the demons had escaped also begged him to come along, but Lifesaviour refused him saying 39 “Return to your family and relate the great things Supermights has done for you.” So he went away publicising throughout the whole town the great things Lifesaviour had done for him.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BLEEDING WOMAN AND RESURRECTS A DEAD GIRL 40 Meanwhile it followed as Lifesaviour returned, the crowd received him because they were all waiting for him. 41 Then there emerged a man named Jarius, and he was a director of the local congregation. Then, falling at Lifesaviour’ feet, he requested him to come to his house. 42 It was because he had one daughter for about twelve years, and she was dying. But as he went, the people crowded him.

43 There was then a woman having a gushing flow of blood. Whereas she had spent all her living on physicians, nothing could relieve her from anything. 44 She approached from the rear and touched the fringe of his garment. Then immediately, her flow of blood staunched. 45 Then Lifesaviour asked; “Who touched me.” When everyone denied it, Peter and those that were with him said; “Master, the people crowd and surround you, and you ask who touched me?” 46 But Lifesaviour said; “Someone touched me. I know because I sense strength has gone out from me.”

47 When the woman realised that she was no longer hidden, she appeared trembling and fell before him. She explained to him in the presence of all the people for what reason she had touched him and how she was healed immediately. 48 But he said to her; “Lady, your faith has made you whole. Go in peace!”

49 While he was still talking, someone came to the local congregation director saying to him; “Your daughter is dead. Do not bother the Master!” 50 When he arrived at the house, he allowed no one to go in except Peter, also James and John as well as the father and mother of the girl. 52 While they were all sobbing and mourning for her, he then said; “Do not cry. She is not dead; instead, she is asleep.” 53 They laughed it off because they knew that she was dead. 54 But he sent all of them away and took her by the hand and addressed her saying; “Girl, wake up.” 55 Then her life reverted, and she stood up instantly. He then ordered them to give her food. 56 Her parents were stunned, but he ordered them to tell no one what happened.

Luke 9

LIFESAVIOUR COMMISSIONS THE TWELVE

1 When Lifesaviour called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal all diseases. 2 Then he sent them to preach Supermights's reign and to heal the sick. 3 He then said to them; “Carry nothing for the journey. No stick. No wallet. No bread. No cash. Do not have each take two sets of clothes. 4 Then whatever house you come to, stay until you leave from that place. 5 But wherever they’ll not welcome you, go away from that town, brush the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” 6 They then left, travelled throughout the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

HEROD SEEKS LIFESAVIOUR

7 When Herod the tetrarch heard everything that was happening through him, he was so perplexed because some rumoured that John was resurrected from the dead. 8 But for some, it was that Elijah had reappeared. Yet for others, it was that one of the ancient prophets had resurrected. 9 Herod then said, “I had John beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear these kinds of things?” So he sought to see him.

LIFESAVIOUR FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE

10 When the apostles returned, they told him everything they had done. Then he took them to retreat privately in an isolated city location called Bethsaida. 11 When the people got to know, they followed him, and he welcomed them. He spoke to them about Supermights's reign and healed those that were sick needing healing. 12 As the day began to bow out the twelve then came to ask him; “Dismiss these people so that they may go to the villages and farms around to lodge and find food because we are in an isolated place.” 13 But he said to them; “You give them some food.” Then they said; “We’ve no more than five loaves and two fish unless we go and buy food for all these people.”

14 But there were about five thousand men. He then said to his disciples; “Sit them down in groups of fifties. 15 So they grouped them that way and sat everyone down.

16 Then he took the five loaves and the two fish. Looking up towards Heaven, he blessed and divided them. Then he gave the disciples to distribute the food to the people.

17 They then ate, and everyone was satisfied. Then they picked up excess fragments enough for twelve baskets together.

LIFESAVIOUR IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE DESIGNATED

18 After he had finished, he went to pray privately. His disciples were with him, and he asked them saying; “Who do the people say I’m?” 19 But they responded by saying; “John the Baptiser!” “But some Elijah!” “Still others one of the ancient prophets resurrected!” 20 Then he asked them; “But who do you say I’m?” Peter then answered saying; “Supermights's Designated!”

21 But he admonished and instructed them not to tell this to anyone.

LIFESAVIOUR IS THE SUFFERING DESIGNATED THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED

22 He said; “The Kin of Humanity must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the learned. he’ll then be killed but resurrected on the third day.”

23 He also said to everyone; “If anyone wants to come after me, they must renounce themselves and take up their stake day after day, and follow me. 24 Yet whoever wants to preserve their life will lose it. But whoever will lose their life on account of me, they’ll preserve it. 25 For where is a person advantaged if they gain the whole world and lose or injure themselves? 26 For whoever is ashamed of me and my message, the Kin of Humanity will be ashamed of the same when he’ll come in his and his Patron’s glory, as well as the holy messengers. 27 But I assure you, some are standing here who will not experience death until they may understand Supermights’s reign.”

LIFESAVIOUR IS TRANSFIGURED

28 But after about eight days had ended, following these speeches, he took Peter, then John and James to go up to the mountain to pray. 29 But as soon as he was praying, the front of his face became different and his clothes glistened white. 30 Then there were two men conversing with him. These were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in splendour. They spoke about his death which he was about to fulfil in Jerusalem.

32 Although Peter and the ones with him were heavily sleepy at that time, they woke up thoroughly to see his glory and that of the two men standing near him.

33 But as they got to leave from him, Peter suggested to Lifesaviour; “Master, it is good for us to be here. So let's make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He did not understand what he was saying.

34 As he was speaking, a cloud that enveloped them gathered, and they were so frightened as they entered the cloud. 35 Then there sounded a voice out of the cloud saying; “This is my beloved Kin, listen to him.” 36 When the voice was done, Lifesaviour was found alone. But they were to keep silent and tell no one during those days, not even what they had experienced.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BOY THE DISCIPLES COULD NOT HEAL

37 But it happened the next day as they had descended from the mountain, a large crowd met him. 38 Then there was a man from the crowd crying out saying; “Master, I beg you to look at my son that is my only child. 39 Look, when the demon seizes him, he suddenly screams, then it convulses him, followed by foaming and crushing himself. It hardly goes away from him. 40 I requested your disciples to exorcise him but they could not.

41 Then Lifesaviour responded; “O faithless and crooked generation. How much longer will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”

42 While he was still approaching, the demon burst into that convulsion. But Lifesaviour rebuked the demonic spirit and healed the boy. Then he gave him away to his father. 43 They were then amazed at the great power of Supermights. While everyone marvelled at everything that Lifesaviour was doing, he said to his disciples; 44 “You sink into your ears these words: Indeed, the Kin of Humanity will be betrayed to the hands of human beings.”

45 But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them; as a result, they did not comprehend it. But they were afraid to ask him about that statement.

LIFESAVIOUR DIFFUSES GREATNESS COMPETITION

46 Meanwhile there entered a thought among them: Who of them was the greatest? 47 But Lifesaviour, discerning their heart’s thinking, picked up a child and placed the child next to himself. 48 Then he spoke to them; “Whoever welcomes this child in my name, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one that sent me. Therefore, the one that behaves inferior among all of you is the one that surpasses greatness.”

LIFESAVIOUR DIFFUSES SECTARIAN THINKING

49 Then John responded saying; “Master, we saw someone exorcising demons in your name, and we stopped him because he was not following with us.”

50 Then Lifesaviour said to him; “Do not stop him because whoever is not against us is for us.”

LIFESAVIOUR IS REJECTED AND RECEIVED BY SAMARITAN TOWNS

51 When the time came for him to be taken up, he resolutely turned his direction to travel to Jerusalem.

52 He then sent messengers ahead of him so that they may go ahead to a village of Samaritans to prepare for him. 53 But they did not welcome him because his direction was going to Jerusalem.

54 When his disciples, James and John knew it, they suggested; “Lord, do you intend to order fire to descend from the sky and consume them as Elijah also did?” 55 But Lifesaviour turned and rebuked them, 56 and they resorted to another town.

LIFESAVIOUR COUNTS THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

57 It also happened as they were progressing along the journey, someone said to him; “Sir, I’ll follow you wherever you go.” 58 Lifesaviour then said; “Foxes have burrows and birds of the atmosphere have nests, but the Kin of Humanity has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 But he said to another; “Follow me.” But he replied; “Sir, let me first go off to bury my father.” 60 But Lifesaviour replied to him; “Leave the dead to bury their dead, but you go to preach Supermights's reign!”

61 Another one also said; “Sir, I’ll follow you but let me first say goodbye to the ones that are my family.” 62 Lifesaviour then said to him; “No one puts his hand on the plough and looks to the back is fit for Supermights's reign.”

Luke 10

LIFESAVIOUR SENDS SEVENTY

1 After these things, the Lord also appointed other seventy. Then he sent them two by two ahead of his direction into every town and location wherever he himself was going.

2 Then he said to them; “The harvest is, in fact, bountiful but the labourers are few. Consequently, petition the Master of the harvest to send labourers into the harvest. 3 There you go. I’m sending you as lambs among wolves. 4 Do not carry any purse, wallet or any shoes, and do not welcome anyone along the way. 5 But whatever house you come into, first extend greetings to that house. 6 So if in fact, the child of peace is there, your peace may settle on it. But if not, return it on yourself. 7 But stay in the same house, eating drinking among them because the labourers deserve their wages. Do not change place from house to house.

8 "Whatever town you come into, when they welcome you, eat food presented before you 9 and heal the sick in there. Also, tell them Supermights's reign has come to you.

10 "But in whatever town you come into and they do not welcome you, go to the streets of that town and say; 11 ‘Even the dust of your town which is sticking on us, we wipe off to you. However, be aware of this, though, Supermights's reign has come to you.’

12 "Let me tell you though, it will be more bearable during the day of judgement for Sodom than for that town.

13 “Shame on you Chorazin! Shame on you Bethsaida because if the miracles performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented - sitting in sackcloth and ashes - a while ago.

14 "It will instead be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon during the judgement than for you.

15 "Then you Capernaum, elevated to the sky, will be abruptly hurled to hell.

16 “The one that gives you audience, gives audience to me and the one that disregards you disregards me, and the one that disregards me disregards the one that sent me.”

THE SEVENTY LIFESAVIOUR SENT REALISE THE POWER OF HIS NAME

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying; “Master, even the demons obey us through your name.” 18 He also said to them; “I watched Satan drop like lightning from the sky. 19 Look, I’ve given you the power to trample on snakes and scorpions and over every power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you at all. 20 However, do not rejoice in the fact that demons obey you. Instead, rejoice that your names are also written in Heaven.”

21 At that moment, Lifesaviour rejoiced in spirit and said; “I thank you, Patron, Supermights of Heaven and Earth, for you have concealed these things from the wise and intelligent, and you have revealed them to the simple-minded. Indeed, Patron because this way it seemed good in your opinion. 22 All things have been transmitted to me from my Patron, and no one understands who the Kin is except the Patron, and who the Patron is except the Kin, and to whoever the Kin willingly reveals it.”

23 Then Lifesaviour turned to his disciples separately and said; “Blessed are the eyes that perceive the things you see. 24 For indeed I tell you that many prophets and kings longed to understand the things you are seeing, but they never understood them, and listened to the things you hear but never understood them.”

A LEGALIST IS TESTING LIFESAVIOUR

25 Then a particular expert in the law rose so to test him. He asked him; “Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 But he said to him; “What is written in the law? In what way do you read?” 27 The expert answered, “Love Lifegiver your deity with all your heart, with all your spirit, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your fellow as yourself.” 28 Lifesaviour said to him, “You have responded correctly; do the same, and you’ll live.” 29 But he, wanting to show himself off, said to Lifesaviour; “Then who is my fellow?” 30 Lifesaviour also took it up and said; “Some person came down from Jerusalem to Jericho but was rounded up by robbers who both stripped him of his clothes, also beat and wounded him. They left him behind half dead through chance. 31 But by coincidence, a certain high priest came down through that way. Though he saw him, he passed by the other side.

32 Similarly, when a Levite reached the spot, he went and looked on, passed by the other side. 33 But some Samaritan traveller was passing by him, and when he noticed him, he had compassion. 34 He came near to bandage his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and he mounted him on his animal, drove him to the lodge and took care of him. 35 Then the next day, as he was leaving, he took out two rands, gave to the host and said to him; “Take care of him, and whatever he spends additionally I’ll repay you when I return.” 36 Now, who of these three do you think was a fellow to the one trapped among robbers? 37 Then he said; “The one that showed compassion to him.” Then Lifesaviour said to him; “Go and do the same.”

LIFESAVIOUR VISITS WITH MARTHA AND MARY

38 As they continued to travel, he then came to a particular village. Then a certain woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 She then had a sister called Mary, who instead sat down near Lifesaviour’ feet and listened to his message. 40 But Martha was burdened with a lot of serving, so he came to him and said; “Sir, are you not concerned that my sister has left me to serve alone? Now tell her to help me.”

41 But Lifesaviour responded by saying to her; “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled over many things. 42 But one thing is necessary, and Mary has Designated that beneficial engagement which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 11

LIFESAVIOUR TEACHES THE DISCIPLES PRAYER AND PERSEVERANCE

1 It then happened that he was praying somewhere. When he had stopped, one of his disciples said to him; “Master, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.” 2 So he said to them; “When you pray say; ‘Our Father, may your name be revered. May your reign grow. May your purpose - just as it is in Heaven - be also realised on Earth. 3 Give us each day our subsistence bread.

4 "Forgive us our sins as we forgive everyone indebted to us too. Further, bring us forbearance in adversity and rescue us from calamity.’”

5 Then he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 since a friend of mine from his journey has arrived at my house and I do not have any food to offer them.’ 7 Then he’ll reply from inside, ‘Do not bother me. The door is already closed, and my children and I are in bed. I cannot wake up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, if he’ll not get up and give it, being his own friend, at least because of his insistence, he’ll wake up and give him as much as he needs.

9 “So I also say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you’ll get. Knock, and it will be opened up for you. 10 For indeed everyone that asks receives, and the one that seeks gets, and for the one that knocks it will be opened up.

11 "If a child asks for bread from any of you that is a parent, will any of you give them a stone or perhaps a fish? Will any instead of a fish give them a snake? 12 Or also if they require an egg, will they offer them a scorpion?

13 "If you then that behave maliciously know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Patron give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him.”

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS DEMONIC OPERATIONS

14 Then he was exorcising a demon that had made the person dumb. When he was done, when the demon had escaped, the dumb person spoke. So the people marvelled. 15 But some of them said; “He exorcises demons through Beelzebul, the prince of demons.”

16 But others tried to elicit from him a miracle from the sky. 17 He, also realising their thoughts, said to them; “Every realm divided against itself will be destroyed. Family against family falls. 18 Now, if Satan is also divided against himself, how will his domain stand up? Why do you say that I exorcise demons through Beelzebul? 19 Now if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they’ll be your judges. 20 But if I through the finger of Supermights I exorcise demons, no doubt Supermights's reign has come upon you. 21 Whenever a powerful person, fully armed, guards their mansion, their property remains altogether safe for a while. 22 But as soon as a stronger person than he is, comes to conquer and subdue him, he takes from him the full armour upon which he relied and divided his spoils. 23 The one that is not with me is against me, and the one that is not gathering with me is scattering abroad.

24 Whenever the demonic spirit goes out of a human being, it passes through waterless plains looking for rest. Then, finding nothing, it decides to return to its own home where it came from. 25 So when it returns, it finds it swept and decorated. 26 Then it goes away and fetches seven other demons more wicked than itself. They then enter and permanently reside there. Then the latter condition of that person is worse than the first.”

A STRANGER FROM THE AUDIENCE BLESSES LIFESAVIOUR

27 But as he was finishing saying these things, one woman from the crowd raised her voice speaking to him; “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts which you suckled.” 28 But he replied; “Rather, blessed are the hearers of Supermights' word and its observers.”

LIFESAVIOUR RESPONDS TO THE DEMAND FOR A SIGN

29 While the people were accumulating, he started to say; “This is a wicked generation. They demand a miracle, and no miracle will be given to them except the miracle of Jonah the prophet. 30 For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Kin of Humanity will be a sign to this generation. 31 The queen of the South will rise at the judgment against the people of this generation and condemn them because she came from the ends of the Earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon – and now, one greater than Solomon is here! 32 The people of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment against this generation and condemn it because they repented when Jonah preached to them – and now, one greater than Jonah is here!

LIFESAVIOUR’ PARABLE OF THE LIGHT OF THE BODY

33 “No one lights a lamp, puts it in a hidden place or under a utensil but on a lampstand so that those who come in may see the light. 34 The lamp of the body is the eye. Certainly, when your eye is clear, your body is then illuminated. But when it is diseased, your body is also opaque. 35 Therefore make sure that the light that is in you is not shady. 36 Certainly, if your whole body is full of light, not having any darkened part, the whole body will be as bright just as when the bright lamp light brightens you.”

A SEPARATIST HOSTS LIFESAVIOUR

37 But as he spoke, a certain Separatist invited him to have breakfast with him. He then went in and sat down to eat.

38 But when the Separatist checked, he was surprised that he had not first washed before breakfast. 39 But the Lord immediately said to him; “You Separatists clean the cup and the plate outside, but your inside is full of greed and malice. 40 Imprudent! Did not the one that made the outside make the inside too? 41 But donate alms from within, then you’ll see everything will be clean to you.

42 "Shame on you Separatists because you tithe mint and rue and every herb yet you neglect justice and Supermights’s love. These former things you should do without omitting the others too.

43 "Shame on you Separatists because you love prominent seats in the local congregations and salutations in the streets.

44 "Shame on you learned and Separatists! Hypocrites that are like concealed tombs and people walk over without realising it!” 45 But one of the legalists rebutted him; “Teacher, these statements are insulting us too.”

46 Then he said; “Shame to you legalists too because you overload people with cumbersome burdens yet you do not even touch the burdens with any of your fingers.

47 "Shame on you because you erect memorial tombs of the prophets, but it was your parents that killed them. 48 You evidently infer that you consent to the actions of your parents that themselves killed them yet you erect their tombstones. 49 Through that reason then, divine wisdom predicted; ‘I’ll send among them prophets and messengers yet some of them they’ll kill and persecute.’ 50 As a result, the blood of all the prophets which has been shed from the conception of the world will be demanded from this generation - 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood Zechariah who was killed between the altar and the Sanctuary. I tell you the truth; it will be demanded from this generation. 52 Shame on you legalists because you have taken away the key of knowledge without entering yourselves. Instead, you prevented those that were going to enter.”

53 Since he said these things to them, the learned and the Separatists started to trap him desperately as well as to provoke him to speak on many issues.

54 They were ambushing him even looking to carp something from his language so that they could accuse him.

Luke 12

LIFESAVIOUR TEACHES THE DISCIPLES AND THE CROWD

1 In another occasion, there gathered ten thousand people; as a result, they trampled one another. He began to speak to his disciples first; “Be careful of the yeast of the Separatists which is hypocrisy. 2 There is nothing hidden now that will not be revealed. Nothing is secret that will not be known. 3 Instead whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered to the ear in privacy will be broadcast over housetop.”

4 “So I tell you my friends, do not be afraid of those that destroy the body, and after that have nothing more they can do. 5 But let me warn you who you should fear. Fear the one who, after death, has authority to throw you into hell. I tell you the truth, fear him.”

6 “Are not five sparrows sold for two coins? Yet not even one is forgotten before Supermights. 7 But even the hair of your head is all numbered. Don't be afraid. You are more valuable than many sparrows.

8 “I also tell you the truth, whoever openly acknowledges me before humanity, the Kin of Humanity will also acknowledge them before the messengers of Supermights. 9 But the one that denies me before humanity will be denied before the messengers of Supermights. 10 Whoever also speaks a word against the Kin of Humanity will be forgiven it, but the one that blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. 11 “But when they present you to the local assemblies, as well as magistrates and authorities do not worry how or what will you say in defence. Rather speak up 12 because the Holy Spirit will instruct you what you must say in that instant."

13 Then someone from the crowd said to him; “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” 14 But he asked him; “Man, who designated me a judge or adjudicator over you?” 15 But he said to them; “Discern and watch out of greed because one’s life is not profitable more than their possessions.”

16 He then told them a parable saying; “A farm of a certain rich man produced abundantly. 17 So he thought witlitrehimself, ‘What should I do, because I’ve no space to store my crop?’ 18 Then he said, ‘I’ll do this: I’ll demolish my barns and build bigger ones, and there I’ll store all my produce and my valuables. 19 And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of resources stored up for many years. Relax. Eat. Drink. Rejoice!’ 20 But Supermights said to him, ‘Egotistic! This very night your life will be demanded back from you. Whose things will your provisions be?’ 21 So it is with the one who accumulates treasure for himself but is not rich toward Supermights. 22 So for that reason, I tell you not to worry about your life, what you’ll eat or for your body what you’ll wear. 23 This life is more than food and this body’s clothing. 24 Observe the ravens. Though they do not sow or reap, others do not have storage or barn, yet Supermights feeds them. How much more valuable are you than the birds? 25 But who of you by worrying can add one bit to their age. 26 Therefore, if you are not capable of small things, why worry about the rest? 27 “Observe how the lilies grow. They do not work hard. They do not spin, but I tell you, not even Solomon in all of his splendour was dressed like any of these! 28 But if Supermights enrobes vegetation this way, being in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more are you? Incredulous! 29 So do not be concerned about what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, and do not be doubtful. 30 For indeed, all these things the people of the world strive for, and your Patron understands that you need these things. 31 Instead, strive for Supermights's reign, and all these things will be added to you.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, because it is your Father’s delight to give you this reign. 33 Trade your possessions and donate to the poor. Plan for yourselves investments which will not decline, wealth in Heaven which will not depreciate, in a place where no thief approaches, not even moth corrupts. 34 No doubt, where your wealth is, there your heart will be too.”

35 “Fasten your belts around your waists and set your lights on fire 36 and be like people that await their master to return at whatever time from the wedding so that when he comes and knocks, they may immediately open for him. 37 Blessed are those servants whom their master will find awake when he returns! I assure you that he’ll dress up and make them sit down and go to serve them. 38 Moreover, whether he comes in the second guard or comes in the third guard if he finds them like that, blessed are those servants! 39 But understand this because if the master of the house knew what time the thief would come, he would have kept awake and would not have yielded his home to be burglarised. 40 You are to be ready also, therefore, because the Kin of Humanity will come at an hour, you do not think of.

41 Then Peter asked him; “Are you telling this parable for us or everyone too?” 42 But the Lord said; “Who then is the trustworthy and wise manager whom the master will appoint over his domestics to distribute allowances at set times? 43 Blessed is the servant whom his master finds him performing all of that when he returns. 44 I assure you that he’ll appoint him over everything that he has. 45 But if that servant should say in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his return,’ and will start beating the male and female servants, and to eat and to drink and be drunk, 46 then the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at a time he does not know. he’ll then flog him and will assign him a share with the untrustworthy. 47 That servant who knew his master’s plan but did not comply or even commit about his plan will be beaten severely. 48 But he that did not know but did things deserving punishment will be beaten briefly. But from anyone who is given more, more will be required. So to whoever much is invested, from them much will be expected.

49 “I’ve come to put the Earth on fire, and how I wish that it had already been kindled? 50 I’ve the baptism to be baptised with, and how pressed am I until it is performed! 51 Do you assume I’ve come to bring peace on Earth? Let me tell you, no! But rather, disunity! 52 As from now onwards, there will be five in one house, three divided against two and two against three. 53 A father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and the daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

54 Then Lifesaviour said to the people; “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘A rainstorm is coming,’ and so it does. 55 But when the south wind is blowing, you say it will be fiery hot, and it happens. 56 You pretenders! You know how to decipher the surface of the sky and the Earth. But how is it that you cannot discern this time. 57 But why do you not judge from yourselves what is right? 58 “When you are going with your accuser to the magistrate, along the way, pay proper diligence to be released from him in case he hauls you before the judge, and the judge surrenders you to the officer, and the officer throws you into prison. 59 Let me tell you; you’ll not leave from there up to the point you have paid the very last cent.”

Luke 13

LIFESAVIOUR TELLS THE AUDIENCE TO REPENT OR PERISH

1 There were also some during that occasion that told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Lifesaviour then responded by saying to them; “Do you think that those Galileans were sinners more than all the Galileans because they experienced such things? 3 Let me tell you, no! But unless you repent, you’ll all perish in the same way? 4 Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and destroyed them, do you think that they were sinners more than all the people that live in Jerusalem? 5 Let me tell you, no! But unless you repent, you’ll all perish in the same way!” 6 He also said this parable; “Somebody had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came to it looking for a fruit and found nothing. 7 Then he said to the worker in the vineyard, ‘Look, I’ve been coming three years to look for fruit from this fig tree, and I find nothing. Cut it down. For what reason must it deplete the soil? 8 But he replied suggesting to him; ‘Sir, leave it this year too until this time. I’ll dig around it and throw fertiliser. 9 If it, in fact, does not bear fruit, afterwards you can cut it down.’”

LIFESAVIOUR STRAIGHTENS A FRAIL WOMAN ON SABBATH

10 He was also teaching in one of the local congregations on the Sabbath, 11 and there was a woman who was possessed by a spirit of frailty eighteen years and was bent down and could not completely straighten up. 12 But when Lifesaviour saw her, he spoke and said to her; “Woman, you are released from your frailty. 13 Then he laid hands on her, and immediately she was straightened up. Then she glorified Supermights. 14 But the director of the local congregation reacted with rage because Lifesaviour had healed on the Sabbath. He said to the people; “There are six days on which work must be done. During these come then and be healed and not on the Sabbath day.” 15 Then the Lord responded to him and said; “Pretender! Do not each of you loosen their ox or donkey from the trough and take them off to the water? 16 But must not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has bound here for eighteen years, be released from this bondage on the Sabbath day?”

17 So when he said these things, all his opponents were confounded, and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were happening through him.

LIFESAVIOUR’ PARABLES ABOUT THE GROWTH OF SUPERMIGHT'S REIGN

18 He also said; “What is Supermights's reign like, and to what will I liken it? 19 It is like a mustard seed that a man took and threw in his garden, and it grew and became a big tree. Then the flying creatures of the sky nested in its branches.”

20 Then again he said; “What will I liken Supermights's reign? 21 It is like yeast which a woman took and incorporated in three measures of flour until it was completely raised.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ PARABLES ABOUT THE ENTERING Supermights'S REIGN

22 So he travelled through the towns and villages teaching and making his way towards Jerusalem. 23 Someone also asked him; “Sir, will there be a few that will be saved?” Then he said to them; 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow gate because many will try to enter in and will not be able. 25 Once the master of the house rises and shuts the door fully, you’ll begin to stand outside and knock at the door saying; ‘Master, master, open for us.’ Then he’ll respond saying to you; ‘I do not know where you belong.’ 26 At that time you’ll start saying; ‘We ate and drank witlitreyour presence, and you taught in our streets.’ 27 But he’ll say, 'Let me tell you, I do not know where you belong. Withdraw yourselves from me all you criminals.’ 28 There will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets in Supermights's reign but you yourselves thrown out. 29 Then they’ll arrive from the east and from the west, and from the north and the south, and will sit in Supermights's reign. 30 But watch there are the last who will be the first, and there are the first who will be the last.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ LAMENT OVER REJECTING JERUSALEM

31 At that time, some Separatists came up and said to Lifesaviour, “Go away from here because Herod wants to kill you.” 32 He then said to them; “Go tell that fox, I’m here casting demons and doing healing today, tomorrow and the third day I’ll be finished. 33 Besides, I must travel today as well as tomorrow and the next since it is not acceptable that a prophet must die outside Jerusalem. 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often would I’ve gathered your children like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings yet you chose otherwise? 35 Look, your temple is left to you deserted. Let me also say to you; You’ll not see me until it comes when you’ll say; ‘Blessed is the one who comes in Lifegiver's name!’”

Luke 14

LIFESAVIOUR ASKS LEGALISTS ABOUT SABBATH HEALING

1 Then it happened that he went to the house of one of the leaders of the Separatists to eat a meal, and they were watching him scrupulously. 2 But there in front of him was a certain dropsical man. 3 Then Lifesaviour began to speak to the legalists and Separatists to explain; “Is it right to heal on the Sabbath?” 4 But they kept quiet. Then he held, healed and released him.” 5 Then he concluded by asking them; “Who among you’ll not immediately pull out your donkey or ox that falls into a hole on the Sabbath day?” 6 But they could not debate back afterwards.

LIFESAVIOUR CHALLENGES PREFERENCE FOR PROMINENCE

7 Then he related a parable to the invited when he noticed how they selected honourable places in the dining room. He said to them; 8 “Whenever you are invited by someone to a wedding, do not sit in the place of honour because a person more honourable than you may have been invited there. 9 So the one that invited you and this person may approach and ask you to give this person the place. Then at that time, with embarrassment, you’ll begin to make it toward the farthest place. 10 But when you are invited to sit at the farthest place that when the one that invited you comes may call you; ‘Take an upper seat higher.’ Then you’ll preserve your dignity in the presence of those that seat at the table with you. 11 For every one that elevates themselves will be humbled, and the one that humbles himself will be elevated.”

LIFESAVIOUR CHALLENGES SOCIAL EXCLUSIVITY

12 Then he also said to the one that invited him; “Whenever you organise a luncheon or a banquet, do not invite just your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives or your wealthy neighbours. Perhaps they may, in turn, invite you and you’ll be repaid the favour. 13 But whenever you organise a feast, invite the poor, the disabled, the limping, the blind, 14 and you’ll be blessed because they cannot repay you yet you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

LIFESAVIOUR ILLUSTRATES OPENNESS OF Supermights'S REIGN

15 When someone at the table heard these things, he said to him; “Blessed is whoever that will eat bread in Supermights's reign !” 16 But he told him; “A certain man organised a big banquet and invited many. 17 He then sent his servant at banquet time to say to the invited; ‘Come, because everything is now ready.’ 18 But everyone after another started to decline. The first told him; ‘I’ve bought a farm, and I need to go and check it. Please have me excused.’ 19 Another said, ‘I’ve bought five pairs of oxen, and I’m going out to examine them. Please excuse me.’ 20 Then another one said; 'I just wedded a wife, and because of that I cannot come.'

21 "So the servant went back to report these things to his master. Then the master, exasperated, said to his servant; ‘Quickly go to the public squares and streets of the city and bring in the poor and the disabled as well as the lame and the blind. 22 Then the servant said; ‘Sir, what you told me has been done and there is the room still.’ 23 "So the master said to his servant; ‘Go out to the highways and alleys, and urge entrants through so that my house may be filled.’ 24 But I tell you that none of those fellows invited will enjoy my banquet.’”

LIFESAVIOUR TEACHES CALCULATING THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

25 Also journeying together with him was a huge crowd. Then he turned around and said to them; 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not love their father and mother less, as well as their wife and children, brothers and sisters too, and even his own life, they cannot be my disciple. 27 So whoever does not take up their stake and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 "For who of you intending to build a castle does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if they are able to finish. 29 Perhaps, if ever they so laid the foundation and are unable to finish everything, the onlookers will begin to jeer them. 30 They’ll say; ‘This person started building and was unable to finish!’

31 Or what ruler goes to join up the war against another ruler that does not first sit down and consult whether it will be possible with ten thousand to defeat the one that is coming against him or with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other one is still a distance away he’ll dispatch an envoy to appease the other for peace. 33 So in the same way, none of you that does not renounce everything that they have in them can be able to be my disciple.

LIFESAVIOUR TEACHES THE ESSENCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

34 “Salt is good but if salt becomes flavourless, through what will it be spiced up? 35 It is not appropriate for the soil, not even for the manure. Throw it out. The one that has ears must hear.”

Luke 15

LOST AND FOUND GRACEFLOW

1 As all classes of publicans and sinners were drawing near him to hear him, 2 the Separatists and the learned then mumbled. They were saying; “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 Then Lifesaviour responded by relating this parable to them: 4 “Who among you, who has a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the field and go after the lost until he finds it? 5 Then when he has found it, he carries it on their shoulders cheerfully. 6 Returning home, he invites his friends and neighbours together, telling them, ‘Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.’ 7 Let me tell you, in the same way, there will be joy in Heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine innocent people who do not need to repent.

8 “Or which Woman who has ten coins, if she loses one coin, would not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully till she finds it? 9 Then when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbours together, saying, ‘Celebrate with me because I've found the coin that was lost.’ 10 Let me tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of Supermights’ messengers over one repentant sinner.”

11 He also said; “Some man had two sons. 12 Then the younger one of them spoke to his father; ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will belong to me.’ So he distributed his assets between them. 13 Then not so many days after that, the younger son gathered everything, went abroad to a remote country and wasted his resources in reckless living. 14 When he had spent everything, there occurred a fierce drought in that country that he was the first to be in poverty. 15 Then he went to contract himself to one of the citizens of that country, who then sent him to his farms to feed hogs. 16 Then he would crave to fill his stomach with the husks that the hogs were eating, but no one offered him.

17 But when he came to himself, he said; ‘How many of my father’s wage earners have extra food, yet here am I dying from hunger! 18 I'll get up, travel to my father and say to him; ‘Father, I’ve sinned against Heaven and before you. 19 I’m no longer worthy of being called your son. Make me one of your hired wage earners.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father. While he was still some distance away, his father spotted him and felt sympathy. Then he ran and embraced him over his neck and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him; ‘Father, I’ve sinned against Heaven and before you, and I’m no longer worthy of being called your son.’’ 22 But the father said to his servants; ‘Bring the best outfit and dress him up. Then put a finger ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 Then bring a fattened steer and slaughter it, and let us eat and celebrate 24 because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they started to celebrate.

25 But his older son was in the farm. Then as he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. 27 He then said to him; ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened steer because he got him healthy.’ 28 But he became angry and would not enter. Then his father came out and begged him. 29 But, responding to his father, he said; ‘Look, these many years I’ve slaved for you, and I’ve never even disregarded your instruction at any time, and yet you have never given me even a kid so that I could celebrate with my friends! 30 But when this son of yours who squandered your assets with prostitutes arrives, you slaughter the fattened steer for him! 31 But he said to him; ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I’ve is yours. 32 But it was necessary to celebrate and be happy because he, your brother, was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’”

Luke 16

LIFESAVIOUR’ SCATHING ATTACKS ON UNSCRUPULOUS LEADERS

1 He also said to his disciples; “There was a certain rich man who had a manager, yet the manager was bad-mouthing him saying he was squandering his resources. 2 So he called him in and asked; ‘Why is it that I hear this report about you? Give an account of your management as you’ll no longer be able to manage my estate. 3 Then the manager spoke witlitrehimself; ‘What should I do because my master is taking away from me my management? I cannot dig. I’m ashamed to beg. 4 I know what to do so that when I’m put out of management, they may welcome me into their homes.’ 5 So he summoned every one of his master’s debtors. He said to the first one; ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6 Then he said; ‘A hundred litres of olive oil.’ Then the manager said to him; ‘Take your invoice and sit down quickly. Write fifty instead.’

7 "Then he said to the next one, ‘And how much do you owe?’ The second man replied, ‘A hundred kilograms of wheat.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your invoice. Write eighty instead.’

8 "The master applauded the unrighteous manager because he had acted prudently. For the heirs of this world are more intelligent than the children of light. 9 Let me also tell you, use heathen wealth to make friends for yourselves so that whenever it fails, you may be welcomed into everlasting habitations. 10 The one that is faithful through minor things is also faithful through major things, and the one that is wicked in minor things is also wicked in major things. 11 If then you have not been trustworthy in heathen wealth, who will credit you truthful? 12 If you cannot be trusted with that which is another person’s, who will give you yours?

13 "No servant can serve two masters because you’ll either hate the one or love the other or you’ll stick to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve Supermights and wealth.” 14 But the Separatists that also behaved greedily listened to all these things and jeered him. 15 But Lifesaviour said to them, “You are the ones that justify yourselves before humanity, but Supermights knows your minds. For what is highly esteemed among humanity is disgusting before Supermights.

16 “It was the law and prophets up until John, since then Supermights's reign has been preached, and everyone is urged into it. 17 But it is easier for Heaven and Earth to pass away than one iota of the law to fall away.

18 “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery and whoever marries a wife divorced from her husband commits adultery.

19 “But there was a certain rich man that wore purple and fine linen, fairing luxuriously every day. 20 But there was a certain lacerated beggar named Lazarus who was dumped at his gates 21 At that time, he longed to be fed with the crumbs falling from the wealthy man’s table. But instead, the dogs would come and lick his wounds.

22 "Then it happened that the beggar died and was carried by messengers to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 Then in the tomb, as he lifted his eyes between torments, from a distance, he spotted Abraham, and Lazarus was in his bosom. 24 "So he called saying; ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus so that he can dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue because I’m tortured in this flame.’ 25 But Abraham said; ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received good things but Lazarus had such bad things. But now he is comforted, and you are tortured. 26 But besides all this, between you and us is a wide gulf so that those who would be inclined to cross from here to you would not be able to do so. No one can cross from us to there.

27 "Then he said; ‘Now then, I beg you father so that you may send him to my father’s house 28 because I’ve five brothers that he must strongly warn for them not to also come into this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham said to him; ‘They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them.’

30 "But he said; ‘Not quite father Abraham, not at all, provided someone went to them from the dead, will they repent.’ 31 Then he said to him; ‘If they’ll not listen to Moses and the prophets, they’ll not be convinced even if someone rose from the dead.’”

Luke 17

1 He also said to the disciples; “It is impossible that scandals will not occur, but shame on the one through whom they come! 2 It would be better for that one that a grinding millstone was hung around his neck, and he is thrown into the sea than that he should scandalise any of these little ones.

3 “Be careful yourselves also. In case your brother sins against you, reprimand him, and if he repents, forgive him 4 even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day he returns to you to say; ‘I repent.’ You are to forgive him.”

LIFESAVIOUR INSTILLS FAITH AND A SENSE OF DUTY

5 Then the apostles said to the Lord; “Increase our faith!” 6 But the Lord said; “If you had faith like the kernel of a mustard seed, you could say to the mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

7 “But who of you, after a servant has been ploughing or tending cattle will say to him immediately he arrives from the field; ‘Go and sit down for a meal’? 8 Instead, will he not say to him; ‘Prepare what I’ll dine with for supper, and ready yourself to serve me until I’m satisfied with food and drink. Then afterwards, you may eat and drink.’ 9 Will he be able to thank that servant because he did what he was instructed? I don’t think so.10 "In the same way too, when you have done everything you were required to do, you are to say; ‘We are useless servants because we’ve done what was our duty to do.’”

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS TEN LEPERS EN ROUTE TO JERUSALEM

11 Then it happened as he was travelling to Jerusalem that he travelled through the route of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as he was entering a particular village, he met ten leprous men who stood at a distance 13 and raised their voices saying; “Master Lifesaviour, have mercy on us.”14 When he became aware, he said to them; “Go show yourselves to the priests.” It so happened that as they were going, they were cleansed.” 15 But one of them, when he realised that he was healed, returned and with a loud voice glorified Supermights.

16 He fell on his face at his feet, grateful to him, and he was a Samaritan. 17 But Lifesaviour responded by saying; “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was there no one found to come back to glorify Supermights except this foreigner?” 19 He then said to him; “Stand up, go your way. Your faith has saved you!”

LIFESAVIOUR RESPONDS ABOUT THE COMING OF Supermights’S REIGN

20 Sometime later the Separatists also asked him what time the reign of Supermights was coming. He responded to them and said; “Supermights's reign does not come with visual evidence. 21 they’ll not even say; ‘Look, here!’ or ‘Look, there!’ because Supermights's reign must be witlitreyou.” 22 He also said to the disciples; “Days are coming when you’ll long to see one of the days of the Kin of Humanity, and you’ll not see it. 23 Then they’ll say to you; ‘Look, he is here!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ Do not go away or follow. 24 No doubt, just as the lightning that flashes from one side of the sky radiating to the other side of the sky, so will also the Kin of Humanity be in his day. 25 But first, he must suffer much and be rejected by this generation. 26 Yet, just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it also be in the days of the Kin of Humanity. 27 They were eating, drinking, marrying, given in to marriage - until the day that Noah came into the ship, and the flood broke out and destroyed everyone. 28 Similarly also, in the same way, it happened in the days of Lot - they were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building. 29 But on the day that Lot escaped from Sodom, it rained fire and sulphur from the sky and destroyed everyone. 30 So, it will be the same on the day the Kin of Humanity is revealed. 31 On that day, whoever will be on the rooftop, and his stuff is in the house must not come down to fetch it. Similarly, the one that is also in the farm must not come back in. 32 Remember Lot’s wife!

33 “Whoever tries to preserve his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life will preserve it. 34 Let me tell you, in that night there will be two on one bed, the other one will be taken, and the other one will be left alone. 35 There will be two women grinding in one place, the other will be taken, and the other one left alone. 36 Both will be in the field, the other will be taken, and the other left alone. [ALTHOUGH THE TEXT IS NOT IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS] 37 Then the disciples said to him, “Where, Sir?” He replied to them, “Wherever the dead body is, there the vultures will swoop in.”

Luke 18

LIFESAVIOUR URGES PERSISTENT PRAYER AND FAITH

1 He also illustrated to them by a parable that it is necessary to always pray and not be tired. 2 He said; “There was in some city a judge who did not revere Supermights, and he did not respect people. 3 Then there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him saying; ‘Vindicate me from my opponent.’ 4 But he refused for a while.

But afterwards, he said to himself; ‘Though I do not revere Supermights or do not respect people 5 yet this widow keeps bothering me. I’ll vindicate her so that she does annoy me by her endless coming.”

6 Then the Lord said; “Listen to what the unrighteous judge says. 7 But will Supermights not provide retribution for his own Designated ones that cry day and night to him, and will he bear long-suffering upon them? 8 Let me tell you though; he’ll provide retribution quickly for them. But will the Kin of Humanity find faith on Earth when he comes?”

LIFESAVIOUR SPEAKS AGAINST PRESUMPTUOUS PRAYER

9 Then he also told this parable to some that had confidence in themselves as though they were righteous and despised the rest. 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray. The other one was a Separatist, and the other one a tax trader. 11 The Separatist stood and prayed about himself; ‘Supermights, I thank you that I’m not like other people: preying, wicked, adulterous, or even like this tax trader. 12 I fast twice in one week. I tithe everything I own.’

13 “Then the tax trader, standing at a distance away would not even lift his eyes towards the sky, but beat his chest saying; ‘Supermights, be merciful to me a sinner.’ 14 “Let me tell you, this one went down to his house regarded as righteous than the other because everyone that elevates themselves will be brought low. But the one that humbles themselves will be lifted.”

LIFESAVIOUR BLESSES CHILDREN

15 Then they were also bringing infants to him so that he would touch them. But the disciples looked at it and prevented them. 16 But Lifesaviour called them and said; “Allow the little children to come to me and do not prevent them because Supermights's reign is truly for these ones. 17 I assure you, whoever does not accept Supermights's reign like a child will not enter it at all.”

LIFESAVIOUR CHALLENGES A RICH YOUNG RULER

18 Then a certain ruler asked him a question saying; “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 But Lifesaviour said to him; “Why do you call me good? No one is good except Supermights only! 20 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery. Do not murder. Do not steal. Do not be an untrue witness. Honour your father and mother.’” 21 But he said; “All of these I’ve observed from my youthfulness.”

22 When Lifesaviour heard this, he said to him; “Now you have one thing left! Sell everything that you have and share it with the poor and you’ll have treasure in Heaven. Then, come and follow me.” 23 But when he heard this, he became intensely grieved because he was wealthy. 24 When Lifesaviour noticed that he was intensely sad, he said; “How hard it is for those that have wealth to enter the reign of Supermights! 25 It is even easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a wealthy person to enter Supermights's reign.”

26 Those that also heard it asked; “Then, who can be saved?” 27 So he replied; “Impossibilities with human beings are possible with Supermights!”

28 Then Peter said; “Look, we’ve left everything and followed you!” 29 But he said to them; “I assure you, there is nobody that has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children for the sake of Supermights's reign 30 who will not receive much more in due time and in the world to come - eternal life.”

LIFESAVIOUR PREDICTS HIS MESSIANIC SUFFERING

31 Lifesaviour also took the twelve aside and said to them; “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything written by the prophets about the Kin of Humanity will be fulfilled. 32 For indeed, he’ll be handed over to foreigners. Then he’ll be jeered, then abused and spat on. 33 They’ll also lash and kill him. But on the third day, he’ll resurrect.” 34 But they did not understand any of these things. So this statement was concealed from them, and they did not understand its meaning.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BLIND MAN

35 It also happened that as he was approaching towards Jericho, a certain blind man sat along the route begging. 36 But hearing the crowd passing through, he asked what it was. 37 When they told him that Lifesaviour of Nazareth was coming through 38 he then shouted saying; “Lifesaviour, son of David, have mercy on me!

39 Then those that were in front scolded him so that he should be quiet. But he screamed much louder; “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

40 So Lifesaviour stopped and ordered him to be brought to him. When he came near, he asked him, 41 saying; “What do you want to be done to you?” He then replied; “Sir, that I may recover my eyesight!” 42 “Then Lifesaviour said to him; “See! Your faith has healed you.”

43 So immediately he recovered his eyesight. Then he followed him glorifying Supermights. Then all the people that watched it gave praise to Supermights.

Luke 19

LIFESAVIOUR LODGES AT ZACCHEUS’ HOUSE

1 Then he came to pass through Jericho. 2 But there was a fellow, who was called by the name Zacchaeus, and he was a principal tax trader, and he was wealthy. 3 So he wanted to see who Lifesaviour was, but could not because of the crowd because he was short in height. 4 So he ran ahead to climb up on a sycamore tree to see him as he was going to pass that way. 5 So when Lifesaviour came to the place, he looked up, saw him and said to him; “Zacchaeus, quickly come down because today I must stay at your house.”

6 He then quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully. 7 But when they noticed it, they all complained throughout the crowd saying that he was going to lodge with a sinful man. 8 But Zacchaeus stopped to say to the Lord; “Look, Sir, one-half of my possessions I’ll donate to the poor, and if I’ve defrauded anyone anything I’ll repay it four times.” 9 Then Lifesaviour spoke towards him; “Today salvation has come to this house as he is also a son of Abraham! 10 Indeed, the Kin of Humanity came to seek and to save the lost.”

LIFESAVIOUR URGES ENGAGED ANTICIPATION

11 While they were listening to these things, he went further to tell a parable. He was nearing Jerusalem, and they thought that the reign of Supermights was to appear immediately. 12 So he said; “A certain nobleman went to a far country to obtain his rulership. 13 But he called his ten servants to offer them ten thousand rands and said to them; ‘Trade until I come.’

14 But his citizens hated him. So they sent a representation after him to say; ‘We do not want him to reign over us.’

15 It happened that when he returned, having been offered rulership, he then called those servants he had given money so that he could know how much everyone had earned. 16 When the first one came, he said; ‘Sir, your thousand rands has earned ten thousand rands.’ 17 Then he said to him; ‘Well done, good servant. Since you have been trustworthy in small things you’ll be given jurisdiction over ten cities.’ 18 Then the second one came to say; ‘Sir, your thousand rands has yielded five thousand rands.’ 19 He also said to him too; ‘You are also to be over five cities.’

20 Then the next one came to say; ‘Sir, here’s your thousand rands which I’ve stashed in a handkerchief 21 because I was afraid of you because you are demanding man. You pick up what you have not planted, and reap what you did not sow.’ 22 But he said to him; ‘I’ll condemn you by your own mouth, you malicious servant. You knew that I was a demanding man, picking up where I’ve not planted, and reaping where I did not sow.

23 Why then did you not deposit my money in the bank so that at my return it might have accumulated its own interest?’ 24 Then he said to his aides; “Take the thousand rands from him, and offer it to the one that has ten thousand rands.” 25 But they replied to him; ‘Lord, he has ten thousand rands!’ 26 ‘I tell you that everyone who has will be given more, but from the one who does not have, even what they have will be taken away. 27 But those enemies of mine that did not want me to reign over them bring them here and execute them before me.”

28 Then after speaking, he travelled ahead, going up towards Jerusalem. 29 Then, as soon as he was near Bethphage and Bethany, towards a hill called Mount Olives, he sent two of his disciples, 30 He said; “Go into a village directly opposite. When you enter that you’ll find a colt tied over that nobody has ever mounted. Untie it to drive it here. 31 But if anyone asks you; ‘Why do you untie it?’ you are to speak this way to him; ‘Because the Lord needs it.’

32 Those sent out also went to find it just as he had told them. 33 But as they were untying that colt, its owners said to them; “Why are you untying the colt?” 34 They also replied; “The Lord needs it.” 35 Then they brought it to Lifesaviour, and they threw their clothes on the colt. They caused Lifesaviour to mount on it. 36 But as they travelled on, they strewed their clothes on the road. 37 As he was now approaching towards the incline of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to hail Godly praises with a loud voice around all the miraculous works they had seen. 38 They were saying; “Blessed is the King that comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Then some of the Separatists from the crowd said to him; “Teacher, restrain your disciples.”40 Then he replied to them; “Let me tell you this, if these become quiet, these stones will shout.”

41 Then as soon as he came nearer, looking at the city, he wept over it. 42 He was saying; “If you had indeed known, at least today, the things that concern your peace. But they are now hidden from your eyes. 43 Indeed judgement days will arrive upon you, and your enemies will throw trenches all around you, and ambush you, and press you on every side. 44 They’ll then dismantle you and your children witlitreyou, and they’ll not leave a stone upon stone because you did not realise the time of your investigation.”

LIFESAVIOUR INFURIATES THE LEADERS

45 He then entered the Sanctuary, began to chase out the traders inside, as well as the buyers, 46 saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house will be a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of gangsters!”

47 Then he taught daily in the Sanctuary. But the chief priests and the learned as well as the prominent people were planning to kill him. 48 But they could not find a way they could do it because the people listened carefully to hear him.

Luke 20

LIFESAVIOUR’ AUTHORITY IS QUESTIONED

1 Then it happened on one of those days, as he was teaching the people in the Sanctuary, and he was preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the learned came up with the elders. 2 They then spoke to him asking; “Tell us, by what authority do you do these things, and who is it that gave you this authority?” 3 He answered them, “I’ll also ask you a question, and you tell me: 4 John’s baptism – was it from Heaven or from humans?” 5 But they deliberated among themselves, saying, “If we’ll say, ‘From Heaven,’ he’ll say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ 6 But if we say, ‘From humans,’ all the people will stone us because they are convinced that John was a prophet.” 7 So they replied that they could not know where it came from. 8 Then Lifesaviour said to them, “I’ll not even tell you by what authority I do these things.”

9 But he began to tell this parable to the people; “A certain man planted a vineyard and leased it to farmers. Then he went abroad for a long while. 10 Then during the season, he sent a servant to the farmers so that they would give him some of the fruit from the vineyard. But the farmers beat him. They sent him away empty. 11 Then he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully. They sent him away empty. 12 So again he sent a third one. They also wounded and drove him out. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said; ‘What should I do? I’ll send my dear son. Perhaps, they’ll be respectful on seeing him.’

14 But when the farmers saw him, they deliberated among themselves ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him so the inheritance will become ours!’ 15 So they threw him out of the vineyard to kill him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 he’ll come and destroy those farmers and lease the vineyard to others.” When they understood this, they said, “May this never happen!” 17 But he looked at them and said, “Then what is the meaning of what is written: ‘The stone the house builders have rejected has become the principal cornerstone’? 18 Whoever falls on that stone will be shattered. But whoever the rock falls on, will be pulverised.” 19 Then the chief priests and the learned tried to lay hands on him that very instant but they feared the people as they realised that he had told that parable against them.

LIFESAVIOUR NAVIGATES CONTROVERSIES

20 Then they watched him scrupulously. They sent spies who would disguise themselves pious men so that they could trap him by his words - to deliver him up to the magisterial and jurisdictional authority of the governor. 21 So they questioned him saying; “Teacher, we realise that you say and teach in the right way, and you do not respect a person’s face. Instead, you teach Supermights's way truthfully. 22 Is it right or not for us to give tribute to Caesar?” 23 But he detected their sophistry. He said to them; 24 “Show me a coin. Whose image and inscription does it have?” So they replied; “Caesar’s.” 25 So He also said to them; “Then give to Caesar Caesar’s and Supermights Supermights'.” 26 So they could not twist his words in the presence of the people, and stumped by his answer, they kept quiet.

27 But there approached some of the Sacerdotalists disputing there is any resurrection. They asked him; 28 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies having a wife, but he dies childless, then his brother must marry the wife and produce seed for his brother.

29 There were then seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childlessly. 30 Then the second 31 and then the third married her also. In the same way, also the seven died, leaving no children. 32 But eventually, everyone and the Woman died. 33 Then, in the resurrection, whose wife of these men will the Woman be because all seven had her as a wife? 34 Then, answering, Lifesaviour said to them; “The children of this world marry and are given to marriage. 35 But those deemed entirely deserving to enjoy that world and the resurrection from the dead do not marry, and are not even given to marriage. 36 Indeed they cannot die anymore because they are messengeric and are Supermights's children - being children of the resurrection. 37 Now that the dead are being raised, even Moses intimated at the bush when he describes Lifegiver as the Supermights of Abraham, and the Supermights of Isaac and the Supermights Jacob. 38 Now he is not the Supermights of the dead but of the living because everyone is alive to him. 39 Then some of the learned responded by saying; “Teacher, you spoke well.” 40 But they did not dare to question him at all. 41 But he spoke on to them; “How do you say that the Designated is David’s son 42 yet David himself says in the book of Psalms; ‘Lifegiver said to my Master, “Sit at my right hand, 43 until I make your enemies your footrest.”’ 44 If David then calls him ‘Master,’ how can he be his son?”

LIFESAVIOUR WARNS ABOUT JURISTS

45 While all the people were listening, he said to his disciples; 46 “Be careful of the learned. They gladly walk about in long robes and are fond of salutations in the market squares and preeminent seats in the local congregations and highest places at banquets. 47 Some devour widows’ households, and for pretence, they make long prayers. Those will receive greater judgement.

Luke 21

LIFESAVIOUR PRAISES QUALITY GIVING

1 Now he looked up, spotted the wealthy putting their offering into the treasury box. 2 He also saw a certain poor widow putting there two coins. 3 Then he said; “Truly I tell you, this poor widow put in more than everyone 4 because all of these have put their offerings for Supermights from their excess. But she has put from her poverty, all the livelihood that she had.”

LIFESAVIOUR PREDICTS FUTURE DESTRUCTION AND END

5 When some spoke of the Sanctuary, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and gifts, he said; 6 “These things that you are looking at, days are coming when there will be no stone on another stone that will not be thrown down.”

7 But they asked him saying; “Teacher, but when will these happen, and what will be the signs that these are about happen? 8 But he said; “Be careful that you are not deceived because many will come in my name claiming to be me, and that time is approaching. Do not go after them.

9 "When you hear of wars and commotions, do not be frightened because these things must happen first. But the end is not immediately.”

10 Then he said to them; “People will rise against people and realm against the realm. 11 Even massive earthquakes will be in different localities. Droughts and plagues too. Both portent sights and great signs will fall from Heaven. 12 But before all of these, they’ll lay their hands on you and persecute you, surrendering you to assemblies and prisons. You’ll be brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake. 13 But it will turn out to be a testimony for you. 14 Bur resolve in your minds now not to premeditate what your defence will be 15 because I’ll empower your mouth and wisdom with whatever things your opposition will not be able to refute or oppose. 16 "You’ll also be surrendered by both parents, and brothers, relatives and friends, and they’ll kill some of you. 17 You’ll even be hated by everyone for my name’s sake. 18 Yet not a hair of your head will be lost. 19 Through your endurance, you’ll gain your lives.

20 “But when you see Jerusalem ambushed by troops, realise then that the devastation is near. 21 At that time, let those that are in Judaea flee to the mountains, and let those that are in it leave. Then let those that are in the fields go further in them 22 because these are the days of retribution, everything that is written will be fulfilled. 23 But pity to those that are pregnant and those that are suckling during those days because there will be great distress on the Earth, and punishment on these people. 24 Then they’ll fall by the edge of the sword and will be led into captivity throughout all nationalities. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the foreigners until the times of the nationalities expire.

25 “Then there will be signs in the sun and the moon and in the stars. The nationalities on the Earth will be distressed with perplexity. The sea and the waves will be reverberating. 26 People’s hearts will melt because of fear and apprehension from what is impending on Earth because the powers of Heaven will be stirred up. 27 Then at that time, they’ll see the Kin of Humanity coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to happen, look up, and lift your heads because your deliverance is approaching."

29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they already sprout up, you take note. You know for yourselves that summer is already near. 31 So in that way, whenever these things happen, you must realise that Supermights's reign is near. 32 I assure you that this generation will not go past until all these would take place. 33 Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my statements will never pass away.

34 “But be careful for yourselves, in case at any time your hearts be obsessed with debauchery and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day springs upon you suddenly. 35 Like a trap, it will overcome everyone that lives on the surface of the entire Earth. 36 Keep alert. Pray through all the time so that you’ll be deemed entirely deserving to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Kin of Humanity.”

37 At that time every day, he would teach in the Sanctuary, but at night he would go away to lodge in the hill that is called Mount of Olives. 38 But all the people would come to him in the Sanctuary early in the morning to listen to him.

Luke 22

JUDAS CONTRACTED TO BETRAY LIFESAVIOUR

1 At that time the Festival of Unraised Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. 2 Then the chief priests and the learned were trying to find a way to kill him, yet they were afraid of the people. 3 But Satan entered Judas, dubbed Iscariot, who was one of the twelve. 4 So he went away to consult with the chief priests and captains on how he could deliver him to them. 5 They were so delighted, and they agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and planned an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of the crowd.

LIFESAVIOUR REDEFINES PASSOVER

7 Now there came the day of the Festival of Unraised Bread on which the Passover sacrifice must be slaughtered. 8 Then he sent Peter and John saying; “Go and prepare us the Passover meal that we may eat.”9 But they said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare?” 10 He said to them, “Listen, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Accompany him into the house that he enters 11 and tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guest room where I’ll eat the Passover with my disciples?’ 12 Then he’ll show you a big room upstairs furnished. Prepare there.” 13 So they went away and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

14 So when the time had come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15 Then he said to them; “With a longing, I had desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 Yet let me tell you, I’ll no longer eat from it though until such time it is fulfilled in Supermights's reign.”

17 Then he took the cup and gave thanks saying; “Take this and share it among yourselves. 18 For indeed I tell you, I’ll not drink from the fruit of the vine until the time of the reign of Supermights comes.”

19 Then he took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying; “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 20 He did this way too with a cupful after supper saying; “This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is spilt for you. 21 But there is the hand of the one that betrays me with mine on the table. 22 In fact, the Kin of Humanity is going away just as it was appointed but shame on that man through whom he is delivered.”

23 So they began to argue among one another as to who of them could perhaps do this.

LIFESAVIOUR’ DISCIPLES STILL CONTEND OVER GREATNESS

24 There also arose a dispute among them about who should be regarded as greater. 25 But he said to them; “The leaders of the people boss it over them, and their controllers demand that they be called Benefactors. 26 Not so with you; instead, the one who is eldest among you must become like the youngest, and the one deemed a leader must be the servant. 27 For who is greater? The one that sits at the table or the one that serves? Surely, not the one that sits at the table. But I’m among you throughout as the one that serves. 28 Since you are the ones that constantly stayed with me in my trials, 29 so I assign you rulership, just as my Patron has assigned me 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my reign and sit on the thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

LIFESAVIOUR PREDICTS PETER’S EMPHATIC DENIAL

31 Then the Lord said; “Simon, Simon, watch out! Satan desires to crush you as wheat. 32 But I’ve prayed for you so that your faith may not fail, and when you are converted, strengthen your brothers.” 33 Then he replied to him; “Sir, I’m prepared to go with you, both to prison and to death.” 34 But he replied; “Let me tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today before you have denied me three times that you know me.”

LIFESAVIOUR PREPARES THE DISCIPLES FOR TRYING TIMES

35 Then he said to them; “When I sent you without purse and wallet or shoes, did you lack anything?” They then said; “Nothing!” 36 But now he said to them; “But after now the one that has a purse must carry it as well as the wallet too. Then the one that does not have it let him sell his clothes and buy a sword.

37 "Yet let me tell you that which is written must still be fulfilled about me; ‘And he was numbered among the lawbreakers.’ For what is written about me is being fulfilled.” 38 But they said to the Lord; “Look, here are two swords.” But he said to them; “It must be enough!”

LIFESAVIOUR PRAYS INTENSELY DURING TRYING TIMES

39 Then Lifesaviour went out, travelling away, as he used to do, to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples also followed him. 40 But when he was at the place, he said to them; “Pray that you do not enter into temptation.” 41 Then he withdrew from them, about a stone’s throw away, and he knelt down to pray. 42 He was saying; “Father, if you are willing, avert this cup from me. Yet not my will but yours be done.” 43 But an messenger from heaven appeared to him to strengthen him. 44 Then in his growing anguish, he prayed more earnestly. But his sweat was as if significant drops of blood were falling to the ground. 45 When he rose from the prayer, he came to the disciples. He found them falling asleep. Out of sorrow 46 he said to them; “Why are you falling asleep. Rise to pray so that you do not enter into temptation!”

LIFESAVIOUR IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED

47 While he was still speaking, there was a group led by the one called Judas, one of the twelve, and he approached Lifesaviour to embrace him. 48 But Lifesaviour said to him; “Judas, you betray the Kin of Humanity with an embrace?” 49 When those around him realised what would follow, they said to him; “Lord, should we strike with the swords?” 50 Then someone from them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Lifesaviour responded by saying; “Stop this here!” Then he touched his ear to heal him. 52 But Lifesaviour said to the chief priests and captains of the Sanctuary and the elders that had come to him; “Have you come out with swords and clubs as against a gangster? 53 I was with you daily in the Sanctuary; you never stretched your hands against me. But this is that moment and that of the power of darkness.”

PETER DENIES LIFESAVIOUR AS PREDICTED

54 But they took him, led and brought him to the high priest’s house, and Peter followed from a distance. 55 When they had kindled a fire in the centre of the courtyard, and they had sat down together, Peter sat down as one among them. 56 But a certain girl spotted him as he sat by the fire, and she fastened her eyes on him. She said; “This man was with him too!” 57 But he denied it saying; “Lady, I do not know him!”

58 Then after a short while, someone else spotted him and said; “You are also from them.” But Peter said; “Man, I’m not!”

59 Then after about a space of one hour, another confidently insisted; “That is true. This man was also with him, no doubt he is a Galilean too. 60 But Peter replied; “Man, I do not know what you are saying.” Then immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed?

61 Then the Lord turned about and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the statement of the Lord how he had told him; “Before the cock crow, you’ll have denied me three times.” 62 Then Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

LIFESAVIOUR IS RIDICULE AND BEATEN

63 Then the men that had arrested Lifesaviour jeered him. They beat him.

64 They then blindfolded him, punched him on the face and teased him saying; “Prophesy, who hit you?” 65 They also said other blasphemous things against him.

THE JEWISH COUNCIL CONDEMNS LIFESAVIOUR

66 Then as soon as it was daytime, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the learned convened. They then led him to their joint council saying; 67 “Now, are you the Designated? Tell us.” Then he said; “If I tell you, you’ll not believe it, 68 and if I ask you, you’ll not answer me, or release me. 69 But from now on, the Kin of Humanity will be seated at the right hand of the power of Supermights.”

70 But they all spoke; “Are you then the Kin of Supermights?” But he said; “You say that I’m.” 71 But they said; “Why do we need further evidence because we’ve heard it ourselves from his mouth!”

Luke 23

CIVIL AUTHORITIES TRY LIFESAVIOUR

1 Then the whole group stood up together to bring him to Pilate.

2 Then they began to accuse him saying; “We found this one misleading the nation and preventing them from giving tribute to Caesar, claiming that he himself is the appointed king.” 3 But Pilate asked him saying; “Are you the king of the Jews?” But he responded to him saying; “You say.”

4 But Pilate said to the chief priests and to the people; “I find no crime against this man.”

5 But they were fiercer insisting; “He agitates the people teaching throughout the entire Judaea. It started in Galilee up to here.” 6 When Pilate heard about Galilee, he inquired if the man was a Galilean. 7 When he learned that he was from Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod who himself had also come to Jerusalem at that time.

LIFESAVIOUR MEETS HEROD

8 Now when Herod saw Lifesaviour, he was elated because he had wanted to see him for a long while. He had heard many things about him and had hoped to see some miracle performed by him. 9 Now he questioned him in many matters, but he did not answer him. 10 The chief priests and the learned were also present, fiercely accusing him. 11 Herod, with his army, treated him with contempt and mocked him. Dressing him in elegant clothes, he sent him back to Pilate. 12 Now since that very day, Pilate and Herod became friends with each other because previously there had been tensions between each other.

LIFESAVIOUR TAKES THE PLACE OF BARABBAS

13 When Pilate called the chief priests, the rulers, and the people together, 14 he said to them, “You brought me this man as one who agitates the people. There and then I interrogated him before you. I’ve not found the crime you accuse this man of committing 15 not even Herod as I sent you to him. Look, he has done nothing warranting death. 16 Therefore I’ll punish and release him.” 17 Besides, it was mandatory that he must release one before the Festival. 18 But they screamed simultaneously saying; “Away with him. Rather release Barabbas for us!” 19 He had been thrown into prison because of some revolt he had orchestrated in the city as well for murder. 20 Pilate, intending to release Lifesaviour, spoke to them again. 21 But they shouted saying; “Crucify, crucify him!”

22 But he said to them a third time; “Why? What crime has he committed? I’ve found no crime of death against him. I’ll, therefore, punish and release him.” 23 But they were pressing on with loud shouts, demanding that he be crucified. Then their shouts and of the chief priests were intimidating. 24 So Pilate gave the sentence they kept demanding, 25 and released to them on that occasion the insurgent and murderer that was thrown into prison, something they wanted. He also surrendered Lifesaviour to their discretion.

LIFESAVIOUR CRUCIFIED AS A CRIMINAL BUT ACKNOWLEDGED AS A KING

26 Then they took him away. They seized some man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming out of a field. They thrust on him the cross to carry it behind Lifesaviour. 27 A large crowd of people accompanied him, including women who were lamenting and grieving for him. 28 But Lifesaviour turning to them said; “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not cry for me but cry for yourselves and for your children. 29 For because there are coming days in which they’ll say; “Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never conceived and the breast that never suckled. 30 At that time they’ll start to say to the mountains; ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills; ‘Cover us!’ 31 For if they do these things with a fresh wet tree, what will be done with the desiccated dry one?”

32 But there were also two other criminals led away with him to execution.

33 Then when they reached a spot called Cranium Hill, they crucified him there and the criminals, one on the right side and the other on the left.

34 Then Lifesaviour said; “Patron, forgive them because they do not understand what they are doing.” They also distributed his clothes by throwing a dice.

35 Then the people that stood by watching, as well as the rulers besides them, teased him saying; “He saved others; let him save himself if he is Supermights's Designated Designated.”

36 The soldiers also teased him. Approaching to offer him vinegar, 37 they also said; “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” 38 But they also had an inscription written above him in Greek, Latin and Hebrew letters;

“THIS MAN IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

39 One of the criminals that was hanging also teased him saying; “If you are the Designated, save yourself and us.” 40 But the other one responded to reprimand him; “Do you not fear Supermights because you are in the same judgement. 41 Yet we, in fact, deserve it because we received the due reward for our deeds. But this man has done nothing improper.” 42 Then he said the Lord, “Lifesaviour, remember me when your reign comes.” 43 Then Lifesaviour said to him; “I assure you today, you’ll be with me in paradise.”

LIFESAVIOUR DIES AS A CRIMINAL BUT IS BURIED DECENTLY

44 It was about twelve o’clock, and darkness fell over the entire Earth until three o’clock. 45 Then the sun was obscured, and the curtain of the Sanctuary was torn in the centre. 46 When Lifesaviour had cried with a loud voice, he said, “Patron, into your hands, I present my life.” Then, having said that, he died.

47 But the centurion, watching what had happened, glorified Supermights saying; “This was really a holy man!” 48 Then all the people that had convened for that spectacle, seeing what had happened, thumped their breasts in regret. 49 But all his acquaintances and the women that followed him from Galilee stood from a distance watching these occurrences. 50 But present there was a man called Joseph, a member of the council. He was a good and just man. 51 This man had not consented to their plan and deed. He was from Arimathaea, a Judean town. He had also been waiting for Supermights's reign. 52 This man went to Pilate and requested the body of Lifesaviour. 53 Then he lowered it down, wrapped it in linen and placed it in a quarried tomb where no one had ever been buried.

54 But it was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was beginning to dawn. 55 The women that had accompanied him from Galilee followed him watching the tomb and how his body was buried. 56 They would have turned back to prepare spices and perfumed oil. But they, in fact, refrained in respect of the Sabbath commandment.

Luke 24

LIFESAVIOUR HAS RISEN

1 Then very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared, and there were some persons with them. 2 But they discovered that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb.3 When they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Lifesaviour. 4 It occurred that while they were perplexed by this, there suddenly stood by them two fellows in flashing clothes. 5 But they [the women] were terrified, and they bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them; “Why are you looking for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here. Instead, he is resurrected. Remember how he spoke to you while he was still in Galilee? 7 He said; ‘The Kin of Humanity must be given over to the hands of sinful human beings, then be crucified and risen the third day again.’” 8 They then remembered his words.

9 Then they returned from the tomb. They reported all these things to the eleven and to the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, then Joana, then Mary of James and others with them who reported these things to the apostles. 11 But these words seemed like fables to them, and they did not believe them.

12 Peter also stood up, ran to the tomb, and peering in, he spotted the linen bandages remaining laid up alone. Then he left wondering witlitrehimself what had happened.

LIFESAVIOUR TRAVELS AS A STRANGER TO EMMAUS

13 Then there were two of them that same day that were travelling to a village called Emmaus, which is a distance of 12 kilometres away from Jerusalem. 14 So they were talking to each other about all the things that had transpired.

15 Then it happened that while they were conversing and discussing, suddenly Lifesaviour himself approached and journeyed with them. 16 But their eyes were held back - they did not recognise him. 17 Then he said to them; “What kind of conversation are you are having with one another as you are walking so long so sad?” 18 But one of them whose name was Cleopas responded to him by saying; “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem that does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 Then he said; “What things?” But they said to him; “About Lifesaviour of Nazareth who was a prophet before Supermights and all the people, powerful in action and word. 20 Even how the chief priests and our rulers handed him to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. 21 But we were expecting that it's him who would redeem Israel. Yet despite this, in addition to everything, tonight is passing the third day since some of these things have happened. 22 Yet some women also from our group amazed us. They happened to be at the tomb at dawn. 23 So when they did not find his body, they came saying they had also seen a vision of messengers who said he was alive. 24 Then some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see him.” 25 Then he said to them; “You are of unintelligent and slow minds to believe everything that the prophets said! 26 Wasn’t it necessary for the Designated to experience such things so to enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning from Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things about himself.

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS HIMSELF IN EMMAUS

28 Then they came close to the village where they were going, and he moved forward to travel further. 29 But they compelled him saying; “Stay with us because it is towards evening, and the day is down.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 Then it happened as he sat down at the table with them, he took bread to bless it, then broke it, gave it to them; 31 and their eyes were opened, then they recognised him. Then he disappeared from them. 32 Then they said to one another; “Were not our hearts set on fire witlitreus in the way he spoke to us along the way when he opened Scriptures to us?” 33 Then they got up that very moment, returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven and those that were with them gathered together. 34 Then they were saying; “The Lord has really risen, and he has appeared to Simon.” 35 They also told them what happened on the road, and how he was recognisable to them through the breaking of the bread.

LIFESAVIOUR SURPRISES THE DISCIPLES

36 As they were speaking this way, Lifesaviour himself stood among them and said to them; “Peace to you.” 37 But they were scared and were trembling thinking it was a spectacle of a phantom. 38 Then he said to them; “Why are you disturbed and why do imaginings spring up in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet - that it is me! Touch me and see because a phantom does not have flesh and bones as you see me have.” 40 When he had said that, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 But while they were still on incredible excitement and admiration, he said to them; “Do you have any food?” 42 But they gave him roasted fish 43 and, receiving it, he ate it before them.44 Then he said to them; “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you - that all things written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and in the Psalms about me must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand Scriptures. 46 Then he said to them; “As it is written and as it was necessary for the Designated to suffer then rise from the dead the third day 47 so repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name among all nationalities starting from Jerusalem. 48 But you are witnesses of these things. 49 So, look, I’m sending you my Patron’s promise to you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are invested with power from on high.”

LIFESAVIOUR IS AIRLIFTED TO HEAVEN

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted his hands blessing them. 51 So it happened that while he was blessing them, he was removed from them and carried to Heaven. 52 Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 Then they were continually in the Sanctuary, praising and blessing Supermights.

John 1

SUPERMIGHTS’ ETERNAL LIFE PLAN

1 Originally this was the plan, and the plan was by Supermights, and Supermights himself was the plan, 2 thus it was with Supermights from the inception. 3 Everything happened through it, and there is not one thing that happened without it. 4 Witlitreit was Life and that Life was the Light of humanity, 5 and that Light keeps shining through the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

JOHN TESTIFIES ABOUT LIFESAVIOUR THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

6 There emerged a certain man sent by Supermights. His name was John. 7 This man came as a witness to testify about the Light that everyone through him might believe. 8 He was himself not the Light, but he was to testify about the Light - 9 the genuine Light that enlightens every person was coming to enter the world. 10 He was in the world, the very world that was created through him, yet the world did not recognise him. 11 He came to his own, but his own didn't welcome him. 12 But all those that received him, those that believed in his name, he gave them the right to become Supermights' children - 13 those born not from blood, not from physical desire, not from human desire but by Supermights.

THE ENFLESHED PLAN REVEALS SUPERMIGHTS’ FULL GLORY

14 As the plan got enfleshed and concretised among us, we even took a peek into its magnificence, magnificence as intimately unique to the Patron, complete proof of grace and truth.

15 John testified about him, and he shouted saying; “This is the one about whom I used to say; ‘The one that succeeds me predates me because he was before me.’" 16 So because of its fulfilment, all of us have indeed received grace on top of grace. 17 Though the law was given through Moses, grace and truth were realised through Lifesaviour the Designated. 18 No one has ever seen Supermights at any time. The unique Kin, being the closest to the Patron himself, has unfolded him.

JOHN DECLARES HE IS NOT HIMSELF the Designated

19 So this was John’s testimony when the Jews sent the priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him; “Who are you?” 20 Of course, he acknowledged it, and never denied it. Instead, he admitted; “I’m not the Designated.” 21 So they interrogated him; “Who are you then? Elijah?” But he said; “I’m not.” “Are you that Prophet?” Then he replied; “No!” 22 They eventually said to him; “Who are you? This is so that we may give a response to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself? 23 He said; “I’m a voice screaming in the desert: straighten Supermights’s way!” He just quoted the Prophet, Isaiah. 24 So the delegation that was sent from the Separatists 25 then asked him and said; “Why do you then baptise if you are not the Designated, not Elijah or that Prophet?”26 John answered them, “I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you don't recognise. 27 The one who succeeds me precedes me, someone, whose shoelaces I’m unworthy to untie.” 28 These things happened in Bethabara across the Jordan, where John was baptising.

LIFESAVIOUR IS THE PRE-EXISTENT LAMB OF Supermights

29 The following day John spotted Lifesaviour coming to him, and he said; “There is Supermights's Lamb who removes the sin of the world! 30 This is the one about whom I said; ‘After me comes a man who preceded me because he preexisted me. 31 I didn't realise it was him until he was revealed to Israel - he is the reason I came baptising with water.”

32 John also testified saying; “I saw the Spirit descending from Heaven like a dove and settling on him. 33 I was not aware of him, but the one that sent me to baptise with water said to me; ‘The one who you see the Spirit settling on, he is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit. 34 I've seen, and I testify that this is Supermights’s Kin.’

LIFESAVIOUR’ FIRST FOLLOWERS

35 Again, the following day John and two of his disciples were standing 36 and looking at Lifesaviour as he walked by. He said; “There is Supermights's Lamb!”37 When the two disciples heard him speak, they then followed Lifesaviour. 38 When Lifesaviour turned around and noticed them following, he asked them; “What do you want?” So they said to him; “Rabbi, which is translated as ‘Teacher’, where do you stay?” 39 He said to them; “Come and see.” They followed and saw where he stayed. They stayed with him that day up to four o’clock.” 40 One of the two that heard John, and followed him, were Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We’ve found the Designated!” which is translated the Anointed. 42 So he brought him to Lifesaviour. When Lifesaviour looked at him and said, “You are Simon, the son of Jonah. You’ll be called Cephas” which is translated, Peter. 43 The following day Lifesaviour decided to go to Galilee. Then he found Phillip and said to him; “Follow me.” 44 Phillip was also from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. 45 Phillip found Nathanael and said to him; “We’ve found the one whom Moses in the Law, including the prophets described - Lifesaviour from Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Then Nathanael replied; “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Phillip said to him; “Come and see!”

47 Lifesaviour saw Nathanael coming towards him and shouted, “Look, a true Israelite in whom there is no deception!” 48 Nathanael asked him, “Where do you know me from?” Lifesaviour replied, “Before Philip called you, while you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” 49 Nathanael responded and said to him; “Teacher, you are Supermights’s Kin. You are the Foundation of Israel! 50 Lifesaviour responded and asked him; “Is it because I saw you under the fig tree that you believe? You’ll see greater things than these.” 51 Then he said to him; “I tell you a true fact, after this, you’ll see Heaven open up and Supermights’s messengers ascending and descending on the Kin of Humanity.

John 2

LIFESAVIOUR TURNS WATER TO WINE

1 Then on the third day, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Lifesaviour’ mother was also there. 2 Even Lifesaviour and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. 3 But when they needed wine, Lifesaviour’ mother said to him; “They have no wine.” 4 Lifesaviour replied; “Lady, why do you involve me? My time has not come yet.” 5 His mother said to the waiters; “Do whatever he tells you.”

6 Now there were laid up six stone water containers typically for the Jewish ceremonial purification rituals, each holding about 80 to 120 litres. 7 Lifesaviour said to them; “Fill the water jars with water.” So they filled them up to the brim. 8 Then he said to them; “Now, pour it and take it to the director of the ceremony.” So they carried it.

9 When the director of the ceremony had tasted the water that was turned into wine, and he had not observed where it came from, although the waiters who poured the water knew, the director of the ceremony called the bridegroom. 10 Then he said to him; “Some serve the best wine first, then when every guest has drunk well, then the inferior. You have kept the best wine until now.” 11 Lifesaviour performed the first of his miracles at Cana in Galilee, both to demonstrate his extraordinariness and for his disciple to believe in him. 12 After that, he went back to Capernaum; he, his mother and his brothers, but he and the disciples did not stay there many days.

LIFESAVIOUR OVERTURNS ESTABLISHED SANCTUARY TRADING

13 Since it was almost the Jewish Passover Festival, Lifesaviour also went up to Jerusalem. 14 When he was in the Sanctuary, he found oxen, sheep and dove vendors as well as money brokers settling down. 15 When he had made a whip from a rope, he chased everyone out of the Sanctuary as well as the sheep and the oxen. He then scattered money broker’ cash and overturned the tables. 16 He then said to dove vendors; “Remove these things from here. Do not turn my Patron’s house into a market kiosk.”

17 But his disciples recalled that it was written, “Zeal for your temple will devour me.” 18 Then the Jews began to react and asked him; “Show us by whose approval do you raise these issues?” 19 Lifesaviour responded and said to them; “Destroy this temple, but I’ll build it in three days.” 20 But the Jews said; “This temple was constructed in 46 years, and you’ll rebuild its ruins in three days?” 21 But he was speaking about his body temple.

22 When he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he meant that to them, and they believed Scripture and the statement which Lifesaviour had said.

LIFESAVIOUR DISCERNS HUMAN CURIOSITY

23 But while he was in Jerusalem during the Passover, throughout the Festival, many believed in his name when they discerned the miracles that he was performing. 24 But Lifesaviour would not trust one of them. He knew everyone. 25 He also did not need anyone to testify about humanity because he knew what was in humanity.

John 3

LIFESAVIOUR’ CONVERSATION WITH NICODEMUS

1 Then a certain man of the Separatists named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, 2 came to Lifesaviour during the night and spoke to him; “Master, we’ve observed that you are a teacher from Supermights. No doubt, nobody can perform the miracles that you do unless Supermights is with him.” 3 Lifesaviour responded and said to him; “Let me tell you a trustworthy fact: unless a person is reborn above, they are unable to perceive Supermights' reign.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “In what way can a person be born when he is old? Can they without entering their mother’s womb the second time be born?” 5 Lifesaviour replied; “Let me tell you a true fact unless a person is birthed from water and the Spirit, they are unable to enter Supermights' reign. 6 What is birthed from the body is physical and what is birthed from the Spirit is spiritual. 7 Don't be surprised that I said to you ‘You must have been reborn.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you can’t be sure of where it comes from and where it is going. This is the way of everyone that is born from the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus responded; “In what way would these happen?” 10 Lifesaviour answered, “Are you the teacher of Israel, yet you don’t understand these things? 11 Let me tell you a true fact; although we speak about what we understand, and testify about what we’ve experienced, you still do not accept our testimony. 12 Though I’ve told you earthly things, you don’t believe. How much will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 Yet no one has gone up to Heaven, except the one that has come down from Heaven - the Kin of Humanity. 14 Indeed just as Moses did the serpentine elevation in the desert, in this way the Kin of Humanity must be hung up. 15 This is so that whoever has faith in him will not perish but enjoy everlasting life. 16 This is how much Supermights so dearly loved the world that he gave his uniquely born Kin so that everyone that believes in him should not perish but enjoy everlasting life. 17 Surely Supermights did not send his Kin into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be delivered through him. 18 The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been judged already because he does not have faith in the name of the one and unique Kin of Supermights. 19 Now, this is the basis for judging: that the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were wicked. 20 For everyone who habitually practises evil deeds hates the light and does not come to the light so that their deeds will not be corrected. 21 But the one that observes the truth comes to the light so that their deeds may be shown up because they are effected through Supermights.”

JOHN’S DISCIPLES RECONFIRMS LIFESAVIOUR AS THE ANTICIPATED DESIGNATED

22 Following these events, Lifesaviour and his disciples went to the region of Judea, and he remained there with them, and they were baptising.

23 John was also baptising at Aenon near Salim because the water was plenty there, and they were coming to him and were baptised. 24 That was when John had not yet been thrown into prison.

25 There arose an argument between John’s disciples and the Jews about purification. 26 Then they came to John and asked him; “Teacher, the one that was with you across Jordan, the one who you testified about, is baptising, and everyone is going to him.” 27 John answered and said; “No human being can be able to hold anything except it be given them from Heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said; ‘I’m not the Designated’ but that I’m sent ahead of him.’ 29 It is the bridegroom who holds the bride. But the bridegroom’s friend supports and cheers him. He rejoices significantly because of the bridegroom’s announcement. In the same way, my joy is now complete. 30 He must advance, but I must lessen.

31 "The one who comes from above is above everyone. The one that is from the Earth is earthly and speaks about earthly things. The one that comes from Heaven is above everyone. 32 But he testifies about what he has experienced and understood yet no one accepts his testimony. 33 The one that has accepted his testimony has attested that Supermights is true. 34 For indeed the one whom Supermights has sent speaks the words of Supermights because Supermights does not give him the Spirit in part.

35 "The Patron loves the Kin and has placed everything in his hands. 36 The one who believes in the Kin has everlasting life. The one that does not believe in the Kin will not see life instead Supermights’ fury remains in them.”

John 4

LIFESAVIOUR REVEALS HIMSELF AS THE DESIGNATED TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

1 Then after the Lord became aware that the Seperatists had heard that Lifesaviour was raising and baptising more disciples than John. 2 However, Lifesaviour himself was not actually baptizing, other than his disciples, 3 he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 4 So he had to pass through Samaria, 5 and so he came to a Samaritan town called Sychar near the plot that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s fountain was also there. So feeling fatigued from the journey, Lifesaviour sat down near the fountain at about 12 o’clock, 7 a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Lifesaviour asked her; “Will you give me something to drink.” 8 His disciples had then gone to town to buy food. 9 Then the Samaritan woman asked him; “How can you, being a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink because Jews have no social interaction with Samaritans?” 10 Lifesaviour responded and said; “If you were aware of Supermights’s gift, and who it is who asked you; ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you water for a lifetime.” 11 The woman asked him; “Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the fountain is deep, from where then can you get water for a lifetime? 12 Are you any older than our forebear Jacob who gave us this fountain and drank from it himself and his children as well as his livestock?” 13 Lifesaviour replied and told her; “Everyone who drinks from this water will become thirsty again. 14 But whoever drinks from the water that I’ll give them will never be thirsty until eternity. Instead, the water I’ll give them will become in them a water fountain gushing until eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him; “Sir, give me this water so that I do not thirst, not even come here to scoop up.” 16 He said to her, “Go call your husband and come back here.” 17 The woman responded and said; “I do not have a husband.” Lifesaviour told her; “You spoke honestly; ‘I do not have a husband,’ 18 as you have had five husbands and the other one you now have isn’t your husband. So you spoke truthfully.” 19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I acknowledge that you are a prophet. 20 Our forebears worshipped in this mountain and you say that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 Lifesaviour told her; “Believe me, lady, a time is coming when you’ll worship the Patron neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you don't know. We know what we worship because salvation comes through the Jews. 23 But the time is coming, in fact, has arrived, when the true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth because the Patron seeks such to worship him. 24 Supermights is spirit, and those that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” 25 The woman said to him; “I know that the Designated is coming. Whenever the one called Designated comes, he’ll tell us everything.” 26 Lifesaviour told her; “I, the one speaking to you, am the one.”

27 Then at that point, his disciples appeared and were surprised that he was talking to a woman yet nobody asked; “What do you want?” or “Why are you speaking with her.” 28 The woman then left her water container and went off into the town and told the people; 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything that I’ve ever done. Is this not the Designated?” 30 They then went out of the town and came to him. 31 Meanwhile, his disciples were also urging him saying; “Master, eat.” 32 But he told them; “I’ve food to eat that you know nothing about.” 33 So the disciples asked each other; “Did anyone bring him something to eat?” 34 Lifesaviour said to them, “My food is to accomplish the mission of the one who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say there are still four months then comes the harvest? Look, I’m telling you to open your eyes and survey the fields because they are temperate, ready for harvest. 36 The one who reaps receives wages too and collects fruit for eternal life. So both the sower and the reaper rejoice together. 37 Therefore here this adage is true: Another one sows and the other reaps. 38 I’ve sent you to reap where you have not toiled. Others have worked hard, and you have come into their labour.” 39 So many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the message of the woman that testified; “He told me everything that I’ve ever done.”

40 So when the Samaritans came to him; they requested him to stay with them, and he stayed there for two days.

41 Then many more believed through his preaching. 42 They even said to the woman; “We no longer believe because of your message, but we’ve heard it for ourselves, and realise that this is indeed the Designated, the Deliverer of the world.”

LIFESAVIOUR PROCEEDS TO RECEPTIVE GALILEE

43 Then after two days he went away from there and went to Galilee.

44 Even though Lifesaviour himself had testified that a prophet is not esteemed in his own native town, 45 when he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him having seen everything that he had done in Jerusalem at the Festival because they had also gone to the Festival.

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A PROMINENT LOCAL’S SICK SON

46 Lifesaviour then went to Cana of Galilee again where he had turned the water to wine. But there was a prominent man whose son was sick in Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Lifesaviour had arrived back from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and begged him so that he would heal his son even though he was about to die.

48 Then Lifesaviour said to him; “Unless you see miracles and wonders, you’ll never believe.” 49 “The prominent man said to him; “Sir, come down before my child dies.” 50 Lifesaviour said to him; “Go, your son will live!” The man believed the promise that Lifesaviour spoke to him and went away.

51 While he was still travelling, his servant met him and told him the news; “Your son is alive.” 52 Then he asked from them the time during which he revived. They then told him; “Yesterday, at one o’clock, the fever left him.” 53 So the father realised that was the same time during which Lifesaviour had said to him; “Your son will live.” Then he, along with his entire family, became believers. 54 On the other hand, this was the second miracle Lifesaviour performed since he had returned from Judea to Galilee.

John 5

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A FRAIL MAN ON SABBATH, AND IT UNLEASHES FURY

1 Again following that one, there was a Jewish festival. So Lifesaviour went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there was in Jerusalem near the sheep market, a pool dubbed Bethesda in Hebrew. It had five covered entrances. 3 Under these laid high numbers of sickly people; the blind, the disabled, the withered, waiting for the stirring of the water. 4 An messenger would occasionally drop into the pool and stir the water. Then after the disturbance of the water, the first one to step in would be well whatever disease gripped them. [ALTHOUGH THIS TEXT IS OMITTED IN THE EARLIER MANUSCRIPTS]

5 There was also a certain man that had sustained frailty for thirty-eight years. 6 Lifesaviour saw him lying down, and realising that he had already been diseased a long time, he asked him; “Do you wish to be well?” 7 The disabled man replied to him; “Sir, I’ve no one to dip me into the pool whenever the water is stirred. But when I’m coming in, someone else jumps in ahead of me.” 8 Lifesaviour said to him; “Get up, pick up your mattress and walk!” 9 Then the man was immediately healed. He then took up his mattress and walked. But on that day it was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the one healed; “It is the Sabbath, is it permissible for you to carry your mattress?” 11 He answered them; “The one that performed my healing is the same one that told me; ‘Pick up your mattress and walk.’” 12 Then they asked him, “Who is the man that told you, ‘Pick up your mattress and walk’?” 13 But the man who had been healed didn't know who it was because Lifesaviour had sneaked away among the crowd that was in the area.

14 Later Lifesaviour found him in the Sanctuary and told him; “See, you are well. Do not sin any more so that something worst happens to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Lifesaviour that had made him healthy.

16 So as a result of this, the Jews started harassing Lifesaviour and tried to kill him because he had performed these things on Sabbath. 17 So he told them, “My Patron is working up to now. I’m also working.” 18 As a result of this too the Jews tried harder to kill him because he had not only violated the Sabbath but had also said that Supermights was his Patron, making himself equal with Supermights. 19 Lifesaviour then responded and told them; “Let me tell you a trustworthy fact, the Kin cannot do anything by himself but what he sees the Patron doing because whatever he does those things the Kin does too. 20 The Patron loves the Kin and shows him everything that he himself does, and he’ll show him greater acts than these so that you may be surprised. 21 Just as the Patron raises the dead and revitalises them, even the Kin gives life to whomever he decides. 22 Even though the Patron does not judge, instead has conferred all judgement to the Kin 23 so that everyone will revere the Kin just as they revere the Patron. The one that does not revere the Kin does not revere the Patron who sent him.”

24 “Let me tell you a trustworthy fact, the one that hears my message and trusts the one that sent me has eternal life, and will not come to condemnation but has passed from death to life. 25 Let me tell you a trustworthy fact, a time is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Kin of Supermights, and those who hear it will live 26 for just as the Patron has life in himself, in the same way, he has also granted his Kin to have life in himself too. 27 Further, he has also conferred his power to execute judgement too because he is the Kin of Humanity.

28 “Don't be surprised at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice 29 and will come out - those who've done good things - to the resurrection of life and those that have done evil things to the resurrection of condemnation. 30 I can do nothing on my own, not even one thing I do. Just as I listen, I decide, and my judgment is only because I do not seek my own agenda but the pleasure of the Patron who sent me.

31 “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid. 32 There is someone else who testifies about me, and I acknowledge that the evidence that he testifies about me is valid. 33 You sent a delegation because of John, and he gave you a truthful testimony. 34 But I do not depend on human confirmation, but I’m relating this so that you may be saved. 35 He was a burning and shining lamp. You were also willing to rejoice in his light for a season. 36 But I’ve more valid confirmation than John’s - because the works which the Patron has given me to accomplish, the works that I’m doing, bear witness about me that the Patron has sent me. 37 In addition, the Patron who sent me has himself testified about me. You did not even hear his voice or discern his form anytime. 38 You have also not kept his word to stay in you; that is why you have not believed the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think through them you have eternal life yet they are the ones that testify about me, 40 but you are not willing to come to me so that you may have eternal life.

41 “I do not get honour from human beings, 42 and I realise that you do not have Supermights’ love in you. 43 I’ve come in my Patron’s name, and you do not welcome me. If someone else comes in their own name, you’ll welcome them. 44 In what way will you be able to believe, offering each other praise while trying to dishonour the only one from Supermights?

45 “Do not think I that I’ll charge you before the Patron. The one who charges you is Moses on whom you rely. 46 If you had indeed believed Moses, you would have been able to believe me because he wrote about me. 47 But if you didn't believe his writings, how will you believe my words.”

John 6

LIFESAVIOUR FEEDS A CROWD OF ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE

1 After these things, Lifesaviour sailed across the sea of Galilee to Tiberias. 2 A big crowd was also following him because they were watching the miracles he was performing on the sick. 3 But Lifesaviour climbed up the mountain and sat there with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was nearing.

5 Lifesaviour then looked up and saw that the big crowd that was coming towards him. He said to Phillip; “Where will we buy bread so that these may eat?” 6 But he asked this to test him because he knew what he intended to do. 7 Phillip answered him; “Two hundred days’ wages worth of bread would not be sufficient for them so that every one of them should get some piece.” 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, told him; 9 “There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are these for such a number?” 10 But Lifesaviour said; “Make the people sit down.” But there was a lot of vegetation in the plain. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

11 Lifesaviour then took the bread and gave thanks. He distributed it to the disciples and the disciples to those who were seated. He then did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples; “Collect the leftover pieces so that nothing may be wasted.” 13 They collected and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves which were left over by those that had eaten. 14 When the people realised the miracle that Lifesaviour had performed, they said; “He is surely that Prophet who was to come into the world.”

15 Lifesaviour, then realising that they were about to come and seize him to crown him king, retreated back into the mountain to be alone.

LIFESAVIOUR WALKS ON THE SEA WATER

16 But when evening came, his disciples went down to the sea. 17 They then boarded into a vessel and went across the sea towards Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Lifesaviour had not come to them. 18 Then the sea was stirred up by a strong blowing wind. 19 But when they had rowed about five or six kilometres, they spotted Lifesaviour walking on the sea, and following behind the vessel. They were so frightened. 20 But he said to them; “It is me. Do not be frightened.” 21 So they gladly welcomed him into the vessel. Then the vessel soon came to land where they were going.

LIFESAVIOUR EXPOSES THE CROWD’S MOTIVES

22 The following day the people that stood across the seashore noticed that there was no other boat there except the one that his disciples had boarded and that Lifesaviour had not boarded with his disciples into the boat. Instead, his disciples had left alone. 23 But other boats from Tiberia had arrived near the spot where they had eaten the bread the Lord blessed.

24 As soon as the people realised that Lifesaviour and his disciples were definitely not there, they also boarded into the vessels and set for Capernaum to look for Lifesaviour.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him; “Sir, when did you come to this side?” 26 Lifesaviour answered them; “Let me tell you the true fact, you are looking for me not because you saw the miracles but because you ate some of the bread and were filled. 27 Don't work for perishable food but for the food that lasts into eternal life - the food which the Kin of Humanity will give you as Supermights the Patron has sealed it. 28 So they said to him; “What must we do so that we achieve the works of Supermights?” 29 Lifesaviour responded and said to them; “This is the very work of Supermights - to believe in the one whom he has sent.” 30 So they asked him; “What miracle will you perform then so that we may be sure and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our forebears ate the manna in the desert just as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from Heaven to eat.’ 32 Then Lifesaviour answered them; “Let me tell you a trustworthy fact, Moses never gave you that bread from Heaven, instead it is really my Patron that gives you the bread from Heaven 33 because the bread of Supermights comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 So they asked him; “Sir, give us this bread always!” 35 Then Lifesaviour told them; “I’m the bread of life. The one that comes to me will never be hungry, and the one that believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 Even though I’ve explained that to you, and you have seen me, but you still don't believe. 37 Everyone whom the Patron gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I’ll never push away 38 because I came down from Heaven not to carry out my own will but the will of the one that sent me. 39 Now, is it the Patron’s intention, the one who sent me that everyone he gives me should not be lost but should be raised up in the last day. 40 It is also the intention of the one who sent me that everyone that acknowledges the Kin and trusts in him should have eternal life, and I’ll raise them up in the last day.”

LIFESAVIOUR’ MESSAGE OFFENDS THE JEWS

41 Then the Jews were grumbling against him because he said; “I’m the bread that came down from Heaven.” 42 So they asked; “Is this not Lifesaviour, Joseph’s son whose father and mother we know? How is it then that he claims to have come down from Heaven?” 43 Lifesaviour then answered and said to them; “Do not grumble among each other. 44 No one can come to me unless the Patron who sent me draws them, and I’ll raise them up in the last day. 45 It is written through the prophets, ‘And they’ll all be taught by Supermights.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and has learned from the Patron comes to me. 46 Not that anyone has discerned the Patron except the one who comes from the Patron, that same one has seen the Patron. 47 Let me tell you a true fact, the one who trusts in me has eternal life. 48 I’m the bread of life. 49 Your parents ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 This one is the bread of life that comes down from Heaven so that anyone may eat from it and never die. 51 I’m the living bread that came from Heaven. If anyone eats from this bread, they’ll live till eternity. But the bread that I’ll give is my body which I give for the life of the world.”

52 The Jews then argued among each other, asking; “How can this man give us his body to eat.” 53 Then Lifesaviour told them; “Let me tell you a true fact, unless you eat the body of the Kin of Humanity and drink his blood you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I’ll raise them up in the last day. 55 Therefore my body is the real food, and my blood the real drink. 56 Whoever eats my body and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Patron has sent me, I live through the Patron, so the one who digests me will also live through me. 58 This is the bread that came from Heaven, not like your parents ate manna and died. Whoever digests this bread will live until eternity.”

59 He spoke these things in the local congregation while he taught in Capernaum. 60 Then many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, “This is a tough message! Who can understand it?” 61 But Lifesaviour, intuitively aware that his disciples were grumbling at this, asked them; “Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you see the Kin of Humanity going up to where he was previously? 63 It is the spiritual things that revitalise. Human nature does not benefit anyone. The words that I’ve told you are spiritual, and they bring life, 64 and there are some of you that do not believe.” Lifesaviour had then perceived from the beginning who did not trust him and who would deliver him up.” 65 Then he said; “That is why I told you that no one is able to come to me unless it is brought about in them by my Patron.”

66 From thereon, many of his disciples retreated back and never followed him anymore. 67 Then Lifesaviour asked the twelve; “Do any of you also wish to leave?” 68 Then Simon Peter responded; “Sir, to who will we go back? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We believe and understand that you are the Designated, the Kin of the living Supermights!” 70 Lifesaviour answered them; “Did I not select twelve of you? Yet one of you is a traducer!” 71 Now he was referring to Judas from Kerioth, a Simeonite, as he was one of the twelve who would betray him.

John 7

HIS BROTHERS DO NOT BELIEVE LIFESAVIOUR

1 Then following these events, Lifesaviour travelled throughout Galilee as he would not live in Judea because the Jews were trying to kill him. 2 But it was time for the Jewish Booth Festival. 3 Then his brothers said to him; “Move from here and go to Judea so that your disciples may also see the works that you do 4 because no one does anything in secret yet he is trying to be spoken about. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 Not even his brothers believed in him. 6 Then Lifesaviour told them; “My moment has not come, but yours is always opportune time. 7 The world cannot harass you, but it harasses me because I’m testifying against it. After all, its deeds are malicious. 8 You go up to the Festival. I’ll not yet go up to this Festival because my time is not perfect.”

9 When he had told them these things, he stayed in Galilee. 10 But when his brothers had gone up to the Festival, at that time, he also went up to the Festival not publicly but in a secret way. 11 So Then the Jews searched for him at the Festival and asked; “Where is he?” 12 There was also a lot of chuntering among the people over him because some were saying; “He is good.” But others were saying nothing. Others; “He deceives the people.” 13 However, no one spoke publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

LIFESAVIOUR CONFRONTS THE JEWS’ MURDEROUS INTENT

14 But about halfway the Festival, Lifesaviour went up to the Sanctuary and began teaching. 15 Then the Jews were surprised. They asked; “How does this man understand Scripture without education? 16 Lifesaviour answered them and said; “My teaching is not my own but is transmitted to me.17 If anyone is determined to do his will, they’ll know about this teaching, whether it is from Supermights or I speak from myself.

18 The one that speaks from himself desires their own glory but the one that wants the glory of the one that sent him, he is truthful, and no distortion is in him. 19 Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you observes the law! Why do you plot to kill me?” 20 The people responded and said; “You are demon-possessed! Who is plotting to kill you?” 21 Lifesaviour replied, “I performed one miracle, and you were all shocked. 22 Although Moses gave you circumcision, not because it is from Moses but from the forebears, then on Sabbath, you circumcise a male. 23 If a male receives circumcision on Sabbath in such a way that the law of Moses is not broken, are you angry at me because I made a man healthy on Sabbath? 24 Do not decide from appearance but decide on fair judgement. 25 Then some of the Jerusalemites asked; “Is this not the man they are trying to kill? 26 Yet look he is speaking boldly, and they say nothing to him. Perhaps, the rulers realise that he is the real Designated. 27 Others; “We know this man - where he comes from. But when the Designated comes, no one will know where he comes from.”

28 Then Lifesaviour shouted in the Sanctuary as he taught and said; “You know me, and you know where I’m from. Yet I’ve not come for myself but the one that sent me. It is true, you do not know him 29 but I know him because I’m from him - he has sent me.”

JEWISH LEADERS TRY TO ARREST LIFESAVIOUR

30 Though they tried to arrest him, nobody laid their hands on him because his moment had not yet come. 31 But many of the people believed in him and asked; “When the Designated comes, will he perform more miracles than these which he has performed?” 32 The Seperatists heard the people whisper such things about him. Then the Seperatists and the chief priests set apart officers to arrest him.

33 Then Lifesaviour told them; “Just a little while I’ll be with you, then I’ll go to the one that sent me. 34 You’ll search for me, and you’ll not find me, and where I’ll be, you’ll not be able to come.” 35 Then the Jews asked among themselves; “Where will he go that we’ll not find him? Will he not go to the diaspora among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 What does he mean by this that he said; ‘You'll search for me and you'll not find me, and where I’m you’ll not be able to come’?”

37 On the final day, the big day of the Festival, Lifesaviour stood up and shouted, saying; “If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink. 38 The one who believes, just as Scripture says; “From their heart will flow brooks of living water.’” 39 But he was saying this about the Spirit whom those that believed in him were going to receive because the Holy Spirit was not here yet as Lifesaviour was not yet elevated. 40 When many of the people heard these messages, they began to say; “Surely, this is the Prophet!” 41 Others said; “This is the Designated!” But others asked; “Why? The Designated does not come from Galilee! 42 Do not the scriptures say that the Designated comes from a descendant of David and from Bethlehem, the town where David was?” 43 So there was division among the people because of Lifesaviour. 44 Some of them would have apprehended him, but no one laid hands on him. 45 Then the officers returned to the chief priests and the Seperatists, and they were asked; “Why have you not brought him in?” 46 The officers replied; “No human being at any time ever spoke like this man!” 47 Then the Seperatists responded to them; “You have not also been deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or Seperatists believed in him?” 49 But the people that are not aware of the law are doomed.” 50 Nicodemus, the one that came to Lifesaviour by night, being one of them, said to them; 51 “Does our law sentence a man first unless it gives audience to him and learns what he is doing?” 52 They responded and asked him; “Are you also from Galilee? Investigate and find out if the Prophet comes from Galilee.”

[ALTHOUGH JOHN 7:53 - 8:11 IS OMITTED IN THE EARLIER MANUSCRIPTS]

53 Then each man went to his home.

John 8

SPIRITUAL LEADERS USE AN ADULTEROUS WOMAN TO TRAP LIFESAVIOUR

1 But Lifesaviour went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Then he arrived early in the morning at the Sanctuary, and the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The learned and the Seperatists pushed towards him a woman caught in adultery. When they had made her stand in the middle 4 they said to him; “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the actual act. 5 Moses, in the law, commanded us to stone such. So what do you say?” 6 But they said this to trap him so that they could use it against him. But Lifesaviour bent down and scribbled with a finger on the ground. 7 But when they persisted asking him, he straightened himself up saying to them; “Whoever is sinless among you may be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Then again, he bent down and scribbled on the ground. 9 But when they heard and were also convicted by their consciences, they went away one by one, starting from the elderly to the last. Lifesaviour was then left alone, and the woman was standing still in the middle. 10 Lifesaviour straightened up and saw no one except the woman. He asked her; “Lady, where are the ones that were your accusers? Didn't anyone judge you worthy of punishment?” 11 She replied, “None, sir.” Then Lifesaviour said, “I do not judge you either. Go and do not sin further.”

LIFESAVIOUR GIVES MULTIPLE MESSIANIC HINTS TO THE CROWDS

12 Then Lifesaviour preached to them again saying; “I’m the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.” 13 Then the Seperatists interrupted him; “You testify about yourself. Your claim is not true.”

14 Lifesaviour responded and told them; “Even if I testify about myself, my testimony is true because I know where I came from and where I’m going. But you cannot tell where I come from and where I’m going. 15 You judge from human nature. I’m not judging anyone, 16 even when I judge my judgement is reliable because I do not do it alone - but I do it together with the Patron that sent me. 17 So, as it is also written in your law, the testimony of two people is valid, 18 I’m my own witness, and the Patron that sent me testifies about me.” 19 So they asked him; “Where is your Patron?” Lifesaviour replied; “You do not understand my Patron or me. If you had understood me, you would have realised who my Patron is also.”

20 Lifesaviour said these statements while he was teaching in the Sanctuary area near the treasure box, and no one arrested him because his moment had not yet come. 21 Then Lifesaviour spoke to them again; “I’m going away, and you’ll look for me, but you’ll die in your sins. You’ll not even be able to go where I’m going.”

22 So the Jews began to say, “Perhaps he is going to kill himself, because he says, ‘Where I’m going you’ll not be able to go.’” 23 Then he told them; “You are from below. I’m from above. I’m not from this world. 24 That is why I’ve told you that you’ll die in your sins – for as long as you do not believe who I’m, you’ll die in your sins.” 25 Then they asked him; “Who are you?” Then Lifesaviour told them; “But that is what I told you at the beginning. 26 I’ve many things to say and to test you about. Otherwise, the one that sent me is true. I speak to the world those things that I’ve heard from him.” 27 They were not aware that he was telling them about the Father.

28 “When you have lifted the Kin of Humanity, then you’ll realise that I’m the one, and I do nothing for myself, but I preach as my Patron has instructed me these things. 29 The one that sent me is with me too - the Patron has not left me alone because I always do those things that please him.” 30 As he preached these messages, many believed in him.

31 Then Lifesaviour said to those Judeans that believed him, “If you remain in my message, you're truly my disciples, 32 and you'll understand the truth, and the truth will liberate you.” 33 They answered him; “We are Abraham’s descendants, and we’ve never been slaves to anybody anytime, how do you say we’ll be free.” 34 Lifesaviour answered them; “Let me tell you a true fact, whoever practises sin is a slave of sin. 35 The servant does not remain in the family forever, but the Kin remains forever. 36 So if the Kin liberates you, you’ll be truly free. 37 I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, yet you are trying to kill me because my message has no place in you. 38 I tell you what I’ve experienced with my Patron, and then you do what you experienced with your father.” 39 They answered and told him; “Abraham is our father!” Lifesaviour told them; “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do whatever Abraham's works were. 40 But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I’ve heard from Supermights. Abraham would not have done this. 41 You are doing the works of your parent.” So they told him; “We are not born from harlotry. We’ve one Parent - Supermights!” 42 Lifesaviour told them; “If Supermights were your Parent, you were supposedly loved me because I’ve come abroad and have arrived from Supermights. I did not even come for myself but the one that sent me. 43 Why do you not understand my message? Is it because you can't hear my preaching? 44 You belong to your parent, the devil, and you intend to carry out your parent's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and doesn't stand the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks after his own because he is a liar and its founder. 45 But because I’m telling the truth, you don't believe me. 46 Who among you can convict me of an offence? But if I'm telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 The one from Supermights understands Supermights’s messages. That is why you do not understand because you do not belong to Supermights.” 48 Then the Jews replied the Jews and said to him; “Are we not correct when we say you are a Samaritan and are demon-possessed.” 49 Lifesaviour replied; “I’m not demon-possessed, but I honour my Patron, and you dishonour me. 50 But I’m not striving for my own glory. There is one that requires it and judges. 51 Let me tell you a true fact, if anyone observes my message, he’ll never ever experience death.” 52 Then the Jews rebutted him; “Now we know that you're demon-possessed. Abraham died, the prophets too, yet you say, ‘If anyone observes my message, they’ll never ever experience death.’ 53 You are not older than our forefather Abraham who died as well as the dead prophets? What do you make yourself?”

54 Lifesaviour replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Patron that glorifies me whom you say is your deity. 55 But you don't know him, but I know him. If I were to say that I don't know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I guard his plan. 56 Your forefather Abraham rejoiced to foresee my day, and he understood it and was glad.”

57 Then the Jews answered him; “You are not yet fifty years and you have seen Abraham? 58 Lifesaviour told them; “Let me tell you a trustworthy fact, prior Abraham came to being, I existed!” 59 Then they picked up stones to pelt him, but Lifesaviour hid himself and went out of the Sanctuary passing in between them, and that is how he escaped.

John 9

LIFESAVIOUR HEALS A BLIND MAN AS HE ESCAPES STONING

1 As he was passing by, he noticed a man born blind. 2 Then his disciples asked him saying; “Master, who sinned - this man or his parents that he was born blind?” 3 Lifesaviour replied; “Not this man or his parents sinned instead it was so that the work of Supermights may be demonstrated through him. 4 I must be engaged in the activities of the one that sent me while it is daytime. Nighttime is coming when no one will be able to work. 5 As long as I’m in the world, I’m the light of the world.” 6 After saying these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with his saliva. Then he smeared the mud over the blind man’s eyes. 7 Then he told him; “Go wash in the pool of Siloam, which is translated “sent.” He then went away. Then he washed and reappeared seeing. 8 Then the neighbours and those that had previously seen that he was blind asked; “Is this not the one that used to sit and beg?” 9 Some replied; “This is the one!” But others; “He is like him!” He said; “I’m the one!” 10 Then they asked; “How were your eyes opened?” 11 He replied and said; “A man called Lifesaviour mixed clay, then smeared my eyes and said to me; ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received sight.”12 Then they asked him; “Where is he?” He replied; “I do not know?”

LIFESAVIOUR’ HEALING RESULTS IN EXCOMMUNICATION

13 They brought the man who was once blind to the Seperatists. 14 Now it was the Sabbath when Lifesaviour mixed the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then once again, the Seperatists also questioned him by what means did he recover his sight, but he replied them; “He applied clay on my eyes and I washed. So I can see!” 16 Then some of the Seperatists suggested; “This man is not from Supermights because he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others rebutted; “How can a man that is a sinner perform these kinds of miracles?” So there was division among them.17 They asked the one that was blind again; “What do you say about him because he opened your eyes?” But he replied; “He must be a prophet!” 18 Then the Jews did not believe his case that he used to be blind and had received sight until they called the parents of the one that had receive sight. 19 So they interrogated them asking; “Is this your son who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?” 20 His parents replied to them; “We are aware that this is our son, and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know. We do not even know who opened his eyes. He is an able adult, ask him. he’ll speak for himself.” 22 His parents spoke this way because they were afraid of the Jews because Jews had already agreed that if anybody acknowledged that he was the Designated, they would be excommunicated.

23 That is the reason his parents said; “He is an able adult, ask him.” 24 Then they again called the man that was blind and told him; “Give Supermights the glory! We can see that this man is a sinner!” 25 He responded and said; “I do not know whether he is a sinner. I only know that I was blind now I can see!”26 But they asked him again; “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He answered them; “I've told you already and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again unless you also want to be his disciples?” 28 They then railed him and said; “You are his disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. 29 We know that Supermights spoke to Moses. We don't know where this person is from?” 30 The man responded and told them; “Then this is totally strange that you don't know where he is from yet he has opened my eyes. 31 But we understand that Supermights does not hear sinners, but whenever somebody is a worshipper of Supermights and observes his purpose, he hears that person. 32 From the beginning of the world, nothing was reported that somebody opened the eyes of someone that was born blind. 33 If this man were not from Supermights, he could not have done it.” 34 They responded and told him; “You were totally born in sinfulness, yet you are teaching us!” Then they threw him out.

35 Lifesaviour heard that they had thrown him out, so he found the man and said to him, “Do you believe in the Kin of Supermights?” 36 He responded and said; “Which one is he, sir, so that I may believe in him?” 37 Then Lifesaviour told him; “You have even seen him, and he is the one that is speaking with you.” 38 He also said; “Lord, I believe!” Then he worshipped him. 39 Then Lifesaviour said; “I’ve come to this world for a verdict so that those that pay attention may see, and those that look on become blind.” 40 When some of the Seperatists who were with him heard these things, they then challenged him; “But we are not blind also, are we?” 41 Lifesaviour replied; “If you were blind, you would not have been sinful. But now you say; ‘We’ve sight,’ then your sinfulness stands!”

John 10

LIFESAVIOUR ASSERTS HIMSELF AS THE TRUE AND CARING SHEPHERD

1 “Let me tell you a true fact: the one who does not enter the sheep yard by the entrance but climbs in some other way, is a rustler and an armed robber. 2 The shepherd of the sheep enters through the entrance. 3 The entrance guard opens the entrance for this person, and the sheep hear his voice when he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 So when he brings his own sheep out he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they recognise his voice. 5 But they'll never follow a stranger. Instead, they’ll run away from him because they do not recognise the stranger’s voice.” 6 This is the parable Lifesaviour presented to them, but they did not understand what was he was actually telling them. 7 Then Lifesaviour told them again; “Let me tell you a true fact: that I’m the entrance for the sheep. 8 All that ever came to enter ahead of me were thieves and robbers. Instead, the sheep did not hear them. 9 I’m the entrance. If anybody enters through me, they’ll be safe and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The rustler comes for nothing else except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I’ve come so that they may have life beyond measure.”

11 “I’m the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sake of sheep. 12 But the hired servant, and being not the shepherd whose own sheep they are, when he sees the wolf coming, he then abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep. 13 But the hired servant runs away because he is a wage earner and does not care for the sheep. 14 I'm a good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me. 15 Just as the Patron knows me, I also know the Patron. I also lay down my life for the sake of the sheep. 16 I also have other sheep which are not from this sheep yard. I must also bring them, and they'll hear my voice. Then there will be one flock one shepherd. 17 This is why the Patron loves me because I lay down my life so that I may receive it again. 18 No one is taking it from me. But I’m laying it down by myself. I’ve the right to lay it down, and I’ve the right to take it back. This is the instruction I’ve received from my Patron.”

19 Immediately there resulted division again among the Jews because of these statements. 20 But many of them said; “He is demon-possessed and crazy. Why do you listen to him?” 21 Others rebutted; “These are not statements of one that is demon-possessed. Can any demoniac open the eyes of the blind?”

LIFESAVIOUR IS QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS DESIGNATEDSHIP

22 Then Lifesaviour was walking through the Sanctuary in Solomon’s foyer. 24 Then the Jews came to surround him and asked him; “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Designated, tell us plainly.” 25 Lifesaviour answered them; “I told you and you do not believe. The acts I carry out in my Patron’s name testify about me. 26 But you do not believe because you are not my sheep. As I’ve told you, 27 my sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they'll never perish forever. No one will snatch them from my hand. 29 My Patron, who has empowered me is greater than everything, and nobody is able to snatch them from my Patron’s hand. 30 The Patron and I are one.” 31 Then the Jews picked up stones again intending to stone him. 32 Lifesaviour said to them, “I’ve shown you many good miracles from the Patron, for which one of those are you going to stone me?” 33 The Jews answered him saying; “We are not going to stone you for any good act but for blasphemy because you, a human being, project yourself as Supermights.” 34 Lifesaviour answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, you are divine beings? 35 If those people to whom Supermights's word came were called ‘divine beings,’ since that Scripture cannot be removed, 36 do you say about the one whom the Patron sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I’m the Kin of Supermights’? 37 If I do not perform the miracles from my Patron, do not believe me. 38 But if I perform them, though you do not believe me, believe the miracles that you may realise and believe that the Patron is in me and I’m in him.” 39 Then they tried again to lay hands on him, but he slipped away from their grip.

LIFESAVIOUR IS BELIEVED BY MANY

40 Then he again retreated across the Jordan to the place where John first baptised, but he stayed there. 41 But many went to him and said; “John did no miracle, but everything that John said about this person holds true.” 42 Then many believed in him there.

John 11

LIFESAVIOUR RESURRECTS LAZARUS

1 Now somebody was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Now it was the Mary who had smeared the Lord with perfumed oil and had wiped his feet with her hair whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 So the sisters sent for him saying; “Sir, the one you love is sick.”

4 When Lifesaviour heard he said; “This is sickness is not going to end up in death. But it is for the glory of Supermights so that the Kin of Supermights may be glorified through it.”

5 But Lifesaviour loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 Even though he had heard that he was sick, he in fact still delayed two days in the same place where he was. 7 Then after that, he said to his disciples; “Let us go to Judaea again.” 8 The disciples asked him; “Master, just now the Jews were trying to stone you and are you going there again?”

9 Lifesaviour answered; “Are there not twelve hours in the daytime? If anyone walks during the daytime, he does not stumble because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks during the night, he stumbles because there is no light in front of him.”

11 After he had said this, he then told them; “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I’m going to wake him up.” 12 Then his disciples said; “Master, if he is asleep, he’ll be fine.” 13 Although Lifesaviour was speaking about his death, they instead thought that he meant resting in sleep. 14 This time Lifesaviour then told them plainly; “Lazarus has died, 15 and I'm glad for your sake that I was not there so that you may believe. So, let us go to him.” 16 Then Thomas called Didymus said to his fellow disciples; “Let us also go so that we’ll be killed with him.”

17 When Lifesaviour arrived, he discovered he had been in the tomb four days already. 18 Now Bethany was three kilometres nearer just before Jerusalem, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them over their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Lifesaviour was coming, went to meet him. But Mary sat down in the house. 21 Then Martha said to Lifesaviour; “Sir, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 22 But even now I know that whatever you would ask from Supermights, Supermights will give you.” 23 Lifesaviour replied, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha said, “I know that he'll rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25 Lifesaviour told her; “I’m the resurrection and the life. The one that believes in me, even though they die, they’ll live. 26 So whoever lives and believes in me will never die forever. Do you believe this?” 27 She told him; “Yes, Sir! I believe that you are the Designated, the Kin of Supermights that would come to the world.”

28 Then after she had answered; she went away and privately called Mary her sister saying; “The Teacher is here and is calling you.” 29 As soon as she heard it, she stood up immediately and went to him. 30 But Lifesaviour had not yet arrived in the town but was in the place where Martha had met him.

31 Then the Jews that were with her in the house, seeing that Mary had rapidly stood up and gone out, followed her saying; “She is going to the tomb to weep there.” 32 When Mary came to where Lifesaviour was, to see him, she fell at his feet telling him; “Sir, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 Then when Lifesaviour saw her weeping, as well as the Jews that came with her also weeping, he sighed emotionally and was himself agitated. 34 Then he asked; “Where have you buried him?” They told him; “Come and see, Sir.” 35 Lifesaviour shed tears. 36 Then the Jews said; “See, how much he loved him!” 37 But some of them said; “Could the man that opened the eyes of the blind not have done something so that this man wouldn't die?”

38 Then Lifesaviour again sighing witlitrehimself came to the tomb but it was a cave, and a stone was placed on it. 39 Lifesaviour said; “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, told him; “Sir, he is already stinking because it has been four days.” 40 Lifesaviour asked her; “Have I not told you that if you believe you would see the triumph of Supermights.”

41 So they rolled the stone where the deceased was buried. Then Lifesaviour raised his eyes upward and said; “Patron, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 But I acknowledge that you always hear me. But I said it because of the people that stand around so that they may believe that you have sent me.”

43 Then after saying this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 Then the deceased came out wrapped with winding linen hand and foot, and his face wrapped up in towel fabric. Lifesaviour told them; “Unwrap him and let him go.”

THE JEWISH COUNCIL PLOTS LIFESAVIOUR’ DEATH

45 Then when many of the Jews that had come to Mary had seen what Lifesaviour had done, they believed in him. 46 But some of them went back to the Seperatists and told them the things Lifesaviour had done.

47 Then the chief priests and the Seperatists convened a council and asked; “What do we do because this man is performing many miracles. 48 If we let him go on this way, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take up our territory and nation.”

49 Then one of them, being the High Priest that year, addressed them; “You do not understand! 50 Do you not think it is better for us that one man should die instead of the people so that the entire nation should not be destroyed?” 51 But this he didn't say from himself. But being High Priest that year, he spoke under inspiration that Lifesaviour was about to die on behalf of people - 52 and not for the nation only but with the intention of unifying the other children of Supermights scattered abroad. 53 So from that day, they consulted together to kill him.

54 Then Lifesaviour no longer walked around publicly among the Jews. Instead, he went from there to the countryside near the desert towards a city called Ephraim. He remained there with his disciples.

55 Then the Jewish Passover Festival was near, and many people went up from the countryside to Jerusalem to sanctify themselves before the Passover Festival. 56 Then they were looking for Lifesaviour, and they spoke among themselves as they continued in the Sanctuary; “What do you think though? Will he not come to the Festival?” 57 But both chief priests and the Seperatists had given instructions that if anyone knew where he was, they should report it so that they could arrest him.

John 12

MARY MASSAGES LIFESAVIOUR' FEET AT BETHANY

1 But six day before the Passover Lifesaviour came to Bethany, where previously deceased Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead, lived. 2 When there they made him supper and Martha was serving. Lazarus was also one of those that sat at the table with him.

3 Then Mary took half a litre of a costly genuine aromatic perfume and massaged Lifesaviour' feet. She then wiped his feet with her hair. Then the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But Judas of Kerioth the Simeonite, the one who was about to betray him, said; 5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred rands then given to the poor?” 6 But he said this not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief because he kept the purse and took what was deposited in it. 7 Then Lifesaviour said; “Leave her alone. She has preserved this for the day of my burial, 8 and you'll always have the poor with you, but you'll not always have me.”

CHIEF PRIESTS RESOLVED TO KILL LAZARUS BECAUSE OF LIFESAVIOUR

9 Then many of the Jews realised that he was there, and they did not come just for Lifesaviour but also see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests resolved to even kill Lazarus 11 because he was the reason many of the Jews were withdrawing and believing in Lifesaviour.

LIFESAVIOUR’ ROYAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

12 The following day many people that had come to the Festival heard that Lifesaviour was coming to Jerusalem. 13 They took branches of a palm tree and went out to meet him. They were shouting; “Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel who comes in the Lifegiver's name.”

14 But Lifesaviour got a young donkey, sat on it, as it is written; 15 “Do not be afraid, people of Zion; see your king coming, seated on a donkey’s colt!”

16 But the disciples did not understand these things at first, but when he was glorified, they then remembered that these things were written about him, and these things applied to him.

17 Then the people that were with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead were reporting it. 18 That is also the reason the people went to meet him because they had heard that he had performed that miracle.

19 Then the Seperatists said among themselves; “Do you realise that you’ll not even succeed? Look, the world has gone after him.”

LIFESAVIOUR SPEAKS ABOUT HIS DEATH AS FRUITFUL NECESSITY

20 There were also some Greeks among those that had come up to worship at the Festival 21 who approached Phillip of Bethsaida in Galilee, and they begged him saying; “Sir, we would like to see Lifesaviour.” 22 Phillip went and told Andrew. Both Andrew and Phillip told Lifesaviour. 23 But Lifesaviour answered them saying; “The time has come for the Kin of Humanity to be honoured. 24 Let me tell you a trustworthy fact unless the kernel of grain falls to the ground and die, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces plenty of fruit. 25 The one that loves his life loses it, and the one who disregards his life in this world preserves it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, let him follow me, and where I’m my servant will also be. If anyone serves me, the Patron will honour him.

27 "This time my spirit is troubled, and what should I say? Patron, save me from this moment, but that is the reason I came - for this moment! 28 Patron, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from Heaven; “I’ve both glorified it and will glorify it again.”

29 So the people that stood by and heard it described the sound like thunder. Others said an messenger spoke to him. 30 Lifesaviour answered and said; “This voice did not come for my sake but for your sake. 31 This time is the judgement of this world. This time the prince of this world will be thrown out. 32 When I’m hung up from the earth, I’ll draw everyone to myself.” 33 He said this also to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

34 The people asked him; “We understand from the law that the Designated lives forever. Then how do you say the Kin of Humanity must be hung up? Who is this Kin of Humanity?” 35 Then Lifesaviour told them; “The light is still with you for a little while. Walk while you have the light so that darkness does not overtake you because the one that walks in darkness cannot tell where he is going. 36 While you have a spark, believe in the spark so that you may become children of the light.” Lifesaviour said these things then he went away. He hid from them.

37 Although he had performed these many miracles before them, they still did not believe in him 38 so that the statement of Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled. He had said; “Lifegiver, who has believed our message, and to who is Lifegiver's power revealed? 39 This they were unable to believe as Isaiah had said again; 40 “He has made their eyes blind, and has rendered their minds stupid so that they would not see with their eyes or understand with their minds. Let them then turn around, and I’ll heal them.” 41 Isaiah had said these things when he saw his glory when he preached about him.

LIFESAVIOUR CHALLENGES THE RETICENT BELIEVERS

42 Nevertheless, even among the rulers, there were also many who believed in him, but because of the Seperatists, they did not acknowledge it in case they would be excommunicated. 43 But they loved human praise than the honour of Supermights. 44 But Lifesaviour called out and said; “The one that believes does not believe in me, but in the one that sent me, 45 and the one that discerns me discerns the one that sent me. 46 I’ve come as the light in the world so that everyone that believes in me should not remain in darkness. 47 So if someone hears my message and believes, I don't in any way judge him because I've not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 The one that rejects me and does not accept my message has judged himself. The message that I’ve preached will judge him in the last day 49 because I’ve not preached for myself but the Patron that sent me. He has given me an instruction what I should say and what I should preach, 50 and I know that his instruction is eternal life. Whatever I preach then is just as the Patron has told me - that is the way I preach.”

John 13

LIFESAVIOUR EXEMPLIFIES SERVANTHOOD TO THE DISCIPLES

1 Just before the Passover Festival, Lifesaviour knew that his moment had come to go away from this world to the Patron. He had loved his own that were in the world - he had loved them to the end.

2 By the time supper came, the devil had already instilled into the heart of Judas of Kerioth the Simeonite the plan to betray him. 3 Lifesaviour knew that the Patron had entrusted everything into his hands, both because he had come from Supermights, and was going back to Supermights.

4 He stood up from supper and stripped his robe. He then took a towel as an apron and wrapped himself tightly. 5 After that, he poured water in a basin and began to wash the disciple’s feet. Then he wiped them with the towel that he had girded. 6 When he came to Simon Peter, Peter asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7 Lifesaviour replied and told him, “You do not understand what I’m doing now, but you’ll understand afterwards.” 8 Peter told him; “You'll never ever wash my feet.” Lifesaviour answered him; “If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.” 9 Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, do not wash my feet only, but my hands and my head too!” 10 Lifesaviour told him; “The one that has bathed does not have to be bathed except to wash their feet; otherwise they are spotless. You are clean but not every one of you.” 11 No doubt, he knew who would betray him; that is why he said; “Not all of you are clean.”

12 Then after he had washed their feet and had taken his clothes he settled down again, he asked them; “Do you understand what I've shown you? 13 You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you mean well, for that is what I’m. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you must also wash each other’s feet 15 because I’ve shown you an example. So do just as I’ve shown you. 16 Let me tell you a true fact, the servant is not greater than his master; neither is the messenger more significant than the one who sent him. 17 If you understand these things, you are blessed if you practise them.

LIFESAVIOUR EXPOSES JUDAS AS HIS TRAITOR

18 “I'm not speaking about all of you. I know whom I’ve Designated. But so that the Scripture may be fulfilled: ‘The one that eats bread with me has turned his heel against me.’ 19 I'm telling you this now before it happens so that when it happens, you may believe that I’m the one. 20 Let me tell you a true fact, the one that welcomes whoever I send welcomes me, and the one that receives me receives the one that sent me.”

21 After he had said these things, Lifesaviour was emotionally agitated and confirmed it. Then he said; “Let me tell you a trustworthy fact, it is one of you that will betray me.” 22 Then the disciples looked at each other, perplexed over who was he referring to.

23 But reclining on Lifesaviour’ chest was the disciple that Lifesaviour loved. 24 Then Simon Peter signalled to him to ask who he was talking about. 25 The one leaning on Lifesaviour' chest asked him; “Lord, who is it?” 26 Lifesaviour replied; “It is the one that I’ll give a dunked bite.” When he had dunked a piece, he gave it to Judas from Kerioth the Simeonite. 27 Then after the chunk, at that time, Satan thoroughly went into Judas. Then Lifesaviour told him; “What you are about to do, do quickly.” 28 But nobody at the table understood the intent of what he said this to him. 29 Some even thought that since Judas had the purse, Lifesaviour was telling him to buy some necessity needed for the Festival or to donate something to the poor. 30 When he had taken the chunk, he immediately went out, and it was nighttime.

LIFESAVIOUR STATES HIS DEATH AS DIVINE GLORIFICATION

31 When he was gone, Lifesaviour said; “Soon the Kin of Humanity will be manifested, and Supermights will be glorified through him.32 If Supermights be gloried through him, Supermights will also reveal himself through him, and will immediately glorify him. 33 Children, I’m with you a little while. You’ll look for me. As I told the Jews, I’m also telling you, where I’m going you cannot come. 34 A new instruction I give you: that you love each other. As I’ve loved you, you are to also love one another.35 Everyone will realise by this that you are my disciples - when you have love for one another.”

LIFESAVIOUR PREDICTS PETER’S EMPHATIC DENIAL

36 Simon Peter asked him; “Lord, where are you going.” Lifesaviour answered him; “Where I’m going you are unable to accompany me now, but you’ll follow me eventually.” 37 Peter asked him; “Lord, why are we unable to accompany you. I'll lay down my life for you!” 38 Lifesaviour answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Here’s a true fact, the rooster will not crow until you have denied me three times!”

John 14

LIFESAVIOUR’ FAREWELL CONVERSATION WITH THE DISCIPLES

1 “Let nothing stir your hearts. Put your trust in Supermights and put your trust in me. 2 In my Patron’s house are many residences. But if it were otherwise, I would have told you. I’m going away to prepare you a place. 3 So though I’m going to also prepare you a place, I'll return and take you to myself so that where I’m you may be too. 4 So you know where I’m going, you even know the way.” 5 Thomas told him; “Lord, we do not know where you are going. Then how can we know the way?” 6 Lifesaviour told him; “I’m the way, the truth and the life. No one goes to the Patron except through me. 7 Now that you have known me, you have known my Patron too, and from now on will understand and discern him.” 8 Phillip asked him; “Lord, show us the Patron, and it will be enough for us.” 9 Lifesaviour told him; “Long have I been with you such a long period yet you have not known me, Phillip? The one that has seen me has seen the Patron. But how do you say; ‘Show us the Patron?’10 Do you not believe that I'm in the Patron, and the Patron is in me? The words that I speak to you, I don't speak from myself, but the Patron that lives in me does the works. 11 Believe me that I’m in the Patron, and the Patron is in me. Otherwise, believe me through the works themselves. 12 Let me tell you a true fact, the one that believes in me, will do greater miracles than these that I perform because I’m going to the Patron. 13 Then whatever you ask in my name, that I'll do so that the Patron may be glorified through the Kin. 14 If you ask for anything in my name, I’ll do it.

15 “If you love me, uphold my instructions. 16 I’ll also ask the Patron to give you another intercessor to remain with into eternity - 17 the Spirit of truth whom the world does not receive because it does not know him. It does not even recognise him, but you know him because he lives in you and will be with you.

18 “I’ll not leave you orphaned. I'll come to you 19 after a little while. Then the world will see me no more. But you'll see me because I'll be alive. You’ll be alive too. 20 During that time, you’ll understand that I’m in my Patron, and you are in me, I’m in you. 21 The one that has my instructions and upholds them is the one that loves me. But that loves me will be loved by my Patron, and I’ll love them and reveal myself to them.”

22 Judas, not the one from Kerioth, asked; “Lord, how will it happen that you'll reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” 23 Lifesaviour responded and told him; “If anyone loves me, they’ll observe my messages, and my Patron will love them and we’ll come to them and establish our residency with them. 24 The one who doesn't love me doesn't observe my messages, and the message you hear is not mine but the Patron who sent me.

25 “The things I’ve told you must remain with you. 26 But the intercessor, the Holy Spirit whom the Patron will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you whatever I’ve told you. 27 I leave you peace. I give you my peace, not as the world gives you. I give it to you. Let nothing stir or make your hearts timid. 28 You heard how I told you I’m going away and coming to you. If you loved me, you would have rejoiced because I told you I’m going away to the Patron because my Patron is greater than me. 29 So now I've told you before it happens so that when it occurs, you’ll have faith. 30 After this, I'll not talk much with you because the prince of this world is coming and has nothing on me. 31 But because the world must know that I love the Patron and that the Patron has instructed me, so I yield. Let us rise up from here.”

John 15

1 “I’m the real vine, and my Patron is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he removes it. Then all those that bear fruit, he prunes them so that they may bear more fruit. 3 You are already purified through the message that I’ve preached to you. 4 Remain in me and I witlitreyou. Just like the branch is unable to bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, not even you can, unless you remain in me. 5 I'm the vine. You're the branches. The one that abides in me and I in him, that one bears much fruit because without me you cannot do anything. 6 Unless someone remains in me, he is thrown out as a branch and dried up, and is picked up to be thrown into the fire and burnt. 7 If you remain in me and my message remains in you, you'll ask whatever you want. It'll be done for you. 8 Through this, my Patron is glorified - because you bear much fruit and you show you are my disciples.

9 “Just as the Patron has loved me, I’ve also loved you. Continue in my love. 10 If you uphold my instructions, you’ll remain in my love, just as I’ve upheld my Patron’s instructions, so I remain in his love. 11 These things I told you so that my calmness may remain in you and your joy may be complete. 12 This is my instruction that you love one another just as I’ve loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do whatever things I instruct you. 15 Now I no longer call you servants because a servant does not understand what his master is doing, but I’ve called you friends because everything that I’ve heard from my Patron I’ve declared to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose and appointed you so that you may go and bear fruit, sustainable fruit, so that whatever you ask the Patron in my name he may give you. 17 This I instruct you: to love one another.

18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before you.19 If you were of the world, the world would embrace you as its own. But because you are not of the world, instead I chose you from the world, that is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the statement I told, ‘a servant is not greater than his master.’ If they harassed me, they’ll also harass you. If they upheld my message, they would keep yours too. 21 But they'll do all these things to you because of my name because they don't know the one who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have had no sin, but now they have no pretext for their sin. 23 The one who hates me also hates my Patron. 24 If I had not performed among them the miracles that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen the deeds and have hated both my Patron and me. 25 But so that the word written in their law may be fulfilled; ‘They hated me without cause.’ 26 When the Intercessor comes, whom I’ll send you from the Patron – the Spirit of truth who comes from the Patron – he’ll testify about me. 27 But you’ll also testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16

1 “I told you these things so that you are not embarrassed. 2 They’ll cause you to be excommunicated. There will even come a time that everyone who kills you’ll think they are doing service to Supermights. 3 They'll do these things because they have not understood the Patron or me. 4 But I've said these things to you so that when the time comes, you may remember what I told you about them. I also did not tell you at the beginning because I was with you.

5 “But I’m now going to the one that sent me, yet none of you is asking me; ‘Where are you going?’ 6 Instead, because I’ve told you these things, your hearts are filled with sadness. 7 But I assure you, it is advantageous for you that I go away because if I do not go away, the comforting Advocate will not come to you. But if I go away, I'll send him to you. 8 But when he comes, he’ll convict the world of sin and rightness’ and about judgement - 9 in fact about sin because they don't believe in me, 10 about rightness also because I’m going to my Patron, and you'll see me no more, 11 about judgement also because the prince of this world has been judged.

12 I’ve more things to tell you still, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when that one, the Spirit of truth comes, he’ll guide you to all truth because he’ll not speak about himself but whatever he’ll hear. he’ll also tell you things to come. 14 he’ll glorify me because he’ll take it from me and will announce it to you. 15 Everything that the Patron has is mine, that is why I’m saying he'll take it from me and will announce it to you.

16 "A short while and you’ll not see me. Then again a short while and you’ll see me because I’ll go to the Patron.”

17 Then from among themselves some of his disciples asked; “What is the meaning of this thing that he keeps saying to us - ‘a short while’ and ‘you’ll not see me’ and again ‘a short while you’ll see me’ and ‘because I’m going to the Patron.’” 18 Now and then they asked; “What is this meaning of what he is saying, ‘a short while’? We do not understand what he is saying.” 19 Lifesaviour could perceive it that they wanted to ask him. So he said to them; “Are you asking among yourselves concerning what I mean - ‘a short while’ and ‘you’ll not see me’ and again ‘a short while, and you’ll not see me’? 20 Let me tell you a true fact because you’ll weep and mourn but the world will rejoice, and you’ll grieve, but your sadness will be turned to joy. 21 Whenever a woman is about to give birth, she has distress because her moment has come. But as soon as she has birthed the child, she does not remember the trouble because of the joy of that human being born into the world. 22 So then you’ll have sorrow now, but I'll see you again, and your hearts will rejoice. None will snatch your joy from you.

23 “Then at that time you’ll ask me nothing. Let me tell you a true fact, whatever you’ll ask the Patron in my name, he’ll grant you. 24 Until now, you have not had to ask for anything in my name. Ask, and you'll receive so that your joy may be full.

25 “I've told you these things in parables but a time is coming when I'll no longer speak to you in riddles but speak to you about the Patron plainly. 26 At that time, you'll ask in my name. But I'm not saying to you that I'll ask the Patron on your behalf. 27 No doubt the Patron himself loves you because you loved me and believed that I came from Supermights.

28 "I came from the Patron and entered into the world. Again, I'm leaving the world and am going away to the Patron.”

29 His disciples told him; “See now, you are speaking plainly and not speaking in riddles. 30 Now we are assured that you understand everything and do not need anyone to question you, because of this we believe that you came from Supermights.” 31 Lifesaviour answered them; “You believe now? 32 Look, a time is coming, indeed has come, that you’ll be dispersed, each one to their own, and you’ll leave me alone. But I’m not alone because the Patron is with me. 33 I've told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world, you'll have trouble but be courageous! I've conquered the world.”

John 17

LIFESAVIOUR’ PRAYERS

1 After Lifesaviour had spoken, he then raised his eyes towards Heaven and said; “Patron, the moment has come. Elevate your Kin so that your Kin may glorify you - 2 just as you have given him authority over all humanity that he should grant eternal life to whoever you have given him. 3 But this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true Supermights as well as Lifesaviour the Designated whom you sent. 4 I’ve glorified you on the earth. I’ve finished the work you assigned me to do. 5 Then now Patron, you may glorify me with your own glory which I had with you before the world existed.

6 “I've revealed your name to the human beings that you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have upheld your message. 7 Now they are aware that everything, as you have given me, is from you 8 because I've given them the words that you gave me. They have accepted them too, and have really understood that I came from you. They have also believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me because they are yours. 10 All mine are also yours, and yours are mine, and I’ve been glorified through them.

11 “I’m also no longer going to be in this world for I’m going to come to you, but these are in the world. Holy Patron, preserve those you have given me through your name so that they may be one as us. 12 While I was with them in the world, I preserved them in your name. Those that you gave me I’ve kept, and none is lost except the son of eternal damnation that fulfilled Scripture.

13 “But now I'm coming to you, and I'm saying these things in the world so that they may be able to have my joy perfected in them. 14 I've given them your message, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I'm not of the world. 15 I'm not asking that you remove them from the world but that you preserve them from harm. 16 They are not of the world, just as I'm not of the world. 17 Purify them through your truth - your message is the truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I'm also sending them into the world. 19 So for their sake, I’ve consecrated myself so that they may also be truly consecrated.

20 “I’m also not praying for these only but also those who will believe in me through their message. 21 That they may be one just as you Patron are in me and I’m in you - that they too may be one in us so that the world may believe that you sent me. 22 The honour that you gave me I’ve also given them so that they may be one, just as we are one. 23 I'm in them, and you are in me so that they may be complemented by each other, and that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved them.

24 “Patron, in addition, I want those that you have given me, to be with me where I'll be, so that they may experience my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the conception of the world. 25 You are righteous Patron, even though the world does not understand you. But I’ve understood you, and these are aware that you sent me. 26 So I’ve made your character known to them, and I’ll continue to declare it so that the love you've loved me with may be in them, I in them.”

John 18

LIFESAVIOUR IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED IN KIDRON VALLEY

1 After Lifesaviour had said these prayers, he went away with his disciples across the Kidron Valley where there was a garden which he and his disciples entered into. 2 But Judas, the one who betrayed him, also knew the spot because Lifesaviour frequently retreated there with his disciples.

3 Then Judas brought a squad both from the guards from the chief priest and Seperatists. They came there with lanterns and lamps, weapons too.

4 Then Lifesaviour, aware of everything that was about to happen to him, got out to ask them; “Who are you looking for?” 5 They answered him; “Lifesaviour of Nazareth.” Lifesaviour told them; “I’m.” But Judas that betrayed him was standing with them. 6 As soon as he had told them; “I’m,” they moved back and fell prostrate. 7 Then he asked them again; “Who are you looking for?” They then said, “Lifesaviour of Nazareth.” 8 Lifesaviour replied; “I’ve told you that I’m. If you are looking for me, leave these ones to go away.” 9 That he said to fulfil what he had said; “From those you committed to me, I’ve lost none.”

10 Then Simon Peter had a sword. He drew it. Then he struck and cut off the high priest’s servant’s earlobe, and the servant’s name was Malchus. 11 Then Lifesaviour told Peter; “Put your sword into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Patron has given me?” 12 Later the squad and its captain and officers of the Jews arrested Lifesaviour and bound him. 13 Then they lead him away to Annas first because he was Caiaphas’ father-in-law, who was the Chief High Priest that particular year. 14 It was also Caiaphas that had advised the Jews that it was better that one man dies instead of the people.

PETER DENIES LIFESAVIOUR AS THE TRIAL PROGRESSES

15 Simon Peter and another disciple also followed Lifesaviour. But that disciple was known by the high priest yet he entered high priest’s mansion with Lifesaviour.

16 But Peter stood at the entrance outside. Then the other disciple that was known by the high priest went out and spoke to the entrance guard and brought Peter in. 17 Then the female entrance guard asked Peter; “Are you not from among this man’s disciples too?” He replied; “I’m not.” 18 The servants and officers were standing by making fire of coals because it was cold. So they were warming themselves. Peter was standing with them and warming himself.

19 The High Priest then began to interrogate Lifesaviour about his disciples and about his teaching. 20 Lifesaviour replied, “I’ve spoken publicly to the world. I always taught in the local congregations and in the Sanctuary, where the Jews always convene. I’ve preached nothing in secret. 21 Why do you ask me? Ask those that heard what I said. Look, they know what I said to them.” 22 But after he had spoken this way, one of the officers that stood by gave Lifesaviour a slap saying; “Do you respond to the high priest this way?” 23 Lifesaviour answered him; “If I’ve spoken badly, report the bad. But if honestly, why do you beat me?”

24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the Chief High Priest.

25 Simon Peter was still standing by and warming himself. Then they said to him; “Are you not also from his disciples.” He denied it and said; “I'm not.” 26 One of the servants of the Chief High Priest, a relative of the one whose earlobe Peter had cut off asked; “Didn't I see you in the garden with him?” 27 Peter then denied it again and immediately the rooster crowed.

LIFESAVIOUR IS TRANSFERRED TO PILATE’S COURT

28 Then they brought Lifesaviour from Caiaphas to the governor’s court hall. But it was still early in the morning. But they themselves did not enter into the court hall so that they would not be tainted but so that they may eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate went outside to them and said; “What charge do you bring against this man?” 30 They began to speak and told him; “If he were not a criminal, we would not have given him over to you.”31 Then Pilate told them; “Take him yourselves and sentence him according to your law.” Then the Jews said told him; “It is not legal for us to execute anyone.” 32 This was so that Lifesaviour’ prediction could be fulfilled that he spoke indicating what sort of death he was going to die.

33 So Pilate went in again into the court hall, and called Lifesaviour, and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” 34 Lifesaviour replied, “Are you saying this from yourself or others told you about me?” 35 Pilate did not respond to it at all; “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests have delivered you to me. What have you done?

36 Lifesaviour replied; “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would be striving that I’ll not be surrendered to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

37 Then Pilate asked him; “So you are a king?” Lifesaviour replied; “You say that I’m a king. That is what I was brought for, and for this intent, I came to the world to testify to that truth. Every one that is of the truth hears my revelation. 38 Pilate asked him; “What is truth?” When he had asked this, he went out again to the Jews and told them; “I find no crime in him.

39 But since it is your custom that I release one person to you during the Passover, I’ll release to you the king of the Jews.” 40 Then they all clamoured again, “Not this person. Barabbas instead!” But Barabbas was a gangster.

John 19

LIFESAVIOUR IS SENTENCED THOUGH GUILTLESS

1 Then at that time Pilate took Lifesaviour and had him flogged. 2 Then the soldiers weaved a crown of thorns and thrust it on his head. Then they dressed him in a purple robe. 3 Then they said; “Hail, king of the Jews!” They then gave him slaps.

4 Then Pilate went outside again and told them; “Look, I'm bringing him to you so that you may know that I find no crime in him.”

5 Then Lifesaviour came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate then told them; “Here’s the man!”

6 When the chief priest and officers saw him, they shouted saying; “Crucify! Crucify!” Pilate offered them; “You may take and crucify him because I do not find any crime in him.” 7 The Jews answered him; “We’ve a law and according to our law he must die because he has made himself Supermights's kin!” 8 Then when Pilate heard that statement he became more afraid. 9 Then he went into the court hall again and asked Lifesaviour; “Where are you from?” But Lifesaviour gave him no answer. 10 Pilate then said to him; “You do not speak to? Do you not know that I’ve authority to crucify you and have the authority to release you?” 11 Lifesaviour replied; “You would have no authority over me if it were not given you from above because of this the one that handed me to you has more sin.”

12 From then on, Pilate tried to release him. But the Jews shouted saying; “If you release him you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king opposes Caesar!” 13 When Pilate heard that reasoning he brought Lifesaviour out and sat down on the stoep in a spot raised as a mosaic pavement but a mound in Aramaic.

14 Since it also was going to be the preparation of the Passover at about 12 o’clock, Pilate then said to the Jews, “There is your king!” 15 Then they screamed, “Take him away. Take him away. Crucify him.” Pilate asked them, “Must I crucify your king?” The chief priests responded, “We’ve no king but Caesar.”

16 Then at that time, he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they received and led him away.

LIFESAVIOUR IS CRUCIFIED AS THE KING OF THE JEWS

17 Carrying his own cross, he then went away to a place called Cranium Site which means mount of execution in Hebrew. 18 This is where they crucified him along with two others with him on each side such that Lifesaviour was in the centre. 19 Pilate also wrote a placard and placed it on the cross, and the writing was; “LIFESAVIOUR OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

20 Many of the Jews read this placard because the place where Lifesaviour was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Greek and in Latin. 21 Then the chief priests of the Jews proposed to Pilate; “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews’ but that he had himself claimed to have been the king of the Jews. 22 Pilate responded, “What I've written, I've written.”

23 When the soldiers had crucified Lifesaviour, they took his clothes. They then made four shares, each soldier a share, including the coat. But because the coat was seamless, woven from the top to bottom, 24 they then said to each other; “Let's not tear it but decide by throwing a dice whose it will be.” That fulfilled the Scripture that says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my coat, they threw dice.” The soldiers did, in fact, do these things.

LIFESAVIOUR COMMITS HIS MOTHER TO JOHN’S CARE

25 Also standing near Lifesaviour’ cross was his mother, and his mother’s sister, Cleophas’ wife Mary and Mary of Magdala. 26 So when Lifesaviour saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by, he told his mother, “Lady, there is your son!” 27 After that he said to the disciple; “There is your mother!” Then from that time, the disciple took her to his home.

LIFESAVIOUR DIES AND IS PIERCED

28 Following this, realising that everything was now concluded, to fulfil Scripture, Lifesaviour said; “I’m thirsty.” 29 Then there was lying there a jar full of vinegar, and they dipped a sponge in the vinegar. They then hedged it on a hyssop stalk and presented to his mouth. 30 When he had taken the vinegar, he said; “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head, yielded his breath.

31 Then the Jews, because it was Preparation Day so that the bodies do not remain on the crosses on the Sabbath since that was a high Sabbath day, requested Pilate so that their legs be broken and removed.

32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first one then the other one that was crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Lifesaviour after that, they realise he was already dead. They did not break his legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pricked his rib side with a spear, and immediately blood and water gushed out. 35 So the one that saw it testifies and his report is accurate. He confirms that he is telling the truth so that you may believe. 36 In fact, these things happened so that Scripture would be fulfilled, “None of his bone will be broken. 37 Again, another Scripture also says; “They’ll look up to the one that they pierced.”

SOME OF HIS RETICENT FOLLOWERS BURY LIFESAVIOUR’ BODY

38 Also following this, Joseph from Arimathaea, having been a disciple of Lifesaviour but secretly because he feared the Jews, requested Pilate so that he could remove the body of Lifesaviour. When Pilate permitted it, he then came and removed the body of Lifesaviour.

39 Nicodemus that had first come to Lifesaviour by night, also came bringing a concoction of about forty-five litres of myrrh and aloes. 40 Then they took the body of Lifesaviour and wrapped it in linen with the spices according to the burial custom of the Jews. 41 In the site where he had been crucified, there was also a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had yet been laid. 42 Since it was Jewish Preparation day, they laid Lifesaviour there because the tomb was close.

John 20

LIFESAVIOUR IS RESURRECTED

1 But at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary from Magdala came to the tomb and noticed that the stone was rolled away from the tomb. 2 Then she ran and went to Peter as well as the other disciple whom Lifesaviour loved. Then she told them; “They have removed the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have placed him.”

3 So Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. 4 Although they were both running together, the other disciples ran faster ahead of Peter and arrived at the tomb first. 5 Then peering inside, although he did not go in, he noticed the linen was laid up. 6 Simon Peter arrived following him, he went into the tomb and saw the laid up linen 7 and the towel fabric that was over his head, not laid up with the linen but wrapped up in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple that had reached the tomb first went in too. Then he viewed it and believed 9 although they had not yet grasped the statement that he must rise from the dead. 10 The disciples then went back to their homes. 11 But Mary lingered outside looking intently at the tomb crying. Then as she was crying, she peered into the tomb. 12 Then she spotted two messengers in white. The one was sitting at the head and the other at the feet where the body of Lifesaviour had been laid. 13 Then they asked her, “Lady, why are you crying?” She told them; “It is because they have removed my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

14 When she had said that, she turned around. Then she saw Lifesaviour standing but did not realise that it was Lifesaviour. 15 Lifesaviour asked her; “Lady, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” Thinking that was the gardener, she asked him; “Sir, if you have removed him, tell me where you have laid him. I’ll fetch him.” 16 Lifesaviour called her; “Mary.” She turned around again, saying to him; “Rabboni!” (which means ‘My Master!’). 17 Lifesaviour said to her; “Do not hug me because I’ve not yet gone to my Patron but go to my brothers and tell them I’m going up to my Patron and your Father, and my Supermights and your deity.”

18 Mary from Magdala went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that he had told her these things.

LIFESAVIOUR GIVES THE DISCIPLES THE HOLY SPIRIT

19 Then it was the evening of the same first day of the week. Though the doors were locked where the disciples were gathered together because they were afraid of the Jews, Lifesaviour came and stood in the centre and greeted them; “Peace to you.” 20 When he had said that he showed them his hands and side. Then the disciples were ecstatic when they saw the Lord.

21 Then Lifesaviour spoke to them again; “Peace to you. Just as my Patron has sent me, I’m also sending you.”

22 Then after he said this, he breathed and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 Whatever sins you forgive, they are forgiven. Whatever you withhold is withheld.”

THOMAS EVENTUALLY BELIEVES IT’S LIFESAVIOUR

24 But Thomas, called Didymus, was not with them when Lifesaviour came. 25 The other disciples then told him; “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he replied; “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the scars, and I insert my hand into his side, I’ll not believe it!”

26 Then after eight days again, his disciples were inside, and Thomas was with them, Lifesaviour came and stood in the centre though the doors were locked. Then he greeted; “Peace to you!” 27 Then he said; “Thomas, bring your finger and see my hands. Then bring your hand and insert it into my side and stop unbelief but believe.” 28 Then Thomas responded and told him; “My Lord and my Supermights!” 29 Lifesaviour told him; “You have believed because you have seen me. Fortunate are those that have not seen yet have believed.”

LIFESAVIOUR HAS MANY UNRECORDED MIRACLES

30 Lifesaviour, in fact, performed many other miracles in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book. 31 But these things are written so that you may believe that Lifesaviour is the Designated, the Kin of Supermights so that by believing you may have life through his name.

John 21

LIFESAVIOUR’ LAST BREAKFAST WITH THE TWELVE

1 After these events, Lifesaviour revealed himself again to the disciples along the sea of Tiberias. But this is how he showed himself: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas, also called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, then the sons of Zebedee, and two of his other disciples were together. 3 Simon told them; “I’m going fishing.” They proposed, “We’ll also go with you.” They immediately went and embarked on a vessel. But that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the day had already dawned, Lifesaviour stood on the beach. Still, the disciples did not realise that it was Lifesaviour. 5 Then Lifesaviour asked them; “Boys, do you have any fish for relish?” They answered him, “No.” 6 But he told them; “Throw the seine fishing net on the right side of the vessel, and you’ll catch.” Then they tossed it, and after that, they were unable to drag it in because of the school of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Lifesaviour loved told Peter; “It's the Lord!” Then Simon Peter, when he heard that it was the Lord, put on a wrapper because he was naked. He then plunged himself into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in a little boat because they were not far from shore. Others were dragging the fishing net about a hundred metres.

9 Then as soon as they disembarked on shore, they saw a fire of coals set and fish relish and bread prepared. 10 Lifesaviour told them; “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed up and hauled the net ashore. It was full of big fish - a hundred and fifty-three. Though they were so many, the fishing net was not torn.

12 Lifesaviour invited them; “Come have breakfast.” But not even one of the disciples ventured to ask him; “Who are you?” They had realised it was the Lord. 13 Then Lifesaviour went and brought the bread. Then gave it to them, and the fish in that order. 14 This was now the third time Lifesaviour showed himself to his disciples after he was resurrected from the dead.

LIFESAVIOUR INSTALLS PETER AS A SHEPHERD FOR THE NEW CHURCH

15 After they had had breakfast, Lifesaviour asked Simon Peter; “Simon of Jonas, do you love me more?” He told him; “Yes, Lord! You know that I love you.” He told him; “Feed my lambs.” 16 He asked him again the second time; “Simon of Jonas, do you love me? He told him; “Yes, Lord! You know that I love you. He told him; “Shepherd my sheep.” 17 He asked him the third time; “Simon of Jonas do you love me?” Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ He said to him; “You know everything. You know that I love you.” Lifesaviour asked him; “Shepherd my sheep. 18 Let me tell you a true fact, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked wherever you wished. But when you become old, you'll stretch your hands, and another one will dress you and carry you to wherever you do not want.” 19 But he said this to indicate by what kind of death he was going to glorify Supermights. Then after he had said this, he said to him; “Follow me.” 20 But Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Lifesaviour loved following, the one that had also leaned on his chest at the supper and had asked; “Lord who is the one that is going to betray you?”21 Peter, seeing him asked Lifesaviour; “But Lord, what about this man?” 22 Lifesaviour answered him, “If I want him to live until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” 23 Then there spread this rumour among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Lifesaviour did not say to him that he’ll not die but ‘If I want him to live till I come, what is it to you?’”

LIFESAVIOUR HAS AN IMMENSE WORK THAT BOOKS CANNOT CONTAIN

24 This is the disciple that is reporting about these things and has written these things, and we can be sure that his report is factual. 25 But there are also many other things which Lifesaviour did some of which, if they were to be written down, one imagines the world itself would not have space to contain the books that would be faithfully written.

ACTS

Acts 1

1 I wrote the former account, Theophilus, about all that Lifesaviour began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to Heaven, after he had given orders by the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had Designated. 3 To the same apostles also, after his suffering, he presented himself alive with many convincing proofs. He was seen by them over a fourty-day period and spoke about matters concerning the reign of Supermights. 4 While he was with them, he declared, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait there for what my Father promised, which you heard about from me. 5 For John baptized with water, but you’ll be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 So when they had gathered together, they began to ask him, “Lord, is this the time when you are restoring the reign to Israel?” 7 He told them, “You are not permitted to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you’ll receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you’ll be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the Earth .” 9 After he had said this, while they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 As they were still staring into the sky while he was going, suddenly two men in white clothing stood near them 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Lifesaviour who has been taken up from you into Heaven will come back in the same way you saw him go into Heaven.” 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives (which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away). 13 When they had entered Jerusalem, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James were there. 14 All these continued together in prayer with one mind, together with the women, along with Mary the mother of Lifesaviour, and his brothers. 15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 16 “Brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled that the Holy Spirit foretold through David concerning Judas – who became the guide for those who arrested Lifesaviour – 17 for he was counted as one of us and received a share in this ministry.” 18 (Now this man Judas acquired a field with the reward of his unjust deed, and falling headfirst he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. 19 This became known to all who lived in Jerusalem, so that in their own language they called that field Hakeldama, that is, “Field of Blood.”) 20 “For it is written in Psalms, ‘Let his house become deserted, and let there be no one to live in it,’ and ‘Let another take his position of responsibility.’ 21 Thus one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time Lifegiver Lifesaviour associated with us, 22 beginning from his baptism by John until the day he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness of his resurrection together with us.” 23 So they proposed two candidates: Joseph called Barsabbas (also called Justus) and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed, “Lord, you know the hearts of all. Show us which one of these two you have Designated 25 to assume the task of this service and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” 26 Then they cast lots for them, and the one Designated was Matthias; so he was counted with the eleven apostles.

Acts 2

1 Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from Heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under Heaven residing in Jerusalem. 6 When this sound occurred, a crowd gathered and was in confusion, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Completely baffled, they said, “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that each one of us hears them in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great deeds Supermights has done!” 12 All were astounded and greatly confused, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others jeered at the speakers, saying, “They are drunk on new wine!” 14 But Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and addressed them: “You men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, know this and listen carefully to what I say. 15 In spite of what you think, these men are not drunk, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16 But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: 17 ​​​​​​​‘And in the last days it will be,’ Supermights says, ‘that I’ll pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 ​​​​​​​Even on my servants, both men and women, I’ll pour out my Spirit in those days, and they’ll prophesy. 19 ​​​​​​​And I’ll perform wonders in the sky above and miraculous signs on the Earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke. 20 ​​​​​​​The sun will be changed to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of Lifegiver comes. 21 ​​​​​​​And then everyone who calls on the name of Lifegiver will be saved.’

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Lifesaviour of Nazareth was a man accredited by Supermights among you with powers, portents, and pointers that Supermights performed through him among you, just as you yourselves also saw – 23 He was surrendered by a definite purpose and God’s pre-arrangement. You took hold of lawless agencies to have him crucified and killed. 24 God raised him up. Having dismantled death pangs, it was in fact impossible for him to be retained under it. 25 For David says about him,

‘I saw Lifegiver always before me,

in fact he is at my right hand,

as a result I’ll not be shaken.

26 ​​​​​​​My heart because of this is glad

and my tongue rejoices;

my body will also rest in hope,

27 ​​​​​​​because you’ll not desert me in the grave,

nor give up your Holy One to experience decay.

28 ​​​​​​​You have revealed life’s passages to me;

you’ll complete my joy in your presence.’

29 “Fellow brothers, I can speak frankly to you about our progenitor David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 So then, since he was a prophet, he knew that Supermights had promised him with an oath that from the fruit of his hips biologically he would raise up the Designated to sit on his throne. 31 Foreseeing this David spoke about the resurrection of the Designated, that he was not deserted in the grave, and his body did not experience decay. 32 Supermights has raised up this Lifesaviour, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Therefore, since he has been exalted to Supermights’ right hand, and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he has distributed what you both see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend into Heaven, but he himself says, ‘Lifegiver said to my lord, “Sit at my right hand 35 ​​​​​​​until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’ 36 ​​​​​​​Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that Supermights has made this Lifesaviour whom you crucified both Lord and the Designated.” 37 Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “What should we do, brothers?” 38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Lifesaviour the Designated for the forgiveness of your sins, and you’ll receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as Lifegiver our Supermights will call to himself.” 40 With many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, “Save yourselves from this perverse generation!” 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added. 42 They also continued to persevere in the apostle’s teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in worship. 43 So awe gripped every heart as multiple wonders and signs were performed by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and held everything in common, 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. 46 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, 47 praising Supermights and having the good will of all the people. And Lifegiver was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.

Acts 3

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time for prayer, at three o’clock in the afternoon. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried up, who was placed at the temple gate called “the Beautiful Gate” every day so he could beg for money from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple courts, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked directly at him (as did John) and said, “Look at us!” 5 So the lame man paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, “I’ve no silver or gold, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Lifesaviour the Designated the Nazarene, stand up and walk!” 7 Then Peter took hold of him by the right hand and raised him up, and at once the man’s feet and ankles were made strong. 8 He jumped up, stood and began walking around, and he entered the temple courts with them, walking and leaping and praising Supermights. 9 All the people saw him walking and praising Supermights , 10 and they recognized him as the man who used to sit and ask for donationalities at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with astonishment and amazement at what had happened to him. 11 While the man was hanging on to Peter and John, all the people, completely astounded, ran together to them in the covered walkway called Solomon’s Portico. 12 When Peter saw this, he declared to the people, “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why do you stare at us as if we had made this man walk by our own power or piety? 13 The Supermights of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Supermights of our forefathers, has glorified his servant Lifesaviour, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate after he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a man who was a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the Originator of life, whom Supermights raised from the dead. To this fact we are witnesses! 16 And on the basis of faith in Lifesaviour’ name, his very name has made this man – whom you see and know – strong. The faith that is through Lifesaviour has given him this complete health in the presence of you all. 17 And now, brothers, I know you acted in ignorance, as your rulers did too. 18 But the things Supermights foretold long ago through all the prophets – that his the Designated would suffer – he has fulfilled in this way. 19 Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, 20 so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of Lifegiver, and so that he may send the Designated appointed for you – that is, Lifesaviour. 21 This one Heaven must receive until the time all things are restored, which Supermights declared from times long ago through his sacred prophets. 22 Moses said, ‘Lifegiver your deity will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must obey him in everything he tells you. 23 Every person who does not obey that prophet will be destroyed and thus removed from the people.’ 24 And all the prophets, from Samuel and those who followed him, have spoken about and announced these days. 25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the agreement that Supermights made with your ancestors, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your descendants all the nationalities of the Earth will be blessed.’ 26 Supermights raised up his servant and sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each one of you from your iniquities.”

yet, there is no salvation through any one else because there is given no other name under heaven among humanity through which we must saved.

Acts 4

1 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the instructor of the temple guard and the Sacerdotalists came up to them, 2 angry because they were teaching the people and announcing in Lifesaviour the resurrection of the dead. 3 So they seized them and put them in jail until the next day (for it was already evening). 4 But many of those who had listened to the message believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. 5 On the next day, their rulers, elders, and learned came together in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others who were members of the high priest’s family. 7 After making Peter and John stand in their midst, they began to inquire, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, replied, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today for a good deed done to a sick man – by what means this man was healed – 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Lifesaviour the Designated the Nazarene whom you crucified, whom Supermights raised from the dead, this man stands before you healthy.

11 This Lifesaviour is

the very stone you builders rejected

which turned out to be the central keystone.

12 Indeed, there is no salvation through anyone else because there is given no other name under Heaven among humanity through which we must saved.”

13 When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and discovered that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized these men had been with Lifesaviour. 14 And because they saw the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against this. 15 But when they had ordered them to go outside the council, they began to confer with one another, 16 saying, “What should we do with these men? For it is plain to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable miraculous sign has come about through them, and we cannot deny it. 17 But to keep this matter from spreading any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” 18 And they called them in and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Lifesaviour. 19 But Peter and John replied, “Whether it is right before Supermights to obey you rather than Supermights, you decide, 20 for it is impossible for us not to speak about what we’ve seen and heard.” 21 After threatening them further, they released them, for they could not find how to punish them on account of the people, because they were all praising Supermights for what had happened.

22 For the man, on whom this miraculous sign of healing had been performed, was over fourty years old. 23 When they were released, Peter and John went to their fellow believers and reported everything the high priests and the seniors had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices to Supermights with one mind and said, “Master of all, you who made the Heaven, the Earth , the sea, and everything that is in them, 25 who said by the Holy Spirit through your servant David our forefather, ‘Why do the nationalities rage, and the peoples plot foolish things? 26 ​​​​​​​The kings of the Earth stood together, and the rulers assembled together, against Lifegiver and against his the Designated.’ 27 “For indeed both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together in this city against your sacred servant Lifesaviour, whom you anointed, 28 to do as much as your power and your plan had decided beforehand would happen. 29 And now, Lord, pay attention to their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your message with great courage, 30 while you extend your hand to heal, and to bring about miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your sacred servant Lifesaviour.” 31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of Supermights courageously. 32 The group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but everything was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of Lifegiver Lifesaviour, and great grace was on them all. 34 For there was no one needy among them, because those who were owners of land or houses were selling them and bringing the proceeds from the sales 35 and placing them at the apostles’ feet. The proceeds were distributed to each, as anyone had need. 36 So Joseph, a Levite who was a native of Cyprus, called by the apostles Barnabas (which is translated “son of encouragement”), 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and placed it at the apostles’ feet.

Acts 5

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property. 2 He kept back for himself part of the proceeds with his wife’s knowledge; he brought only part of it and placed it at the apostles’ feet. 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back for yourself part of the proceeds from the sale of the land? 4 Before it was sold, did it not belong to you? And when it was sold, was the money not at your disposal? How have you thought up this deed in your heart? You have not lied to people but to Supermights !” 5 When Ananias heard these words he collapsed and died, and great fear gripped all who heard about it. 6 So the young men came, wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. 7 After an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, but she did not know what had happened. 8 Peter said to her, “Tell me, were the two of you paid this amount for the land?” Sapphira said, “Yes, that much.” 9 Peter then told her, “Why have you agreed together to test the Spirit of Lifegiver? Look! The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they’ll carry you out!” 10 At once she collapsed at his feet and died. So when the young men came in, they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear gripped the whole church and all who heard about these things. 12 Now many miraculous signs and wonders came about among the people through the hands of the apostles. By common consent they were all meeting together in Solomon’s Portico. 13 None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high honor. 14 More and more believers in Lifegiver were added to their number, crowds of both men and women. 15 Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets, and put them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow would fall on some of them. 16 A crowd of people from the towns around Jerusalem also came together, bringing the sick and those troubled by unclean spirits. They were all being healed. 17 Now the high priest rose up, and all those with him (that is, the religious party of the Sacerdotalists), and they were filled with jealousy. 18 They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. 19 But during the night a messenger of Lifegiver opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, 20 “Go and stand in the temple courts and proclaim to the people all the words of this life.” 21 When they heard this, they entered the temple courts at daybreak and began teaching. Now when the high priest and those who were with him arrived, they summoned the Sanhedrin – that is, the whole high council of the Israelites – and sent to the jail to have the apostles brought before them. 22 But the officers who came for them did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, 23 “We found the jail locked securely and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” 24 Now when the instruct er of the temple guard and the chief priests heard this report, they were greatly puzzled concerning it, wondering what this could be. 25 But someone came and reported to them, “Look! The men you put in prison are standing in the temple courts and teaching the people!” 26 Then the instruct er of the temple guard went with the officers and brought the apostles without the use of force (for they were afraid of being stoned by the people). 27 When they had brought them, they stood them before the council, and the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name. Look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood on us!” 29 But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey Supermights rather than people. 30 The Supermights of our forefathers raised up Lifesaviour, whom you seized and killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 Supermights exalted him to his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses of these events, and so is the Holy Spirit whom Supermights has given to those who obey him.” 33 Now when they heard this, they became furious and wanted to execute them. 34 But a Seperatist whose name was Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was respected by all the people, stood up in the council and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. 35 Then he said to the council, “Men of Israel, pay close attention to what you are about to do to these men. 36 For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and nothing came of it. 37 After him Judas the Galilean arose in the days of the census, and incited people to follow him in revolt. He too was killed, and all who followed him were scattered. 38 So in this case I say to you, stay away from these men and leave them alone, because if this plan or this undertaking originates with people, it will come to nothing, 39 but if it is from Supermights , you’ll not be able to stop them, or you may even be found fighting against Supermights.” He convinced them, 40 and they summoned the apostles and had them beaten. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Lifesaviour and released them. 41 So they left the council rejoicing because they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. 42 And every day both in the temple courts and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Lifesaviour was the the Designated.

Acts 6

1 So as the disciples were increasing during those days, there was a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were comparatively overlooked in the daily servings.

2 Then the twelve convened the group of disciples and proposed; “There is no reason for us to abandon the word of Supermights to serve tables. 3 That being so, fellows, find among yourselves seven reputable fellows, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we can assign for this task. 4 But we’ll devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

5 The whole group’s view was amenable to the proposal. So they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a recent convert of Antioch, 6 whom they presented before the Apostles. They then prayed and placed their hands on them.

7 Then Supermights’ work grew, and the number of disciples increased significantly in Jerusalem. Then a large group of priests responded to the faith.

8 Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. 9 But some men from the Local congregation of the Freedmen (as it was called), both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, as well as some from Cilicia and the province of Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. 10 Yet they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. 11 Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We’ve heard this man speaking blasphemous words against Moses and Supermights.” 12 They incited the people, the elders, and the learned ; then they approached Stephen, seized him, and brought him before the council. 13 They brought forward false witnesses who said, “This man does not stop saying things against this sacred place and the law. 14 For we’ve heard him saying that Lifesaviour the Nazarene will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.” 15 All who were sitting in the council looked intently at Stephen and saw his face was like the face of a messenger .

Acts 7

1 Then the high priest spoke, “Are these things true?” 2 So he replied, “Sirs, fellows and fathers, listen to me. The Supermights of glory appeared to our forefather Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he ever settled in Haran. 3 Indeed he said to him, ‘Leave your country, and your relatives, and come to the land I’ll show you.’ 4 Then he left the region of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran the same place where his father died. Supermights emigrated him to this country where you now live. 5 He didn’t give him any inheritance in it - not even a foot spot - yet he had promised he would give it to him as an inheritance yet Supermights promised to give it to him as his possession, and to his descendants after him, even though Abraham as yet had no child. 6 But Supermights spoke as follows: ‘Your descendants will be foreigners in a foreign country, whose citizens will enslave them and mistreat them for four hundred years. 7 But I’ll punish the nation they serve as slaves,’ said Supermights , ‘and after these things they’ll come out of there and worship me in this place.’ 8 Then Supermights gave Abraham the agreement of circumcision, and so he became the father of Isaac and circumcised him when he was eight days old, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs. 9 The patriarchs, because they were jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt. But Supermights was with him, 10 and rescued him from all his troubles, and granted him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household. 11 Then a drought occurred throughout Egypt and Canaan, causing great suffering, and our ancestors could not find food. 12 So when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our ancestors there the first time. 13 On their second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers again, and Joseph’s family became known to Pharaoh. 14 So Joseph sent a message and invited his father Jacob and all his relatives to come, seventy-five people in all. 15 So Jacob went down to Egypt and died there, along with our ancestors, 16 and their bones were later moved to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a certain sum of money from the sons of Hamor in Shechem. 17 “But as the time drew near for Supermights to fulfill the promise he had declared to Abraham, the people increased greatly in number in Egypt, 18 until another king who did not know about Joseph ruled over Egypt. 19 This was the one who exploited our people and was cruel to our ancestors, forcing them to abandon their infants so they would die. 20 At that time Moses was born, and he was beautiful to Supermights. For three months he was brought up in his father’s house, 21 and when he had been abandoned, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. 22 So Moses was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds. 23 But when he was about fourty years old, it entered his mind to visit his fellow countrymen the Israelites. 24 When he saw one of them being hurt unfairly, Moses came to his defense and avenged the person who was mistreated by striking down the Egyptian. 25 He thought his own people would understand that Supermights was delivering them through him, but they did not understand. 26 The next day Moses saw two men fighting, and tried to make peace between them, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why are you hurting one another?’ 27 But the man who was unfairly hurting his neighbor pushed Moses aside, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us? 28 You don’t want to kill me the way you killed the Egyptian yesterday, do you?’ 29 When the man said this, Moses fled and became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. 30 “After fourty years had passed, a messenger appeared to him in the desert of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. 31 When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and when he approached to investigate, there came the voice of Lifegiver, 32 ‘I’m the Supermights of your forefathers, the Supermights of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’ Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look more closely. 33 But Lifegiver said to him, ‘Take the sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is sacred ground. 34 I’ve certainly seen the suffering of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I’ve come down to rescue them. Now come, I’ll send you to Egypt.’ 35 This same Moses they had rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and judge?’ Supermights sent as both ruler and deliverer through the hand of the messenger who appeared to him in the bush. 36 This man led them out, performing wonders and miraculous signs in the land of Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the desert for fourty years. 37 This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘Supermights will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.’ 38 This is the man who was in the congregation in the desert with the messenger who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors, and he received living oracles to give to you. 39 Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him, but pushed him aside and turned back to Egypt in their hearts, 40 saying to Aaron, ‘Make us deities who will go in front of us, for this Moses, who led us out of the land of Egypt – we do not know what has happened to him!’ 41 At that time they made an idol in the form of a calf, brought a sacrifice to the idol, and began rejoicing in the works of their hands. 42 But Supermights turned away from them and gave them over to worship the host of Heaven, as it is written in the prophets: ‘It was not to me that you offered slain animals and sacrifices fourty years in the desert, was it, house of Israel? 43 But you took along the booth of Moloch and the star of the Supermights Rephan, the images you made to worship, but I’ll deport you beyond Babylon.’ 44 Our ancestors had the booth of testimony in the desert, just as Supermights who spoke to Moses ordered him to make it according to the design he had seen. 45 Our ancestors received possession of it and brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nationalities that Supermights drove out before our ancestors, until the time of David. 46 He found favor with Supermights and asked that he could find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. 47 But Solomon built a house for him. 48 Yet the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands, as the prophet says, 49 ​​​​​​​‘Heaven is my throne, and Earth is the footstool for my feet. What kind of house will you build for me, says Lifegiver, or what is my resting place? 50 ​​​​​​​Did my hand not make all these things?’ 51 “You stubborn people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, like your ancestors did! 52 Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold long ago the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become! 53 You received the law by decrees given by messenger s, but you did not obey it.” 54 When they heard these things, they became furious and ground their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently toward Heaven and saw the glory of Supermights , and Lifesaviour standing at the right hand of Supermights. 56 “Look!” he said. “I see the skies opened, and the Kin of Humanity standing at the right hand of Supermights !” 57 But they covered their ears, shouting out with a loud voice, and rushed at him with one intent. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 They continued to stone Stephen while he prayed, “Lord Lifesaviour, receive my spirit!” 60 Then he fell to his knees and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” When he had said this, he died.

Acts 8

1 And Saul agreed completely with killing him. Now on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were forced to scatter throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. 2 Some devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was trying to destroy the church; entering one house after another, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. 4 Now those who had been forced to scatter went around proclaiming the good news of the word. 5 Philip went down to the main city of Samaria and began proclaiming the the Designated to them. 6 The crowds were paying attention with one mind to what Philip said, as they heard and saw the miraculous signs he was performing. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, were coming out of many who were possessed, and many paralyzed and lame people were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city. 9 Now in that city was a man named Simon, who had been practicing magic and amazing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great. 10 All the people, from the least to the greatest, paid close attention to him, saying, “This man is the power of Supermights that is called ‘Great.’” 11 And they paid close attention to him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he was proclaiming the good news about the reign of Supermights and the name of Lifesaviour the Designated, they began to be baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after he was baptized, he stayed close to Philip constantly, and when he saw the signs and great miracles that were occurring, he was amazed. 14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of Supermights , they sent Peter and John to them. 15 These two went down and prayed for them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. 16 (For the Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of Lifegiver Lifesaviour.) 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on the Samaritans, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 Now Simon, when he saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, offered them money, 19 saying, “Give me this power too, so that everyone I place my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.” 20 But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could acquire Supermights ’s gift with money! 21 You have no share or part in this matter because your heart is not right before Supermights ! 22 Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to Lifegiver that he may perhaps forgive you for the intent of your heart. 23 For I see that you are bitterly envious and in bondage to sin.” 24 But Simon replied, “You pray to Lifegiver for me so that nothing of what you have said may happen to me.” 25 So after Peter and John had solemnly testified and spoken the word of Lifegiver, they started back to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many Samaritan villages as they went. 26 Then a messenger of Lifegiver said to Philip, “Get up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) 27 So he got up and went. There he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and was returning home, sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. He asked him, “Do you understand what you’re reading?” 31 The man replied, “How in the world can I, unless someone guides me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of scripture the man was reading was this: “He was led like a sheep to slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33 ​​​​​​​In humiliation justice was taken from him. Who can describe his posterity? For his life was taken away from the Earth .” 34 Then the eunuch said to Philip, “Please tell me, who is the prophet saying this about – himself or someone else?” 35 So Philip started speaking, and beginning with this scripture proclaimed the good news about Lifesaviour to him. 36 Now as they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, there is water! What is to stop me from being baptized?” 37 [[EMPTY]] 38 So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of Lifegiver snatched Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any more, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip, however, found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through the area, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 9

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing out threats to murder Lifegiver’s disciples, went to the high priest 2 and requested letters from him to the local congregations in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, either men or women, he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he was going along, approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from Heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” 5 So he said, “Who are you, Lord?” He replied, “I’m Lifesaviour whom you are persecuting! 6 But stand up and enter the city and you’ll be told what you must do.” 7 (Now the men who were traveling with him stood there speechless, because they heard the voice but saw no one.) 8 So Saul got up from the ground, but although his eyes were open, he could see nothing. Leading him by the hand, his companions brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he could not see, and he neither ate nor drank anything. 10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. Lifegiver said to him in a vision, “Ananias,” and he replied, “Here I’m, Lord.” 11 Then Lifegiver told him, “Get up and go to the street called ‘Straight,’ and at Judas’ house look for a man from Tarsus named Saul. For he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and place his hands on him so that he may see again.” 13 But Ananias replied, “Lord, I’ve heard from many people about this man, how much harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call on your name!” 15 But Lifegiver said to him, “Go, because this man is my Designated instrument to carry my name before Gentiles and kings and the people of Israel. 16 For I’ll show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, placed his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, Lifegiver Lifesaviour, who appeared to you on the road as you came here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, his strength returned. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20 and immediately he began to proclaim Lifesaviour in the local congregations, saying, “This man is the Kin of Supermights.” 21 All who heard him were amazed and were saying, “Is this not the man who in Jerusalem was ravaging those who call on this name, and who had come here to bring them as prisoners to the chief priests?” 22 But Saul became more and more capable, and was causing consternation among the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Lifesaviour is the the Designated. 23 Now after some days had passed, the Jews plotted together to kill him,

24 but Saul learned of their plot against him. They were also watching the city gates day and night so that they could kill him. 25 But his disciples took him at night and let him down through an opening in the wall by lowering him in a basket. 26 When he arrived in Jerusalem, he attempted to associate with the disciples, and they were all afraid of him, because they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took Saul, brought him to the apostles, and related to them how he had seen Lifegiver on the road, that Lifegiver had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Lifesaviour. 28 So he was staying with them, associating openly with them in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of Lifegiver. 29 He was speaking and debating with the Greek-speaking Jews, but they were trying to kill him. 30 When the brothers found out about this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus. 31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria experienced peace and thus was strengthened. Living in the fear of Lifegiver and in the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, the church increased in numbers. 32 Now as Peter was traveling around from place to place, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. 33 He found there a man named Aeneas who had been confined to a mattress for eight years because he was paralyzed. 34 Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Lifesaviour the the Designated heals you. Get up and make your own bed!” And immediately he got up. 35 All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to Lifegiver. 36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which in translation means Dorcas). She was continually doing good deeds and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became sick and died. When they had washed her body, they placed it in an upstairs room. 38 Because Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Come to us without delay.” 39 So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived they brought him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him, crying and showing him the tunics and other clothing Dorcas used to make while she was with them. 40 But Peter sent them all outside, knelt down, and prayed. Turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her get up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. 42 This became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in Lifegiver. 43 So Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a man named Simon, a tanner.

Acts 10

1 Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort. 2 He was a devout, Supermights -fearing man, as was all his household; he did many acts of charity for the people and prayed to Supermights regularly. 3 About three o’clock one afternoon he saw clearly in a vision a messenger of Supermights who came in and said to him, “Cornelius.” 4 Staring at him and becoming greatly afraid, Cornelius replied, “What is it, Lord?” The messenger said to him, “Your prayers and your acts of charity have gone up as a memorial before Supermights. 5 Now send men to Joppa and summon a man named Simon, who is called Peter. 6 This man is staying as a guest with a man named Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” 7 When the messenger who had spoken to him departed, Cornelius called two of his personal servants and a devout soldier from among those who served him, 8 and when he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. 9 About noon the next day, while they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted to eat, but while they were preparing the meal, a trance came over him. 11 He saw Heaven opened and an object something like a large sheet descending, being let down to Earth by its four corners. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the Earth and wild birds. 13 Then a voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; slaughter and eat!” 14 But Peter said, “Certainly not, Lord, for I’ve never eaten anything defiled and ritually unclean!” 15 The voice spoke to him again, a second time, “What Supermights has made clean, you must not consider ritually unclean!” 16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into Heaven. 17 Now while Peter was puzzling over what the vision he had seen could signify, the men sent by Cornelius had learned where Simon’s house was and approached the gate. 18 They called out to ask if Simon, known as Peter, was staying there as a guest. 19 While Peter was still thinking seriously about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Look! Three men are looking for you. 20 But get up, go down, and accompany them without hesitation, because I’ve sent them.” 21 So Peter went down to the men and said, “Here I’m, the person you’re looking for. Why have you come?” 22 They said, “Cornelius the centurion, a righteous and Supermights -fearing man, well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a sacred messenger to summon you to his house and to hear a message from you.” 23 So Peter invited them in and entertained them as guests. On the next day he got up and set out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. 24 The following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting anxiously for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 So when Peter came in, Cornelius met him, fell at his feet, and worshiped him. 26 But Peter helped him up, saying, “Stand up. I too am a mere mortal.” 27 Peter continued talking with him as he went in, and he found many people gathered together. 28 He said to them, “You know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile, yet Supermights has shown me that I should call no person defiled or ritually unclean. 29 Therefore when you sent for me, I came without any objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?” 30 Cornelius replied, “Four days ago at this very hour, at three o’clock in the afternoon, I was praying in my house, and suddenly a man in shining clothing stood before me 31 and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your acts of charity have been remembered before Supermights. 32 Therefore send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter. This man is staying as a guest in the house of Simon the tanner, by the sea.’ 33 Therefore I sent for you at once, and you were kind enough to come. So now we are all here in the presence of Supermights to listen to everything Lifegiver has instructed you to say to us.” 34 Then Peter started speaking: “I now truly understand that Supermights does not show favoritism in dealing with people, 35 but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is welcomed before him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Lifesaviour the Designated (he is Lord of all) – 37 you know what happened throughout Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 with respect to Lifesaviour from Nazareth, that Supermights anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because Supermights was with him. 39 We are witnesses of all the things he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, 40 but Supermights raised him up on the third day and caused him to be seen, 41 not by all the people, but by us, the witnesses Supermights had already Designated, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He instructed us to preach to the people and to warn them that he is the one appointed by Supermights as judge of the living and the dead. 43 About him all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were greatly astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising Supermights. Then Peter said, 47 “No one can withhold the water for these people to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?” 48 So he gave orders to have them baptized in the name of Lifesaviour the Designated. Then they asked him to stay for several days.

Acts 11

1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles too had accepted the word of Supermights. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers took issue with him, 3 saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and shared a meal with them.” 4 But Peter began and explained it to them point by point, saying, 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, an object something like a large sheet descending, being let down from Heaven by its four corners, and it came to me. 6 As I stared I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the Earth , wild animals, reptiles, and wild birds. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; slaughter and eat!’ 8 But I said, ‘Certainly not, Lord, for nothing defiled or ritually unclean has ever entered my mouth!’ 9 But the voice replied a second time from Heaven, ‘What Supermights has made clean, you must not consider ritually unclean!’ 10 This happened three times, and then everything was pulled up to Heaven again. 11 At that very moment, three men sent to me from Caesarea approached the house where we were staying. 12 The Spirit told me to accompany them without hesitation. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He informed us how he had seen a messenger standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter, 14 who will speak a message to you by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 Then as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as he did on us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of Lifegiver, as he used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you’ll be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 Therefore if Supermights gave them the same gift as he also gave us after believing in Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated, who was I to hinder Supermights ?” 18 When they heard this, they ceased their objections and praised Supermights , saying, “So then, Supermights has granted the repentance that leads to life even to the Gentiles.” 19 Now those who had been scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the message to no one but Jews. 20 But there were some men from Cyprus and Cyrene among them who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks too, proclaiming the good news of Lifegiver Lifesaviour. 21 The hand of Lifegiver was with them, and a great number who believed turned to Lifegiver. 22 A report about them came to the attention of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of Supermights , he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain true to Lifegiver with devoted hearts, 24 because he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and a significant number of people were brought to Lifegiver. 25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught a significant number of people. Now it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called the Designatedians. 27 At that time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, got up and predicted by the Spirit that a severe drought was about to come over the whole inhabited world. (This took place during the reign of Claudius.) 29 So the disciples, each in accordance with his financial ability, decided to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. 30 They did so, sending their financial aid to the seniors by Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 12

1 About that time King Herod laid hands on some from the church to harm them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, executed with a sword. 3 When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter too. (This took place during the feast of Unraised Bread.) 4 When he had seized him, he put him in prison, handing him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him. Herod planned to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but those in the church were earnestly praying to Supermights for him. 6 On that very night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. 7 Suddenly a messenger of Lifegiver appeared, and a light shone in the prison cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly!” And the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. 8 The messenger said to him, “Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.” Peter did so. Then the messenger said to him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.” 9 Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening through the messenger was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 After they had passed the first and second guards, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went outside and walked down one narrow street, when at once the messenger left him. 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that Lifegiver has sent his messenger and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from everything the Jewish people were expecting to happen.” 12 When Peter realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many people had gathered together and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the door of the outer gate, a slave girl named Rhoda answered. 14 When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she did not open the gate, but ran back in and told them that Peter was standing at the gate. 15 But they said to her, “You’ve lost your mind!” But she kept insisting that it was Peter, and they kept saying, “It is his messenger !” 16 Now Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were greatly astonished. 17 He motioned to them with his hand to be quiet and then related how Lifegiver had brought him out of the prison. He said, “Tell James and the brothers these things,” and then he left and went to another place. 18 At daybreak there was great consternation among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. 19 When Herod had searched for him and did not find him, he questioned the guards and instructed that they be led away to execution. Then Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. 20 Now Herod was having an angry quarrel with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they joined together and presented themselves before him. And after convincing Blastus, the king’s personal assistant, to help them, they asked for peace, because their country’s food supply was provided by the king’s country. 21 On a day determined in advance, Herod put on his royal robes, sat down on the judgment seat, and made a speech to them. 22 But the crowd began to shout, “The voice of a Supermights , and not of a man!” 23 Immediately a messenger of Lifegiver struck Herod down because he did not give the glory to Supermights , and he was eaten by worms and died. 24 But the word of Supermights kept on increasing and multiplying. 25 So Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem when they had completed their mission, bringing along with them John Mark.

Acts 13

1 Now there were these prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen (a close friend of Herod the tetrarch from childhood) and Saul. 2 While they were serving Lifegiver and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I’ve called them.” 3 Then, after they had fasted and prayed and placed their hands on them, they sent them off. 4 So Barnabas and Saul, sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived in Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of Supermights in the Jewish local congregations. (Now they also had John as their assistant.) 6 When they had crossed over the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Lifesaviour, 7 who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. The proconsul summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of Supermights. 8 But the magician Elymas (for that is the way his name is translated) opposed them, trying to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 But Saul (also known as Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at him 10 and said, “You who are full of all deceit and all wrongdoing, you son of the devil, you enemy of all rightness – will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of Lifegiver? 11 Now look, the hand of Lifegiver is against you, and you’ll be blind, unable to see the sun for a time!” Immediately mistiness and darkness came over him, and he went around seeking people to lead him by the hand. 12 Then when the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, because he was greatly astounded at the teaching about Lifegiver. 13 Then Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. 14 Moving on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the local congregation and sat down. 15 After the reading from the law and the prophets, the leaders of the local congregation sent them a message, saying, “Brothers, if you have any message of exhortation for the people, speak it.” 16 So Paul stood up, gestured with his hand and said, “Men of Israel, and you Gentiles who fear Supermights , listen: 17 The Supermights of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay as foreigners in the country of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18 For a period of about fourty years he put up with them in the desert. 19 After he had destroyed seven nationalities in the land of Canaan, he gave his people their land as an inheritance. 20 All this took about four hundred fifty years. After this he gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. 21 Then they asked for a king, and Supermights gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled fourty years. 22 After removing him, Supermights raised up David their king. He testified about him: ‘I’ve found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who will accomplish everything I want him to do.’ 23 From the descendants of this man Supermights brought to Israel a Savior, Lifesaviour, just as he promised. 24 Before Lifesaviour arrived, John had proclaimed a baptism for repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 But while John was completing his mission, he said repeatedly, ‘What do you think I’m? I’m not he. But look, one is coming after me. I’m not worthy to untie the sandals on his feet!’ 26 Brothers, descendants of Abraham’s family, and those Gentiles among you who fear Supermights , the message of this salvation has been sent to us. 27 For the people who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and they fulfilled the sayings of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him. 28 Though they found no basis for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 When they had accomplished everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb. 30 But Supermights raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses to the people. 32 And we proclaim to you the good news about the promise to our ancestors, 33 that this promise Supermights has fulfilled to us, their children, by raising Lifesaviour, as also it is written in the second psalm, ‘You are my Son; today I’ve fathered you.’ 34 But regarding the fact that he has raised Lifesaviour from the dead, never again to be in a state of decay, Supermights has spoken in this way: ‘I’ll give you the sacred and trustworthy promises made to David.’ 35 Therefore he also says in another psalm, ‘You’ll not permit your Holy One to experience decay.’ 36 For David, after he had served Supermights ’s purpose in his own generation, died, was buried with his ancestors, and experienced decay, 37 but the one whom Supermights raised up did not experience decay. 38 Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and by this one everyone who believes is justified from everything from which the law of Moses could not justify you. 40 Watch out, then, that what is spoken about by the prophets does not happen to you: 41 ​​​​​​​‘Look, you scoffers; be amazed and perish! For I’m doing a work in your days, a work you would never believe, even if someone tells you.’” 42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people were urging them to speak about these things on the next Sabbath. 43 When the meeting of the local congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and Supermights -fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and were persuading them to continue in the grace of Supermights. 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city assembled together to hear the word of Lifegiver. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they began to contradict what Paul was saying by reviling him. 46 Both Paul and Barnabas replied courageously, “It was necessary to speak the word of Supermights to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For this is what Lifegiver has instructed us: ‘I’ve appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the Earth .’” 48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began to rejoice and praise the word of Lifegiver, and all who had been appointed for eternal life believed. 49 So the word of Lifegiver was spreading through the entire region. 50 But the Jews incited the Supermights -fearing women of high social standing and the prominent men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their region. 51 So after they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them, they went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 14

1 The same thing happened in Iconium when Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish local congregation and spoke in such a way that a large group of both Jews and Greeks believed. 2 But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3 So they stayed there for a considerable time, speaking out courageously for Lifegiver, who testified to the message of his grace, granting miraculous signs and wonders to be performed through their hands. 4 But the population of the city was divided; some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. 5 When both the Gentiles and the Jews (together with their rulers) made an attempt to mistreat them and stone them, 6 Paul and Barnabas learned about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region. 7 There they continued to proclaim the good news. 8 In Lystra sat a man who could not use his feet, lame from birth, who had never walked. 9 This man was listening to Paul as he was speaking. When Paul stared intently at him and saw he had faith to be healed, 10 he said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And the man leaped up and began walking. 11 So when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The deities have come down to us in human form!” 12 They began to call Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of the temple of Zeus, located just outside the city, brought bulls and garlands to the city gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifices to them. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard about it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, 15 “Men, why are you doing these things? We too are men, with human natures just like you! We are proclaiming the good news to you, so that you should turn from these worthless things to the living Supermights , who made the Heaven, the Earth , the sea, and everything that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nationalities to go their own ways, 17 yet he did not leave himself without a witness by doing good, by giving you rain from Heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying you with food and your hearts with joy.” 18 Even by saying these things, they scarcely persuaded the crowds not to offer sacrifice to them. 19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and after winning the crowds over, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, presuming him to be dead. 20 But after the disciples had surrounded him, he got up and went back into the city. On the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. 21 After they had proclaimed the good news in that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch. 22 They strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, “We must enter the reign of Supermights through many persecutions.” 23 When they had appointed seniors for them in the various churches, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the protection of Lifegiver in whom they had believed. 24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia, 25 and when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

26 From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of Supermights for the work they had now completed. 27 When they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported all the things Supermights had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. 28 So they spent considerable time with the disciples.

Acts 15

1 Now some men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 When Paul and Barnabas had a major argument and debate with them, the church appointed Paul and Barnabas and some others from among them to go up to meet with the apostles and seniors in Jerusalem about this point of disagreement. 3 So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they were relating at length the conversion of the Gentiles and bringing great joy to all the brothers. 4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all the things Supermights had done with them. 5 But some from the religious party of the Seperatists who had believed stood up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise the Gentiles and to order them to observe the law of Moses.” 6 Both the apostles and the seniors met together to deliberate about this matter. 7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that some time ago Supermights chose me to preach to the Gentiles so they would hear the message of the gospel and believe. 8 And Supermights , who knows the heart, has testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, 9 and he made no distinction between them and us, cleansing their hearts by faith. 10 So now why are you putting Supermights to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we’ve been able to bear? 11 On the contrary, we believe that we are saved through the grace of Lifegiver Lifesaviour, in the same way as they are.” 12 The whole group kept quiet and listened to Barnabas and Paul while they explained all the miraculous signs and wonders Supermights had done among the Gentiles through them. 13 After they stopped speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has explained how Supermights first concerned himself to select from among the Gentiles a people for his name. 15 The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written, 16 ​​​​​​​‘After this I’ll return, and I’ll rebuild the fallen tent of David; I’ll rebuild its ruins and restore it, 17 ​​​​​​​so that the rest of humanity may seek Lifegiver, namely, all the Gentiles I’ve called to be my own,’ says Lifegiver, who makes these things 18 ​​​​​​​known from long ago. 19 “Therefore I conclude that we should not cause extra difficulty for those among the Gentiles who are turning to Supermights , 20 but that we should write them a letter telling them to abstain from things defiled by idols and from sexual immorality and from what has been strangled and from blood. 21 For Moses has had those who proclaim him in every town from ancient times, because he is read aloud in the local congregations every Sabbath.” 22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to send men Designated from among them, Judas called Barsabbas and Silas, leaders among the brothers, to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. 23 They sent this letter with them: From the apostles and elders, your brothers, to the Gentile brothers and sisters in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia, greetings! 24 ​​​​​​​Since we’ve heard that some have gone out from among us with no orders from us and have confused you, upsetting your minds by what they said, 25 ​​​​​​​we’ve unanimously decided to choose men to send to you along with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul, 26 ​​​​​​​who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 27 ​​​​​​​Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas who will tell you these things themselves in person. 28 ​​​​​​​For it seemed best to the Holy Spirit and to us not to place any greater burden on you than these necessary rules: 29 ​​​​​​​that you abstain from meat that has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what has been strangled and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from doing these things, you’ll do well. Farewell. 30 So when they were dismissed, they went down to Antioch, and after gathering the entire group together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they read it aloud, the people rejoiced at its encouragement. 32 Both Judas and Silas, who were prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with a long speech. 33 After they had spent some time there, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. 34 [[EMPTY]] 35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and proclaiming (along with many others) the word of Lifegiver. 36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s return and visit the brothers in every town where we proclaimed the word of Lifegiver to see how they are doing.” 37 Barnabas wanted to bring John called Mark along with them too, 38 but Paul insisted that they should not take along this one who had left them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. 39 They had a sharp disagreement, so that they parted company. Barnabas took along Mark and sailed away to Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and set out, commended to the grace of Lifegiver by the brothers and sisters. 41 He passed through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 16

1 He also came to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but whose father was a Greek. 2 The brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was Greek. 4 As they went through the towns, they passed on the decrees that had been decided on by the apostles and seniors in Jerusalem for the Gentile believers to obey. 5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith and were increasing in number every day. 6 They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been prevented by the Holy Spirit from speaking the message in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Lifesaviour did not allow them to do this, 8 so they passed through Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 A vision appeared to Paul during the night: A Macedonian man was standing there urging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” 10 After Paul saw the vision, we attempted immediately to go over to Macedonia, concluding that Supermights had called us to proclaim the good news to them. 11 We put out to sea from Troas and sailed a straight course to Samothrace, the next day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of that district of Macedonia, a Roman colony. We stayed in this city for some days. 13 On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the side of the river, where we thought there would be a place of prayer, and we sat down and began to speak to the women who had assembled there. 14 A woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, a Supermights -fearing woman, listened to us. Lifegiver opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying. 15 After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, “If you consider me to be a believer in Lifegiver, come and stay in my house.” And she persuaded us. 16 Now as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit that enabled her to foretell the future by supernatural means. She brought her owners a great profit by fortune-telling. 17 She followed behind Paul and us and kept crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High Supermights , who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.” 18 She continued to do this for many days. But Paul became greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I instruct you in the name of Lifesaviour the Designated to come out of her!” And it came out of her at once. 19 But when her owners saw their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. 20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are throwing our city into confusion. They are Jews 21 and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us to accept or practice, since we are Romans.” 22 The crowd joined the attack against them, and the magistrates tore the clothes off Paul and Silas and ordered them to be beaten with rods. 23 After they had beaten them severely, they threw them into prison and instructed the jailer to guard them securely. 24 Receiving such orders, he threw them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to Supermights , and the rest of the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly a great Earth quake occurred, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Immediately all the doors flew open, and the bonds of all the prisoners came loose. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he assumed the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul called out loudly, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!” 29 Calling for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell down trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them outside and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They replied, “Believe in Lifegiver Lifesaviour and you’ll be saved, you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of Lifegiver to him, along with all those who were in his house. 33 At that hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized right away. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set food before them, and he rejoiced greatly that he had come to believe in Supermights , together with his entire household. 35 At daybreak the magistrates sent their police officers, saying, “Release those men.” 36 The jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent orders to release you. So come out now and go in peace.” 37 But Paul said to the police officers, “They had us beaten in public without a proper trial – even though we are Roman citizens – and they threw us in prison. And now they want to send us away secretly? Absolutely not! They themselves must come and escort us out!” 38 The police officers reported these words to the magistrates. They were frightened when they heard Paul and Silas were Roman citizens 39 and came and apologized to them. After they brought them out, they asked them repeatedly to leave the city. 40 When they came out of the prison, they entered Lydia’s house, and when they saw the brothers, they encouraged them and then departed.

Acts 17

1 After they traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish local congregation. 2 Paul went to the Jews in the local congregation, as he customarily did, and on three Sabbath days he addressed them from the scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the the Designated had to suffer and to rise from the dead, saying, “This Lifesaviour I’m proclaiming to you is the the Designated.” 4 Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large group of Supermights -fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. 5 But the Jews became jealous, and gathering together some worthless men from the rabble in the marketplace, they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. They attacked Jason’s house, trying to find Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly. 6 When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, screaming, “These people who have stirred up trouble throughout the world have come here too, 7 and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting against Caesar’s decrees, saying there is another king named Lifesaviour!” 8 They caused confusion among the crowd and the city officials who heard these things. 9 After the city officials had received bail from Jason and the others, they released them. 10 The brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea at once, during the night. When they arrived, they went to the Jewish local congregation. 11 These Jews were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they eagerly received the message, examining the scriptures carefully every day to see if these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, along with quite a few prominent Greek women and men. 13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica heard that Paul had also proclaimed the word of Supermights in Berea, they came there too, inciting and disturbing the crowds. 14 Then the brothers sent Paul away to the coast at once, but Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. 15 Those who accompanied Paul escorted him as far as Athens, and after receiving an order for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left. 16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was greatly upset because he saw the city was full of idols. 17 So he was addressing the Jews and the Supermights -fearing Gentiles in the local congregation, and in the marketplace every day those who happened to be there. 18 Also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him, and some were asking, “What does this foolish babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign Deities.” (They said this because he was proclaiming the good news about Lifesaviour and the resurrection.) 19 So they took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are proclaiming? 20 For you are bringing some surprising things to our ears, so we want to know what they mean.” 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there used to spend their time in nothing else than telling or listening to something new.) 22 So Paul stood before the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. 23 For as I went around and observed closely your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown Supermights.’ Therefore what you worship without knowing it, this I proclaim to you. 24 The Supermights who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of Heaven and Earth , does not live in temples made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives life and breath and everything to everyone. 26 From one man he made every nation of the human race to inhabit the entire Earth , determining their set times and the fixed limits of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for Supermights and perhaps grope around for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 For in him we live and move about and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ 29 So since we are Supermights ’s offspring, we should not think the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image made by human skill and imagination. 30 Therefore, although Supermights has overlooked such times of ignorance, he now instructions all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in rightness, by a man whom he designated, having provided proof to everyone by raising him from the dead.” 32 Now when they heard about the resurrection from the dead, some began to scoff, but others said, “We’ll hear you again about this.” 33 So Paul left the Areopagus. 34 But some people joined him and believed. Among them were Dionysius, who was a member of the Areopagus, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Acts 18

1 After this Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to depart from Rome. Paul approached them, 3 and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed with them and worked with them (for they were tentmakers by trade). 4 He addressed both Jews and Greeks in the local congregation every Sabbath, attempting to persuade them. 5 Now when Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul became wholly absorbed with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that Lifesaviour was the the Designated. 6 When they opposed him and reviled him, he protested by shaking out his clothes and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I’m guiltless! From now on I’ll go to the Gentiles!” 7 Then Paul left the local congregation and went to the house of a person named Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped Supermights , whose house was next door to the local congregation. 8 Crispus, the president of the local congregation, believed in Lifegiver together with his entire household, and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized. 9 Lifegiver said to Paul by a vision in the night, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent, 10 because I’m with you, and no one will assault you to harm you, because I’ve many people in this city.” 11 So he stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of Supermights among them. 12 Now while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews attacked Paul together and brought him before the judgment seat, 13 saying, “This man is persuading people to worship Supermights in a way contrary to the law!” 14 But just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of some crime or serious piece of villainy, I would have been justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews, 15 but since it concerns points of disagreement about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. I’ll not be a judge of these things!” 16 Then he had them forced away from the judgment seat. 17 So they all seized Sosthenes, the president of the local congregation, and began to beat him in front of the judgment seat. Yet none of these things were of any concern to Gallio. 18 Paul, after staying many more days in Corinth, said farewell to the brothers and sailed away to Syria accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because he had made a vow. 19 When they reached Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila behind there, but he himself went into the local congregation and addressed the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay longer, he would not consent, 21 but said farewell to them and added, “I’ll come back to you again if Supermights wills.” Then he set sail from Ephesus, 22 and when he arrived at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church at Jerusalem and then went down to Antioch. 23 After he spent some time there, Paul left and went through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. 24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, arrived in Ephesus. He was an eloquent speaker, well-versed in the scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of Lifegiver, and with great enthusiasm he spoke and taught accurately the facts about Lifesaviour, although he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak out fearlessly in the local congregation, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of Supermights to him more accurately. 27 When Apollos wanted to cross over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he assisted greatly those who had believed by grace, 28 for he refuted the Jews vigorously in public debate, demonstrating from the scriptures that the the Designated was Lifesaviour.

Acts 19

1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples there 2 and said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They replied, “No, we’ve not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 So Paul said, “Into what then were you baptized?” “Into John’s baptism,” they replied. 4 Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Lifesaviour.” 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of Lifegiver Lifesaviour, 6 and when Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. 7 (Now there were about twelve men in all.) 8 So Paul entered the local congregation and spoke out fearlessly for three months, addressing and convincing them about the reign of Supermights. 9 But when some were stubborn and refused to believe, reviling the Way before the congregation, he left them and took the disciples with him, addressing them every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all who lived in the province of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of Lifegiver. 11 Supermights was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul’s hands, 12 so that when even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his body were brought to the sick, their diseases left them and the bad spirits went out of them. 13 But some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to invoke the name of Lifegiver Lifesaviour over those who were possessed by bad spirits, saying, “I sternly warn you by Lifesaviour whom Paul preaches.” 14 (Now seven sons of a man named Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this.) 15 But the bad spirit replied to them, “I know about Lifesaviour and I’m acquainted with Paul, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who was possessed by the bad spirit jumped on them and beat them all into submission. He prevailed against them so that they fled from that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known to all who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks; fear came over them all, and the name of Lifegiver Lifesaviour was praised. 18 Many of those who had believed came forward, confessing and making their deeds known. 19 Large numbers of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them up in the presence of everyone. When the value of the books was added up, it was found to total fifty thousand silver coins. 20 In this way the word of Lifegiver continued to grow in power and to prevail. 21 Now after all these things had taken place, Paul resolved to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. He said, “After I’ve been there, I must also see Rome.” 22 So after sending two of his assistants, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, he himself stayed on for a while in the province of Asia. 23 At that time a great disturbance took place concerning the Way. 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought a great deal of business to the craftsmen. 25 He gathered these together, along with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity comes from this business. 26 And you see and hear that this Paul has persuaded and turned away a large crowd, not only in Ephesus but in practically all of the province of Asia, by saying that deities made by hands are not deities at all. 27 There is danger not only that this business of ours will come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great Supermights dess Artemis will be regarded as nothing, and she whom all the province of Asia and the world worship will suffer the loss of her greatness.” 28 When they heard this they became enraged and began to shout, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 The city was filled with the uproar, and the crowd rushed to the theater together, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, the Macedonians who were Paul’s traveling companions. 30 But when Paul wanted to enter the public assembly, the disciples would not let him. 31 Even some of the provincial authorities who were his friends sent a message to him, urging him not to venture into the theater. 32 So then some were shouting one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had met together. 33 Some of the crowd concluded it was about Alexander because the Jews had pushed him to the front. Alexander, gesturing with his hand, was wanting to make a defense before the public assembly. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” for about two hours. 35 After the city secretary quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, what person is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the keeper of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image that fell from Heaven? 36 So because these facts are indisputable, you must keep quiet and not do anything reckless. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our Supermights dess. 38 If then Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against someone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls; let them bring charges against one another there. 39 But if you want anything in addition, it will have to be settled in a legal assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause we can give to explain this disorderly gathering.” 41 After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

Acts 20

1 After the disturbance had ended, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them and saying farewell, he left to go to Macedonia. 2 After he had gone through those regions and spoken many words of encouragement to the believers there, he came to Greece, 3 where he stayed for three months. Because the Jews had made a plot against him as he was intending to sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. 4 Paul was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, and Timothy, as well as Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. 5 These had gone on ahead and were waiting for us in Troas. 6 We sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unraised Bread, and witlitrefive days we came to the others in Troas, where we stayed for seven days. 7 On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul began to speak to the people, and because he intended to leave the next day, he extended his message until midnight. 8 (Now there were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting.) 9 A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, was sinking into a deep sleep while Paul continued to speak for a long time. Fast asleep, he fell down from the third story and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down, threw himself on the young man, put his arms around him, and said, “Do not be distressed, for he is still alive!” 11 Then Paul went back upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he talked with them a long time, until dawn. Then he left. 12 They took the boy home alive and were greatly comforted. 13 We went on ahead to the ship and put out to sea for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for he had arranged it this way. He himself was intending to go there by land.

14 When he met us in Assos, we took him aboard and went to Mitylene. 15 We set sail from there, and on the following day we arrived off Chios. The next day we approached Samos, and the day after that we arrived at Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so as not to spend time in the province of Asia, for he was hurrying to arrive in Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. 17 From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, telling the seniors of the church to come to him. 18 When they arrived, he said to them, “You yourselves know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I set foot in the province of Asia, 19 serving Lifegiver with all humility and with tears, and with the trials that happened to me because of the plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I did not hold back from proclaiming to you anything that would be helpful, and from teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward Supermights and faith in our Lord Lifesaviour. 22 And now, compelled by the Spirit, I’m going to Jerusalem without knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit warns me in town after town that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. 24 But I do not consider my life worth anything to myself, so that I may finish my task and the ministry that I received from Lifegiver Lifesaviour, to testify to the good news of Supermights ’s grace. 25 “And now I know that none of you among whom I went around proclaiming the reign will see me again. 26 Therefore I declare to you today that I’m innocent of the blood of you all. 27 For I did not hold back from announcing to you the whole purpose of Supermights. 28 Watch out for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of Supermights that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. 29 I know that after I’m gone fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Even from among your own group men will arise, teaching perversions of the truth to draw the disciples away after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that night and day for three years I did not stop warning each one of you with tears. 32 And now I entrust you to Supermights and to the message of his grace. This message is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I’ve desired no one’s silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine provided for my needs and the needs of those who were with me. 35 By all these things, I’ve shown you that by working in this way we must help the weak, and remember the words of Lifegiver Lifesaviour that he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” 36 When he had said these things, he knelt down with them all and prayed. 37 They all began to weep loudly, and hugged Paul and kissed him, 38 especially saddened by what he had said, that they were not going to see him again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

Acts 21

1 After we tore ourselves away from them, we put out to sea, and sailing a straight course, we came to Cos, on the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. 2 We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went aboard, and put out to sea. 3 After we sighted Cyprus and left it behind on our port side, we sailed on to Syria and put in at Tyre, because the ship was to unload its cargo there. 4 After we located the disciples, we stayed there seven days. They repeatedly told Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. 5 When our time was over, we left and went on our way. All of them, with their wives and children, accompanied us outside of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, 6 we said farewell to one another. Then we went aboard the ship, and they returned to their own homes. 7 We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived at Ptolemais, and when we had greeted the brothers, we stayed with them for one day. 8 On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evmessenger ist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 (He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.) 10 While we remained there for a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 He came to us, took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it, and said, “The Holy Spirit says this: ‘This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man whose belt this is, and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’” 12 When we heard this, both we and the local people begged him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul replied, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I’m ready not only to be tied up, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of Lifegiver Lifesaviour.” 14 Because he could not be persuaded, we said no more except, “Lifegiver’s will be done.” 15 After these days we got ready and started up to Jerusalem. 16 Some of the disciples from Caesarea came along with us too, and brought us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple from the earliest times, with whom we were to stay. 17 When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly. 18 The next day Paul went in with us to see James, and all the seniors were there. 19 When Paul had greeted them, he began to explain in detail what Supermights had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 When they heard this, they praised Supermights. Then they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all ardent observers of the law. 21 They have been informed about you – that you teach all the Jews now living among the Gentiles to abandon Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs. 22 What then should we do? They’ll no doubt hear that you have come. 23 So do what we tell you: We’ve four men who have taken a vow; 24 take them and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself live in conformity with the law. 25 But regarding the Gentiles who have believed, we’ve written a letter, having decided that they should avoid meat that has been sacrificed to idols and blood and what has been strangled and sexual immorality.” 26 Then Paul took the men the next day, and after he had purified himself along with them, he went to the temple and gave notice of the completion of the days of purification, when the sacrifice would be offered for each of them. 27 When the seven days were almost over, the Jews from the province of Asia who had seen him in the temple area stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, 28 shouting, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people, our law, and this sanctuary! Furthermore he has brought Greeks into the inner courts of the temple and made this sacred place ritually unclean!” 29 (For they had seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him previously, and they assumed Paul had brought him into the inner temple courts.) 30 The whole city was stirred up, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple courts, and immediately the doors were shut. 31 While they were trying to kill him, a report was sent up to the instructing officer of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion. 32 He immediately took soldiers and centurions and ran down to the crowd. When they saw the instructing officer and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. 33 Then the instructing officer came up and arrested him and ordered him to be tied up with two chains; he then asked who he was and what he had done. 34 But some in the crowd shouted one thing, and others something else, and when the instructing officer was unable to find out the truth because of the disturbance, he ordered Paul to be brought into the barracks. 35 When he came to the steps, Paul had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob, 36 for a crowd of people followed them, screaming, “Away with him!” 37 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the instructing officer, “May I say something to you?” The officer replied, “Do you know Greek? 38 Then you’re not that Egyptian who started a rebellion and led the four thousand men of the ‘Assassins’ into the desert some time ago?” 39 Paul answered, “I’m a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of an important city. Please allow me to speak to the people.” 40 When the instructing officer had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and gestured to the people with his hand. When they had become silent, he addressed them in Aramaic,

Acts 22

1 “Brothers and fathers, listen to my defense that I now make to you.” 2 (When they heard that he was addressing them in Aramaic, they became even quieter.) Then Paul said, 3 “I’m a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated with strictness under Gamaliel according to the law of our ancestors, and was zealous for Supermights just as all of you are today. 4 I persecuted this Way even to the point of death, tying up both men and women and putting them in prison, 5 as both the high priest and the whole council of seniors can testify about me. From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I was on my way to make arrests there and bring the prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished. 6 As I was en route and near Damascus, about noon a very bright light from Heaven suddenly flashed around me. 7 Then I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ 8 I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to me, ‘I’m Lifesaviour the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.’ 9 Those who were with me saw the light, but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. 10 So I asked, ‘What should I do, Lord?’ Lifegiver said to me, ‘Get up and go to Damascus; there you’ll be told about everything that you have been designated to do.’ 11 Since I could not see because of the brilliance of that light, I came to Damascus led by the hand of those who were with me. 12 A man named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who live there, 13 came to me and stood beside me and said to me, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight!’ And at that very moment I looked up and saw him. 14 Then he said, ‘The Supermights of our ancestors has already Designated you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear a instruct from his mouth, 15 because you’ll be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.’ 17 When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw Lifegiver saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they’ll not accept your testimony about me.’ 19 I replied, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat those in the various local congregations who believed in you. 20 And when the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I myself was standing nearby, approving, and guarding the cloaks of those who were killing him.’ 21 Then he said to me, ‘Go, because I’ll send you far away to the Gentiles.’” 22 The crowd was listening to him until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, “Away with this man from the Earth ! For he should not be allowed to live!” 23 While they were screaming and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust in the air, 24 the instructing officer ordered Paul to be brought back into the barracks. He told them to interrogate Paul by beating him with a lash so that he could find out the reason the crowd was shouting at Paul in this way. 25 When they had stretched him out for the lash, Paul said to the centurion standing nearby, “Is it legal for you to lash a man who is a Roman citizen without a proper trial?” 26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the instructing officer and reported it, saying, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” 27 So the instructing officer came and asked Paul, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” He replied, “Yes.” 28 The instructing officer answered, “I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money.” “But I was even born a citizen,” Paul replied. 29 Then those who were about to interrogate him stayed away from him, and the instructing officer was frightened when he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had had him tied up. 30 The next day, because the instructing officer wanted to know the true reason Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and the whole council to assemble. He then brought Paul down and had him stand before them.

Acts 23

1 Paul looked directly at the council and said, “Brothers, I’ve lived my life with a clear conscience before Supermights to this day.” 2 At that the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, “Supermights is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit there judging me according to the law, and in violation of the law you order me to be struck?” 4 Those standing near him said, “Do you dare insult Supermights ’s high priest?” 5 Paul replied, “I did not realize, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You must not speak bad about a ruler of your people.’” 6 Then when Paul noticed that part of them were Sacerdotalists and the others Seperatists, he shouted out in the council, “Brothers, I’m a Seperatist, a son of Seperatists. I’m on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead!” 7 When he said this, an argument began between the Seperatists and the Sacerdotalists, and the assembly was divided. 8 (For the Sacerdotalists say there is no resurrection, or messenger , or spirit, but the Seperatists acknowledge them all.) 9 There was a great commotion, and some learned from the party of the Seperatists stood up and protested strongly, “We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or a messenger has spoken to him?” 10 When the argument became so great the instructing officer feared that they would tear Paul to pieces, he ordered the detachment to go down, take him away from them by force, and bring him into the barracks. 11 The following night Lifegiver stood near Paul and said, “Have courage, for just as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.” 12 When morning came, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul. 13 There were more than fourty of them who formed this conspiracy. 14 They went to the chief priests and the seniors and said, “We’ve bound ourselves with a solemn oath not to partake of anything until we’ve killed Paul. 15 So now you and the council request the instructing officer to bring him down to you, as if you were going to determine his case by conducting a more thorough inquiry. We are ready to kill him before he comes near this place.” 16 But when the son of Paul’s sister heard about the ambush, he came and entered the barracks and told Paul. 17 Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the instructing officer, for he has something to report to him.” 18 So the centurion took him and brought him to the instructing officer and said, “The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you.” 19 The instructing officer took him by the hand, withdrew privately, and asked, “What is it that you want to report to me?” 20 He replied, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as if they were going to inquire more thoroughly about him. 21 So do not let them persuade you to do this, because more than fourty of them are lying in ambush for him. They have bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink anything until they have killed him, and now they are ready, waiting for you to agree to their request.” 22 Then the instructing officer sent the young man away, directing him, “Tell no one that you have reported these things to me.” 23 Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, “Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea along with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen by nine o’clock tonight, 24 and provide mounts for Paul to ride so that he may be brought safely to Felix the governor.” 25 He wrote a letter that went like this: 26 ​​​​​​​Claudius Lysias to His Excellency Governor Felix, greetings. 27 ​​​​​​​This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, when I came up with the detachment and rescued him, because I had learned that he was a Roman citizen. 28 ​​​​​​​Since I wanted to know what charge they were accusing him of, I brought him down to their council. 29 ​​​​​​​I found he was accused with reference to controversial questions about their law, but no charge against him deserved death or imprisonment. 30 ​​​​​​​When I was informed there would be a plot against this man, I sent him to you at once, also ordering his accusers to state their charges against him before you. 31 So the soldiers, in accordance with their orders, took Paul and brought him to Antipatris during the night. 32 The next day they let the horsemen go on with him, and they returned to the barracks. 33 When the horsemen came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him. 34 When the governor had read the letter, he asked what province he was from. When he learned that he was from Cilicia, 35 he said, “I’ll give you a hearing when your accusers arrive too.” Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod’s palace.

Acts 24

1 After five days the high priest Ananias came down with some seniors and an attorney named Tertullus, and they brought formal charges against Paul to the governor. 2 When Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “We’ve experienced a lengthy time of peace through your rule, and reforms are being made in this nation through your foresight. 3 Most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this everywhere and in every way with all gratitude. 4 But so that I may not delay you any further, I beg you to hear us briefly with your customary graciousness. 5 For we’ve found this man to be a troublemaker, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to desecrate the temple, so we arrested him. 7 [[EMPTY]] 8 When you examine him yourself, you’ll be able to learn from him about all these things we are accusing him of doing.” 9 The Jews also joined in the verbal attack, claiming that these things were true. 10 When the governor gestured for him to speak, Paul replied, “Because I know that you have been a judge over this nation for many years, I confidently make my defense. 11 As you can verify for yourself, not more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 They did not find me arguing with anyone or stirring up a crowd in the temple courts or in the local congregations or throughout the city, 13 nor can they prove to you the things they are accusing me of doing. 14 But I confess this to you, that I worship the Supermights of our ancestors according to the Way (which they call a sect), believing everything that is according to the law and that is written in the prophets. 15 I’ve a hope in Supermights (a hope that these men themselves accept too) that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. 16 This is the reason I do my best to always have a clear conscience toward Supermights and toward people. 17 After several years I came to bring to my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings, 18 which I was doing when they found me in the temple, ritually purified, without a crowd or a disturbance. 19 But there are some Jews from the province of Asia who should be here before you and bring charges, if they have anything against me. 20 Or these men here should tell what crime they found me guilty of when I stood before the council, 21 other than this one thing I shouted out while I stood before them: ‘I’m on trial before you today concerning the resurrection of the dead.’” 22 Then Felix, who understood the facts concerning the Way more accurately, adjourned their hearing, saying, “When Lysias the instructing officer comes down, I’ll decide your case.” 23 He ordered the centurion to guard Paul, but to let him have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from meeting his needs. 24 Some days later, when Felix arrived with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in the Designated Lifesaviour. 25 While Paul was discussing rightness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, “Go away for now, and when I’ve an opportunity, I’ll send for you.” 26 At the same time he was also hoping that Paul would give him money, and for this reason he sent for Paul as often as possible and talked with him. 27 After two years had passed, Porcius Festus succeeded Felix, and because he wanted to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

Acts 25

1 Now three days after Festus arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. 2 So the chief priests and the most prominent men of the Jews brought formal charges against Paul to him. 3 Requesting him to do them a favor against Paul, they urged Festus to summon him to Jerusalem, planning an ambush to kill him along the way. 4 Then Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea, and he himself intended to go there shortly. 5 “So,” he said, “let your leaders go down there with me, and if this man has done anything wrong, they may bring charges against him.” 6 After Festus had stayed not more than eight or ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea, and the next day he sat on the judgment seat and ordered Paul to be brought. 7 When he arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges that they were not able to prove. 8 Paul said in his defense, “I’ve committed no offense against the Jewish law or against the temple or against Caesar.” 9 But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, asked Paul, “Are you’lling to go up to Jerusalem and be tried before me there on these charges?” 10 Paul replied, “I’m standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I should be tried. I’ve done nothing wrong to the Jews, as you also know very well. 11 If then I’m in the wrong and have done anything that deserves death, I’m not trying to escape dying, but if not one of their charges against me is true, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!” 12 Then, after conferring with his council, Festus replied, “You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you’ll go!” 13 After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. 14 While they were staying there many days, Festus explained Paul’s case to the king to get his opinion, saying, “There is a man left here as a prisoner by Felix. 15 When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the seniors of the Jews informed me about him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. 16 I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had met his accusers face to face and had been given an opportunity to make a defense against the accusation. 17 So after they came back here with me, I did not postpone the case, but the next day I sat on the judgment seat and ordered the man to be brought. 18 When his accusers stood up, they did not charge him with any of the bad deeds I had suspected. 19 Rather they had several points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a man named Lifesaviour who was dead, whom Paul claimed to be alive. 20 Because I was at a loss how I could investigate these matters, I asked if he were willing to go to Jerusalem and be tried there on these charges. 21 But when Paul appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of His Majesty the Emperor, I ordered him to be kept under guard until I could send him to Caesar.” 22 Agrippa said to Festus, “I would also like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” he replied, “you’ll hear him.” 23 So the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience hall, along with the senior military officers and the prominent men of the city. When Festus gave the order, Paul was brought in. 24 Then Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all you who are present here with us, you see this man about whom the entire Jewish populace petitioned me both in Jerusalem and here, shouting loudly that he ought not to live any longer. 25 But I found that he had done nothing that deserved death, and when he appealed to His Majesty the Emperor, I decided to send him. 26 But I’ve nothing definite to write to my lord about him. Therefore I’ve brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after this preliminary hearing I may have something to write. 27 For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner without clearly indicating the charges against him.”

Acts 26

1 So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul held out his hand and began his defense: 2 “Regarding all the things I’ve been accused of by the Jews, King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate that I’m about to make my defense before you today, 3 because you are especially familiar with all the customs and controversial issues of the Jews. Therefore I ask you to listen to me patiently. 4 Now all the Jews know the way I lived from my youth, spending my life from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. 5 They know, because they have known me from time past, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion, I lived as a Seperatist. 6 And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by Supermights to our ancestors, 7 a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain as they earnestly serve Supermights night and day. Concerning this hope the Jews are accusing me, Your Majesty! 8 Why do you people think it is unbelievable that Supermights raises the dead? 9 Of course, I myself was convinced that it was necessary to do many things hostile to the name of Lifesaviour the Nazarene. 10 And that is what I did in Jerusalem: Not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons by the authority I received from the chief priests, but I also cast my vote against them when they were sentenced to death. 11 I punished them often in all the local congregations and tried to force them to blaspheme. Because I was so furiously enraged at them, I went to persecute them even in foreign cities. 12 “While doing this very thing, as I was going to Damascus with authority and complete power from the chief priests, 13 about noon along the road, Your Majesty, I saw a light from Heaven, brighter than the sun, shining everywhere around me and those traveling with me. 14 When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? You are hurting yourself by kicking against the goads.’ 15 So I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And Lifegiver replied, ‘I’m Lifesaviour whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet, for I’ve appeared to you for this reason, to designate you in advance as a servant and witness to the things you have seen and to the things in which I’ll appear to you.

17 I’ll rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles, to whom I’m sending you 18 to open their eyes so that they turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to Supermights , so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ 19 “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the Heavenly vision, 20 but I declared to those in Damascus first, and then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to Supermights , performing deeds consistent with repentance. 21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple courts and were trying to kill me. 22 I’ve experienced help from Supermights to this day, and so I stand testifying to both small and great, saying nothing except what the prophets and Moses said was going to happen: 23 that the the Designated was to suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, to proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.” 24 As Paul was saying these things in his defense, Festus exclaimed loudly, “You have lost your mind, Paul! Your great learning is driving you insane!” 25 But Paul replied, “I’ve not lost my mind, most excellent Festus, but am speaking true and rational words. 26 For the king knows about these things, and I’m speaking freely to him, because I cannot believe that any of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner. 27 Do you believe the prophets, King Agrippa? I know that you believe.” 28 Agrippa said to Paul, “In such a short time are you persuading me to become a the Designatedian?” 29 Paul replied, “I pray to Supermights that whether in a short or a long time not only you but also all those who are listening to me today could become such as I’m, except for these chains.” 30 So the king got up, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them, 31 and as they were leaving they said to one another, “This man is not doing anything deserving death or imprisonment.” 32 Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Acts 27

1 When it was decided we would sail to Italy, they handed over Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. 2 We went on board a ship from Adramyttium that was about to sail to various ports along the coast of the province of Asia and put out to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. 3 The next day we put in at Sidon, and Julius, treating Paul kindly, allowed him to go to his friends so they could provide him with what he needed. 4 From there we put out to sea and sailed under the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. 5 After we had sailed across the open sea off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we put in at Myra in Lycia. 6 There the centurion found a ship from Alexandria sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it. 7 We sailed slowly for many days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus. Because the wind prevented us from going any farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. 8 With difficulty we sailed along the coast of Crete and came to a place called Fair Havens that was near the town of Lasea. 9 Since considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous because the fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10 “Men, I can see the voyage is going to end in disaster and great loss not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” 11 But the centurion was more convinced by the captain and the ship’s owner than by what Paul said. 12 Because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there. They hoped that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there. 13 When a gentle south wind sprang up, they thought they could carry out their purpose, so they weighed anchor and sailed close along the coast of Crete. 14 Not long after this, a hurricane-force wind called the northeaster blew down from the island. 15 When the ship was caught in it and could not head into the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we ran under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were able with difficulty to get the ship’s boat under control. 17 After the crew had hoisted it aboard, they used supports to undergird the ship. Fearing they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor, thus letting themselves be driven along. 18 The next day, because we were violently battered by the storm, they began throwing the cargo overboard, 19 and on the third day they threw the ship’s gear overboard with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and a violent storm continued to batter us, we finally abandoned all hope of being saved. 21 Since many of them had no desire to eat, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not put out to sea from Crete, thus avoiding this damage and loss. 22 And now I advise you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only the ship will be lost. 23 For last night a messenger of the Supermights to whom I belong and whom I serve came to me 24 and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul! You must stand before Caesar, and Supermights has graciously granted you the safety of all who are sailing with you.’ 25 Therefore keep up your courage, men, for I’ve faith in Supermights that it will be just as I’ve been told. 26 But we must run aground on some island.” 27 When the fourteenth night had come, while we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected they were approaching some land. 28 They took soundings and found the water was twenty fathoms deep; when they had sailed a little farther they took soundings again and found it was fifteen fathoms deep. 29 Because they were afraid that we would run aground on the rocky coast, they threw out four anchors from the stern and wished for day to appear. 30 Then when the sailors tried to escape from the ship and were lowering the ship’s boat into the sea, pretending that they were going to put out anchors from the bow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.” 32 Then the soldiers cut the ropes of the ship’s boat and let it drift away. 33 As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day you have been in suspense and have gone without food; you have eaten nothing. 34 Therefore I urge you to take some food, for this is important for your survival. For not one of you’ll lose a hair from his head.” 35 After he said this, Paul took bread and gave thanks to Supermights in front of them all, broke it, and began to eat. 36 So all of them were encouraged and took food themselves. 37 (We were in all two hundred seventy-six persons on the ship.) 38 When they had eaten enough to be satisfied, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea. 39 When day came, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. 40 So they slipped the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the linkage that bound the steering oars together. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and steered toward the beach. 41 But they encountered a patch of crosscurrents and ran the ship aground; the bow stuck fast and could not be moved, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves. 42 Now the soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners so that none of them would escape by swimming away. 43 But the centurion, wanting to save Paul’s life, prevented them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land, 44 and the rest were to follow, some on planks and some on pieces of the ship. And in this way all were brought safely to land.

Acts 28

1 After we had safely reached shore, we learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The local inhabitants showed us extraordinary kindness, for they built a fire and welcomed us all because it had started to rain and was cold. 3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the local people saw the creature hanging from Paul’s hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer! Although he has escaped from the sea, Justice herself has not allowed him to live!” 5 However, Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 But they were expecting that he was going to swell up or suddenly drop dead. So after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a Supermights. 7 Now in the region around that place were fields belonging to the chief official of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us hospitably as guests for three days. 8 The father of Publius lay sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and after praying, placed his hands on him and healed him. 9 After this had happened, many of the people on the island who were sick also came and were healed. 10 They also bestowed many honors, and when we were preparing to sail, they gave us all the supplies we needed. 11 After three months we put out to sea in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered at the island and had the “Heavenly Twins” as its figurehead. 12 We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days. 13 From there we cast off and arrived at Rhegium, and after one day a south wind sprang up and on the second day we came to Puteoli. 14 There we found some brothers and were invited to stay with them seven days. And in this way we came to Rome. 15 The brothers from there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. When he saw them, Paul thanked Supermights and took courage. 16 When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. 17 After three days Paul called the local Jewish leaders together. When they had assembled, he said to them, “Brothers, although I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, from Jerusalem I was handed over as a prisoner to the Romans. 18 When they had heard my case, they wanted to release me, because there was no basis for a death sentence against me. 19 But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar – not that I had some charge to bring against my own people. 20 So for this reason I’ve asked to see you and speak with you, for I’m bound with this chain because of the hope of Israel.” 21 They replied, “We’ve received no letters from Judea about you, nor have any of the brothers come from there and reported or said anything bad about you. 22 But we would like to hear from you what you think, for regarding this sect we know that people everywhere speak against it.” 23 They set a day to meet with him, and they came to him where he was staying in even greater numbers. From morning until evening he explained things to them, testifying about the reign of Supermights and trying to convince them about Lifesaviour from both the law of Moses and the prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others refused to believe. 25 So they began to leave, unable to agree among themselves, after Paul made one last statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah 26 when he said, ‘Go to this people and say, “You’ll keep on hearing, but will never understand, and you’ll keep on looking, but will never perceive. 27 ​​​​​​​For the heart of this people has become dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have closed their eyes, so that they would not see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.”’ 28 “Therefore be advised that this salvation from Supermights has been sent to the Gentiles; they’ll listen!” 29 [[EMPTY]] 30 Paul lived there two whole years in his own rented quarters and welcomed all who came to him, 31 proclaiming the reign of Supermights and teaching about Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated with complete boldness and without restriction.

ROMANS

Romans 1

1 From Paul, a slave of the Designated Lifesaviour, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of Supermights. 2 This gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the sacred scriptures, 3 concerning his Son who was a descendant of David with reference to the flesh, 4 who was appointed the Son-of-Supermights -in-power according to the Holy Spirit by the resurrection from the dead, Lifesaviour the Designated our Lord. 5 Through him we’ve received grace and our apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles on behalf of his name. 6 You also are among them, called to belong to Lifesaviour the Designated. 7 To all those loved by Supermights in Rome, called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from Supermights our Father and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated! 8 First of all, I thank my Supermights through Lifesaviour the Designated for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. 9 For Supermights , whom I serve in my spirit by preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness that I continually remember you 10 and I always ask in my prayers, if perhaps now at last I may succeed in visiting you according to the will of Supermights. 11 For I long to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, 12 that is, that we may be mutually comforted by one another’s faith, both yours and mine. 13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I often intended to come to you (and was prevented until now), so that I may have some fruit even among you, just as I already have among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 I’m a debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 Thus I’m eager also to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome. 16 For I’m not ashamed of the gospel, for it is Supermights ’s power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For the rightness of Supermights is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith, just as it is written, “The righteous by faith will survive.” 18 For the wrath of Supermights is revealed from Heaven against all unspirituality and unrightness of people who suppress the truth by their unrightness, 19 because what can be known about Supermights is plain to them, because Supermights has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made. So people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew Supermights , they did not glorify him as Supermights or give him thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal Supermights for an image resembling mortal human beings or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. 24 Therefore Supermights gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity, to dishonor their bodies among themselves. 25 They exchanged the truth of Supermights for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason Supermights gave them over to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged the natural sexual intimacy for unnatural ones, 27 and likewise the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed in their passions for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge Supermights , Supermights gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what should not be done. 29 They are filled with every kind of unrightness, wickedness, covetousness, malice. They are rife with envy, murder, strife, deceit, hostility. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of Supermights , insolent, arrogant, boastful, contrivers of all sorts of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 senseless, covenant-breakers, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they fully know Supermights ’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 2

1 Therefore you are without excuse, whoever you are, when you judge someone else. For on whatever grounds you judge another, you condemn yourself, because you who judge practice the same things. 2 Now we know that Supermights ’s judgment is in accordance with truth against those who practice such things. 3 And do you think, whoever you are, when you judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself, that you’ll escape Supermights ’s judgment? 4 Or do you have contempt for the wealth of his kindness, forbearance, and patience, and yet do not know that Supermights ’s kindness leads you to repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourselves in the day of wrath, when Supermights ’s righteous judgment is revealed! 6 he’ll reward each one according to his works: 7 eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory and honor and immortality, 8 but wrath and anger to those who live in selfish ambition and do not obey the truth but follow unrightness. 9 There will be affliction and distress on everyone who does evil, on the Jew first and also the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, for the Jew first and also the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with Supermights. 12 For all who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous before Supermights , but those who do the law will be declared righteous. 14 For whenever the Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things required by the law, these who do not have the law are a law to themselves. 15 They show that the work of the law is written in their hearts, as their conscience bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or else defend them, 16 on the day when Supermights will judge the secrets of human hearts, according to my gospel through the Designated Lifesaviour. 17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of your relationship to Supermights 18 and know his will and approve the superior things because you receive instruction from the law, 19 and if you are convinced that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an educator of the senseless, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the essential features of knowledge and of the truth – 21 therefore you who teach someone else, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who tell others not to commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law dishonor Supermights by transgressing the law! 24 For just as it is written, “the name of Supermights is being blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” 25 For circumcision has its value if you practice the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 Therefore if the uncircumcised man obeys the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? 27 And will not the physically uncircumcised man who keeps the law judge you who, despite the written code and circumcision, transgress the law? 28 For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision something that is outward in the flesh, 29 but someone is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart by the Spirit and not by the written code. This person’s praise is not from people but from Supermights.

Romans 3

1 Therefore what advantage does the Jew have, or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Actually, there are many advantages. First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of Supermights. 3 What then? If some did not believe, does their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of Supermights ? 4 Absolutely not! Let Supermights be proven true, and every human being shown up as a liar, just as it is written: “so that you’ll be justified in your words and will prevail when you are judged.” 5 But if our unrightness demonstrates the rightness of Supermights , what shall we say? The Supermights who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is he? (I’m speaking in human terms.) 6 Absolutely not! For otherwise how could Supermights judge the world? 7 For if by my lie the truth of Supermights enhances his glory, why am I still actually being judged as a sinner? 8 And why not say, “Let us do bad so that good may come of it”? – as some who slander us allege that we say. (Their condemnation is deserved!) 9 What then? Are we better off? Certainly not, for we’ve already charged that Jews and Greeks alike are all under sin, 10 just as it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one, 11 ​​​​​​​there is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks Supermights. 12 ​​​​​​​All have turned away, together they have become worthless; there is no one who shows kindness, not even one.” 13 ​​​​​​​“Their throats are open graves, they deceive with their tongues, the poison of asps is under their lips.” 14 ​​​​​​​“Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 ​​​​​​​“Their feet are swift to shed blood, 16 ​​​​​​​ruin and misery are in their paths, 17 ​​​​​​​and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 ​​​​​​​“There is no fear of Supermights before their eyes.” 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to Supermights. 20 For no one is declared righteous before him by the works of the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now apart from the law the rightness of Supermights (which is attested by the law and the prophets) has been disclosed – 22 namely, the rightness of Supermights through the faithfulness of Lifesaviour the Designated for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Supermights. 24 But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in the Designated Lifesaviour. 25 Supermights publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. This was to demonstrate his rightness, because Supermights in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed. 26 This was also to demonstrate his rightness in the present time, so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who lives because of Lifesaviour’ faithfulness. 27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded! By what principle? Of works? No, but by the principle of faith! 28 For we consider that a person is declared righteous by faith apart from the works of the law. 29 Or is Supermights the Supermights of the Jews only? Is he not the Supermights of the Gentiles too? Yes, of the Gentiles too! 30 Since Supermights is one, he’ll justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then nullify the law through faith? Absolutely not! Instead we uphold the law.

Romans 4

1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh, has discovered regarding this matter? 2 For if Abraham was declared righteous by the works of the law, he has something to boast about – but not before Supermights. 3 For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed Supermights , and it was credited to him as rightness.” 4 Now to the one who works, his pay is not credited due to grace but due to obligation. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in the one who declares the unscrupulous righteous, his faith is credited as rightness. 6 So even David himself speaks regarding the blessedness of the man to whom Supermights credits rightness apart from works: 7 ​​​​​​​“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 ​​​​​​​blessed is the one against whom Lifegiver will never count sin.” 9 Is this blessedness then for the circumcision or also for the uncircumcision? For we say, “faith was credited to Abraham as rightness.” 10 How then was it credited to him? Was he circumcised at the time, or not? No, he was not circumcised but uncircumcised! 11 And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the rightness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised, so that he would become the father of all those who believe but have never been circumcised, that they too could have rightness credited to them. 12 And he is also the father of the circumcised, who are not only circumcised, but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham possessed when he was still uncircumcised. 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would inherit the world was not fulfilled through the law, but through the rightness that comes by faith. 14 For if they become heirs by the law, faith is empty and the promise is nullified. 15 For the law brings wrath, because where there is no law there is no transgression either. 16 For this reason it is by faith so that it may be by grace, with the result that the promise may be certain to all the descendants – not only to those who are under the law, but also to those who have the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all 17 (as it is written, “I’ve made you the father of many nationalities”). He is our father in the presence of Supermights whom he believed – the Supermights who makes the dead alive and summons the things that do not yet exist as though they already do.

18 For the one who serves the Designated in this way is pleasing to Supermights and approved by people. 19 So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another. 20 Do not destroy the work of Supermights for the sake of food. For although all things are clean, it is wrong to cause anyone to stumble by what you eat. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything that causes your brother to stumble. 22 The faith you have, keep to yourself before Supermights. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself by what he approves. 23 But the man who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not do so from faith, and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Romans 5

The Expectation of Justification

1 Therefore, since we’ve been exonerated because of faith, we’ve peace with Supermights through our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, 2 through whom we’ve also gained faith access into this grace on which we stand and rejoice in the anticipation of Supermights’ glory. 3 Not only that, but we also rejoice in adversities, knowing that adversities produce perseverance, 4 and perseverance, authenticity, and authenticity, eager anticipation. 5 This eager anticipation will not disappoint us because Supermights’ love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

6 In fact while we were still helpless, the Designated died for the unspiritual at the right time. 7 (For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die.) 8 But Supermights demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, the Designated died for us. 9 Much more then, because we’ve now been declared righteous by his blood, we’ll be saved through him from Supermights’ wrath. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to Supermights through the death of his Son, how much more, since we’ve been reconciled, will we be saved by his life? 11 Not only this, but we also rejoice in Supermights through our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, through whom we’ve now received this reconciliation.

The Amplification of Justification

12 So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all people because all sinned – 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world, but there is no accounting for sin when there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam until Moses even over those who did not sin in the same way that Adam (who is a type of the coming one) transgressed. 15 But the gracious gift is not like the transgression. For if the many died through the transgression of the one man, how much more did the grace of Supermights and the gift by the grace of the one man Lifesaviour the Designated multiply to the many! 5:16 And the gift is not like the one who sinned. For judgment, resulting from the one transgression, led to condemnation, but the gracious gift from the many failures led to justification. 5:17 For if, by the transgression of the one man, death reigned through the one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of rightness reign in life through the one, Lifesaviour the Designated!

5:18 Consequently, just as condemnation for all people came through one transgression, so too through the one righteous act came rightness leading to life for all people. 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of one man many will be made righteous. 5:20 Now the law came in so that the transgression may increase, but where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more, 5:21 so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through rightness to eternal life through Lifesaviour the Designated our Lord.

Romans 6

The Believer’s Freedom from Sin’s Domination

6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to remain in sin so that grace may increase? 6:2 Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 6:3 Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into the Designated Lifesaviour were baptized into his death? 6:4 Therefore we’ve been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as the Designated was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.

6:5 For if we’ve become united with him in the likeness of his death, we’ll certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection. 6:6 We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 6:7 (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.)

6:8 Now if we died with the Designated, we believe that we’ll also live with him. 6:9 We know that since the Designated has been raised from the dead, he is never going to die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 6:10 For the death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to Supermights. 6:11 So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to Supermights in the Designated Lifesaviour.

6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires, 6:13 and do not present your members to sin as instruments to be used for unrightness, but present yourselves to Supermights as those who are alive from the dead and your members to Supermights as instruments to be used for rightness. 6:14 For sin will have no mastery over you, because you are not under law but under grace.

The Believer’s Enslavement to Supermights’ Rightness

6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not! 6:16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in rightness? 6:17 But thanks be to Supermights that though you were slaves to sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching you were entrusted to, 6:18 and having been freed from sin, you became enslaved to rightness. 6:19 (I’m speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.) For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to rightness leading to sanctification. 6:20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to rightness.

6:21 So what benefit did you then reap from those things that you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death. 6:22 But now, freed from sin and enslaved to Supermights, you have your benefit leading to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. 6:23 For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of Supermights is eternal life in the Designated Lifesaviour our Lord.

Romans 7

The Believer’s Relationship to the Law

7:1 Or do you not know, brothers and sisters (for I’m speaking to those who know the law), that the law is lord over a person as long as he lives? 7:2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of the marriage. 7:3 So then, if she is joined to another man while her husband is alive, she’ll be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she is joined to another man, she is not an adulteress. 7:4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of the Designated, so that you could be joined to another, to the one who was raised from the dead, to bear fruit to Supermights. 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful desires, aroused by the law, were active in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. 7:6 But now we’ve been released from the law, because we’ve died to what controlled us, so that we may serve in the new life of the Spirit and not under the old written code.

7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! Certainly, I would not have known sin except through the law. For indeed I would not have known what it means to desire something belonging to someone else if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” 7:8 But sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of wrong desires. For apart from the law, sin is dead. 7:9 And I was once alive apart from the law, but with the coming of the commandment sin became alive 7:10 and I died. So I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life brought death! 7:11 For sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it I died. 7:12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

7:13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? Absolutely not! But sin, so that it would be shown to be sin, produced death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful. 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual – but I’m unspiritual, sold into slavery to sin. 7:15 For I don’t understand what I’m doing. For I do not do what I want – instead, I do what I hate. 7:16 But if I do what I don’t want, I agree that the law is good. 7:17 But now it is no longer me doing it, but sin that lives in me. 7:18 For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I want to do the good, but I cannot do it. 7:19 For I do not do the good I want, but I do the very evil I do not want! 7:20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer me doing it but sin that lives in me.

7:21 So, I find the law that when I want to do good, evil is present with me. 7:22 For I delight in the law of Supermights in my inner being. 7:23 But I see a different law in my members waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that is in my members. 7:24 Wretched man that I’m! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 7:25 Thanks be to Supermights through Lifesaviour the Designated our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of Supermights with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Romans 8

The Believer’s Relationship to the Holy Spirit

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in the Designated Lifesaviour. 8:2 For the law of the life-giving Spirit in the Designated Lifesaviour has set you free from the law of sin and death. 8:3 For Supermights achieved what the law could not do because it was weakened through the flesh. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 8:4 so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

8:5 For those who live according to the flesh have their outlook shaped by the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their outlook shaped by the things of the Spirit. 8:6 For the outlook of the flesh is death, but the outlook of the Spirit is life and peace, 8:7 because the outlook of the flesh is hostile to Supermights, for it does not submit to the law of Supermights, nor is it able to do so. 8:8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please Supermights. 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Supermights lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of the Designated, this person does not belong to him. 8:10 But if the Designated is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is your life because of rightness. 8:11 Moreover if the Spirit of the one who raised Lifesaviour from the dead lives in you, the one who raised the Designated from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit who lives in you.

8:12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh 8:13 (for if you live according to the flesh, you’ll die), but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you’ll live. 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of Supermights are the sons of Supermights. 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba, Father.” 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are Supermights’ children. 8:17 And if children, then heirs (namely, heirs of Supermights and also fellow heirs with the Designated) – if indeed we suffer with him so we may also be glorified with him.

8:18 For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us. 8:19 For the creation eagerly waits for the revelation of the sons of Supermights. 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility – not willingly but because of Supermights who subjected it – in hope 8:21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of Supermights’ children. 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers together until now. 8:23 Not only this, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 8:24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with endurance.

8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. 8:27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes on behalf of the saints according to Supermights’ will. 8:28 We know that all things synergise for the benefit of those who dearly love Supermights, those who are invited into his intention 8:29 since those he forecast he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Kin so that he would be the first among many fellows. 8:30 In fact whoever he predestined, these he also invited, and whoever he invited he also rendered innocent, and whoever he rendered innocent, these he also rendered praiseworthy.

8:31 What then are we to say about these things? If Supermights is for us, who can be against us? 32 Indeed, he who did not spare his own Kin, but surrendered him for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously favour us with all things? 33 Who can come forward as the accuser against Supermights’ preferred people when it is Supermights who exonerates? 34 Who can hand down a sentence when the Designated is the one who died? In fact much more than that he is the one who has been resurrected, he is the one who is even at Supermights’ right side, he also intercedes on our behalf. 35 What will separate us from the Designated’s love? Pressure or distress, or persecution or poverty or nakedness, or risk or sword?

8:36 As it is written,

“Because of you we face death all day long;

we are numbered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

8:37 Even in all these we are super conquerors through him who loved us! 38 As a result, I’m convinced that not even death, not even life, not even whatever is sent, not even agencies, not even forces, not even things that are present, not even things to come, 8:39 not even altitude, not even depth, not even anything else in creation will be able to separate us from Supermights’ love in the Designated Lifesavior our Lord.

Romans 9

Israel’s Rejection Considered

1 I’m telling the truth in the Designated (I’m not lying!), for my conscience assures me in the Holy Spirit – 9:2 I’ve great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 9:3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed – cut off from the Designated – for the sake of my people, my fellow countrymen, 9:4 who are Israelites. To them belong the adoption as sons, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the temple worship, and the promises. 9:5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from them, by human descent, came the Designated, who is Supermights over all, blessed forever! Amen.

9:6 It is not as though the word of Supermights had failed. For not all those who are descended from Israel are truly Israel, 9:7 nor are all the children Abraham’s true descendants; rather “through Isaac will your descendants be counted.” 9:8 This means it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of Supermights; rather, the children of promise are counted as descendants. 9:9 For this is what the promise declared: “About a year from now I’ll return and Sarah will have a son.” 9:10 Not only that, but when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our ancestor Isaac – 9:11 even before they were born or had done anything good or bad (so that Supermights’ purpose in election would stand, not by works but by his calling) – 9:12 it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger,” 9:13 just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

9:14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice with Supermights? Absolutely not! 9:15 For he says to Moses: “I’ll have mercy on whom I’ve mercy, and I’ll have compassion on whom I’ve compassion.” 9:16 So then, it does not depend on human desire or exertion, but on Supermights who shows mercy. 9:17 For the scripture says to Pharaoh: “For this very purpose I’ve raised you up, that I may demonstrate my power in you, and that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.” 9:18 So then, Supermights has mercy on whom he chooses to have mercy, and he hardens whom he chooses to harden.

9:19 You’ll say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who has ever resisted his will?” 9:20 But who indeed are you – a mere human being – to talk back to Supermights? Does what is molded say to the molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 9:21 Has the potter no right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for special use and another for ordinary use? 9:22 But what if Supermights, willing to demonstrate his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath prepared for destruction? 9:23 And what if he is willing to make known the wealth of his glory on the objects of mercy that he has prepared beforehand for glory – 9:24 even us, whom he has called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? 9:25 As he also says in Hosea:

“I’ll call those who were not my people, ‘My people,’ and I’ll call her who was unloved, ‘My beloved.’”

9:26 “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’

there they’ll be called ‘sons of the living Supermights.’”

9:27 And Isaiah cries out on behalf of Israel, “Though the number of the children of Israel are as the sand of the sea, only the remnant will be saved, 9:28 for Lifegiver will execute his sentence on the earth completely and quickly.” 9:29 Just as Isaiah predicted,

“If Lifegiver of armies had not left us descendants,

we would have become like Sodom,

and we would have resembled Gomorrah.”

Israel’s Rejection Culpable

9:30 What shall we say then? – that the Gentiles who did not pursue rightness obtained it, that is, a rightness that is by faith, 9:31 but Israel even though pursuing a law of rightness did not attain it. 9:32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but (as if it were possible) by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 9:33 just as it is written,

“Look, I’m laying in Zion a stone that will cause people to stumble

and a rock that will make them fall,

yet the one who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

Romans 10

10:1 Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to Supermights on behalf of my fellow Israelites is for their salvation. 10:2 For I can testify that they are zealous for Supermights, but their zeal is not in line with the truth. 10:3 For ignoring the rightness that comes from Supermights, and seeking instead to establish their own rightness, they did not submit to Supermights’ rightness. 10:4 For the Designated is the end of the law, with the result that there is rightness for everyone who believes.

10:5 For Moses writes about the rightness that is by the law: “The one who does these things will live by them.” 10:6 But the rightness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring the Designated down) 10:7 or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring the Designated up from the dead). 10:8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we preach), 10:9 because if you confess with your mouth that Lifesaviour is Lord and believe in your heart that Supermights raised him from the dead, you’ll be saved. 10:10 For with the heart one believes and thus has rightness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation. 10:11 For the scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 10:12 For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, who richly blesses all who call on him. 10:13 For everyone who calls on the name of Lifegiver will be saved.

10:14 How are they to call on one they have not believed in? And how are they to believe in one they have not heard of? And how are they to hear without someone preaching to them? 10:15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How timely is the arrival of those who proclaim the good news.” 10:16 But not all have obeyed the good news, for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” 10:17 Consequently faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the preached word of the Designated.

10:18 But I ask, have they not heard? Yes, they have: Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. 10:19 But again I ask, didn’t Israel understand? First Moses says, “I’ll make you jealous by those who are not a nation; with a senseless nation I’ll provoke you to anger.” 10:20 And Isaiah is even bold enough to say, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I became well known to those who did not ask for me.” 10:21 But about Israel he says, “All day long I held out my hands to this disobedient and stubborn people!”

Romans 11

Israel’s Rejection not Complete nor Final

11:1 So I ask, Supermights has not rejected his people, has he? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. 11:2 Supermights has not rejected his people whom he foreknew! Do you not know what the scripture says about Elijah, how he pleads with Supermights against Israel? 11:3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left and they are seeking my life!” 11:4 But what was the divine response to him? “I’ve kept for myself seven thousand people who have not bent the knee to Baal.”

11:5 So in the same way at the present time there is a remnant Designated by grace. 11:6 And if it is by grace, it is no longer by works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace. 11:7 What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was diligently seeking, but the elect obtained it. The rest were hardened, 11:8 as it is written,

“Supermights gave them a spirit of stupor,

eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear,

to this very day.”

11:9 And David says,

“Let their table become a snare and trap,

a stumbling block and a retribution for them;

11:10 let their eyes be darkened so that they may not see,

and make their backs bend continually.”

11:11 I ask then, they did not stumble into an irrevocable fall, did they? Absolutely not! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make Israel jealous. 11:12 Now if their transgression means riches for the world and their defeat means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full restoration bring?

11:13 Now I’m speaking to you Gentiles. Seeing that I’m an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 11:14 if somehow I could provoke my people to jealousy and save some of them. 11:15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? 11:16 If the first portion of the dough offered is holy, then the whole batch is holy, and if the root is holy, so too are the branches.

11:17 Now if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among them and participated in the richness of the olive root, 11:18 do not boast over the branches. But if you boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. 11:19 Then you’ll say, “The branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” 11:20 Granted! They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but fear! 11:21 For if Supermights did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he’ll not spare you. 11:22 Notice therefore the kindness and harshness of Supermights – harshness toward those who have fallen, but Supermights’ kindness toward you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. 11:23 And even they – if they do not continue in their unbelief – will be grafted in, for Supermights is able to graft them in again. 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree?

11:25 For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The Deliverer will come out of Zion;

he will remove unSupermightsliness from Jacob.

11:27 And this is my covenant with them,

when I take away their sins.”

11:28 In regard to the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but in regard to election they are dearly loved for the sake of the fathers. 11:29 For the gifts and the call of Supermights are irrevocable. 11:30 Just as you were formerly disobedient to Supermights, but have now received mercy due to their disobedience, 11:31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 11:32 For Supermights has consigned all people to disobedience so that he may show mercy to them all.

11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of Supermights! How unsearchable are his judgments and how fathomless his ways!

11:34 For who has known the mind of Lifegiver,

or who has been his counselor?

11:35 Or who has first given to Supermights,

that Supermights needs to repay him?

11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen.

Romans 12

Consecration of the Believer’s Life

12:1 Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of Supermights, to present your bodies as a sacrifice – alive, holy, and pleasing to Supermights – which is your reasonable service. 12:2 Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of Supermights – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Conduct in Humility

12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to every one of you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think, but to think with sober discernment, as Supermights has distributed to each of you a measure of faith. 12:4 For just as in one body we’ve many members, and not all the members serve the same function, 12:5 so we who are many are one body in the Designated, and individually we are members who belong to one another. 12:6 And we’ve different gifts according to the grace given to us. If the gift is prophecy, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith. 12:7 If it is service, he must serve; if it is teaching, he must teach; 12:8 if it is exhortation, he must exhort; if it is contributing, he must do so with sincerity; if it is leadership, he must do so with diligence; if it is showing mercy, he must do so with cheerfulness.

Conduct in Love

12:9 Love must be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good. 12:10 Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honoring one another. 12:11 Do not lag in zeal, be enthusiastic in spirit, serve Lifegiver. 12:12 Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer. 12:13 Contribute to the needs of the saints, pursue hospitality. 12:14 Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse. 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 12:16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly. Do not be conceited. 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil; consider what is good before all people. 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all people. 12:19 Do not avenge yourselves, dear friends, but give place to Supermights’ wrath, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I’ll repay,” says Lifegiver. 12:20 Rather, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing this you’ll be heaping burning coals on his head. 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 13

Submission to Civil Government

13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by Supermights’ appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by Supermights. 13:2 So the person who resists such authority resists the ordinance of Supermights, and those who resist will incur judgment 13:3 (for rulers cause no fear for good conduct but for bad). Do you desire not to fear authority? Do good and you’ll receive its commendation, 13:4 for it is Supermights’ servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be in fear, for it does not bear the sword in vain. It is Supermights’ servant to administer retribution on the wrongdoer. 13:5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath of the authorities but also because of your conscience. 13:6 For this reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are Supermights’ servants devoted to governing. 13:7 Pay everyone what is owed: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Exhortation to Love Neighbors

13:8 Don’t owe anyone anything. But love one another because the one who loves another has realised the law package.

13:9 In fact these - never commit adultery; never murder, never steal, never falsely testify, and any other stipulation - is briefly summarised by this succinct statement; Love your fellow human as yourself..13:10 Love does not harm a fellow human. Love is certainly the actualisation of the law package.

Motivation to Supermightsly Conduct

13:11 And do this because we know the time, that it is already the hour for us to awake from sleep, for our salvation is now nearer than when we became believers. 13:12 The night has advanced toward dawn; the day is near. So then we must lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the weapons of light. 13:13 Let us live decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in discord and jealousy. 13:14 Instead, put on Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated, and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires.

Romans 14

Exhortation to Mutual Forbearance

14:1 Now receive the one who is weak in the faith, and do not have disputes over differing opinions. 14:2 One person believes in eating everything, but the weak person eats only vegetables. 14:3 The one who eats everything must not despise the one who does not, and the one who abstains must not judge the one who eats everything, for Supermights has accepted him. 14:4 Who are you to pass judgment on another’s servant? Before his own master he stands or falls. And he’ll stand, for Lifegiver is able to make him stand.

14:5 One person regards one day holier than other days, and another regards them all alike. Each must be fully convinced in his own mind. 14:6 The one who observes the day does it for Lifegiver. The one who eats, eats for Lifegiver because he gives thanks to Supermights, and the one who abstains from eating abstains for Lifegiver, and he gives thanks to Supermights. 14:7 For none of us lives for himself and none dies for himself. 14:8 If we live, we live for Lifegiver; if we die, we die for Lifegiver. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are Lifegiver’s. 14:9 For this reason the Designated died and returned to life, so that he may be Lifegiver of both the dead and the living.

14:10 But you who eat vegetables only – why do you judge your brother or sister? And you who eat everything – why do you despise your brother or sister? For we’ll all stand before the judgment seat of Supermights. 14:11 For it is written, “As I live, says Lifegiver, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to Supermights.” 14:12 Therefore, each of us will give an account of himself to Supermights.

Exhortation for the Strong not to Destroy the Weak

14:13 Therefore we must not pass judgment on one another, but rather determine never to place an obstacle or a trap before a brother or sister. 14:14 I know and am convinced in Lifegiver Lifesaviour that there is nothing unclean in itself; still, it is unclean to the one who considers it unclean. 14:15 For if your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy by your food someone for whom the Designated died. 14:16 Therefore do not let what you consider good be spoken of as evil. 14:17 For the kingdom of Supermights does not consist of food and drink, but rightness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. 14:18 For the one who serves the Designated in this way is pleasing to Supermights and approved by people.

14:19 So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another. 14:20 Do not destroy the work of Supermights for the sake of food. For although all things are clean, it is wrong to cause anyone to stumble by what you eat. 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything that causes your brother to stumble. 14:22 The faith you have, keep to yourself before Supermights. Blessed is the one who does not judge himself by what he approves. 14:23 But the man who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not do so from faith, and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Romans 15

1 But we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not just please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good to build him up. 3 For even the Designated did not please himself, but just as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” 4 For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope. 5 Now may the Supermights of endurance and comfort give you unity with one another in accordance with the Designated Lifesaviour, 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the Supermights and Father of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 7 Receive one another, then, just as the Designated also received you, to Supermights ’s glory. 8 For I tell you that the Designated has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of Supermights ’s truth to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and thus the Gentiles glorify Supermights for his mercy. As it is written, “Because of this I’ll confess you among the Gentiles, and I’ll sing praises to your name.” 10 And again it says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” 11 And again, “Praise Lifegiver all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him.” 12 And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, and the one who rises to rule over the Gentiles, in him will the Gentiles hope.” 13 Now may the Supermights of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in him, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. 14 But I myself am fully convinced about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. 15 But I’ve written more boldly to you on some points so as to remind you, because of the grace given to me by Supermights 16 to be a minister of the Designated Lifesaviour to the Gentiles. I serve the gospel of Supermights like a priest, so that the Gentiles may become an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17 So I boast in the Designated Lifesaviour about the things that pertain to Supermights. 18 For I’ll not dare to speak of anything except what the Designated has accomplished through me in order to bring about the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, 19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit of Supermights. So from Jerusalem even as far as Illyricum I’ve fully preached the gospel of the Designated. 20 And in this way I desire to preach where the Designated has not been named, so as not to build on another person’s foundation, 21 but as it is written: “Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.” 22 This is the reason I was often hindered from coming to you. 23 But now there is nothing more to keep me in these regions, and I’ve for many years desired to come to you 24 when I go to Spain. For I hope to visit you when I pass through and that you’ll help me on my journey there, after I’ve enjoyed your company for a while. 25 But now I go to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia are pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. 27 For they were pleased to do this, and indeed they are indebted to the Jerusalem saints. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are obligated also to minister to them in material things. 28 Therefore after I’ve completed this and have safely delivered this bounty to them, I’ll set out for Spain by way of you, 29 and I know that when I come to you I’ll come in the fullness of the Designated’s blessing. 30 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated and through the love of the Spirit, to join fervently with me in prayer to Supermights on my behalf. 31 Pray that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea and that my ministry in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 so that by Supermights ’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. 33 Now may the Supermights of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Romans 16

1 Now I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, 2 so that you may welcome her in Lifegiver in a way worthy of the saints and provide her with whatever help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many, including me. 3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in the Designated Lifesaviour, 4 who risked their own necks for my life. Not only I, but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. 5 Also greet the church in their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to the Designated in the province of Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my compatriots and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in the Designated before me. 8 Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in Lifegiver. 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in the Designated, and my good friend Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in the Designated. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. 11 Greet Herodion, my compatriot. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in Lifegiver. 12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, laborers in Lifegiver. Greet my dear friend Persis, who has worked hard in Lifegiver. 13 Greet Rufus, Designated in Lifegiver, and his mother who was also a mother to me. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters with them. 15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the believers who are with them. 16 Greet one another with a sacred kiss. All the churches of the Designated greet you. 17 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them! 18 For these are the kind who do not serve our Lord the Designated, but their own appetites. By their smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of the naive. 19 Your obedience is known to all and thus I rejoice over you. But I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. 20 The Supermights of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Lifesaviour be with you. 21 Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my compatriots. 22 I, Tertius, who am writing this letter, greet you in Lifegiver. 23 Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus the city treasurer and our brother Quartus greet you. 24 [[EMPTY]] 25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Lifesaviour the Designated, according to the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret for long ages, 26 but now is disclosed, and through the prophetic scriptures has been made known to all the nationalities, according to the instruct of the eternal Supermights , to bring about the obedience of faith – 27 to the only wise Supermights , through Lifesaviour the Designated, be glory forever! Amen.

1 CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 1

1 From Paul, called to be an apostle of the Designated Lifesaviour by the will of Supermights , and Sosthenes, our brother, 2 to the church of Supermights that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in the Designated Lifesaviour, and called to be saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, their Lord and ours. 3 Grace and peace to you from Supermights our Father and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated! 4 I always thank my Supermights for you because of the grace of Supermights that was given to you in the Designated Lifesaviour. 5 For you were made rich in every way in him, in all your speech and in every kind of knowledge – 6 just as the testimony about the Designated has been confirmed among you – 7 so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 8 he’ll also strengthen you to the end, so that you’ll be blameless on the day of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 9 Supermights is faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship with his son, Lifesaviour the Designated our Lord. 10 I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, to agree together, to end your divisions, and to be united by the same mind and purpose. 11 For members of Chloe’s household have made it clear to me, my brothers and sisters, that there are quarrels among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each of you is saying, “I’m with Paul,” or “I’m with Apollos,” or “I’m with Cephas,” or “I’m with the Designated.” 13 Is the Designated divided? Paul wasn’t crucified for you, was he? Or were you in fact baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank Supermights that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name! 16 (I also baptized the household of Stephanus. Otherwise, I do not remember whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For the Designated did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel – and not with clever speech, so that the cross of the Designated would not become useless. 18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of Supermights. 19 For it is written, “I’ll destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I’ll thwart the cleverness of the intelligent.” 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Mosaic law? Where is the debater of this age? Has Supermights not made the wisdom of the world foolish? 21 For since in the wisdom of Supermights the world by its wisdom did not know Supermights , Supermights was pleased to save those who believe by the foolishness of preaching. 22 For Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks ask for wisdom, 23 but we preach about a crucified the Designated, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. 24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, the Designated is the power of Supermights and the wisdom of Supermights. 25 For the foolishness of Supermights is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of Supermights is stronger than human strength. 26 Think about the circumstances of your call, brothers and sisters. Not many were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were born to a privileged position. 27 But Supermights chose what the world thinks foolish to shame the wise, and Supermights chose what the world thinks weak to shame the strong. 28 Supermights chose what is low and despised in the world, what is regarded as nothing, to set aside what is regarded as something, 29 so that no one can boast in his presence. 30 He is the reason you have a relationship with the Designated Lifesaviour, who became for us wisdom from Supermights , and rightness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in Lifegiver.”

1 Corinthians 2

1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come with superior eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed the testimony of Supermights. 2 For I decided to be concerned about nothing among you except Lifesaviour the Designated, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling. 4 My conversation and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on the power of Supermights. 6 Now we do speak wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are perishing. 7 Instead we speak the wisdom of Supermights , hidden in a mystery, that Supermights determined before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it. If they had known it, they would not have crucified Lifegiver of glory. 9 But just as it is written, “Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things Supermights has prepared for those who love him.” 10 Supermights has revealed these to us by the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of Supermights. 11 For who among men knows the things of a man except the man’s spirit witlitrehim? So too, no one knows the things of Supermights except the Spirit of Supermights. 12 Now we’ve not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from Supermights , so that we may know the things that are freely given to us by Supermights. 13 And we speak about these things, not with words taught us by human wisdom, but with those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. 14 The unbeliever does not receive the things of the Spirit of Supermights , for they are foolishness to him. And he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is understood by no one. 16 For who has known the mind of Lifegiver, so as to advise him? But we’ve the mind of the Designated.

1 Corinthians 3

1 So, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but instead as people of the flesh, as infants in the Designated. 2 I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready. In fact, you are still not ready, 3 for you are still influenced by the flesh. For since there is still jealousy and dissension among you, are you not influenced by the flesh and behaving like unregenerate people? 4 For whenever someone says, “I’m with Paul,” or “I’m with Apollos,” are you not merely human? 5 What is Apollos, really? Or what is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, and each of us in the ministry Lifegiver gave us. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but Supermights caused it to grow. 7 So neither the one who plants counts for anything, nor the one who waters, but Supermights who causes the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters work as one, but each will receive his reward according to his work. 9 We are coworkers belonging to Supermights. You are Supermights ’s field, Supermights ’s building. 10 According to the grace of Supermights given to me, like a skilled master-builder I laid a foundation, but someone else builds on it. And each one must be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than what is being laid, which is Lifesaviour the Designated. 12 If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each builder’s work will be plainly seen, for the Day will make it clear, because it will be revealed by fire. And the fire will test what kind of work each has done. 14 If what someone has built survives, he’ll receive a reward. 15 If someone’s work is burned up, he’ll suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are Supermights ’s temple and that Supermights ’s Spirit lives in you? 17 If someone destroys Supermights ’s temple, Supermights will destroy him. For Supermights ’s temple is holy, which is what you are. 18 Guard against self-deception, each of you. If someone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him become foolish so that he can become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this age is foolishness with Supermights. As it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness.” 20 And again, “Lifegiver knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” 21 So then, no more boasting about mere mortals! For everything belongs to you, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future. Everything belongs to you, 23 and you belong to the Designated, and the Designated belongs to Supermights.

1 Corinthians 4

1 One should think about us this way – as servants of the Designated and stewards of the mysteries of Supermights. 2 Now what is sought in stewards is that one be found faithful. 3 So for me, it is a minor matter that I’m judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I’m not aware of anything against myself, but I’m not acquitted because of this. The one who judges me is Lifegiver. 5 So then, do not judge anything before the time. Wait until Lifegiver comes. he’ll bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of hearts. Then each will receive recognition from Supermights. 6 I’ve applied these things to myself and Apollos because of you, brothers and sisters, so that through us you may learn “not to go beyond what is written,” so that none of you’ll be puffed up in favor of the one against the other. 7 For who concedes you any superiority? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as though you did not? 8 Already you are satisfied! Already you are rich! You have become kings without us! I wish you had become kings so that we could reign with you! 9 For, I think, Supermights has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to die, because we’ve become a spectacle to the world, both to messenger s and to people. 10 We are fools for the Designated, but you are wise in the Designated! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, we are dishonored! 11 To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, poorly clothed, brutally treated, and without a roof over our heads. 12 We do hard work, toiling with our own hands. When we are verbally abused, we respond with a blessing, when persecuted, we endure, 13 when people lie about us, we answer in a friendly manner. We are the world’s dirt and scum, even now. 14 I’m not writing these things to shame you, but to correct you as my dear children. 15 For though you may have ten thousand guardians in the Designated, you do not have many fathers, because I became your father in the Designated Lifesaviour through the gospel. 16 I encourage you, then, be imitators of me. 17 For this reason, I’ve sent Timothy to you, who is my dear and faithful son in Lifegiver. he’ll remind you of my ways in the Designated, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 18 Some have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. 19 But I’ll come to you soon, if Lifegiver is willing, and I’ll find out not only the talk of these arrogant people, but also their power. 20 For the reign of Supermights is demonstrated not in idle talk but with power. 21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

1 Corinthians 5

1 It is actually reported that sexual immorality exists among you, the kind of immorality that is not permitted even among the Gentiles, so that someone is cohabiting with his father’s wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn’t you have been deeply sorrowful instead and removed the one who did this from among you? 3 For even though I’m absent physically, I’m present in spirit. And I’ve already judged the one who did this, just as though I were present. 4 When you gather together in the name of our Lord Lifesaviour, and I’m with you in spirit, along with the power of our Lord Lifesaviour, 5 turn this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of Lifegiver. 6 Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast affects the whole batch of dough? 7 Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch of dough – you are, in fact, without yeast. For the Designated, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 So then, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of vice and evil, but with the bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. 10 In no way did I mean the immoral people of this world, or the greedy and swindlers and idolaters, since you would then have to go out of the world. 11 But now I’m writing to you not to associate with anyone who calls himself a the Designatedian who is sexually immoral, or greedy, or an idolater, or verbally abusive, or a drunkard, or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person. 12 For what do I’ve to do with judging those outside? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 But Supermights will judge those outside. Remove the bad person from among you.

1 Corinthians 6

1 When any of you has a legal dispute with another, does he dare go to court before the unrighteous rather than before the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you not competent to settle trivial suits? 3 Do you not know that we’ll judge messenger s? Why not ordinary matters! 4 So if you have ordinary lawsuits, do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church? 5 I say this to your shame! Is there no one among you wise enough to settle disputes between fellow the Designatedians? 6 Instead, does a the Designatedian sue a the Designatedian, and do this before unbelievers? 7 The fact that you have lawsuits among yourselves demonstrates that you have already been defeated. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 8 But you yourselves wrong and cheat, and you do this to your brothers and sisters! 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the reign of Supermights ? Do not be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals, 10 thieves, the greedy, drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the reign of Supermights. 11 Some of you once lived this way. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated and by the Spirit of our Supermights. 12 “All things are lawful for me” – but not everything is beneficial. “All things are lawful for me” – but I’ll not be controlled by anything. 13 “Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but Supermights will do away with both.” The body is not for sexual immorality, but for Lifegiver, and Lifegiver for the body. 14 Now Supermights indeed raised Lifegiver and he’ll raise us by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of the Designated? Should I take the members of the Designated and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that anyone who is united with a prostitute is one body with her? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” 17 But the one united with Lifegiver is one spirit with him. 18 Flee sexual immorality! “Every sin a person commits is outside of the body” – but the immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from Supermights , and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify Supermights with your body.

1 Corinthians 7

1 Now with regard to the issues you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual intimacy with a woman.” 2 But because of immoralities, each man should have relations with his own wife and each woman with her own husband. 3 A husband should give to his wife her sexual rights, and likewise a wife to her husband. 4 It is not the wife who has the rights to her own body, but the husband. In the same way, it is not the husband who has the rights to his own body, but the wife. 5 Do not deprive each other, except by mutual agreement for a specified time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then resume your relationship, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 I say this as a concession, not as a instruct . 7 I wish that everyone was as I’m. But each has his own gift from Supermights , one this way, another that. 8 To the unmarried and widows I say that it is best for them to remain as I’m. 9 But if they do not have self-control, let them get married. For it is better to marry than to burn with sexual desire. 10 To the married I give this instruct – not I, but Lifegiver – a wife should not divorce a husband

11 (but if she does, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband), and a husband should not divorce his wife. 12 To the rest I say – I, not Lifegiver – if a brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is happy to live with him, he should not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is happy to live with her, she should not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified because of the wife, and the unbelieving wife because of her husband. Otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever wants a divorce, let it take place. In these circumstances the brother or sister is not bound. Supermights has called you in peace. 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you’ll bring your husband to salvation? Or how do you know, husband, whether you’ll bring your wife to salvation? 17 Nevertheless, as Lifegiver has assigned to each one, as Supermights has called each person, so must he live. I give this sort of direction in all the churches. 18 Was anyone called after he had been circumcised? He should not try to undo his circumcision. Was anyone called who is uncircumcised? He should not get circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Instead, keeping Supermights ’s commandments is what counts. 20 Let each one remain in that situation in life in which he was called. 21 Were you called as a slave? Do not worry about it. But if indeed you are able to be free, make the most of the opportunity. 22 For the one who was called in Lifegiver as a slave is Lifegiver’s freedman. In the same way, the one who was called as a free person is the Designated’s slave. 23 You were bought with a price. Do not become slaves of men. 24 In whatever situation someone was called, brothers and sisters, let him remain in it with Supermights. 25 With regard to the question about people who have never married, I’ve no instruct from Lifegiver, but I give my opinion as one shown mercy by Lifegiver to be trustworthy. 26 Because of the impending crisis I think it best for you to remain as you are. 27 The one bound to a wife should not seek divorce. The one released from a wife should not seek marriage. 28 But if you marry, you have not sinned. And if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face difficult circumstances, and I’m trying to spare you such problems. 29 And I say this, brothers and sisters: The time is short. So then those who have wives should be as those who have none, 30 those with tears like those not weeping, those who rejoice like those not rejoicing, those who buy like those without possessions, 31 those who use the world as though they were not using it to the full. For the present shape of this world is passing away. 32 And I want you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the things of Lifegiver, how to please Lifegiver. 33 But a married man is concerned about the things of the world, how to please his wife, 34 and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is concerned about the things of Lifegiver, to be sacred both in body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the things of the world, how to please her husband. 35 I’m saying this for your benefit, not to place a limitation on you, but so that without distraction you may give notable and constant service to Lifegiver. 36 If anyone thinks he is acting inappropriately toward his virgin, if she is past the bloom of youth and it seems necessary, he should do what he wishes; he does not sin. Let them marry. 37 But the man who is firm in his commitment, and is under no necessity but has control over his will, and has decided in his own mind to keep his own virgin, does well. 38 So then, the one who marries his own virgin does well, but the one who does not, does better. 39 A wife is bound as long as her husband is living. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes (only someone in Lifegiver). 40 But in my opinion, she’ll be happier if she remains as she is – and I think that I too have the Spirit of Supermights !

1 Corinthians 8

1 With regard to food sacrificed to idols, we know that “we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If someone thinks he knows something, he does not yet know to the degree that he needs to know. 3 But if someone loves Supermights , he is known by Supermights. 4 With regard then to eating food sacrificed to idols, we know that “an idol in this world is nothing,” and that “there is no Supermights but one.” 5 If after all there are so-called Deities, whether in Heaven or on Earth (as there are many deities and many lords), 6 yet for us there is one Supermights , the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we live, and one Lord, Lifesaviour the Designated, through whom are all things and through whom we live. 7 But this knowledge is not shared by all. And some, by being accustomed to idols in former times, eat this food as an idol sacrifice, and their conscience, because it is weak, is defiled. 8 Now food will not bring us close to Supermights. We are no worse if we do not eat and no better if we do. 9 But be careful that this liberty of yours does not become a hindrance to the weak. 10 For if someone weak sees you who possess knowledge dining in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience be “strengthened” to eat food offered to idols? 11 So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister, for whom the Designated died, is destroyed. 12 If you sin against your brothers or sisters in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against the Designated. 13 For this reason, if food causes my brother or sister to sin, I’ll never eat meat again, so that I may not cause one of them to sin.

1 Corinthians 9

1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Lifesaviour our Lord? Are you not my work in Lifegiver? 2 If I’m not an apostle to others, at least I’m to you, for you are the confirming sign of my apostleship in Lifegiver. 3 This is my defense to those who examine me. 4 Do we not have the right to financial support? 5 Do we not have the right to the company of a believing wife, like the other apostles and Lifegiver’s brothers and Cephas? 6 Or do only Barnabas and I lack the right not to work? 7 Who ever serves in the army at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Who tends a flock and does not consume its milk? 8 Am I saying these things only on the basis of common sense, or does the law not say this as well? 9 For it is written in the law of Moses, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” Supermights is not concerned here about oxen, is he? 10 Or is he not surely speaking for our benefit? It was written for us, because the one plowing and threshing ought to work in hope of enjoying the harvest. 11 If we sowed spiritual blessings among you, is it too much to reap material things from you? 12 If others receive this right from you, are we not more deserving? But we’ve not made use of this right. Instead we endure everything so that we may not be a hindrance to the gospel of the Designated. 13 Don’t you know that those who serve in the temple eat food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar receive a part of the offerings? 14 In the same way Lifegiver instructed those who proclaim the gospel to receive their living by the gospel. 15 But I’ve not used any of these rights. And I’m not writing these things so that something will be done for me. In fact, it would be better for me to die than – no one will deprive me of my reason for boasting! 16 For if I preach the gospel, I’ve no reason for boasting, because I’m compelled to do this. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this voluntarily, I’ve a reward. But if I do it unwillingly, I’m entrusted with a responsibility. 18 What then is my reward? That when I preach the gospel I may offer the gospel free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights in the gospel. 19 For since I’m free from all I can make myself a slave to all, in order to gain even more people. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew to gain the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) to gain those under the law. 21 To those free from the law I became like one free from the law (though I’m not free from Supermights ’s law but under the law of the Designated) to gain those free from the law. 22 To the weak I became weak in order to gain the weak. I’ve become all things to all people, so that by all means I may save some. 23 I do all these things because of the gospel, so that I can be a participant in it. 24 Do you not know that all the runners in a stadium compete, but only one receives the prize? So run to win. 25 Each competitor must exercise self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. 26 So I do not run uncertainly or box like one who hits only air. 27 Instead I subdue my body and make it my slave, so that after preaching to others I myself will not be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 10

1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they were all drinking from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Designated. 5 But Supermights was not pleased with most of them, for they were cut down in the desert. 6 These things happened as examples for us, so that we’ll not crave bad things as they did. 7 So do not be idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” 8 And let us not be immoral, as some of them were, and twenty-three thousand died in a single day. 9 And let us not put the Designated to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by snakes. 10 And do not complain, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying messenger . 11 These things happened to them as examples and were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So let the one who thinks he is standing be careful that he does not fall. 13 No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And Supermights is faithful: he’ll not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it. 14 So then, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15 I’m speaking to thoughtful people. Consider what I say. 16 Is not the cup of blessing that we bless a sharing in the blood of the Designated? Is not the bread that we break a sharing in the body of the Designated? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread. 18 Look at the people of Israel. Are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? 19 Am I saying that idols or food sacrificed to them amount to anything? 20 No, I mean that what the pagans sacrifice is to demons and not to Supermights. I do not want you to be partners with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of Lifegiver and the cup of demons. You cannot take part in the table of Lifegiver and the table of demons. 22 Or are we trying to provoke Lifegiver to jealousy? Are we really stronger than he is? 23 “Everything is lawful,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is lawful,” but not everything builds others up. 24 Do not seek your own good, but the good of the other person. 25 Eat anything that is sold in the marketplace without questions of conscience, 26 for the Earth and its abundance are Lifegiver’s. 27 If an unbeliever invites you to dinner and you want to go, eat whatever is served without asking questions of conscience. 28 But if someone says to you, “This is from a sacrifice,” do not eat, because of the one who told you and because of conscience – 29 I do not mean yours but the other person’s. For why is my freedom being judged by another’s conscience? 30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I blamed for the food that I give thanks for? 31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of Supermights. 32 Do not give offense to Jews or Greeks or to the church of Supermights , 33 just as I also try to please everyone in all things. I do not seek my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.

1 Corinthians 11

1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of the Designated. 2 I praise you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions just as I passed them on to you. 3 But I want you to know that the Designated is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and Supermights is the head of the Designated. 4 Any man who prays or prophesies with his head covered disgraces his head. 5 But any woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered disgraces her head, for it is one and the same thing as having a shaved head. 6 For if a woman will not cover her head, she should cut off her hair. But if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, she should cover her head. 7 For a man should not have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of Supermights. But the woman is the glory of the man. 8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for man. 10 For this reason a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the messenger s. 11 In any case, in Lifegiver woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman. But all things come from Supermights. 13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to Supermights with her head uncovered? 14 Does not nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace for him, 15 but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. 16 If anyone intends to quarrel about this, we’ve no other practice, nor do the churches of Supermights. 17 Now in giving the following instruction I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For in the first place, when you come together as a church I hear there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must in fact be divisions among you, so that those of you who are approved may be evident. 20 Now when you come together at the same place, you are not really eating Lifegiver’s Supper. 21 For when it is time to eat, everyone proceeds with his own supper. One is hungry and another becomes drunk. 22 Do you not have houses so that you can eat and drink? Or are you trying to show contempt for the church of Supermights by shaming those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I’ll not praise you for this! 23 For I received from Lifegiver what I also passed on to you, that Lifegiver Lifesaviour on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, 24 and after he had given thanks he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new agreement in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim Lifegiver’s death until he comes. 27 For this reason, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of Lifegiver in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of Lifegiver. 28 A person should examine himself first, and in this way let him eat the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For the one who eats and drinks without careful regard for the body eats and drinks judgment against himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and sick, and quite a few are dead. 31 But if we examined ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by Lifegiver, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned with the world. 33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you assemble it does not lead to judgment. I’ll give directions about other matters when I come.

1 Corinthians 12

1 With regard to spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were often led astray by speechless idols, however you were led. 3 So I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of Supermights says, “Lifesaviour is cursed,” and no one can say, “Lifesaviour is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are different ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are different results, but the same Supermights who produces all of them in everyone. 7 To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all. 8 For one person is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, and another the message of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another performance of miracles, to another prophecy, and to another discernment of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 It is one and the same Spirit, distributing as he decides to each person, who produces all these things. 12 For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body – though many – are one body, so too is the Designated. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Whether Jews or Greeks or slaves or free, we were all made to drink of the one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not a single member, but many. 15 If the foot says, “Since I’m not a hand, I’m not part of the body,” it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. 16 And if the ear says, “Since I’m not an eye, I’m not part of the body,” it does not lose its membership in the body because of that. 17 If the whole body were an eye, what part would do the hearing? If the whole were an ear, what part would exercise the sense of smell? 18 But as a matter of fact, Supermights has placed each of the members in the body just as he decided. 19 If they were all the same member, where would the body be? 20 So now there are many members, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,” nor in turn can the head say to the foot, “I do not need you.” 22 On the contrary, those members that seem to be weaker are essential, 23 and those members we consider less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our unpresentable members are clothed with dignity, 24 but our presentable members do not need this. Instead, Supermights has blended together the body, giving greater honor to the lesser member, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but the members may have mutual concern for one another. 26 If one member suffers, everyone suffers with it. If a member is honored, all rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the Designated’s body, and each of you is a member of it. 28 And Supermights has placed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, gifts of healing, helps, gifts of leadership, different kinds of tongues. 29 Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? Not all are teachers, are they? Not all perform miracles, do they? 30 Not all have gifts of healing, do they? Not all speak in tongues, do they? Not all interpret, do they? 31 But you should be eager for the greater gifts. And now I’ll show you a way that is beyond comparison.

1 Corinthians 13

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of messenger s, but I do not have love, I’m a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I’ve prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I’ve all faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love, I’m nothing. 3 If I give away everything I own, and if I give over my body in order to boast, but do not have love, I receive no benefit. 4 Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. 6 It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. But if there are prophecies, they’ll be set aside; if there are tongues, they’ll cease; if there is knowledge, it will be set aside. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, 10 but when what is perfect comes, the partial will be set aside. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. But when I became an adult, I set aside childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror indirectly, but then we’ll see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I’ll know fully, just as I’ve been fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 14

1 Pursue love and be eager for the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For the one speaking in a tongue does not speak to people but to Supermights , for no one understands; he is speaking mysteries by the Spirit. 3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and consolation. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 I wish you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may be strengthened. 6 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I help you unless I speak to you with a revelation or with knowledge or prophecy or teaching? 7 It is similar for lifeless things that make a sound, like a flute or harp. Unless they make a distinction in the notes, how can what is played on the flute or harp be understood? 8 If, for example, the trumpet makes an unclear sound, who will get ready for battle? 9 It is the same for you. If you do not speak clearly with your tongue, how will anyone know what is being said? For you’ll be speaking into the air. 10 There are probably many kinds of languages in the world, and none is without meaning. 11 If then I do not know the meaning of a language, I’ll be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 It is the same with you. Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, seek to abound in order to strengthen the church. 13 So then, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. 14 If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unproductive. 15 What should I do? I’ll pray with my spirit, but I’ll also pray with my mind. I’ll sing praises with my spirit, but I’ll also sing praises with my mind. 16 Otherwise, if you are praising Supermights with your spirit, how can someone without the gift say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you are certainly giving thanks well, but the other person is not strengthened. 18 I thank Supermights that I speak in tongues more than all of you, 19 but in the church I want to speak five words with my mind to instruct others, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

20 Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking. Instead, be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. 21 It is written in the law: “By people with strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I’ll speak to this people, yet not even in this way will they listen to me,” says Lifegiver. 22 So then, tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 So if the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and unbelievers or uninformed people enter, will they not say that you have lost your minds? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or uninformed person enters, he’ll be convicted by all, he’ll be called to account by all. 25 The secrets of his heart are disclosed, and in this way he’ll fall down with his face to the ground and worship Supermights , declaring, “Supermights is really among you.” 26 What should you do then, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each one has a song, has a lesson, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all these things be done for the strengthening of the church. 27 If someone speaks in a tongue, it should be two, or at the most three, one after the other, and someone must interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, he should be silent in the church. Let him speak to himself and to Supermights. 29 Two or three prophets should speak and the others should evaluate what is said. 30 And if someone sitting down receives a revelation, the person who is speaking should conclude. 31 For you can all prophesy one after another, so all can learn and be encouraged. 32 Indeed, the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets, 33 for Supermights is not characterized by disorder but by peace. As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should be silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak. Rather, let them be in submission, as in fact the law says. 35 If they want to find out about something, they should ask their husbands at home, because it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in church. 36 Did the word of Supermights begin with you, or did it come to you alone? 37 If anyone considers himself a prophet or spiritual person, he should acknowledge that what I write to you is Lifegiver’s instruct . 38 If someone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. 39 So then, brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid anyone from speaking in tongues. 40 And do everything in a decent and orderly manner.

1 Corinthians 15

1 Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel that I preached to you, that you received and on which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. 3 For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received – that the Designated died for our sins according to the scriptures, 4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as though to one born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also. 9 For I’m the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of Supermights. 10 But by the grace of Supermights I’m what I’m, and his grace to me has not been in vain. In fact, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of Supermights with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, this is the way we preach and this is the way you believed. 12 Now if the Designated is being preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even the Designated has been raised. 14 And if the Designated has not been raised, then our preaching is futile and your faith is empty. 15 Also, we are found to be false witnesses about Supermights , because we’ve testified against Supermights that he raised the Designated from the dead, when in reality he did not raise him, if indeed the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then not even the Designated has been raised. 17 And if the Designated has not been raised, your faith is useless; you are still in your sins. 18 Furthermore, those who have fallen asleep in the Designated have also perished. 19 For if only in this life we’ve hope in the Designated, we should be pitied more than anyone. 20 But now the Designated has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also came through a man. 22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in the Designated all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: the Designated, the firstfruits; then when the Designated comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the reign to Supermights the Father, when he has brought to an end all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be eliminated is death. 27 For he has put everything in subjection under his feet. But when it says “everything” has been put in subjection, it is clear that this does not include the one who put everything in subjection to him. 28 And when all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that Supermights may be all in all. 29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they baptized for them? 30 Why too are we in danger every hour? 31 Every day I’m in danger of death! This is as sure as my boasting in you, which I’ve in the Designated Lifesaviour our Lord. 32 If from a human point of view I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what did it benefit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. 33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” 34 Sober up as you should, and stop sinning! For some have no knowledge of Supermights – I say this to your shame! 35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” 36 Fool! What you sow will not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare seed – perhaps of wheat or something else. 38 But Supermights gives it a body just as he planned, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. 39 All flesh is not the same: People have one flesh, animals have another, birds and fish another. 40 And there are Heavenly bodies and Earth ly bodies. The glory of the Heavenly body is one sort and the Earth ly another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory. 42 It is the same with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living person”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the Earth , made of dust; the second man is from Heaven. 48 Like the one made of dust, so too are those made of dust, and like the one from Heaven, so too those who are Heavenly. 49 And just as we’ve borne the image of the man of dust, let us also bear the image of the man of Heaven. 50 Now this is what I’m saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the reign of Supermights , nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I’ll tell you a mystery: We’ll not all sleep, but we’ll all be changed – 52 in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we’ll be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 Now when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will happen, “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 ​​​​​​​“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 56 ​​​​​​​The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 ​​​​​​​But thanks be to Supermights , who gives us the victory through our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated! 58 ​​​​​​​So then, dear brothers and sisters, be firm. Do not be moved! Always be outstanding in the work of Lifegiver, knowing that your labor is not in vain in Lifegiver.

1 Corinthians 16

1 With regard to the collection for the saints, please follow the directions that I gave to the churches of Galatia: 2 On the first day of the week, each of you should set aside some income and save it to the extent that Supermights has blessed you, so that a collection will not have to be made when I come. 3 Then, when I arrive, I’ll send those whom you approve with letters of explanation to carry your gift to Jerusalem. 4 And if it seems advisable that I should go also, they’ll go with me. 5 But I’ll come to you after I’ve gone through Macedonia – for I’ll be going through Macedonia – 6 and perhaps I’ll stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you can send me on my journey, wherever I go. 7 For I do not want to see you now in passing, since I hope to spend some time with you, if Lifegiver allows. 8 But I’ll stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 because a door of great opportunity stands wide open for me, but there are many opponents. 10 Now if Timothy comes, see that he has nothing to fear among you, for he is doing Lifegiver’s work, as I’m too. 11 So then, let no one treat him with contempt. But send him on his way in peace so that he may come to me. For I’m expecting him with the brothers. 12 With regard to our brother Apollos: I strongly encouraged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was simply not his intention to come now. he’ll come when he has the opportunity. 13 Stay alert, stand firm in the faith, show courage, be strong. 14 Everything you do should be done in love. 15 Now, brothers and sisters, you know about the household of Stephanus, that as the first converts of Achaia, they devoted themselves to ministry for the saints. I urge you 16 also to submit to people like this, and to everyone who cooperates in the work and labors hard. 17 I was glad about the arrival of Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus because they have supplied the fellowship with you that I lacked. 18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. So then, recognize people like this. 19 The churches in the province of Asia send greetings to you. Aquila and Prisca greet you warmly in Lifegiver, with the church that meets in their house. 20 All the brothers and sisters send greetings. Greet one another with a sacred kiss. 21 I, Paul, send this greeting with my own hand. 22 Let anyone who has no love for Lifegiver be accursed. Our Lord, come! 23 The grace of Lifegiver Lifesaviour be with you. 24 My love be with all of you in the Designated Lifesaviour.

2 CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians 1

1 From Paul, an apostle of the Designated Lifesaviour by the will of Supermights , and Timothy our brother, to the church of Supermights that is in Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia. 2 Grace and peace to you from Supermights our Father and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated! 3 Praise be to Supermights and Patron of our Master Lifesaviour the Designated, the Patron of mercies and Supermights of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our trouble, so that we may be able to comfort those in any trouble through the comfort which we ourselves receive from Supermights.

5 For just as the sufferings of the Designated overflow toward us, so also our comfort through the Designated overflows to you. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort that you experience in your patient endurance of the same sufferings that we also suffer. 7 And our hope for you is steadfast because we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you’ll share in our comfort. 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, regarding the affliction that happened to us in the province of Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of living. 9 Indeed we felt as if the sentence of death had been passed against us, so that we would not trust in ourselves but in Supermights who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from so great a risk of death, and he’ll deliver us. We’ve set our hope on him that he’ll deliver us yet again, 11 as you also join in helping us by prayer, so that many people may give thanks to Supermights on our behalf for the gracious gift given to us through the help of many. 12 For our reason for confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that with pure motives and sincerity which are from Supermights – not by human wisdom but by the grace of Supermights – we conducted ourselves in the world, and all the more toward you. 13 For we do not write you anything other than what you can read and also understand. But I hope that you’ll understand completely 14 just as also you have partly understood us, that we are your source of pride just as you also are ours in the day of Lifegiver Lifesaviour. 15 And with this confidence I intended to come to you first so that you would get a second opportunity to see us, 16 and through your help to go on into Macedonia and then from Macedonia to come back to you and be helped on our way into Judea by you. 17 Therefore when I was planning to do this, I did not do so without thinking about what I was doing, did I? Or do I make my plans according to mere human standards so that I would be saying both “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? 18 But as Supermights is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” 19 For the Kin of Supermights , Lifesaviour the Designated, the one who was proclaimed among you by us – by me and Silvanus and Timothy – was not “Yes” and “No,” but it has always been “Yes” in him. 20 For every one of Supermights ’s promises are “Yes” in him; therefore also through him the “Amen” is spoken, to the glory we give to Supermights. 21 But it is Supermights who establishes us together with you in the Designated and who anointed us, 22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment. 23 Now I appeal to Supermights as my witness, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth. 24 I do not mean that we rule over your faith, but we are workers with you for your joy, because by faith you stand firm.

2 Corinthians 2

1 So I made up my own mind not to pay you another painful visit. 2 For if I make you sad, who would be left to make me glad but the one I caused to be sad? 3 And I wrote this very thing to you, so that when I came I would not have sadness from those who ought to make me rejoice, since I’m confident in you all that my joy would be yours. 4 For out of great distress and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not to make you sad, but to let you know the love that I’ve especially for you. 5 But if anyone has caused sadness, he has not saddened me alone, but to some extent (not to exaggerate) he has saddened all of you as well. 6 This punishment on such an individual by the majority is enough for him, 7 so that now instead you should rather forgive and comfort him. This will keep him from being overwhelmed by excessive grief to the point of despair. 8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. 9 For this reason also I wrote you: to test you to see if you are obedient in everything. 10 If you forgive anyone for anything, I also forgive him – for indeed what I’ve forgiven (if I’ve forgiven anything) I did so for you in the presence of the Designated, 11 so that we may not be exploited by Satan (for we are not ignorant of his schemes). 12 Now when I arrived in Troas to proclaim the gospel of the Designated, even though Lifegiver had opened a door of opportunity for me, 13 I had no relief in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and set out for Macedonia. 14 But thanks be to Supermights who always leads us in triumphal procession in the Designated and who makes known through us the fragrance that consists of the knowledge of him in every place. 15 For we are a sweet aroma of the Designated to Supermights among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing – 16 to the latter an odor from death to death, but to the former a fragrance from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? 17 For we are not like so many others, hucksters who peddle the word of Supermights for profit, but we are speaking in the Designated before Supermights as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from Supermights.

2 Corinthians 3

1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? We don’t need letters of recommendation to you or from you as some other people do, do we? 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone, 3 revealing that you are a letter of the Designated, delivered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living Supermights , not on stone tablets but on tablets of human hearts. 4 Now we’ve such confidence in Supermights through the Designated. 5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as if it were coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from Supermights , 6 who made us adequate to be servants of a new agreement not based on the letter but on the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 7 But if the ministry that produced death – carved in letters on stone tablets – came with glory, so that the Israelites could not keep their eyes fixed on the face of Moses because of the glory of his face (a glory which was made ineffective), 8 how much more glorious will the ministry of the Spirit be? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry that produced condemnation, how much more does the ministry that produces rightness excel in glory! 10 For indeed, what had been glorious now has no glory because of the tremendously greater glory of what replaced it. 11 For if what was made ineffective came with glory, how much more has what remains come in glory! 12 Therefore, since we’ve such a hope, we behave with great boldness, 13 and not like Moses who used to put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from staring at the result of the glory that was made ineffective. 14 But their minds were closed. For to this very day, the same veil remains when they hear the old agreement read. It has not been removed because only in the Designated is it taken away. 15 But until this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds, 16 but when one turns to Lifegiver, the veil is removed. 17 Now Lifegiver is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of Lifegiver is present, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled faces reflecting the glory of Lifegiver, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, which is from Lifegiver, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4

1 For this reason, since we’ve this ministry just as we were shown mercy, we do not become dispirited. 2 Instead, we’ve renounced secrets of disgrace, not behaving craftily or adulterating Supermights’ plan, but expressing the truth, we recommend ourselves to every person’s conscience before Supermights.

3 But even if our gospel is hidden, it is encrypted only to those who are lost, 4 among whom the deity of this world has blinded the perceptions of those who do not believe so they would not see the bright light of the glorious gospel of the Designated, who is Supermights’ image. 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Lifesaviour the Designated as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Lifesaviour’ sake. 6 For Supermights , who said “Let light shine out of darkness,” is the one who shined in our hearts to give us the light of the glorious knowledge of Supermights in the face of the Designated.

7 We now have this wealth deposit in fragile earthenware. This is so that this extraordinary power may come from Supermights and not from us. 8 We are troubled in everything, but are not distressed.

We are perplexed but not despondent. 9 We are harassed but not deserted. We are flattened but

not shattered.

10 always carrying around in our body the death of Lifesaviour, so that the life of Lifesaviour may also be made visible in our body. 11 For we who are alive are constantly being handed over to death for Lifesaviour’ sake, so that the life of Lifesaviour may also be made visible in our mortal body. 12 As a result, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. 13 But since we’ve the same spirit of faith as that shown in what has been written, “I believed; therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak. 14 We do so because we know that the one who raised up Lifesaviour will also raise us up with Lifesaviour and will bring us with you into his presence. 15 For all these things are for your sake, so that the grace that is including more and more people may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of Supermights.

16 Even though our external person deteriorates, we do not consequently become utterly dispirited. Instead, the inside is being renewed day by day. 17 Since our momentary light troubles are producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond superior to comparison, 18 we do not focus on what can be seen but on what can’t be seen. Things that can be seen are temporal but things that can’t be seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5

1 For we know that if our earthly house, the tent we live in, is dismantled, we’ve a building from Supermights, a house not built by human hands, that is eternal in the Heavens. 2 For in this Earth house we groan, because we desire to put on our Heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed, after we’ve put on our Heavenly house, we’ll not be found naked. 4 For we groan while we are in this tent, since we are weighed down, because we do not want to be unclothed, but clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is Supermights , who gave us the Spirit as a down payment. 6 Therefore we are always full of courage, and we know that as long as we are alive here on Earth we are absent from Lifegiver – 7 for we live by faith, not by sight. 8 Thus we are full of courage and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with Lifegiver. 9 So then whether we are alive or away, we make it our ambition to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of the Designated, so that each one may be paid back according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or evil. 11 Therefore, because we know the fear of Lifegiver, we try to persuade people, but we are well known to Supermights , and I hope we are well known to your consciences too. 12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to be proud of us, so that you may be able to answer those who take pride in outward appearance and not in what is in the heart. 13 For if we are out of our minds, it is for Supermights ; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of the Designated controls us, since we’ve concluded this, that the Designated died for all; therefore all have died. 15 And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised. 16 So then from now on we acknowledge no one from an outward human point of view. Even though we’ve known the Designated from such a human point of view, now we do not know him in that way any longer. 17 So then, if anyone is in the Designated, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away – look, what is new has come! 18 And all these things are from Supermights who reconciled us to himself through the Designated, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 In other words, in the Designated Supermights was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people’s trespasses against them, and he has given us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore we are ambassadors for the Designated, as though Supermights were making his plea through us. We plead with you on the Designated’s behalf, “Be reconciled to Supermights !” 21 Supermights made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the rightness of Supermights.

2 Corinthians 6

1 Now because we are fellow workers, we also urge you not to receive the grace of Supermights in vain. 2 For he says, “I heard you at the acceptable time, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! 3 We do not give anyone an occasion for taking an offense in anything, so that no fault may be found with our ministry. 4 But as Supermights ’s servants, we’ve commended ourselves in every way, with great endurance, in persecutions, in difficulties, in distresses, 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in troubles, in sleepless nights, in hunger, 6 by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by benevolence, by the Holy Spirit, by genuine love, 7 by truthful teaching, by the power of Supermights , with weapons of rightness both for the right hand and for the left, 8 through glory and dishonor, through slander and praise; regarded as impostors, and yet true; 9 as unknown, and yet well-known; as dying and yet – see! – we continue to live; as those who are scourged and yet not executed; 10 as sorrowful, but always rejoicing, as poor, but making many rich, as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. 11 We’ve spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart has been opened wide to you. 12 Our affection for you is not restricted, but you are restricted in your affections for us. 13 Now as a fair exchange – I speak as to my children – open wide your hearts to us also. 14 Do not become partners with those who do not believe, for what partnership is there between rightness and lawlessness, or what fellowship does light have with darkness? 15 And what agreement does the Designated have with Beliar? Or what does a believer share in common with an unbeliever? 16 And what mutual agreement does the temple of Supermights have with idols? For we are the temple of the living Supermights , just as Supermights said, “I’ll live in them and will walk among them, and I’ll be their Supermights , and they’ll be my people.” 17 Therefore “come out from their midst, and be separate,” says Lifegiver, “and touch no unclean thing, and I’ll welcome you, 18 and I’ll be a father to you, and you’ll be my sons and daughters,” says the All-Powerful Lord.

2 Corinthians 7

1 Therefore, since we’ve these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that could defile the body and the spirit, and thus accomplish holiness out of reverence for Supermights. 2 Make room for us in your hearts; we’ve wronged no one, we’ve ruined no one, we’ve exploited no one. 3 I do not say this to condemn you, for I told you before that you are in our hearts so that we die together and live together with you. 4 I’ve great confidence in you; I take great pride on your behalf. I’m filled with encouragement; I’m overflowing with joy in the midst of all our suffering. 5 For even when we came into Macedonia, our body had no rest at all, but we were troubled in every way – struggles from the outside, fears from within. 6 But Supermights , who encourages the downhearted, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. 7 We were encouraged not only by his arrival, but also by the encouragement you gave him, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your deep concern for me, so that I rejoiced more than ever. 8 For even if I made you sad by my letter, I do not regret having written it (even though I did regret it, for I see that my letter made you sad, though only for a short time). 9 Now I rejoice, not because you were made sad, but because you were made sad to the point of repentance. For you were made sad as Supermights intended, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. 10 For sadness as intended by Supermights produces a repentance that leads to salvation, leaving no regret, but worldly sadness brings about death. 11 For see what this very thing, this sadness as Supermights intended, has produced in you: what eagerness, what defense of yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what deep concern, what punishment! In everything you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. 12 So then, even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did wrong, or on account of the one who was wronged, but to reveal to you your eagerness on our behalf before Supermights. 13 Therefore we’ve been encouraged. And in addition to our own encouragement, we rejoiced even more at the joy of Titus, because all of you have refreshed his spirit. 14 For if I’ve boasted to him about anything concerning you, I’ve not been embarrassed by you, but just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus about you has proved true as well. 15 And his affection for you is much greater when he remembers the obedience of you all, how you welcomed him with fear and trembling. 16 I rejoice because in everything I’m fully confident in you.

2 Corinthians 8

1 Now we make known to you, brothers and sisters, the grace of Supermights given to the churches of Macedonia, 2 that during a severe ordeal of suffering, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in the wealth of their generosity. 3 For I testify, they gave according to their means and beyond their means. They did so voluntarily, 4 begging us with great earnestness for the blessing and fellowship of helping the saints. 5 And they did this not just as we had hoped, but they gave themselves first to Lifegiver and to us by the will of Supermights. 6 Thus we urged Titus that, just as he had previously begun this work, so also he should complete this act of kindness for you. 7 But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all eagerness and in the love from us that is in you – make sure that you excel in this act of kindness too. 8 I’m not saying this as a instruct , but I’m testing the genuineness of your love by comparison with the eagerness of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you by his poverty could become rich. 10 So here is my opinion on this matter: It is to your advantage, since you made a good start last year both in your giving and your desire to give, 11 to finish what you started, so that just as you wanted to do it eagerly, you can also complete it according to your means. 12 For if the eagerness is present, the gift itself is acceptable according to whatever one has, not according to what he does not have. 13 For I do not say this so there would be relief for others and suffering for you, but as a matter of equality. 14 At the present time, your abundance will meet their need, so that one day their abundance may also meet your need, and thus there may be equality, 15 as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.” 16 But thanks be to Supermights who put in the heart of Titus the same devotion I’ve for you, 17 because he not only accepted our request, but since he was very eager, he is coming to you of his own accord. 18 And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his work in spreading the gospel. 19 In addition, this brother has also been Designated by the churches as our traveling companion as we administer this generous gift to the glory of Lifegiver himself and to show our readiness to help. 20 We did this as a precaution so that no one should blame us in regard to this generous gift we are administering. 21 For we are concerned about what is right not only before Lifegiver but also before men. 22 And we are sending with them our brother whom we’ve tested many times and found eager in many matters, but who now is much more eager than ever because of the great confidence he has in you. 23 If there is any question about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; if there is any question about our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to the Designated. 24 Therefore show them openly before the churches the proof of your love and of our pride in you.

2 Corinthians 9

1 For it is not necessary for me to write you about this service to the saints, 2 because I know your eagerness to help. I keep boasting to the Macedonians about this eagerness of yours, that Achaia has been ready to give since last year, and your zeal to participate has stirred up most of them. 3 But I’m sending these brothers so that our boasting about you may not be empty in this case, so that you may be ready just as I kept telling them. 4 For if any of the Macedonians should come with me and find that you are not ready to give, we would be humiliated (not to mention you) by this confidence we had in you. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to urge these brothers to go to you in advance and to arrange ahead of time the generous contribution you had promised, so this may be ready as a generous gift and not as something you feel forced to do. 6 My point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because Supermights loves a cheerful giver. 8 And Supermights is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you’ll overflow in every good work. 9 Just as it is written, “He has scattered widely, he has given to the poor; his rightness remains forever.” 10 Now Supermights who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your supply of seed and will cause the harvest of your rightness to grow. 11 You’ll be enriched in every way so that you may be generous on every occasion, which is producing through us thanksgiving to Supermights , 12 because the service of this ministry is not only providing for the needs of the saints but is also overflowing with many thanks to Supermights. 13 Through the evidence of this service they’ll glorify Supermights because of your obedience to your confession in the gospel of the Designated and the generosity of your sharing with them and with everyone. 14 And in their prayers on your behalf they long for you because of the extraordinary grace Supermights has shown to you. 15 Thanks be to Supermights for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 10

1 Now I, Paul, earnestly appeal to you personally in the humility and gentleness of the Designated - I who is truly humble when present among you, but assertive on your behalf when absent. 2 I appeal to you now so that when I’m present I may not have to be bold with the assertiveness with which I plan to challenge some who suppose we are behaving according to human standards.

3 Though we live through the body, we do not wage war physically. 4 Even the weapons of our warfare are not mortal but are divinely powered for the destruction of fortresses. We are tearing down presuppositions 5 and every hypothesis against the knowledge of Supermights. So we subject every notion to captive submission to the Designated.

6 We are also ready to do justice on every act of disobedience, whenever your obedience is expired. 7 You are looking at things superficially. If anyone is confident that he belongs to the Designated, he should reflect on this again: Just as he himself belongs to the Designated, so too do we. 8 For if I boast somewhat more about our authority that Lifegiver gave us for building you up and not for tearing you down, I’ll not be ashamed of doing so. 9 I do not want to seem as though I’m trying to terrify you with my letters, 10 because some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but his physical presence is weak and his speech is of no account.” 11 Let such a person consider this: What we say by letters when we are absent, we also are in actions when we are present. 12 For we would not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who recommend themselves. But when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. 13 But we’ll not boast beyond certain limits, but will confine our boasting according to the limits of the work to which Supermights has appointed us, that reaches even as far as you. 14 For we were not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach as far as you, because we were the first to reach as far as you with the gospel about the Designated. 15 Nor do we boast beyond certain limits in the work done by others, but we hope that as your faith continues to grow, our work may be greatly expanded among you according to our limits, 16 so that we may preach the gospel in the regions that lie beyond you, and not boast of work already done in another person’s area. 17 But the one who boasts must boast in Lifegiver. 18 For it is not the person who commends himself who is approved, but the person Lifegiver commends.

2 Corinthians 11

1 I wish that you would be patient with me in a little foolishness, but indeed you are being patient with me! 2 For I’m jealous for you with Supermights ly jealousy, because I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to the Designated. 3 But I’m afraid that just as the serpent deceived Eve by his treachery, your minds may be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to the Designated. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Lifesaviour different from the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit than the one you received, or a different gospel than the one you accepted, you put up with it well enough! 5 For I consider myself not at all inferior to those “super-apostles.” 6 And even if I’m unskilled in speaking, yet I’m certainly not so in knowledge. Indeed, we’ve made this plain to you in everything in every way. 7 Or did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you could be exalted, because I proclaimed the gospel of Supermights to you free of charge? 8 I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so that I could serve you! 9 When I was with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia fully supplied my needs. I kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. 10 As the truth of the Designated is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. 11 Why? Because I do not love you? Supermights knows I do! 12 And what I’m doing I’ll continue to do, so that I may eliminate any opportunity for those who want a chance to be regarded as our equals in the things they boast about. 13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of the Designated. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as a messenger of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising his servants also disguise themselves as servants of rightness, whose end will correspond to their actions. 16 I say again, let no one think that I’m a fool. But if you do, then at least accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. 17 What I’m saying with this boastful confidence I do not say the way Lifegiver would. Instead it is, as it were, foolishness. 18 Since many are boasting according to human standards, I too will boast. 19 For since you are so wise, you put up with fools gladly. 20 For you put up with it if someone makes slaves of you, if someone exploits you, if someone takes advantage of you, if someone behaves arrogantly toward you, if someone strikes you in the face. 21 (To my disgrace I must say that we were too weak for that!) But whatever anyone else dares to boast about (I’m speaking foolishly), I also dare to boast about the same thing. 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are they servants of the Designated? (I’m talking like I’m out of my mind!) I’m even more so: with much greater labors, with far more imprisonments, with more severe beatings, facing death many times. 24 Five times I received from the Jews fourty lashes less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with a rod. Once I received a stoning. Three times I suffered shipwreck. A night and a day I spent adrift in the open sea. 26 I’ve been on journeys many times, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from robbers, in dangers from my own countrymen, in dangers from Gentiles, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the desert, in dangers at sea, in dangers from false brothers, 27 in hard work and toil, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, many times without food, in cold and without enough clothing. 28 Apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxious concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I’m not weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not burn with indignation? 30 If I must boast, I’ll boast about the things that show my weakness. 31 The Supermights and Father of Lifegiver Lifesaviour, who is blessed forever, knows I’m not lying. 32 In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to arrest me, 33 but I was let down in a rope-basket through a window in the city wall, and escaped his hands.

2 Corinthians 12

1 It is necessary to go on boasting. Though it is not profitable, I’ll go on to visions and revelations from Lifegiver. 2 I know a man in the Designated who fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, Supermights knows) was caught up to the third Heaven. 3 And I know that this man (whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, Supermights knows) 4 was caught up into paradise and heard things too sacred to be put into words, things that a person is not permitted to speak. 5 On behalf of such an individual I’ll boast, but on my own behalf I’ll not boast, except about my weaknesses. 6 For even if I wish to boast, I’ll not be a fool, for I would be telling the truth, but I refrain from this so that no one may regard me beyond what he sees in me or what he hears from me, 7 even because of the extraordinary character of the revelations. Therefore, so that I would not become arrogant, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to trouble me – so that I would not become arrogant.

In case I would be super proud because of the extraordinary manifestations, there was given to me a physical irritation – an eye protrusion - Satan’s device to knock me in case I would become super proud.

8 I asked Lifegiver three times about this, that it would be removed from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is enough for you, for my power is optimised in weakness.” So then, I’ll brag with great pleasure about my weaknesses, so that the power of the Designated may take up residence and rest in me. 10 So I’m content in weaknesses, in maltreatment, in deprivation, in persecutions and in difficulties because of the Designated, because whenever I’m weak, I’m then strong.

11 I’ve become a fool. You yourselves forced me to do it, for I should have been commended by you. For I lack nothing in comparison to those “super-apostles,” even though I’m nothing. 12 Indeed, the signs of an apostle were performed among you with great perseverance by signs and wonders and powerful deeds. 13 For how were you treated worse than the other churches, except that I myself was not a burden to you? Forgive me this injustice! 14 Look, for the third time I’m ready to come to you, and I’ll not be a burden to you, because I do not want your possessions, but you. For children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 Now I’ll most gladly spend and be spent for your lives! If I love you more, am I to be loved less? 16 But be that as it may, I’ve not burdened you. Yet because I was a crafty person, I took you in by deceit! 17 I’ve not taken advantage of you through anyone I’ve sent to you, have I? 18 I urged Titus to visit you and I sent our brother along with him. Titus did not take advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit? Did we not behave in the same way? 19 Have you been thinking all this time that we’ve been defending ourselves to you? We are speaking in the Designated before Supermights , and everything we do, dear friends, is to build you up. 20 For I’m afraid that somehow when I come I’ll not find you what I wish, and you’ll find me not what you wish. I’m afraid that somehow there may be quarreling, jealousy, intense anger, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder. 21 I’m afraid that when I come again, my Supermights may humiliate me before you, and I’ll grieve for many of those who previously sinned and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and licentiousness that they have practiced.

2 Corinthians 13

1 This is the third time I’m coming to visit you. By the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter will be established. 2 I said before when I was present the second time and now, though absent, I say again to those who sinned previously and to all the rest, that if I come again, I’ll not spare anyone, 3 since you are demanding proof that the Designated is speaking through me. He is not weak toward you but is powerful among you. 4 For indeed he was crucified by reason of weakness, but he lives because of Supermights ’s power. For we also are weak in him, but we’ll live together with him, because of Supermights ’s power toward you. 5 Put yourselves to the test to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize regarding yourselves that Lifesaviour the Designated is in you – unless, indeed, you fail the test! 6 And I hope that you’ll realize that we’ve not failed the test! 7 Now we pray to Supermights that you may not do anything wrong, not so that we may appear to have passed the test, but so that you may do what is right even if we may appear to have failed the test. 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the sake of the truth. 9 For we rejoice whenever we are weak, but you are strong. And we pray for this: that you may become fully qualified. 10 Because of this I’m writing these things while absent, so that when I arrive I may not have to deal harshly with you by using my authority – Lifegiver gave it to me for building up, not for tearing down! 11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice, set things right, be encouraged, agree with one another, live in peace, and the Supermights of love and peace will be with you. 12 ​Greet one another with a sacred kiss. All the saints greet you. 13 The grace of Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated and the love of Supermights and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 14 [[EMPTY]]

GALATIANS

Galatians 1

1 From Paul, an apostle - not from people, or through humanity, but through Lifesaviour the Designated and Supermights the Patron who raised him from the dead, 2 and all the fellows with me, to the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from Supermights the Patron and our Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated, 4 who gave himself for our sins to release us from this present wicked age according to the will of our Supermights and Patron, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever! Amen.

6 I’m surprised that you are suddenly turning away from the one who called you to the grace of the Designated and are following a different gospel – 7 not that there is a different one, but there are some who are troubling you and intending to distort the gospel of the Designated. 8 But even if we or a messenger from Heaven should preach a gospel than the one we preached to you, let him be cursed! 9 As we said before, I also say it now again, if anyone preaches a gospel to you than what you have accepted, let him be cursed.

10 Am I now trying to appease human beings or deity? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be the Designated’s servant?

11 Now I want to assure you, fellows, that the gospel I preached is not human. 12 In fact I did not take it from any human being, nor was I taught it. Instead it was through a revelation from Lifesaviour the Designated. 13 You indeed heard about my previous way of life in the Jewish religion, how I passionately harassed Supermights’ church to destroy it. 14 I was progressing in the Jewish religion ahead of my peers in my generation, becoming overzealous for my ancestral traditions. 15 But when Supermights, who set me apart from my mother’s womb who then invited me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Kin to me so that I preach him among the nations, I did not hesitantly consult any flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me. Instead I went away to Arabia and again returned to Damascus. 18 It was after three years that I went up to Jerusalem to interview Peter, and I stayed with him fifteen days. 19 But I didn’t see any of the other apostles besides James, the Lifegiver’s brother. 20 Now the things that I write to you, look, they are before Supermights because I’m not lying. 21 Afterwards I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 But I was personally unknown to the Messianic churches of Judea. 23 They kept hearing; “The one who previously persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once ravaged.” 24 So they glorified Supermights because of me.

Galatians 2

1 Then after fourteen years I went up to Jerusalem again with Barnabas, also taking Titus along. 2 I went there then because of a revelation instruction and communicated to them the gospel that I preach among the nations. But I only sought private opinions of the reputed people. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running off course.

3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was forced to be circumcised. 4 This was because some pretentious fellows had infiltrated us to secretly spy on the freedom we’ve in the Designated Lifesaviour so that they might enslave us. 5 But we did not yield to their advice even for a moment so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you. 6 But those who seemed to be anything, whatever they once were, it makes no difference to me, Supermights does not buy any person’s face, the reputable people did not add any value to me. 7 Instead, on the contrary, they realised that the gospel of the uncircumcised was entrusted to me, just as that of the circumcised was to Peter 8 because the one who effected Peter’s apostleship for the circumcised was also effective in me for the nations. 9 When James and Peter as well as John who had a reputation as pillars realised the grace that had been given to me, gave me and Barnabas the right of partnership so that we should go to the nations and they to the circumcised. 10 They merely wanted us to be mindful of the poor, the same thing I also was keen to do.

11 But when Peter came to Antioch, I confronted him because he was at fault 12 because before some arrived from James, he ate food together with the people in the group. When they arrived, he withdrew and separated himself. He was afraid of those of circumcision. 13 Then the other Jews acted hypocritically with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I noticed that they were not aligned with the gospel truth, I spoke to Peter in front of them all, “If you, although you are a Jew, live like Gentiles and not Jewishly, why do you require the Gentiles to imitate the Jews?” 15 We natural Jews, and not even as sinners among the Gentiles, 16 realising that a person is not justified by deeds of the law but through faith in Lifesaviour the Designated, have even believed in Lifesaviour the Designated in order to be justified through faith in the Designated, and not by deeds of the law, because there is nobody who will be justified by deeds of the law. 17 But if, while trying to be justified by the Designated, we ourselves are found to be not free from sin, is the Designated therefore the servant of sin? Definitely not! 18 In fact, if I rebuild these things which I once dissolved, I’m making myself a lawbreaker 19 because through the law I died to the law so that I might be alive to Supermights. 20 I’ve been crucified with the Designated, and it is no longer me that lives, but the Designated lives in me. So, the life I now live in the body, I live in the faith of Supermights’ Kin, who loved me and sacrificed himself for me. 21 1 do not disregard Supermights’ grace because if rightness is through the law, then the Designated died for nothing.

Galatians 3

1 Foolish Galatians! Who bewitched you not to believe the truth after Lifesaviour the Designated was portrayed openly as crucified before your eyes? 2 I only want to understand this from you: Did you experience the Spirit because of the deeds of the law or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish, having started spiritually you are now refined physically? 4 Have you experienced so many things for nothing? Was it in fact without effect? 5 The one who reliably aids you, particularly the Spirit, who also effects miracles among you, is he through the deeds of the law or is it by believing what you heard? 6 Just as Abraham believed Supermights, so it was credited to his merit. 7 Understand then that those who are believers are similarly Abraham’s children.

8 Scripture, immediately anticipating that Supermights would justify the nations through faith, proactively preached the gospel to Abraham: "Through you all the nations will be blessed.” 9 So then those that are believers are blessed along with Abraham the believer. 10 Therefore all who are of the deeds of the law are under the curse, because it is written; “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do all the things described in the bill of the law.” 11 In fact, it is that clear that no person is justified before Supermights by the law in that the “The righteous will survive by faith.” 12 Even though the law is not based on faith, yet the person who practices these things will survive through them.

13 The Designated has reclaimed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse on our behalf since it is written; “Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed.” 14 This was so that the blessing of Abraham could be fulfilled among the nations through Lifesaviour the Designated so that we may receive the promised Spirit through faith. 15 Fellows, let me say it in terms of human illustration. Once a human contract is endorsed, no one can neutralise or supplement it. 16 Now the promises were transferred to Abraham and his seed. He does not speak of seeds as if they are many but as if one; “and your seed,” that is The Designated. 17 So this is what I mean to say: The law that came 430 years later does not rescind the contract that was previously confirmed by Supermights in order to deactivate the promise. 18 For if the inheritance is from the law, it is no longer based on promise. But Supermights graciously gave it to Abraham because of the promise.

19 So why the law then? It was added for the sake of violations until the Seed upon whom the promise was announced would arrive, given order by messengers through the agency of a stopgap. 20 Since the stopgap is not ultimate but Supermights is ultimate 21 can the law then be against Supermights’ promises? Definitely not! In fact, if a law that could give life had been issued, rightness would have been definitely on the basis of the law. 22 But what is written safeguarded everything under sin so that the promise in Lifesaviour the Designated could be given to the believers by faith. 23 So before faith arrived, we were safeguarded under the law, safeguarded until the intended faith was revealed. 24 So the law was our tutor towards the Designated so that we may be justified by faith. 25 Since faith has arrived, we are no longer under a tutor.

26 Indeed, you are all Supermights’ children through faith in The Designated Lifesaviour. 27 In fact, as all of you were immersed into the Designated you slipped into the Designated 28 wherein there is no Jew or Greek, there's no slave or freeborn, there's no male or female since you are all one in the Designated Lifesaviour. 29 Moreover, if you are the Designated’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, thus heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 4

1 Now let me say this: As long as this heir is underage for a while, the heir is no different from a servant, though the heir is the owner of everything. 2 Instead, the heir is under guardians and trustees for the time designated by the parent. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were reduced to bondage under the disciplines of the world. 4 When the fulfillment time had come, Supermights sent his Kin, existing through a woman, existing under the law, 5 to reclaim those under the law, so that we might regain adoption as children. 6 Now, because you are children, God has sent into our hearts the Spirit of his Kin, who cries, “ Abba, Father!” 7 Thus you are no longer a servant but a child, and if a child, then are Supermights’ heir through the Designated. 8 Yet in the past, in fact when you didn’t know Supermights, you served things that are not naturally deities. 9 But now, since you know Supermights, or rather have become known by Supermights, how can you return back to the weak and poor disciplines? Do you want to be reduced to bondage all over again? 10 You are meticulously watching days and months as well as seasons and years. 11 I’m afraid for you, that perhaps my toil for you has been for nothing.

12 Fellows, I plead with you, become as I’m, as I’ve also become as you are. You did me no harm 13 even though know how through a physical ailment I preached the gospel to you at first. 14 Even though my bodily condition was a trial to you, you did not despise or reject me. But you received me as Supermights’ messenger, as the Designated Lifesaviour himself. 15 Where then is the blessedness you had I gave testimony about that if it were possible you would have each plucked out your own eyes and donated them to me? 16 Have I become so much of your enemy by telling you the truth? 17 They enthusiastically desire you, but not honestly. They want to isolate you so that you may enthusiastically pursue them. 18 Although it is always good to be desired enthusiastically for a good thing, but not only when I’m present with you.

19 My little children, for whom I experience birth pains again until the Designated is formed in you, 20 although I wish I could be present with you now to make a different disclosure, I do not have a way out.

21 Tell me, you that want to be under the law, do you not understand the law? 22 In fact it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a maid and the other by a free woman. 23 But the one by the maid was born carnally, while the one by the free woman was born through the promise. 24 These things are illustrations, for the women represent the two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery — that is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and is parallel to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem high up is free, and she is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written:

Rejoice, sterile woman,

you who does not birth,

burst into song and shout,

you who are not in labour,

the children of the deprived are many,

more than those with a husband.

28 But we, fellows, like Isaac, are children of the promise. 29 But just as then the one born carnally persecuted the one born spiritually, so it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? “Chase the maid away and her son, because the son of the maid will not be joint heir with the son of the free woman. 31 So, fellows, we are not children of the maid but of the free woman.

Galatians 5

1 Therefore, persevere in the freedom for which the Designated has liberated us, and do not be entangled again in the yoke of slavery. 2 Pay attention to this: I, Paul, tell you that if you be circumcised, the Designated will be of no benefit to you! 3 Moreover I testify again to everyone who lets themselves to be circumcised that they are indebted to obey the full law. 4 The Designated has become ineffective to anyone of you who is justified by the law - you have fallen from grace! 5 But we, through the Spirit, anticipate the hope of rightness by faith.

6 In the Designated Lifesaviour neither circumcision nor uncircumcision achieves anything but faith working through altruism.

7 You were running well. Who beat you back from pursuing the truth? 8 This deceptive persuasion did not come from the one who calls you! 9 It's a little yeast that causes the whole dough to ferment. 10 I’ve confidence in you through Lifegiver that you’ll not accept another view. But the one stirring you’ll bear the judgement, whoever that may be. 11 Now fellows, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? Then the scandal of the cross has been rendered futile. 12 I wish those who are troubling would even castrate themselves!

13 Indeed fellows, you were merely called for freedom, not freedom as an opportunity for carnality but to serve one another through love. 14 In fact the entire law is fulfilled in this one statement: You must love your fellow as yourself. 15 But if you lacerate and devour one another, be careful, or you’ll be destroyed by one another.

16 I say then, live through the Spirit and you’ll not fulfill the craving of human nature 17 because human nature craves what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit is against human nature; these are opposed to each other, so that you don’t do what you intend. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the deeds of human nature are obvious. They are adultery, unsanctioned sexual intercourse, impurity, depravity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, animosities, contention, competition, fierceness, wrangling, factions, 21 jealousies, murders, drunkenness, carousing, and similar things. I’m forewarning you about these things, as I also warned you previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit Supermights’ reign. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is altruism, joy, peace, patience, integrity, uprightness, faith, 23 humility, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Now the ones that are the Designated's have crucified human nature with its emotions and cravings. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let's behave spiritually. 26 Let's not be self-conceited, irritating one another, being jealous of one another.

Galatians 6

1 Fellows, if someone is overtaken by surprise in any misdeed, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching yourselves in case you also be tempted. 2 Carry one another’s burdens so that you fulfill the Designated’s law 3 because if anyone considers themselves to be something when they are nothing, they are deceiving themselves. 4 But let each person prove their own work and then they’ll have a reason for glorying in themselves alone, and not in someone else. 5 Indeed each person will have to carry their own task. 6 But the one who is taught the message must share all the good things with the one taught. 7 Don’t be deceived. God is not mocked because whatever a person sows they’ll also harvest, 8 because the one who seeds to their human nature will reap corruption from human nature, but the one who seeds to the spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 So we let’s not be exhausted from doing good because we’ll reap in due time if we don’t relax. 10 So then whenever we’ve an opportunity, let’s do good to everyone’s benefit, especially for those who belong to the family of faith. 11 Notice how big a letter I’ve written to you with my own hand! 12 The many who want to make a bodily display force you to be circumcised only to avoid being persecuted for the cross of the Designated. 13 In fact even the circumcised themselves don’t care for the law but they want to be circumcised so that they boast with your tissue. 14 But I can never boast about anything except the cross of our Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Indeed, in the Designated both circumcision and uncircumcision result in nothing, the least in a new creature. 16 May peace and mercy come to everyone, through Israel’s Supermights, to whoever lives by the standard.

17 From now on, let no one trouble me because I bear throughout my body scars of Lifesaviour.

18 Fellows, may the grace of our Master, Lifesaviour the Designated be with your spirit. Amen.

EPHESIANS

Ephesians 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Lifesaviour the the Designated through Supermights ’s choice, to the saints and believers in the Designated Lifesaviour that are in Ephesus: 2 Grace and peace to you from Supermights our Father and the Lord Lifesaviour the the Designated!

3 Bless Supermights and Patron of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated who has favoured us with every spiritual blessing in Heavens through the Designated. 4 For he chose us in in him before the foundation of the world that we would be holy and faultless in his presence through love. 5 He predestined us for adoption as children to himself through Lifesaviour the Designated according to the desire of his resolve, 6 to the praiseworthy glory of his grace through which he highly favoured us through the dearly loved one 7 through whom we’ve redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our faults, according to the abundance of his grace 8 that he has excessively lavished on us with all supreme intelligence and understanding.

9 According to his kindness, he has revealed to us the mystery of his purpose which he had pre-planned through him 10 till the managed fulfillment of the set times to gather together in one everything in the Designated, both the things in Heaven and the things that are on Earth through him 11 through whom we’ve been laid claim to as an inheritance - predestined according to the intention of him that has worked out everything according to the counsel of his own purpose.

12 We that first trusted in the Designated have come to be the praise of his glory 13 through which you also did after you heard the message of truth, the good massage of your salvation, through which you also believed you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the releasing of the reserved purchase is effected by payment to the praise of his glory.

15 That is why since I heard about your faith in the Lord Lifesaviour s well as your love for all the saints, 16 I do not stop to give thanks for you, continuing to remember you in my prayers. 17 so that the Supermights of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, the glorious Father may give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in the precise and correct knowledge of him.

18 May the perception of your mind be enlightened so that you may realise what is the hope of his calling and what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance for the saints 19 and what is the superlative greatness of his power towards us who believe, from the efficiency of his mighty power 20 which he demonstrated in the Designated when he ressurected him from the dead and seated him at his own right hand in the Heavens 21 far above every ruler, as well as authority and forces and jurisdiction and every title designated, not just in this world but also in the one to come. 22 He has then subordinated everything under his feet and he has appointed him the head over the whole church 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one that fills up everything through all means.

Ephesians 2

1 When you were dead in deviations and sins 2 which you were in previously, you lived according to the trend of this world, according to the chief power that inspires the spirit that now energises the children of unpursuadableness.

3 Some of us at that stage behaved under the lusts of our bodily desires, gratifying physical and mental inclinationalities. We were naturally children of passion then, just like the rest. 4 But Supermights , being rich in his mercy, through his great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in deviations, reanimated us together through the Designated. Having been saved by grace, 6 he then raised us together and made us sit together in celestials through the Designated Lifesaviour 7 so that in the coming ages he could demonstrate the outstanding richness of his excellent grace in his kindness towards us through the Designated Lifesaviour.

8 You are saved by grace indeed through faith, and that is not from you. It is the gift of Supermights. 9 It is not from efforts, so that no one can boast. 10 Indeed we are his production, created through the Designated Lifesaviour for good acts which Supermights had pre-planned so that we would be occupied through them.

11 Therefore, remember that you that are called uncircumcised by those that are physically circumcised were at some stage heathens by nature. 12 During that particular time you were without the Designated, alienated from the polity of Israel, and were foreigners from the covenantal promises, without hope and without Supermights in the world. 13 But now, through the Designated Lifesaviour, you that were distant at some stage have been brought close through the blood of the Designated 14 because he is our peace, the one that merges both into one, and he fragmented the partition barrier, 15 neutralising through his body the hostility, the package of prescriptions in ordinances in order to create through himself one new humanity from two, causing peace, 16 and fully reconcile both to Supermights through one body through the cross, by which the hostility has been destroyed.

17 When he came, he preached the good news of peace to you, the ones that were distant, and the ones that were near 18 that through him we both have access to the Father through one Spirit. 19 So then, you are no longer foreigners and outlanders but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of Supermights ’s household 20 built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Lifesaviour the Designated himself being the foundation stone 21 through whom the entire articulated building grows to be a sacred temple in the Lord 22 through whom you too are being built together to be Supermights ’s residence through the Spirit.

Ephesians 3

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of the Designated Lifesaviour for the sake of you Gentiles – 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of Supermights ’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 that by revelation the divine secret was made known to me, as I wrote before briefly. 4 When reading this, you’ll be able to understand my insight into this secret of the Designated. 5 Now this secret was not disclosed to people in former generations as it has now been revealed to his sacred apostles and prophets by the Spirit, 6 namely, that through the gospel the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in the Designated Lifesaviour. 7 I became a servant of this gospel according to the gift of Supermights ’s grace that was given to me by the exercise of his power. 8 To me – less than the least of all the saints – this grace was given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of the Designated 9 and to enlighten everyone about Supermights ’ secret plan – a secret that has been hidden for ages in Supermights who has created all things. 10 The purpose of this enlightenment is that through the church the multifaceted wisdom of Supermights hould now be disclosed to the rulers and the authorities in the Heavenly realms. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in the Designated Lifesaviour our Lord, 12 in whom we’ve boldness and confident access to Supermights because of the Designated’s faithfulness. 13 For this reason I ask you not to lose heart because of what I’m suffering for you, which is your glory. 14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in Heaven and on the Earth is named. 16 I pray that according to the wealth of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, 17 that the Designated may dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love, 18 you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and thus to know the love of the Designated that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to all the fullness of Supermights. 20 Now to him who by the power that is working witlitreus is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, 21 to him be the glory in the church and in the Designated Lifesaviour to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4

1 I, therefore, the prisoner for Lifegiver, urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you too were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one Supermights and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of the Designated. 8 Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he captured captives; he gave gifts to men.” 9 Now what is the meaning of “he ascended,” except that he also descended to the lower regions, namely, the Earth ? 10 He who descended is also the very one who also ascended far beyond the sky intent to fulfill everything. 11 Likewise, he himself empowered some as emissaries, some prophesiers, some evmessengerists, and some pastors and teachers 12 to equip the saints for service to build the body of the Designated, 13 until all reach one constancy and acknowledgement of the Kin of Supermights towards mature humanity to the degree of maturity replete to that of the Designated. 14 So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes. 15 But practicing the truth in love, we’ll in all things grow up into the Designated, who is the head. 16 From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body grows in love. 17 So I say this, and insist in Lifegiver, that you no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, being alienated from the life of Supermights because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts. 19 Because they are callous, they have given themselves over to indecency for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn about the Designated like this, 21 if indeed you heard about him and were taught in him, just as the truth is in Lifesaviour. 22 You were taught with reference to your former way of life to lay aside the old man who is being corrupted in accordance with deceitful desires, 23 to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and to put on the new man who has been created in Supermights ’s image – in rightness and holiness that comes from truth. 25 Therefore, having laid aside falsehood, each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on the cause of your anger. 27 Do not give the dbad an opportunity. 28 The one who steals must steal no longer; rather he must labor, doing good with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with the one who has need. 29 You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of Supermights , by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 You must put away every kind of bitterness, anger, wrath, quarreling, and evil, slanderous talk. 32 Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, just as Supermights in the Designated also forgave you.

Ephesians 5

1 Therefore, be imitators of Supermights as dearly loved children 2 and live in love, just as the Designated also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to Supermights. 3 But among you there must not be either sexual immorality, impurity of any kind, or greed, as these are not fitting for the saints. 4 Neither should there be vulgar speech, foolish talk, or coarse jesting – all of which are out of character – but rather thanksgiving. 5 For you can be confident of this one thing: that no person who is immoral, impure, or greedy (such a person is an idolater) has any inheritance in the reign of the Designated and Supermights. 6 Let nobody deceive you with empty words, for because of these things Supermights ’s wrath comes on the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them, 8 for you were at one time darkness, but now you are light in Lifegiver. Walk as children of the light – 9 for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, rightness, and truth – 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to Lifegiver. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For the things they do in secret are shameful even to mention. 13 But all things being exposed by the light are made evident. 14 For everything made evident is light, and for this reason it says: “Awake, O sleeper! Rise from the dead, and the Designated will shine on you!” 15 Therefore be very careful how you live – not as unwise but as wise, 16 taking advantage of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 For this reason do not be foolish, but be wise by understanding what Lifegiver’s will is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to Lifegiver, 20 always giving thanks to Supermights the Father for each other in the name of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, 21 and submitting to one another out of reverence for the Designated. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to Lifegiver, 23 because the husband is the head of the wife as also the Designated is the head of the church – he himself being the savior of the body. 24 But as the church submits to the Designated, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives just as the Designated loved the church and gave himself for her 26 to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, 27 so that he may present the church to himself as glorious – not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but sacred and blameless. 28 In the same way husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one has ever hated his own body but he feeds it and takes care of it, just as the Designated also does the church, 30 for we are members of his body. 31 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. 32 This mystery is great – but I’m actually speaking with reference to the Designated and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each one of you must also love his own wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 6

1 Children, obey your parents in Lifegiver for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment accompanied by a promise, namely, 3 “that it may go well with you and that you’ll live a long time on the Earth .” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but raise them up in the discipline and instruction of Lifegiver. 5 Slaves, obey your human masters with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart as to the Designated, 6 not like those who do their work only when someone is watching – as people-pleasers – but as slaves of the Designated doing the will of Supermights from the heart. 7 Obey with enthusiasm, as though serving Lifegiver and not people, 8 because you know that each person, whether slave or free, if he does something good, this will be rewarded by Lifegiver. 9 Masters, treat your slaves the same way, giving up the use of threats, because you know that both you and they have the same master in Heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. 10 Finally, be strengthened in Lifegiver and in the strength of his power. 11 Clothe yourselves with the full armor of Supermights so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in high places. 13 For this reason, take up the full armor of Supermights so that you may be able to stand your ground on the bad day, and having done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm therefore, by fastening the belt of truth around your waist, by putting on the body armour of rightness, 15 by fitting your feet with the preparation that comes from the good news of peace, 16 and in all of this, by taking up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the bad one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Supermights. 18 With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and requests for all the saints. 19 Pray for me also, that I may be given the message when I begin to speak – that I may confidently make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I’m a messenger in chains. Pray that I may be able to speak boldly as I ought to speak. 21 Tychicus, my dear brother and faithful servant in Lifegiver, will make everything known to you, so that you too may know about my circumstances, how I’m doing. 22 I’ve sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. 23 Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from Supermights the Father and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated. 24 Grace be with all of those who love our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated with an undying love.

PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 1

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Lifesaviour the Designated; to all the saints in the Designated Lifesaviour who are in Phillipi, together with the overseers and deacons. 2 To you be grace and peace from Supermights our Father and the Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 3 Every time I remember you, I thank my Supermights.

4 In my every prayer on your behalf, I always make my every request with joy 5 for your partnership in the gospel from the previous till the present time. 6 I’m convinced of this very thing that the initiator of good work in you’ll fullfill it up to the day of Lifesaviour the the Designated. 7 It is just right for me to think this way about all of you. I’ve you in my mind even in my chains - even in the defence and establishment of the gospel you all became my co-participants in grace. 8 Indeed, Supermights is my witness in how I miss you all with the tender mercy of Lifesaviour the Designated. 9 So therefore, I pray that your love will keep growing more and more as well as more and more in knowledge and every perception. 10 May you discern different things so that you may be genuine and faultless up to the day of the Designated, 11 filled with the fruits of rightness which come through Lifesaviour the the Designated to the glory and praise of Supermights.

12 Furthermore, I want you to know fellows that the things that happened to me to a greater degree advanced the gospel. 13 As a result of my incarcerations throughout, the Designated has come to shine in every palace and all the rest. 14 So many of the fellows in the Lord have gained confidence by my chains, daring more to preach the message fearlessly. 15 In fact some preach the Designated from detraction and variance but some do so from good will. 16 The former preach the Designated out of contention, not honestly, assuming they’ll add persecution to my imprisonment. 17 But the ones that do it out of love, know that I’m placed for the defence of the gospel. 18 Nevertheless, whatever the reason, by whatsoever means, whether in pretence or truth, the Designated is preached, I thereby rejoice in this. Yes, I’ll continue to rejoice. 19 Indeed, I realise that this will eventuate in my deliverance through your prayer and contribution of the Spirit of Lifesaviour the Designated. 20 Naturally, my earnest anticipation and hope is that I may not be ashamed by any means but with all boldness, even now as always, the Designated may be magnified through my body, whether through life or through death. 21 No doubt, to me to be alive is the Designated and to be dead is an advantage.

22 But if I must continue to live in the body, this will be my fruitful labour. Yet I do not know what I must choose for myself. 23 Indeed, I’m torn between the two: I’ve a desire to return and continue with the Designated which is much better by far, 24 and it is necessary for your sake to continue in the body. 25 Now I’m convinced, I know that I’ll stay and live with you all for the sake of the faith’s progress and joy. 26 This is order that your exuberance may increase in Lifesaviour the Designated through the occassion of my coming to you again. 27 But behave appropriate to the gospel of the Designated so that whether I come and see you or I be absent, I may hear that you persevere in one spirit and in one mind, striving together for the persuasion of the gospel. 28 But be not intimidated in any way by your opponents such that this in fact becomes an indication of damnation while it is to your salvation and thus of Supermights 29 that was given to you on behalf of the Designated not to merely believe in him but also to suffer for his sake. 30 You have the same struggle which you observed in me, and now you hear about me..

Philippians 2

1 So then, if there is any encouragement in the Designated, if there is any comfort of love, if there is any communication of the Spirit, if there is any tender mercy and compassion, 2 complete my joy so that you are predisposed to having the same love, similarly, of one purpose.

3 Let nothing be through competition and false pride but in mental humility esteem one another better than yourselves. 4 Each one must not just regard their interests but each others’. 5 Instead have in you the attitude which was also in the Designated Lifesaviour 6 who though he existed in the nature of Supermights did not consider divine equalness a prize. 7 ​​​​​​​Instead, he neutralised himself, taking on subserviency, operating under the human form. 8 ​​​​​​​After obtaining humanlike mode, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, more so the death of the cross 9 ​​​​​​​through which Supermights then elevated him and gave him a name which is above any name 10 ​​​​​​​so that through the name of Lifesaviour every knee will bow - in Heaven and on Earth as well as under the Earth . 11 ​​​​​​​Then every tongue will confess that Lifesaviour the Designated is supreme to the glory of Supermights the Father. 12 So then my dearly loved ones, as you have always obeyed, not just in my presence, even more so in my absence currently, bring about your own salvation with reverence, fear and trembling.13 yet it is Supermights who effects in you both the desire and energy towards his purpose.

14 Do everything without grumbling and arguing 15 so that you may be faultless and innocent children of Supermights , unblameable in the middle of a pervese and corrupt generation in which you shine as lights in the world. 16 Hold on to the message of life so that I may rejoice on the day of the Designated that I’ve not run for nothing or worked hard fruitlessly. 17 But even if I’m spent over as a victim that services your faith, I’m glad and I rejoice in you all, 18 and in the same way you are to be glad and rejoice with me.

19 Further, I expect through the Lord Lifesaviour to send you Timothy shortly so that I may also feel encouraged when I know about your situation 20 because I’ve no one of similar spirit who will genuinely care for your situation. 21 Everyone else pursues their own things, not the things of Lifesaviour the Designated. 22 But you have known him experientially because he has served with me in the gospel, as a son with the father. 23 I hope to certainly send him the moment I ascertain my situation 24 though I trust through the Lord that I also will be coming shortly.

25 However, I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, colleague and associate, your delegate and benefactor to my needs, 26 since he has been now greatly missing you all, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed, he was so sick he almost died. But Supermights had mercy on him, and not just him alone but on me too so that I would not have grief upon grief. 28 So I send him sooner so that when you see him again you may be glad. I can be less anxious. 29 So welcome him with all gladness in the Lord, and hold such ones more honourable 30 because it was for the Designated’s work that he nearly died, risking his life to supply your penury ministry to me.

Philippians 3

1 Furthermore, my fellows rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not strenuos to me at all but it is for your safety. 2 Beware of dogs. Beware of worthless workers. Beware of short circuiting.

3 No doubt, we ourselves are the ones circumcised, worshipping Supermights spiritually and boasting in the Designated Lifesaviour and not relying on the physical 4 – although I could indeed count reliance on the physical. If anyone thinks he can rely on the physical, I’ve more; 5 I I was circumcised the eight day, an offspring of an Israelite, tribe of Benjamin, a Jew of Jews, a thorough Seperatist legally. 6 In respect of zeal, I persecuted the church. In respect of law based rightness, faultless. 7 Yet the things which were an advantage to me, I aftewards counted them futile because of the Designated. 8 MYes, it is in fact the least too. I count everything there is loss for the excellence of knowing the Designated Lifesaviour my Lord for whom I’ve experienced loss of everything. Indeed, I count whatever is as dung for the purpose of attaining the Designated. 9 May I also be found in him not having my own rightness which is from the law but the one through faith of the Designated - the rightness from Supermights through faith. 10 May I understand him and the power of his resurrection as well as the partnership of his suffering, assimilating his death. 11 If somehow I could attain the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not that I’ve already achieved it or am I already perfected. But I pursue it that I may also achieve what the Designated Lifesaviour has acheived for me. 13 Fellows, I do not consider myself to have arrived but one by one forgetting backward things I strive forward. 14 I press towards the goal for the award of the supreme purpose of Supermights through the Designated Lifesaviour. 15 Therefore, let all that are matured be of that opinion, and if any be differently minded, Supermights will reveal this to you.16 NNevertheless, let us be careful to live up to the same standard we’ve already attained. 17 Fellows, be my co-imitators and regard those that walk this way as you have us as an example. 18 Many of whom I often told you about, and I’m telling you with weeping now, indeed walk as the enemies of the cross of the Designated. 19 Their end is destruction. Their Supermights is the belly. They also glory in their disgrace. They mind Earth ly things. 20 But our citizenship is in Heaven from where we also anticipate a Saviour, the Lord Lifesaviour the Designated 21 who will transform our depressed bodies so that they are turned similar to his glorious body according to the energy that is even able to subdue everything to himself.

PHILIPPIANS 3

1. Furthermore, my fellows rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not strenuous to me at all but it is for your safety.

2. Beware of dogs. Beware of worthless workers. Beware of short circuiting.

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4. - although I could indeed count reliance on the physical. If anyone thinks he can rely in the physical, I’ve more.

5. I was circumcised the eight day, an offspring of an Israelite, the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, a strict conventional Pharisee.

6. In terms of zeal, I persecuted the church. In respect of law based rightness, faultless.

7. Yet the things which were an advantage to me, I afterwards counted them futile because of the Designated.

8. Yes, it is in fact the least too. I count everything there is loss for the excellence of knowing the Designated Lifesaviour my Lord for whom I’ve experienced loss of everything. Indeed, I count whatever is as dung for the purpose of attaining the Designated.

9. May I also be found in him not having my own rightness which is from the law but the one through faith of the Designated - the rightness from God through faith.

10. May I know him and the power of his resurrection as well as the partnership of his suffering - amenable to his death -

11. if somehow I could reach the resurrection of the dead.

12. Not that I’ve already caught it or am I already perfected. But I pursue it that I may also achieve what the Designated Lifesaviour has achieved for me.

13. Fellows, I do not consider myself to have achieved it. But I’m particularly disregarding what is in fact backward. Now I’m advancing forwards.

14. I run towards the goal because of the prize of the upward call of God in Lifesaviour the Designated.

15. Therefore, let all that are matured be of that opinion, and if any be differently minded, God will reveal this to you.

16. Nevertheless, let us be careful to live up to the same standard we’ve already attained.

17. Fellows, be my co-imitators and observe those that live this way as you regarded us as an example.

18. Indeed, many, of whom I’ve often told you about, and I’m telling you with weeping now, walk as the enemies of the cross of the Designated.

19. Their end is destruction. Their god is the belly. They also glory in their disgrace. They mind earthly things.

20. But our citizenship is in heaven from where we also anticipate a Saviour, the Lord Lifesaviour the Designated

21. who will transfigure our inferior bodies so that they be conformed to his glorious body according to the energy that is even able to put all things under him.

Philippians 4

1 So them my dearly loved fellows that I greatly miss, my joy and my crown, just persevere in the Lord my loved ones.

2 I appeal to Euodia and I appeal to Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 I also appeal to you sincerely Syzygus to help them because they laboured together with me in the gospel along with Clement too, as well as the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life.

4 Be happy in Lifegiver always. I repeat it again, be happy. 5 Let your optimistic calmness be obvious to every person. Lifegiver is coming. 6 Don’t worry about anything. Instead, in everything, present your requests to Supermights through prayer and petition as well as thankgiving. 7 Then Supermights’ peace which goes beyond all reason will safeguard your emotions and your thoughts through the Designated Lifesaviour.

8 Furthermore fellows, whatever things are true, whatever things are honourable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are reputable, if anything virtuous and if anything is praiseworthy, think about these things. 9 The things which you both learned and received as well as as heard and seen in me, practise. The the Supermights of peace will be with you. 10 Now I’m greatly cheerful in the Lord because at last this time your concern over me has sprouted through somehow. Even though you were concerned, you lacked opportunity. 11 I’m not saying this out of need because I learnt to be content in whatever circumstances I’m in. 12 Now I understand distress and I understand abundance. In everything and in all circumstances I’ve been taught both to be satisfied and to be hungry, to both be in excess and to be destitute. 13 I survive anything through the Designated that empowers me. 14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my tribulation.

15 But you Phillipians also know that at the inception of gospel when I left from Macedonia, no congregation participated with me on the matter of giving and receiving except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent more than once for my need again. 17 Not because I desire a gift. I rather wish for a fruit that will increase to your credit. 18 FBut I’ve everything and in abundance. I’m satisfied as I received from Epaphroditus, the ones from you, perfumed fragrance, a sacrifice approved, fullu acceptable to Supermights. 19 And my Supermights will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in the Designated Lifesaviour. 20 May glory be given to Supermights our Father forever and ever. Amen. 21 Give greetings to all the saints in the Designated Lifesaviour. The brothers with me here send greetings. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those who belong to Caesar’s household. 23 The grace of Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated be with your spirit.

COLOSSIANS

Colossians 1

1 From Paul, an apostle of the Designated Lifesaviour by the will of Supermights, and Timothy our brother, 2 to the saints, the faithful brothers and sisters in the Designated, at Colossae. Grace and peace to you from Supermights our Father! 3 We always give thanks to Supermights , the Father of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard about your faith in the Designated Lifesaviour and the love that you have for all the saints. 5 Your faith and love have arisen from the hope laid up for you in Heaven, which you have heard about in the message of truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. Just as in the entire world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, so it has also been bearing fruit and growing among you from the first day you heard it and understood the grace of Supermights in truth. 7 You learned the gospel from Epaphras, our dear fellow slave – a faithful minister of the Designated on our behalf – 8 who also told us of your love in the Spirit. 9 For this reason we also, from the day we heard about you, have not ceased praying for you and asking Supermights to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may live worthily of Lifegiver and please him in all respects – bearing fruit in every good deed, growing in the knowledge of Supermights , 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might for the display of all patience and steadfastness, joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light. 13 He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the reign of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we’ve redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 ​​​​​​​He is the image of the invisible Supermights , the firstborn over all creation, 16 ​​​​​​​for all things in Heaven and on Earth were created by him – all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers – all things were created through him and for him. 17 ​​​​​​​He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him. 18 ​​​​​​​He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things. 19 ​​​​​​​For Supermights was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son 20 ​​​​​​​and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross – through him, whether things on Earth or things in Heaven. 21 And you were at one time strangers and enemies in your minds as expressed through your bad deeds, 22 but now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death to present you holy, without blemish, and blameless before him – 23 if indeed you remain in the faith, established and firm, without shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has also been preached in all creation under Heaven, and I, Paul, have become its servant. 24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I fill up in my physical body – for the sake of his body, the church – what is lacking in the sufferings of the Designated. 25 I became a servant of the church according to the stewardship from Supermights – given to me for you – in order to complete the word of Supermights , 26 that is, the mystery that has been kept hidden from ages and generations, but has now been revealed to his saints. 27 Supermights wanted to make known to them the glorious riches of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is the Designated in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim him by instructing and teaching all people with all wisdom so that we may present every person mature in the Designated. 29 Toward this goal I also labor, struggling according to his power that powerfully works in me.

Colossians 2

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I’ve for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for those who have not met me face to face. 2 My goal is that their hearts, having been knit together in love, may be encouraged, and that they may have all the riches that assurance brings in their understanding of the knowledge of the mystery of Supermights , namely, the Designated, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this so that no one will deceive you through arguments that sound reasonable. 5 For though I’m absent from you in body, I’m present with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in the Designated. 6 Therefore, just as you received the Designated Lifesaviour as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and firm in your faith just as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8 Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to the Designated. 9 For in him all the fullness of deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. 11 In him you also were circumcised – not, however, with a circumcision performed by human hands, but by the removal of the fleshly body, that is, through the circumcision done by the Designated. 12 Having been buried with him in baptism, you also have been raised with him through your faith in the power of Supermights who raised him from the dead. 13 And even though you were dead in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he nevertheless made you alive with him, having forgiven all your transgressions. 14 He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross. 16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you with respect to food or drink, or in the matter of a feast, new moon, or Sabbath days – 17 these are only the shadow of the things to come, but the reality is the Designated! 18 Let no one who delights in humility and the worship of messenger s pass judgment on you. That person goes on at great lengths about what he has supposedly seen, but he is puffed up with empty notions by his fleshly mind. 19 He has not held fast to the head from whom the whole body, supported and knit together through its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from Supermights. 20 If you have died with the Designated to the elemental spirits of the world, why do you submit to them as though you lived in the world? 21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!” 22 These are all destined to perish with use, founded as they are on human instructions and teachings. 23 Even though they have the appearance of wisdom with their self-imposed worship and false humility achieved by an unsparing treatment of the body – a wisdom with no true value – they in reality result in fleshly indulgence.

Colossians 3

1 Therefore, if you have been raised with the Designated, keep seeking the things above, where the Designated is, seated at the right hand of Supermights. 2 Keep thinking about things above, not things on the Earth , 3 for you have died and your life is hidden with the Designated in Supermights. 4 When the Designated (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him. 5 So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the Earth : sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, bad desire, and greed which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of Supermights is coming on the sons of disobedience. 7 You also lived your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them. 8 But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices 10 and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it. 11 Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but the Designated is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of Supermights , sacred and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as Lifegiver has forgiven you, so you also forgive others. 14 And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond. 15 Let the peace of the Designated be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful. 16 Let the word of the Designated dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to Supermights. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of Lifegiver Lifesaviour, giving thanks to Supermights the Father through him. 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in Lifegiver. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing in Lifegiver. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they’ll not become disheartened. 22 Slaves, obey your Earth ly masters in every respect, not only when they are watching – like those who are strictly people-pleasers – but with a sincere heart, fearing Lifegiver. 23 Whatever you are doing, work at it with enthusiasm, as to Lifegiver and not for people, 24 because you know that you’ll receive your inheritance from Lifegiver as the reward. Serve Lifegiver the Designated. 25 For the one who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there are no exceptions.

Colossians 4

1 Masters, treat your slaves with justice and fairness, because you know that you also have a master in Heaven. 2 Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time pray for us too, that Supermights may open a door for the message so that we may proclaim the mystery of the Designated, for which I’m in chains. 4 Pray that I may make it known as I should. 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunities. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer everyone. 7 Tychicus, a dear brother, faithful minister, and fellow slave in Lifegiver, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are doing and that he may encourage your hearts. 9 I sent him with Onesimus, the faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They’ll tell you about everything here. 10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him). 11 And Lifesaviour who is called Justus also sends greetings. In terms of Jewish converts, these are the only fellow workers for the reign of Supermights , and they have been a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a slave of the Designated, greets you. He is always struggling in prayer on your behalf, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of Supermights. 13 For I can testify that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Our dear friend Luke the physician and Demas greet you. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters who are in Laodicea and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house. 16 And after you have read this letter, have it read to the church of Laodicea. In turn, read the letter from Laodicea as well. 17 And tell Archippus, “See to it that you complete the ministry you received in Lifegiver.” 18 I, Paul, write this greeting by my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

THESSALONIANS

1 Thessalonians 1

1 From Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in Supermights the Father and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated. Grace and peace to you! 2 We thank Supermights always for all of you as we mention you constantly in our prayers, 3 because we recall in the presence of our Supermights and Father your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 4 We know, brothers and sisters loved by Supermights , that he has Designated you, 5 in that our gospel did not come to you merely in words, but in power and in the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction (surely you recall the character we displayed when we came among you to help you). 6 And you became imitators of us and of Lifegiver, when you received the message with joy that comes from the Holy Spirit, despite great affliction. 7 As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For from you the message of Lifegiver has echoed forth not just in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place reports of your faith in Supermights have spread, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For people everywhere report how you welcomed us and how you turned to Supermights from idols to serve the living and true Supermights 10 and to wait for his Son from Heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Lifesaviour our deliverer from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 2

1 For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, about our coming to you – it has not proven to be purposeless. 2 But although we suffered earlier and were mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the courage in our Supermights to declare to you the gospel of Supermights in spite of much opposition. 3 For the appeal we make does not come from error or impurity or with deceit, 4 but just as we’ve been approved by Supermights to be entrusted with the gospel, so we declare it, not to please people but Supermights , who examines our hearts. 5 For we never appeared with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed – Supermights is our witness – 6 nor to seek glory from people, either from you or from others, 7 ​although we could have imposed our weight as apostles of the Designated; instead we became little children among you. Like a nursing mother caring for her own children, 8 with such affection for you we were happy to share with you not only the gospel of Supermights but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 9 For you recall, brothers and sisters, our toil and drudgery: By working night and day so as not to impose a burden on any of you, we preached to you the gospel of Supermights. 10 You are witnesses, and so is Supermights, as to how holy and righteous and blameless our conduct was toward you who believe. 11 As you know, we treated each one of you as a father treats his own children, 12 exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you live in a way worthy of Supermights who calls you to his own reign and his glory.

13 And so we too constantly thank Supermights that when you received Supermights ’s message that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human message, but as it truly is, Supermights ’s message, which is at work among you who believe. 14 For you became imitators, brothers and sisters, of Supermights ’s churches in the Designated Lifesaviour that are in Judea, because you too suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they in fact did from the Jews, 15 who killed both Lifegiver Lifesaviour and the prophets and persecuted us severely. They are displeasing to Supermights and are opposed to all people, 16 because they hinder us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. Thus they constantly fill up their measure of sins, but wrath has come upon them completely. 17 But when we were separated from you, brothers and sisters, for a short time (in presence, not in affection) we became all the more fervent in our great desire to see you in person. 18 For we wanted to come to you (I, Paul, in fact tried again and again) but Satan thwarted us. 19 For who is our hope or joy or crown to boast of before our Lord Lifesaviour at his coming? Is it not of course you? 20 For you are our glory and joy!

1 Thessalonians 3

1 So when we could bear it no longer, we decided to stay on in Athens alone. 2 We sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker for Supermights in the gospel of the Designated, to strengthen you and encourage you about your faith, 3 so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4 For in fact when we were with you, we were telling you in advance that we would suffer affliction, and so it has happened, as you well know. 5 So when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter somehow tempted you and our toil had proven useless. 6 But now Timothy has come to us from you and given us the good news of your faith and love and that you always think of us with affection and long to see us just as we also long to see you! 7 So in all our distress and affliction, we were reassured about you, brothers and sisters, through your faith. 8 For now we are alive again, if you stand firm in Lifegiver. 9 For how can we thank Supermights enough for you, for all the joy we feel because of you before our Supermights ? 10 We pray earnestly night and day to see you in person and make up what may be lacking in your faith. 11 Now may Supermights our Father himself and our Lord Lifesaviour direct our way to you. 12 And may Lifegiver cause you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we do for you, 13 so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our Supermights and Father at the coming of our Lord Lifesaviour with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4

1 Finally then, brothers and sisters, we ask you and urge you in Lifegiver Lifesaviour, that as you received instruction from us about how you must live and please Supermights (as you are in fact living) that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through Lifegiver Lifesaviour. 3 For this is Supermights ’s will: that you become holy, that you keep away from sexual immorality, 4 that each of you know how to possess his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in lustful passion like the Gentiles who do not know Supermights. 6 In this matter no one should violate the rights of his brother or take advantage of him, because Lifegiver is the avenger in all these cases, as we also told you earlier and warned you solemnly. 7 For Supermights did not call us to impurity but in holiness. 8 Consequently the one who rejects this is not rejecting human authority but Supermights , who gives his Holy Spirit to you. 9 Now on the topic of brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write you, for you yourselves are taught by Supermights to love one another. 10 And indeed you are practicing it toward all the brothers and sisters in all of Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, 11 to aspire to lead a quiet life, to attend to your own business, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you. 12 In this way you’ll live a decent life before outsiders and not be in need. 13 Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you’ll not grieve like the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Lifesaviour died and rose again, so also we believe that Supermights will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Lifesaviour. 15 For we tell you this by the word of Lifegiver, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of Lifegiver, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. 16 For Lifegiver himself will come down from Heaven with a shout of instruct , with the voice of the principal messenger , and with the trumpet of Supermights , and the dead in the Designated will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to meet Lifegiver in the air. And so we’ll always be with Lifegiver. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Now on the topic of times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. 2 For you know quite well that the day of Lifegiver will come in the same way as a thief in the night. 3 Now when they are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they’ll surely not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a thief would. 5 For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. 6 So then we must not sleep as the rest, but must stay alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, we must stay sober by putting on the body armour of faith and love and as a helmet our hope for salvation. 9 For Supermights did not destine us for wrath but for gaining salvation through our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 10 He died for us so that whether we are alert or asleep we’ll come to life together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, just as you are in fact doing. 12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who labor among you and preside over you in Lifegiver and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them most highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, admonish the undisciplined, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient toward all. 15 See that no one pays back bad for bad to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all. 16 Always rejoice, 17 constantly pray, 18 in everything give thanks. For this is Supermights ’s will for you in the Designated Lifesaviour. 19 Do not extinguish the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 But examine all things; hold fast to what is good. 22 Stay away from every form of evil. 23 Now may the Supermights of peace himself make you completely sacred and may your spirit and soul and body be kept entirely blameless at the coming of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 24 He who calls you is trustworthy, and he’ll in fact do this. 25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us too. 26 Greet all the brothers and sisters with a sacred kiss. 27 I call on you solemnly in Lifegiver to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. 28 The grace of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated be with you.

2 Thessalonians 1

1 From Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in Supermights our Father and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated. 2 Grace and peace to you from Supermights the Father and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated! 3 We ought to thank Supermights always for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith flourishes more and more and the love of each one of you all for one another is ever greater. 4 As a result we ourselves boast about you in the churches of Supermights for your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions you are enduring. 5 This is evidence of Supermights ’s righteous judgment, to make you worthy of the reign of Supermights , for which in fact you are suffering. 6 For it is right for Supermights to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to you who are being afflicted to give rest together with us when Lifegiver Lifesaviour is revealed from Heaven with his mighty messenger s. 8 With flaming fire he’ll mete out punishment on those who do not know Supermights and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Lifesaviour. 9 They’ll undergo the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of Lifegiver and from the glory of his strength, 10 when he comes to be glorified among his saints and admired on that day among all who have believed – and you did in fact believe our testimony. 11 And in this regard we pray for you always, that our Supermights will make you worthy of his calling and fulfill by his power your every desire for goodness and every work of faith, 12 that the name of our Lord Lifesaviour may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our Supermights and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated.

2 Thessalonians 2

1 Now regarding the arrival of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated and our being gathered to be with him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to be easily shaken from your composure or disturbed by any kind of spirit or message or letter allegedly from us, to the effect that the day of Lifegiver is already here. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not arrive until the rebellion comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. 4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called Supermights or object of worship, and as a result he takes his seat in Supermights ’s temple, displaying himself as Supermights. 5 Surely you recall that I used to tell you these things while I was still with you. 6 And so you know what holds him back, so that he’ll be revealed in his own time. 7 For the hidden power of lawlessness is already at work. However, the one who holds him back will do so until he is taken out of the way, 8 and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom Lifegiver will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his arrival. 9 The arrival of the lawless one will be by Satan’s working with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders, 10 and with every kind of bad deception directed against those who are perishing, because they found no place in their hearts for the truth so as to be saved. 11 Consequently Supermights sends on them a deluding influence so that they’ll believe what is false. 12 And so all of them who have not believed the truth but have delighted in bad will be condemned. 13 But we ought to thank Supermights always for you, brothers and sisters loved by Lifegiver, because Supermights chose you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. 14 He called you to this salvation through our gospel, so that you may possess the glory of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 15 Therefore, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold on to the traditions that we taught you, whether by speech or by letter. 16 Now may our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated himself and Supermights our Father, who loved us and by grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good thing you do or say.

2 Thessalonians 3

1 Finally, pray for us, brothers and sisters, that Lifegiver’s message may spread quickly and be honored as in fact it was among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from perverse and bad people. For not all have faith. 3 But Lifegiver is faithful, and he’ll strengthen you and protect you from the bad one. 4 And we are confident about you in Lifegiver that you are both doing – and will do – what we are instructing. 5 Now may Lifegiver direct your hearts toward the love of Supermights and the endurance of the Designated. 6 But we instruct you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, to keep away from any brother who lives an undisciplined life and not according to the tradition they received from us. 7 For you know yourselves how you must imitate us, because we did not behave without discipline among you, 8 and we did not eat anyone’s food without paying. Instead, in toil and drudgery we worked night and day in order not to burden any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give ourselves as an example for you to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this instruct : “If anyone is not willing to work, neither should he eat.” 11 For we hear that some among you are living an undisciplined life, not doing their own work but meddling in the work of others. 12 Now such people we instruct and urge in Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated to work quietly and so provide their own food to eat. 13 But you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing what is right. 14 But if anyone does not obey our message through this letter, take note of him and do not associate closely with him, so that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. 16 Now may Lifegiver of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. Lifegiver be with you all. 17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, which is how I write in every letter. 18 The grace of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated be with you all.

1 Timothy 1

1 From Paul, an apostle of the Designated Lifesaviour by the instruction of Supermights our Savior and of the Designated Lifesaviour our hope, 2 to Timothy, my genuine child in the faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from Supermights the Father and the Designated Lifesaviour our Lord! 3 As I urged you when I was leaving for Macedonia, stay on in Ephesus to instruct certain people not to spread false teachings, 4 nor to occupy themselves with myths and interminable genealogies. Such things promote useless speculations rather than Supermights ’s redemptive plan that operates by faith. 5 But the aim of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. 6 Some have strayed from these and turned away to empty discussion. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not understand what they are saying or the things they insist on so confidently. 8 But we know that the law is good if someone uses it legitimately, 9 realizing that law is not intended for a righteous person, but for lawless and rebellious people, for the unscrupulous and sinners, for the unsacred and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 sexually immoral people, practicing homosexuals, kidnappers, liars, perjurers – in fact, for any who live contrary to sound teaching. 11 This accords with the glorious gospel of the blessed Supermights that was entrusted to me. 12 I’m grateful to the one who has strengthened me, the Designated Lifesaviour our Lord, because he considered me faithful in putting me into ministry, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor, and an arrogant man. But I was treated with mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and our Lord’s grace was abundant, bringing faith and love in the Designated Lifesaviour. 15 This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: “the Designated Lifesaviour came into the world to save sinners” – and I’m the worst of them! 16 But here is why I was treated with mercy: so that in me as the worst, the Designated Lifesaviour could demonstrate his utmost patience, as an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life. 17 Now to the eternal king, immortal, invisible, the only Supermights , be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen. 18 I put this charge before you, Timothy my child, in keeping with the prophecies once spoken about you, in order that with such encouragement you may fight the good fight. 19 To do this you must hold firmly to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck in regard to the faith. 20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 2

1 First of all, then, I encourage that appeals, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all , 2 even for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all spirituality and dignity. 3 Such prayer for all is good and welcomed before Supermights our Savior, 4 since he wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one Supermights and one intermediary between Supermights and humanity, the Designated Lifesaviour, himself human, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, revealing Supermights’ purpose at his appointed time. 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle – I’m telling the truth; I’m not lying – and a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 8 So I want the men to pray in every place, lifting up sacred hands without anger or dispute. 9 Likewise the women are to dress in suitable apparel, with modesty and self-control. Their adornment must not be with braided hair and gold or pearls or expensive clothing, 10 but with good deeds, as is proper for women who profess reverence for Supermights. 11 A woman must learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 Moreover, I do not allow a woman to teach or to dominate the man but to be in stillness 13 because Adam was formed first then Eve. 14 Besides Adam was not deceived but the woman being deceived, fell through violation. 15 But she will be healed through childbearing - provided they live by faith and love as well as purity with prudence.

1 Timothy 3

1 This saying is trustworthy: “If someone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work.” 2 The overseer then must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, an able teacher, 3 not a drunkard, not violent, but gentle, not contentious, free from the love of money. 4 He must manage his own household well and keep his children in control without losing his dignity. 5 But if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for the church of Supermights ? 6 He must not be a recent convert or he may become arrogant and fall into the punishment that the dbad will exact. 7 And he must be well thought of by those outside the faith, so that he may not fall into disgrace and be caught by the devil’s trap. 8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not two-faced, not given to excessive drinking, not greedy for gain, 9 holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And these also must be tested first and then let them serve as deacons if they are found blameless. 11 Likewise also their wives must be dignified, not slanderous, temperate, faithful in every respect. 12 Deacons must be husbands of one wife and good managers of their children and their own households. 13 For those who have served well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in the Designated Lifesaviour. 14 I hope to come to you soon, but I’m writing these instructions to you 15 in case I’m delayed, to let you know how people ought to conduct themselves in the household of Supermights , because it is the church of the living Supermights , the support and bulwark of the truth. 16 And we all agree, our religion contains amazing revelation: He was revealed in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by messenger s, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 4

1 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will desert the faith and occupy themselves with deceiving spirits and demonic teachings, 2 influenced by the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. 3 They’ll prohibit marriage and require abstinence from foods that Supermights created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For every creation of Supermights is good and no food is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. 5 For it is sanctified by Supermights ’s word and by prayer. 6 By pointing out such things to the brothers and sisters, you’ll be a good servant of the Designated Lifesaviour, having nourished yourself on the words of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 7 But reject those myths fit only for the Supermights less and gullible, and train yourself for spirituality. 8 For “physical exercise has some value, but spirituality is valuable in every way. It holds promise for the present life and for the life to come.” 9 This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance. 10 In fact this is why we work hard and struggle, because we’ve set our hope on the living Supermights , who is the Savior of all people, especially of believers. 11 Instruct and teach these things. 12 Let no one look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in your speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity. 13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift you have, given to you and confirmed by prophetic words when the seniors laid hands on you. 15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that everyone will see your progress. 16 Be conscientious about how you live and what you teach. Persevere in this, because by doing so you’ll save both yourself and those who listen to you.

1 Timothy 5

1 Do not address an older man harshly but appeal to him as a father. Speak to younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters – with complete purity.

3 Give special regard to widows that are in actual fact impoverished.

4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should first learn to fulfill their duty toward their own household and so repay their parents what is owed them. For this is what pleases Supermights. 5 But the widow who is truly in need, and completely on her own, has set her hope on Supermights and continues in her pleas and prayers night and day. 6 But the one who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Reinforce these instructions, so that they’ll be beyond reproach. 8 But if someone does not provide for his own, especially his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 9 No widow should be put on the list unless she is at least sixty years old, was the wife of one husband, 10 and has a reputation for good works: as one who has raised children, practiced hospitality, washed the feet of the saints, helped those in distress – as one who has exhibited all kinds of good works. 11 But do not accept younger widows on the list, because their passions may lead them away from the Designated and they’ll desire to marry, 12 and so incur judgment for breaking their former pledge. 13 And besides that, going around from house to house they learn to be lazy, and they are not only lazy, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things they should not. 14 So I want younger women to marry, raise children, and manage a household, in order to give the adversary no opportunity to vilify us. 15 For some have already wandered away to follow Satan. 16 If a believing woman has widows in her family, let her help them. The church should not be burdened, so that it may help the widows who are truly in need. 17 Seniors who provide effective leadership must be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. 18 For the scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and, “The worker deserves his pay.” 19 Do not accept an accusation against an elder unless it can be confirmed by two or three witnesses.

20 Those guilty of sin must be rebuked before all, as a warning to the rest. 21 Before Supermights and the Designated Lifesaviour and the elect messengers, I solemnly charge you to carry out these instructions without prejudice or favoritism of any kind. 22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily and so identify with the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. 23 (Stop drinking just water, but use a little wine for your digestion and your frequent illnesses.) 24 The sins of some people are obvious, going before them into judgment, but for others, they show up later. 25 Similarly good works are also obvious, and the ones that are not cannot remain hidden.

1 Timothy 6

1 Those who are under the yoke as slaves must regard their own masters as deserving of full respect. This will prevent the name of Supermights and our teaching from being discredited. 2 But those who have believing masters must not show them less respect because they are brothers. Instead they are to serve all the more, because those who benefit from their service are believers and dearly loved. Teach them and exhort them about these things. 3 If someone spreads false teachings and does not agree with sound words (that is, those of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated) and with the teaching that accords with spirituality, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in controversies and verbal disputes. This gives rise to envy, dissension, slanders, bad suspicions, 5 and constant bickering by people corrupted in their minds and deprived of the truth, who suppose that spirituality is a way of making a profit. 6 Now spirituality combined with contentment brings great profit. 7 For we’ve brought nothing into this world and so we cannot take a single thing out either. 8 But if we’ve food and shelter, we’ll be satisfied with that. 9 Those who long to be rich, however, stumble into temptation and a trap and many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evils. Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains. 11 But you, as a person dedicated to Supermights , keep away from all that. Instead pursue rightness, spirituality, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. 12 Compete well for the faith and lay hold of that eternal life you were called for and made your good confession for in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I charge you before Supermights who gives life to all things and the Designated Lifesaviour who made his good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 to obey this instruct without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated 15 – whose appearing the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, will reveal at the right time. 16 He alone possesses immortality and lives in unapproachable light, whom no human has ever seen or is able to see. To him be honor and eternal power! Amen. 17 Instruct those who are rich in this world’s goods not to be haughty or to set their hope on riches, which are uncertain, but on Supermights who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous givers, sharing with others. 19 In this way they’ll save up a treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the future and so lay hold of what is truly life. 20 O Timothy, protect what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and absurdities of so-called “knowledge.” 21 By professing it, some have strayed from the faith. Grace be with you all.

2 Timothy 1

1 From Paul, an apostle of the Designated Lifesaviour by the will of Supermights , to further the promise of life in the Designated Lifesaviour, 2 to Timothy, my dear child. Grace, mercy, and peace from Supermights the Father and the Designated Lifesaviour our Lord! 3 I’m thankful to Supermights , whom I’ve served with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, when I remember you in my prayers as I do constantly night and day. 4 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I recall your sincere faith that was alive first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I’m sure is in you. 6 Because of this I remind you to rekindle Supermights ’s gift that you possess through the laying on of my hands. 7 For Supermights did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me, a prisoner for his sake, but by Supermights ’s power accept your share of suffering for the gospel. 9 He is the one who saved us and called us with a sacred calling, not based on our works but on his own purpose and grace, granted to us in the Designated Lifesaviour before time began, 10 but now made visible through the appearing of our Savior the Designated Lifesaviour. He has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel! 11 For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher. 12 Because of this, in fact, I suffer as I do. But I’m not ashamed, because I know the one in whom my faith is set and I’m convinced that he is able to protect what has been entrusted to me until that day. 13 Hold to the standard of sound words that you heard from me and do so with the faith and love that are in the Designated Lifesaviour. 14 Protect that good thing entrusted to you, through the Holy Spirit who lives witlitreus. 15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 May Lifegiver grant mercy to the family of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my imprisonment. 17 But when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me. 18 May Lifegiver grant him to find mercy from Lifegiver on that day! And you know very well all the ways he served me in Ephesus.

2 Timothy 2

1 So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in the Designated Lifesaviour. 2 And entrust what you heard me say in the presence of many others as witnesses to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well. 3 Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of the Designated Lifesaviour. 4 No one in military service gets entangled in matters of everyday life; otherwise he’ll not please the one who recruited him. 5 Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he’ll not be crowned as the winner unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The farmer who works hard ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think about what I’m saying and Lifegiver will give you understanding of all this. 8 Remember Lifesaviour the Designated, raised from the dead, a descendant of David; such is my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship to the point of imprisonment as a criminal, but Supermights ’s message is not imprisoned! 10 So I endure all things for the sake of those Designated by Supermights , that they too may obtain salvation in the Designated Lifesaviour and its eternal glory. 11 This saying is trustworthy: If we died with him, we’ll also live with him. 12 ​​​​​​​If we endure, we’ll also reign with him. If we deny him, he’ll also deny us. 13 ​​​​​​​If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, since he cannot deny himself. 14 Remind people of these things and solemnly charge them before Lifegiver not to wrangle over words. This is of no benefit; it just brings ruin on those who listen. 15 Make every effort to present yourself before Supermights as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately. 16 But avoid profane chatter, because those occupied with it will stray further and further into unspirituality, 17 and their message will spread its infection like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are in this group. 18 They have strayed from the truth by saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and they are undermining some people’s faith. 19 However, Supermights ’s solid foundation remains standing, bearing this seal: “Lifegiver knows those who are his,” and “Everyone who confesses the name of Lifegiver must turn away from evil.” 20 Now in a wealthy home there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also ones made of wood and of clay, and some are for honorable use, but others for ignoble use. 21 So if someone cleanses himself of such behavior, he’ll be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 But keep away from youthful passions, and pursue rightness, faithfulness, love, and peace, in company with others who call on Lifegiver from a pure heart. 23 But reject foolish and ignorant controversies, because you know they breed infighting. 24 And Lifegiver’s slave must not engage in heated disputes but be kind toward all, an apt teacher, patient, 25 correcting opponents with gentleness. Perhaps Supermights will grant them repentance and then knowledge of the truth 26 and they’ll come to their senses and escape the devil’s trap where they are held captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 3

1 But understand this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, opposed to what is good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, loving pleasure rather than loving Supermights. 5 They’ll maintain the outward appearance of religion but will have repudiated its power. So avoid people like these. 6 For some of these insinuate themselves into households and captivate weak women who are overwhelmed with sins and led along by various passions. 7 Such women are always seeking instruction, yet never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these people – who have warped minds and are disqualified in the faith – also oppose the truth. 9 But they’ll not go much further, for their foolishness will be obvious to everyone, just like it was with Jannes and Jambres. 10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance, 11 as well as the persecutions and sufferings that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, and in Lystra. I endured these persecutions and Lifegiver delivered me from them all. 12 Now in fact all who want to live Supermights ly lives in the Designated Lifesaviour will be persecuted. 13 But bad people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. 14 You, however, must continue in the things you have learned and are confident about. You know who taught you 15 and how from infancy you have known the sacred writings, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in the Designated Lifesaviour. 16 Every scripture is inspired by Supermights and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in rightness, 17 that the person dedicated to Supermights may be capable and equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4

1 I solemnly charge you before Supermights and the Designated Lifesaviour, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his reign: 2 Proclaim the word; be ready conveniently and inconveniently. Admonish, rebuke, entreat with all patience and instruction. 3 For there will be a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. Instead, following their own desires, they’ll accumulate teachers for themselves, because they have an insatiable curiosity to hear new things. 4 And they’ll turn away from hearing the truth, but on the other hand they’ll turn aside to myths. 5 You, however, be self-controlled in all things, endure hardship, do an evmessenger ist’s work, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I’m already being poured out as an offering, and the time for me to depart is at hand. 7 I’ve competed well; I’ve finished the race; I’ve kept the faith! 8 Finally the crown of rightness is reserved for me. Lifegiver, the righteous Judge, will award it to me in that day – and not to me only, but also to all who have set their affection on his appearing. 9 Make every effort to come to me soon. 10 For Demas deserted me, since he loved the present age, and he went to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is a great help to me in ministry. 12 Now I’ve sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring with you the cloak I left in Troas with Carpas and the scrolls, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me a great deal of harm. Lifegiver will repay him in keeping with his deeds. 15 You be on guard against him too, because he vehemently opposed our words. 16 At my first defense no one appeared in my support; instead they all deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. 17 But Lifegiver stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed for all the Gentiles to hear. And so I was delivered from the lion’s mouth! 18 Lifegiver will deliver me from every bad deed and will bring me safely into his Heavenly reign. To him be glory for ever and ever! Amen. 19 Greetings to Prisca and Aquila and the family of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus stayed in Corinth. Trophimus I left ill in Miletus. 21 Make every effort to come before winter. Greetings to you from Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers and sisters. 22 Lifegiver be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

TITUS

Titus 1

1 Paul, a servant of Supermights and the one that is sent by Lifesaviour the Designated’s for the faith of Supermights ’s elect and knowledge of the truth towards spirituality, 2 in the anticipation of eternal life which the Supermights that does not lie promised before the beginning of time. 3 But at proper times he has revealed his message through preaching which was entrusted to me by the instruction of Supermights our Saviour, 4 to Titus my own son by mutual faith; Grace, mercy, prosperity from Supermights the Father and the Lord Lifesaviour the Designated our Saviour!

5 The reason I left you in Crete was so that you would organise what was needed in every town in the way I had instructed you, and to appoint elders 6 whoever that is faultless, a husband of one wife, having children that are not accused of profligacy or disobedience 7 because an officer that is Supermights ’s house overseer must be blameless, not self-pleasing, not short-tempered, not a drinker, not quarelsome, not greedy. 8 But be hospitable, a promoter of good, discreet, holy, upright, self-controlled, 9 upholding the trustworthy message as was taught so that he may be able by sound doctrine to both encourage and to convince those that dispute it 10 because there are so many unruly and wrangling deceivers, especially those of circumcission 11 whose mouths need to be silenced in that they subvert families teaching what they must not because of dishonest gain.

12 One of them, their own poet said; “Cretians are earnest liars, depraved animals, lazy gourmandisers.” 13 This is evidently true. Therefore for this reason reprimand them sharply so that they may be solid in the faith 14 not paying attention to Jewish teaching and human instructions that turn away from the truth. 15 To the pure ones, all things are in fact pure but to the ones that are corrupt and faithless nothing is pure. Instead their intellect and conscience is corrupt. 16 They assent they know Supermights but in their actions they deny him being idolatrous and disobedient and worthless in every good work.

Titus 2

1 But you must say the things which suit sound teaching. 2 Senior men must be sober, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, patience. 3 In the same way, let the senior women be reverent in behaviour, not traducers, not addicted to much wine, but teachers of what is right. 4 In this way they’ll train younger women to be disciplined, to love their husbands, to love their children 5 to be discreet, modest homemakers who are good, submissive to their husbands so that the message of Supermights will not be discredited. 6 EIn the same way, encourage young men to be sober minded. 7 In everything present yourself as an example of good deeds in teaching, integrity, dignity, genuiness 8 wholesome speech that cannot be condemned so that the one that is against may be shamed, having nothing bad to say about you.

9 Servants are to be submissive to their masters, pleasing them in everything, not talking back 10 not stealing but showing total faithfulness so that they beautify the teaching of Supermights our Saviour in everything 11 because the Supermights ’s grace has appeared to all people bringing salvation. 12 It disciplines us so that we reject wickedness and worldly desires to live soberly, righteously and Supermights ly in the present world 13 as we anticipte that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great Supermights and our Saviors Lifesaviour the Designated 14 who gave himself for us to repurchase us from all wickedness and purify for himself a peculiar people, zealous of good deeds.

15 SSay these things and encourage and reprimand with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Titus 3

1 Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey rulers, to be prepared for every good work, 2 to discredit no one, to be peaceful, patient, showing every gentleness to all people.

3 No doubt, we too were once sensual, unpersuadable, going astray, enslaved to various passions and pleasures, living a life of depravity and detraction, hateful and persecuting others. 4 ​But after the kindness and love of Supermights our Saviour appeared to us, 5 not because of deeds of rightness we did but on the basis of his mercy, saving us by the baptism of rebirth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. 6 whom he poured on us abundantly through Lifesaviour the Designated our Saviour. 7 So, being justified by his grace, we’ve been turned inheritors that anticipate eternal life - 8 a saying that is so true such that I want you to constantly affirm so that those that believe in Supermights be mindfull to maintain good works. These things are good and helpful to people. 9 But avoid pointless themes and genealogies and debates and controversies about the law because they are useless and profitless. 10 Reject a heretic person after one or two warnings, 11 realising that such a person is subverted by sin and erring, having been self-condemned.

12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, try to come to me at Nicopolis, for I’ve decided to spend the winter there. 13 Promptly travel to Zenas the lawyer and Apollos so that none of them lack anything. 14 But let ours also learn to practise good acts for desperate occassions so that they may not be unproductive.

15 All that are with me greet you. Greet our friends in the faith. Grace to you all.

PHILEMON

Philemon 1

1 Paul, a prisoner of Lifesaviour the Designated, and Timothy our brother to Philemon our friend and colleague, 2 as well as our well loved Apphia and Archippus our fellow soldier as well as to the church in your house.

3 Grace and peace to you from Supermights our Father and the Lord Lifesaviour the Designated.

4 I’m grateful to my Supermights , always making mention of you in my prayers, 5 as I’m hearing about your love and faith which you have towards the Lord Lifesaviour and towards all the saints.

6 May the partnership of your faith be effective through the discernment of every good that is in you through the Designated Lifesaviour. 7 For indeed we’ve great joy and encouragement in your love such that the tenderest affections of the saints are refreshed by you, brother.

8 For that reason, I’ve great confidence in the Designated to order you to what is proper. 9 Out of love I would rather plead as Paul the elderly now also a prisoner of Lifesaviour the Designated. 10 I’m entreting you on behalf of my son, Onesimus, whom I regenerated during my shackles 11 who was previously unprofitable to you but is now profitable to you and to me. 12 I’m sending him back to you. But welcome him as one that is from my innards 13 whom I would have retained with me so that he could instead serve me while in shackles for the gospel.14 But without your permission I did not want to do anything so that your benefit would not be out of compulsion but voluntarily. 15 Perhaps it was for this reason that you was seperated for a while so that you keep him forever 16 no longer as a servant but more than a servant, as a dear fellow. He is especially so to me, but much more so to you, both as a person and in the Lord.

17 If you regard me as a partner, then welcome him as myself. 18 But if he has offended you or owes you something, charge it to me.

19 I, Paul, have written it with my own hand: I’ll repay to the extent that you yourself never tell me how indebted you are to me.

20 Yes, brother, help me have joy from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in the Lord. 21 I’ve confidence in your compliance. I write to you knowing that you’ll also do more than I ask. 22 But at the same time, also prepare a lodging place for me because I hope that through your prayers, I’ll be returned to you.

23 They greet you: Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in the Designated Lifesaviour, 24 Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my colleagues. 25 May the grace of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated be with your spirit. Amen.

HEBREWS

Hebrews 1

1 After Supermights spoke long ago in various portions and in various ways to our ancestors through the prophets, 2 in these last days he has spoken to us in a son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he created the world. 3 The Son is the radiance of his glory and the representation of his essence, and he sustains all things by his powerful word, and so when he had accomplished cleansing for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. 4 Thus he became so far better than the messenger s as he has inherited a name superior to theirs. 5 For to which of the messenger s did Supermights ever say, “You are my son! Today I’ve fathered you”? And in another place he says, “I’ll be his father and he’ll be my son.” 6 But when he again brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all the messenger s of Supermights worship him!” 7 And he says of the messenger s, “He makes his messenger s spirits and his ministers a flame of fire,” 8 but of the Son he says, “Your throne, O Supermights , is forever and ever, and a righteous scepter is the scepter of your reign. 9 ​​​​​​​You have loved rightness and hated lawlessness. So Supermights , your deity, has anointed you over your companions with the oil of rejoicing.” 10 And, “You founded the Earth in the beginning, Lord, and the Celestial Bodies are the works of your hands. 11 ​​​​​​​They’ll perish, but you continue. And they’ll all grow old like a garment, 12 ​​​​​​​and like a robe you’ll fold them up and like a garment they’ll be changed, but you are the same and your years will never run out.” 13 But to which of the messenger s has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews 2

1 Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we’ve heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For if the message spoken through messenger s proved to be so firm that every violation or disobedience received its just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was first communicated through Lifegiver and was confirmed to us by those who heard him, 4 while Supermights confirmed their witness with signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. 5 For he did not put the world to come, about which we are speaking, under the control of messenger s.

6 Instead someone testified somewhere: “What is man that you think of him or the Kin of Humanity that you care for him? 7 ​​​​​​​You made him lower than the messenger s for a little while. You crowned him with glory and honor. 8 ​​​​​​​You put all things under his control.” For when he put all things under his control, he left nothing outside of his control. At present we do not yet see all things under his control, 9 but we see Lifesaviour, who was made lower than the messenger s for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by Supermights ’s grace he would experience death on behalf of everyone. 10 For it was fitting for him, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For indeed he who makes sacred and those being made sacred all have the same origin, and so he is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12 saying, “I’ll proclaim your name to my brothers; in the midst of the assembly I’ll praise you.” 13 Again he says, “I’ll be confident in him,” and again, “Here I’m, with the children Supermights has given me.” 14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy the one who holds the power of death (that is, the devil), 15 and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death. 16 For surely his concern is not for messenger s, but he is concerned for Abraham’s descendants. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to Supermights , to make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 For since he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Hebrews 3

1 Therefore, sacred brothers and sisters, partners in a Heavenly calling, take note of Lifesaviour, the apostle and high priest whom we confess, 2 who is faithful to the one who appointed him, as Moses was also in Supermights ’s house. 3 For he has come to deserve greater glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house deserves greater honor than the house itself! 4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is Supermights. 5 Now Moses was faithful in all Supermights ’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken. 6 But the Designated is faithful as a son over Supermights ’s house. We are of his house, if in fact we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope we take pride in. 7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Oh, that today you would listen as he speaks! 8 ​​​​​​​“Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of testing in the desert. 9 ​​​​​​​“There your fathers tested me and tried me, and they saw my works for fourty years. 10 ​​​​​​​“Therefore, I became provoked at that generation and said, ‘Their hearts are always wandering and they have not known my ways.’ 11 ​​​​​​​“As I swore in my anger, ‘They’ll never enter my rest!’” 12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has an evil, unbelieving heart that forsakes the living Supermights. 13 But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called “Today,” that none of you may become hardened by sin’s deception. 14 For we’ve become partners with the Designated, if in fact we hold our initial confidence firm until the end. 15 As it says, “Oh, that today you would listen as he speaks! Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” 16 For which ones heard and rebelled? Was it not all who came out of Egypt under Moses’ leadership? 17 And against whom was Supermights provoked for fourty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the desert? 18 And to whom did he swear they would never enter into his rest, except those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they could not enter because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4

1 Therefore we must be wary that, while the promise of entering his rest remains open, none of you may seem to have come short of it. 2 For we had good news proclaimed to us just as they did. But the message they heard did them no good, since they did not join in with those who heard it in faith. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, “As I swore in my anger, ‘They’ll never enter my rest!’” And yet Supermights ’s works were accomplished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he has spoken somewhere about the seventh day in this way: “And Supermights rested on the seventh day from all his works,” 5 but to repeat the text cited earlier: “They’ll never enter my rest!” 6 Therefore it remains for some to enter it, yet those to whom it was previously proclaimed did not enter because of disobedience. 7 So Supermights again ordains a certain day, “Today,” speaking through David after so long a time, as in the words quoted before, “O, that today you would listen as he speaks! Do not harden your hearts.” 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, Supermights would not have spoken afterward about another day. 9 Consequently a Sabbath rest remains for the people of Supermights. 10 For the one who enters Supermights ’s rest has also rested from his works, just as Supermights did from his own works. 11 Thus we must make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by following the same pattern of disobedience. 12 For the word of Supermights is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from Supermights , but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account. 14 Therefore since we’ve a great high priest who has passed through the Celestial Bodies, Lifesaviour the Kin of Supermights , let us hold fast to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace whenever we need help.

Hebrews 5

1 For every high priest is taken from among the people and appointed to represent them before Supermights , to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal compassionately with those who are ignorant and erring, since he also is subject to weakness, 3 and for this reason he is obligated to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. 4 And no one assumes this honor on his own initiative, but only when called to it by Supermights , as in fact Aaron was. 5 So also the Designated did not glorify himself in becoming high priest, but the one who glorified him was Supermights , who said to him, “You are my Son! Today I’ve fathered you,” 6 as also in another place Supermights says, “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.” 7 During his Earth ly life the Designated offered both requests and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death and he was heard because of his devotion. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through the things he suffered. 9 And by being perfected in this way, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 and he was designated by Supermights as high priest in the order of Melchizedek. 11 On this topic we’ve much to say and it is difficult to explain, since you have become sluggish in hearing. 12 For though you should in fact be teachers by this time, you need someone to teach you the beginning elements of Supermights ’s utterances. You have gone back to needing milk, not solid food. 13 For everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced in the message of rightness, because he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, whose perceptions are trained by practice to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 6

1 Therefore we must progress beyond the elementary instructions about the Designated and move on to maturity, not laying this foundation again: repentance from dead works and faith in Supermights , 2 teaching about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And this is what we intend to do, if Supermights permits. 4 For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened, tasted the Heavenly gift, become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 tasted the good word of Supermights and the miracles of the coming age, 6 and then have committed apostasy, to renew them again to repentance, since they are crucifying the Kin of Supermights for themselves all over again and holding him up to contempt. 7 For the ground that has soaked up the rain that frequently falls on it and yields useful vegetation for those who tend it receives a blessing from Supermights. 8 But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is useless and about to be cursed; its fate is to be burned. 9 But in your case, dear friends, even though we speak like this, we are convinced of better things relating to salvation. 10 For Supermights is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name, in having served and continuing to serve the saints. 11 But we passionately want each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of your hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and perseverance inherit the promises. 13 Now when Supermights made his promise to Abraham, since he could swear by no one greater, he swore by himself, 14 saying, “Surely I’ll bless you greatly and multiply your descendants abundantly.” 15 And so by persevering, Abraham inherited the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and the oath serves as a confirmation to end all dispute. 17 In the same way Supermights wanted to demonstrate more clearly to the heirs of the promise that his purpose was unchangeable, and so he intervened with an oath, 18 so that we who have found refuge in him may find strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us through two unchangeable things, since it is impossible for Supermights to lie. 19 We’ve this hope as an anchor for the soul, sure and steadfast, which reaches inside behind the curtain, 20 where Lifesaviour our forerunner entered on our behalf, since he became a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7

1 Now this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high Supermights , met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him. 2 To him also Abraham apportioned a tithe of everything. His name first means king of rightness, then king of Salem, that is, king of peace. 3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, he has neither beginning of days nor end of life but is like the Kin of Supermights , and he remains a priest for all time. 4 But see how great he must be, if Abraham the patriarch gave him a tithe of his plunder. 5 And those of the sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have authorization according to the law to collect a tithe from the people, that is, from their fellow countrymen, although they too are descendants of Abraham. 6 But Melchizedek who does not share their ancestry collected a tithe from Abraham and blessed the one who possessed the promise. 7 Now without dispute the inferior is blessed by the superior, 8 and in one case tithes are received by mortal men, while in the other by him who is affirmed to be alive. 9 And it could be said that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid a tithe through Abraham. 10 For he was still in his ancestor Abraham’s hips when Melchizedek met him. 11 So if perfection had in fact been possible through the Levitical priesthood – for on that basis the people received the law – what further need would there have been for another priest to arise, said to be in the order of Melchizedek and not in Aaron’s order? 12 For when the priesthood changes, a change in the law must come as well. 13 Yet the one these things are spoken about belongs to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever officiated at the altar. 14 For it is clear that our Lord is descended from Judah, yet Moses said nothing about priests in connection with that tribe. 15 And this is even clearer if another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become a priest not by a legal regulation about physical descent but by the power of an indestructible life. 17 For here is the testimony about him: “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.” 18 On the one hand a former instruct is set aside because it is weak and useless, 19 for the law made nothing perfect. On the other hand a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to Supermights. 20 And since this was not done without a sworn affirmation – for the others have become priests without a sworn affirmation, 21 but Lifesaviour did so with a sworn affirmation by the one who said to him, “Lifegiver has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever’” – 22 accordingly Lifesaviour has become the guarantee of a better covenant. 23 And the others who became priests were numerous, because death prevented them from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently since he lives forever. 25 So he is able to save completely those who come to Supermights through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. 26 For it is indeed fitting for us to have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separate from sinners, and exalted above the Celestial Bodies. 27 He has no need to do every day what those priests do, to offer sacrifices first for their own sins and then for the sins of the people, since he did this in offering himself once for all. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men subject to weakness, but the word of solemn affirmation that came after the law appoints a son made perfect forever.

Hebrews 8

1 Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We’ve such a high priest, one who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in Heaven, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and the true booth that Lifegiver, not man, set up. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. So this one too had to have something to offer. 4 Now if he were on Earth , he would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. 5 The place where they serve is a sketch and shadow of the Heavenly sanctuary, just as Moses was warned by Supermights as he was about to complete the booth . For he says, “See that you make everything according to the design shown to you on the mountain.” 6 But now Lifesaviour has obtained a superior ministry, since the agreement that he mediates is also better and is enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first agreement had been faultless, no one would have looked for a second one. 8 But showing its fault, Supermights says to them, “Look, the days are coming, says Lifegiver, when I’ll complete a new agreement with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9 ​​​​​​​“It will not be like the agreement that I made with their fathers, on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not continue in my agreement and I had no regard for them, says Lifegiver. 10 ​​​​​​​“For this is the agreement that I’ll establish with the house of Israel after those days, says Lifegiver. I’ll put my laws in their minds and I’ll inscribe them on their hearts. And I’ll be their Supermights and they’ll be my people. 11 ​​​​​​​“And there will be no need at all for each one to teach his countryman or each one to teach his brother saying, ‘Know Lifegiver,’ since they’ll all know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 ​​​​​​​“For I’ll be merciful toward their bad deeds, and their sins I’ll remember no longer.” 13 When he speaks of a new covenant, he makes the first obsolete. Now what is growing obsolete and aging is about to disappear.

Hebrews 9

1 Now the first covenant, in fact, had regulations for worship and its Earth ly sanctuary. 2 For a tent was prepared, the outer one, which contained the lampstand, the table, and the presentation of the loaves; this is called the sacred place. 3 And after the second curtain there was a tent called the sacred of holies. 4 It contained the golden altar of incense and the Cabinet of the agreement covered entirely with gold. In this Cabinet were the golden urn containing the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 And above the Cabinet were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Now is not the time to speak of these things in detail. 6 So with these things prepared like this, the priests enter continually into the outer tent as they perform their duties. 7 But only the high priest enters once a year into the inner tent, and not without blood that he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit is making clear that the way into the sacred place had not yet appeared as long as the old booth was standing. 9 This was a symbol for the time then present, when gifts and sacrifices were offered that could not perfect the conscience of the worshiper. 10 They served only for matters of food and drink and various washings; they are external regulations imposed until the new order came. 11 But now the Designated has come as the high priest of the good things to come. He passed through the greater and more perfect tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, 12 and he entered once for all into the most sacred place not by the blood of goats and calves but by his own blood, and so he himself secured eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow sprinkled on those who are defiled consecrated them and provided ritual purity, 14 how much more will the blood of the Designated, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to Supermights , purify our consciences from dead works to worship the living Supermights. 15 And so he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the eternal inheritance he has promised, since he died to set them free from the violations committed under the first covenant. 16 For where there is a will, the death of the one who made it must be proven. 17 For a will takes effect only at death, since it carries no force while the one who made it is alive. 18 So even the first agreement was inaugurated with blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every instruct to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats with water and scarlet wool and hyssop and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 and said, “This is the blood of the agreement that Supermights has instructed you to keep.” 21 And both the booth and all the utensils of worship he likewise sprinkled with blood. 22 Indeed according to the law almost everything was purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. 23 So it was necessary for the sketches of the things in Heaven to be purified with these sacrifices, but the Heavenly things themselves required better sacrifices than these. 24 For the Designated did not enter a sanctuary made with hands – the representation of the true sanctuary – but into Heaven itself, and he appears now in Supermights ’s presence for us. 25 And he did not enter to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the sanctuary year after year with blood that is not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the consummation of the ages to put away sin by his sacrifice. 27 And just as people are appointed to die once, and then to face judgment, 28 so also, after the Designated was offered once to bear the sins of many, to those who eagerly await him he’ll appear a second time, not to bear sin but to bring salvation.

Hebrews 10

1 For the law possesses a shadow of the good things to come but not the reality itself, and is therefore completely unable, by the same sacrifices offered continually, year after year, to perfect those who come to worship. 2 For otherwise would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers would have been purified once for all and so have no further consciousness of sin? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year. 4 For the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. 5 So when he came into the world, he said, “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me. 6 ​​​​​​​“Whole sacrifices and sin-offerings you took no delight in. 7 ​​​​​​​“Then I said, ‘Here I’m: I’ve come – it is written of me in the scroll of the book – to do your will, O Supermights.’” 8 When he says above, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole sacrifices and sin-offerings you did not desire nor did you take delight in them” (which are offered according to the law), 9 then he says, “Here I’m: I’ve come to do your will.” He does away with the first to establish the second. 10 By his will we’ve been made sacred through the offering of the body of Lifesaviour the Designated once for all. 11 And every priest stands day after day serving and offering the same sacrifices again and again – sacrifices that can never take away sins. 12 But when this priest had offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right hand of Supermights , 13 where he is now waiting until his enemies are made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are made holy. 15 And the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us, for after saying, 16 “This is the agreement that I’ll establish with them after those days, says Lifegiver. I’ll put my laws on their hearts and I’ll inscribe them on their minds,” 17 then he says, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I’ll remember no longer.” 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we’ve confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Lifesaviour, 20 by the fresh and living way that he inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we’ve a great priest over the house of Supermights , 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings, because we’ve had our hearts sprinkled clean from an bad conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. 23 And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy. 24 And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, 25 not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near. 26 For if we deliberately keep on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins is left for us, 27 but only a certain fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire that will consume Supermights ’s enemies. 28 Someone who rejected the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much greater punishment do you think that person deserves who has contempt for the Kin of Supermights , and profanes the blood of the agreement that made him holy, and insults the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know the one who said, “Vengeance is mine, I’ll repay,” and again, “Lifegiver will judge his people.” 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living Supermights. 32 But remember the former days when you endured a harsh conflict of suffering after you were enlightened. 33 At times you were publicly exposed to abuse and afflictions, and at other times you came to share with others who were treated in that way. 34 For in fact you shared the sufferings of those in prison, and you accepted the confiscation of your belongings with joy, because you knew that you certainly had a better and lasting possession. 35 So do not throw away your confidence, because it has great reward. 36 For you need endurance in order to do Supermights ’s will and so receive what is promised. 37 For just a little longer and he who is coming will arrive and not delay. 38 But my righteous one will live by faith, and if he shrinks back, I take no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not among those who shrink back and thus perish, but are among those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews 11

1 Now faith means being confident of what is expected, being convinced of invisible realities. 2 No doubt, by this the ancients were recommended. 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were fitted into place by God’s utterance - what is visible was not made from what is exposed to view. 4 By faith Abel tendered to Supermights a better sacrifice than Cain through which he was approved as pleasingly righteous as Supermights testified of his gifts. Even though because of this thing he was dead, he was still spoken of. 5 By faith Enoch was metamorphosised not to experience death and he was never found because Supermights had translated him. But before his transferal he is reported to have pleased Supermights. 6 Now without faith it is impossible to please him, for the one who approaches Supermights must have faith that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently search out for him.

7 By faith Noah, when he was warned about things not yet seen, he circumspectly constructed a ship for the safety of his family. Through it he judged the world and became an heir of the rightness that comes by faith.

8 By faith when Abraham was called abroad to a place he would afterwards receive as an inheritance, he obeyed and went abroad not acquainted with where he was going. 9 By faith he lived in the promised land as a foreign tents dweller. He was succeeded by Isaac and Jacob, the fellow inheritors of the same promise. 10 He surely anticipated a city that rests on foundations whose architect and builder is Supermights.

11 By faith, even though Sarah herself was barren and he was too old, he received the ability to procreate, because he regarded the one who had given the promise to be trustworthy. 12 So in fact children were fathered by one man – and this one as good as dead – like the number of stars in the sky and like the innumerable grains of sand on the seashore. 13 These all died in faith without receiving the things promised, but they saw them in the distance and welcomed them and acknowledged that they were strangers and foreigners on the Earth . 14 For those who speak in such a way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 In fact, if they had been thinking of the land that they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they aspire to a better land, that is, a Heavenly one. Therefore, Supermights is not ashamed to be called their Supermights , for he has prepared a city for them. 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He had received the promises, yet he was ready to offer up his uniquely born son. 18 Supermights had told him, “Through Isaac descendants will carry on your name,” 19 and he reasoned that Supermights could even raise him from the dead, and in a sense he received him back from there. 20 By faith also Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning the future. 21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped as he leaned on his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, mentioned the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions about his burial. 23 By faith, when Moses was born, his parents hid him for three months, because they saw the child was beautiful and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. 24 By faith, when he grew up, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25 choosing rather to be ill-treated with the people of Supermights than to enjoy sin’s fleeting pleasure. 26 He regarded abuse suffered for the Designated to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for his eyes were fixed on the reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king’s anger, for he persevered as though he could see the one who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the one who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. 29 By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if on dry ground, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were swallowed up. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after the people marched around them for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute escaped the destruction of the disobedient, because she welcomed the spies in peace. 32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets. 33 Through faith they conquered reigns, administered justice, gained what was promised, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength in weakness, became mighty in battle, put foreign armies to flight, 35 and women received back their dead raised to life. But others were tortured, not accepting release, to obtain resurrection to a better life. 36 And others experienced mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, sawed apart, murdered with the sword; they went about in sheepskins and goatskins; they were destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (the world was not worthy of them); they wandered in deserts and mountains and caves and openings in the Earth . 39 And these all were commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised. 40 For Supermights had provided something better for us, so that they would be made perfect together with us.

Hebrews 12

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, 2 keeping our eyes fixed on Lifesaviour, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set out for him he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of Supermights. 3 Think of him who endured such opposition against himself by sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and give up. 4 You have not yet resisted to the point of bloodshed in your struggle against sin. 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as sons? “My son, do not scorn Lifegiver’s discipline or give up when he corrects you. 6 ​​​​​​​“For Lifegiver disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he accepts.” 7 Endure your suffering as discipline; Supermights is treating you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? 8 But if you do not experience discipline, something all sons have shared in, then you are illegitimate and are not sons. 9 Besides, we’ve experienced discipline from our Earth ly fathers and we respected them; shall we not submit ourselves all the more to the Father of spirits and receive life? 10 For they disciplined us for a little while as seemed good to them, but he does so for our benefit, that we may share his holiness. 11 Now all discipline seems painful at the time, not joyful. But later it produces the fruit of peace and rightness for those trained by it. 12 Therefore, strengthen your listless hands and your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but be healed. 14 Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, for without it no one will see Lifegiver. 15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of Supermights , that no one be like a bitter root springing up and causing trouble, and through him many become defiled. 16 And see to it that no one becomes an immoral or Supermights less person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that later when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no opportunity for repentance, although he sought the blessing with tears. 18 For you have not come to something that can be touched, to a burning fire and darkness and gloom and a whirlwind 19 and the blast of a trumpet and a voice uttering words such that those who heard begged to hear no more. 20 For they could not bear what was instruct ed: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” 21 In fact, the scene was so terrifying that Moses said, “I shudder with fear.” 22 But you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living Supermights , the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of messenger s, to the assembly 23 and congregation of the firstborn, who are enrolled in Heaven, and to Supermights , the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous, who have been made perfect, 24 and to Lifesaviour, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks of something better than Abel’s does. 25 Take care not to refuse the one who is speaking! For if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on Earth , how much less shall we, if we reject the one who warns from Heaven? 26 Then his voice shook the Earth , but now he has promised, “I’ll once more shake not only the Earth but Heaven too.” 27 Now this phrase “once more” indicates the removal of what is shaken, that is, of created things, so that what is unshaken may remain. 28 So since we are receiving an unshakable reign, let us give thanks, and through this let us offer worship pleasing to Supermights in devotion and awe. 29 For our Supermights is indeed a devouring fire.

Hebrews 13

1 Brotherly love must continue. 2 Do not neglect hospitality, because through it some have entertained messenger s without knowing it. 3 Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them, and those ill-treated as though you too felt their torment. 4 Marriage must be honored among all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, for Supermights will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers. 5 Your conduct must be free from the love of money and you must be content with what you have, for he has said, “I’ll never leave you and I’ll never abandon you.” 6 So we can say with confidence, “Lifegiver is my helper, and I’ll not be afraid. What can man do to me?” 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke Supermights ’s message to you; reflect on the outcome of their lives and imitate their faith. 8 Lifesaviour the Designated is the same yesterday and today and forever! 9 Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings. For it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not ritual meals, which have never benefited those who participated in them. 10 We’ve an altar that those who serve in the booth have no right to eat from. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood the high priest brings into the sanctuary as an offering for sin are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore, to sanctify the people by his own blood, Lifesaviour also suffered outside the camp. 13 We must go out to him, then, outside the camp, bearing the abuse he experienced. 14 For here we’ve no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. 15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to Supermights , that is, the fruit of our lips, acknowledging his name. 16 And do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for Supermights is pleased with such sacrifices. 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls and will give an account for their work. Let them do this with joy and not with complaints, for this would be no advantage for you. 18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we’ve a clear conscience and desire to conduct ourselves rightly in every respect. 19 I especially ask you to pray that I may be restored to you very soon. 20 Now may the Supermights of peace who by the blood of the eternal agreement brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated, 21 equip you with every good thing to do his will, working in us what is pleasing before him through Lifesaviour the Designated, to whom be glory forever. Amen. 22 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, bear with my message of exhortation, for in fact I’ve written to you briefly. 23 You should know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he comes soon, he’ll be with me when I see you. 24 Greetings to all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy send you greetings. 25 Grace be with you all.

JAMES

James 1

1 From James, a slave of Supermights and Lifegiver Lifesaviour the Designated, to the twelve tribes dispersed abroad. Greetings! 2 My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you’ll be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything. 5 But if anyone is deficient in wisdom, he should ask Supermights , who gives to all generously and without reprimand, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed around by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he’ll receive anything from Lifegiver, 8 since he is a double-minded individual, unstable in all his ways. 9 Now the believer of humble means should take pride in his high position. 10 But the rich person’s pride should be in his humiliation, because he’ll pass away like a wildflower in the meadow. 11 For the sun rises with its heat and dries up the meadow; the petal of the flower falls off and its beauty is lost forever. So also the rich person in the midst of his pursuits will wither away. 12 Happy is the one who endures testing, because when he has proven to be genuine, he’ll receive the crown of life that Supermights promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I’m tempted by Supermights ,” for Supermights cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires. 15 Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death. 16 Do not be led astray, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 All generous giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or the slightest hint of change. 18 By his supreme plan he gave us birth through the message of truth, that we would be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. 19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters! Let every person be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger. 20 For human anger does not accomplish Supermights ’s rightness. 21 So put away all filth and bad excess and humbly welcome the message implanted witlitreyou, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be sure you live out the message and do not merely listen to it and so deceive yourselves. 23 For if someone merely listens to the message and does not live it out, he is like someone who gazes at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he gazes at himself and then goes out and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. 25 But the one who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes his attention there, and does not become a forgetful listener but one who lives it out – he’ll be blessed in what he does. 26 If someone thinks he is religious yet does not bridle his tongue, and so deceives his heart, his religion is futile. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before Supermights the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their misfortune and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 2

1 My brothers and sisters, do not show prejudice if you possess faith in our glorious Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 2 For if someone comes into your assembly wearing a gold ring and fine clothing, and a poor person enters in filthy clothes, 3 do you pay attention to the one who is finely dressed and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and to the poor person, “You stand over there,” or “Sit on the floor”? 4 If so, have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with bad motives? 5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters! Did not Supermights choose the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the reign that he promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor! Are not the rich oppressing you and dragging you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme the good name of the one you belong to? 8 But if you fulfill the royal law as expressed in this scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show prejudice, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as violators. 10 For the one who obeys the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. 11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a violator of the law. 12 Speak and act as those who will be judged by a law that gives freedom. 13 For judgment is merciless for the one who has shown no mercy. But mercy triumphs over judgment. 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can this kind of faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm and eat well,” but you do not give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 So also faith, if it does not have works, is dead being by itself. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I’ve works.” Show me your faith without works and I’ll show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that Supermights is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that – and tremble with fear. 20 But would you like evidence, you empty fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that his faith was working together with his works and his faith was perfected by works. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Now Abraham believed Supermights and it was counted to him for rightness,” and he was called Supermights ’s friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And similarly, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

James 3

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, because you know that we’ll be judged more strictly. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If someone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect individual, able to control the entire body as well. 3 And if we put bits into the mouths of horses to get them to obey us, then we guide their entire bodies. 4 Look at ships too: Though they are so large and driven by harsh winds, they are steered by a tiny rudder wherever the pilot’s inclination directs. 5 So too the tongue is a small part of the body, yet it has great pretensions. Think how small a flame sets a huge forest ablaze. 6 And the tongue is a fire! The tongue represents the world of wrongdoing among the parts of our bodies. It pollutes the entire body and sets fire to the course of human existence – and is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature is subdued and has been subdued by humankind. 8 But no human being can subdue the tongue; it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless Lifegiver and Father, and with it we curse people made in Supermights ’s image. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. These things should not be so, my brothers and sisters. 11 A spring does not pour out fresh water and bitter water from the same opening, does it? 12 Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a vine produce figs? Neither can a salt water spring produce fresh water. 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct he should show his works done in the gentleness that wisdom brings. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfishness in your hearts, do not boast and tell lies against the truth. 15 Such wisdom does not come from above but is Earth ly, natural, demonic. 16 For where there is jealousy and selfishness, there is disorder and every bad practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, accommodating, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and not hypocritical. 18 And the fruit that consists of rightness is planted in peace among those who make peace.

James 4

1 Where do the conflicts and where do the quarrels among you come from? Is it not from this, from your passions that battle inside you? 2 You desire and you do not have; you murder and envy and you cannot obtain; you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask; 3 you ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, so you can spend it on your passions. 4 Adulterers, do you not know that friendship with the world means hostility toward Supermights ? So whoever decides to be the world’s friend makes himself Supermights ’s enemy. 5 Or do you think the scripture means nothing when it says, “The spirit that Supermights caused to live witlitreus has an envious yearning”? 6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, “Supermights opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.” 7 So submit to Supermights. But resist the dbad and he’ll flee from you. 8 Draw near to Supermights and he’ll draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and make your hearts pure, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn, and weep. Turn your laughter into mourning and your joy into despair. 10 Humble yourselves before Lifegiver and he’ll exalt you. 11 Do not speak against one another, brothers and sisters. He who speaks against a fellow believer or judges a fellow believer speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but its judge. 12 But there is only one who is lawgiver and judge – the one who is able to save and destroy. On the other hand, who are you to judge your neighbor? 13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we’ll go into this or that town and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.” 14 You do not know about tomorrow. What is your life like? For you are a puff of smoke that appears for a short time and then vanishes. 15 You ought to say instead, “If Lifegiver is willing, then we’ll live and do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows what is good to do and does not do it is guilty of sin.

James 5

1 Come now, you rich! Weep and cry aloud over the miseries that are coming on you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your clothing has become moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have rusted and their rust will be a witness against you. It will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have hoarded treasure! 4 Look, the pay you have held back from the workers who mowed your fields cries out against you, and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of Lifegiver of hosts. 5 You have lived indulgently and luxuriously on the Earth . You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person, although he does not resist you. 7 So be patient, brothers and sisters, until Lifegiver’s return. Think of how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the ground and is patient for it until it receives the early and late rains. 8 You also be patient and strengthen your hearts, for Lifegiver’s return is near. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged. See, the judge stands before the gates! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in Lifegiver’s name. 11 Think of how we regard as blessed those who have endured. You have heard of Job’s endurance and you have seen Lifegiver’s purpose, that Lifegiver is full of compassion and mercy. 12 And above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear, either by Heaven or by Earth or by any other oath. But let your “Yes” be yes and your “No” be no, so that you may not fall into judgment. 13 Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you ill? He should summon the seniors of the church, and they should pray for him and anoint him with oil in the name of Lifegiver. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick and Lifegiver will raise him up – and if he has committed sins, he’ll be forgiven. 16 So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness. 17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain and there was no rain on the land for three years and six months! 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land sprouted with a harvest. 19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone turns him back, 20 he should know that the one who turns a sinner back from his wandering path will save that person’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 1

1 From Peter, an apostle of Lifesaviour the Designated, to those temporarily residing abroad (in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, the province of Asia, and Bithynia) who are Designated 2 according to the foreknowledge of Supermights the Father by being set apart by the Spirit for obedience and for sprinkling with Lifesaviour the Designated’s blood. May grace and peace be yours in full measure! 3 Blessed be the Supermights and Father of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Lifesaviour the Designated from the dead, 4 that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in Heaven for you, 5 who by Supermights ’s power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials. 7 Such trials show the proven character of your faith, which is much more valuable than gold – gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away – and will bring praise and glory and honor when Lifesaviour the Designated is revealed. 8 You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

9 because you are attaining the goal of your faith – the salvation of your souls. 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who predicted the grace that would come to you searched and investigated carefully. 11 They probed into what person or time the Spirit of the Designated witlitrethem was indicating when he testified beforehand about the sufferings appointed for the Designated and his subsequent glory. 12 They were shown that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things now announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven – things messenger s long to catch a glimpse of. 13 Therefore, get your minds ready for action by being fully sober, and set your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Lifesaviour the Designated is revealed. 14 Like obedient children, do not comply with the bad urges you used to follow in your ignorance, 15 but, like the Holy One who called you, become sacred yourselves in all of your conduct, 16 for it is written, “You shall be holy, because I’m holy.” 17 And if you address as Father the one who impartially judges according to each one’s work, live out the time of your temporary residence here in reverence. 18 You know that from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors you were ransomed – not by perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but by precious blood like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, namely the Designated. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was manifested in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you now trust in Supermights , who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in Supermights. 22 You have purified your souls by obeying the truth in order to show sincere mutual love. So love one another earnestly from a pure heart. 23 You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of Supermights. 24 For all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of the grass; the grass withers and the flower falls off, 25 ​​​​​​​but the word of Lifegiver endures forever. And this is the word that was proclaimed to you.

1 Peter 2

1 So get rid of all bad and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 And yearn like newborn infants for pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up to salvation, 3 if you have experienced Lifegiver’s kindness. 4 So as you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but Designated and priceless in Supermights ’s sight, 5 you yourselves, as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house to be a sacred priesthood and to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to Supermights through Lifesaviour the Designated. 6 For it says in scripture, “Look, I lay in Zion a stone, a Designated and priceless cornerstone, and whoever believes in him will never be put to shame.” 7 So you who believe see his value, but for those who do not believe, the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, 8 and a stumbling-stone and a rock to trip over. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are Designated generation, royal priesthood, pure people preserved so that you may show forth the virtues of the one who called you out of shadiness into his marvellous light. 10 You once were not a people, but now you are Supermights ’s people. You were shown no mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to keep away from fleshly desires that do battle against the soul, 12 and maintain good conduct among the non-the Designatedians, so that though they now malign you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify Supermights when he appears. 13 Be subject to every human institution for Lifegiver’s sake, whether to a king as supreme 14 or to governors as those he commissions to punish wrongdoers and praise those who do good. 15 For Supermights wants you to silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. 16 Live as free people, not using your freedom as a pretext for evil, but as Supermights ’s slaves. 17 Honor all people, love the family of believers, fear Supermights , honor the king. 18 Slaves, be subject to your masters with all reverence, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are perverse. 19 For this finds Supermights ’s favor, if because of conscience toward Supermights someone endures hardships in suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if you sin and are mistreated and endure it? But if you do good and suffer and so endure, this finds favor with Supermights. 21 For to this you were called, since the Designated also suffered for you, leaving an example for you to follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin nor was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was maligned, he did not answer back; when he suffered, he threatened no retaliation, but committed himself to Supermights who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for rightness. By his wounds you were healed. 25 For you were going astray like sheep but now you have turned back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 3

1 In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands. Then, even if some are disobedient to the word, they’ll be won over without a word by the way you live, 2 when they see your pure and reverent conduct. 3 Let your beauty not be external – the braiding of hair and wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes – 4 but the inner person of the heart, the lasting beauty of a gentle and tranquil spirit, which is precious in Supermights ’s sight. 5 For in the same way the sacred women who hoped in Supermights long ago adorned themselves by being subject to their husbands, 6 like Sarah who obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You become her children when you do what is good and have no fear in doing so.

7 Husbands, in the same way live together with your wives with deepest consideration, giving dignity, as it were, to a weaker vessel, as fellow heirs of grace of life so that your prayers may not be hindered.

8 Finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble. 9 Do not return bad for bad or insult for insult, but instead bless others because you were called to inherit a blessing. 10 For the one who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from bad and his lips from uttering deceit. 11 ​​​​​​​And he must turn away from bad and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. 12 ​​​​​​​For the eyes of Lifegiver are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But Lifegiver’s face is against those who do evil. 13 For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good? 14 But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. But do not be terrified of them or be shaken. 15 But set the Designated apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. 16 Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in the Designated may be put to shame when they accuse you. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if Supermights wills it, than for doing evil. 18 Because the Designated also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, to bring you to Supermights , by being put to death in the flesh but by being made alive in the spirit. 19 ​​​​​​​In it he went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 after they were disobedient long ago when Supermights patiently waited in the days of Noah as the hip was being constructed. In the ship a few, that is eight souls, were delivered through water. 21 And this prefigured baptism, which now saves you – not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to Supermights – through the resurrection of Lifesaviour the Designated, 22 who went into Heaven and is at the right hand of Supermights with messenger s and authorities and powers subject to him.

1 Peter 4

1 So, since the Designated suffered in the flesh, you also arm yourselves with the same attitude, because the one who has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin, 2 in that he spends the rest of his time on Earth concerned about the will of Supermights and not human desires. 3 For the time that has passed was sufficient for you to do what the non-the Designatedians desire. You lived then in debauchery, bad desires, drunkenness, carousing, drinking bouts, and wanton idolatries. 4 So they are astonished when you do not rush with them into the same flood of wickedness, and they vilify you. 5 They’ll face a reckoning before Lifesaviour the Designated who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 Now it was for this very purpose that the gospel was preached to those who are now dead, so that though they were judged in the flesh by human standards they may live spiritually by Supermights ’s standards. 7 For the culmination of all things is near. So be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of prayer. 8 Above all keep your love for one another fervent, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without complaining. 10 Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of Supermights. 11 Whoever speaks, let it be with Supermights ’s words. Whoever serves, do so with the strength that Supermights supplies, so that in everything Supermights will be glorified through Lifesaviour the Designated. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 12 Dear friends, do not be astonished that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice in the degree that you have shared in the sufferings of the Designated, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice and be glad. 14 If you are insulted for the name of the Designated, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, who is the Spirit of Supermights , rests on you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or thief or criminal or as a troublemaker. 16 But if you suffer as a the Designated, do not be ashamed, but glorify Supermights that you bear such a name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin, starting with the house of Supermights. And if it starts with us, what will be the fate of those who are disobedient to the gospel of Supermights ? 18 And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the unscrupulous and sinners? 19 So then let those who suffer according to the will of Supermights entrust their souls to a faithful Creator as they do good.

1 Peter 5

1 To the elderly that are among you I plead with as a fellow senior and as a witness to the Designated’s sufferings and as a stakeholder of the magnificence that is about to be revealed. 2 Tend Supermights’ flock among you, looking after it not forcefully but voluntarily, not with shabbiness but with enthusiasm. 3 Don’t boss that legacy but be examples to that flock. 4 So that when the chief shepherd appears you’ll receive a never fading crown of glory. 5 In a similar way, you who are younger, subordinate yourselves to the elderly. Moreover, all of you subordinate yourselves to one another and be dressed up with humility because

Supermights opposes the proud

and grants favour to the humble

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under Supermights’ hand, so that he may elevate you at the opportune time, 7 tossing every concern on him because he cares for you. 8 Keep sober and watchful because your opponent the devil, like a roaring lion, prowls around looking for anyone he can destroy. 9 You must withstand him firmly through your faith, aware that the same hardships are endured by your fellows throughout the world. 10 Then, after you have suffered for a little while, Supermights of all grace who invited you to his eternal magnificence through the Designated Lifesaviour, will personally reinstate, re-establish, strengthen and consolidate you. 11 To him belongs the excellence and great power forever. Amen.

12 Through Silvanus, whom I know to be a faithful brother, I’ve written to you briefly, in order to encourage you and testify that this is the true grace of Supermights. Stand fast in it. 13 The church in Babylon, Designated together with you, greets you, and so does Mark, my son. 14 Greet one another with a loving kiss. Peace to all of you who are in the Designated.

2 Peter 1

1 From Simeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Lifesaviour the Designated, to those who through the rightness of our Supermights and Savior, Lifesaviour the Designated, have been granted a faith just as precious as ours. 2 May grace and peace be lavished on you as you grow in the rich knowledge of Supermights and of Lifesaviour our Lord! 3 I can pray this because his divine power has bestowed on us everything necessary for life and spirituality through the rich knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence. 4 Through these things he has bestowed on us his precious and most magnificent promises, so that by means of what was promised you may become partakers of the divine nature, after escaping the worldly corruption that is produced by bad desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; 6 to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, spirituality; 7 to spirituality, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love. 8 For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they’ll keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated more intimately. 9 But concerning the one who lacks such things – he is blind. That is to say, he is nearsighted, since he has forgotten about the cleansing of his past sins. 10 Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to be sure of your calling and election. For by doing this you’ll never stumble into sin. 11 For thus an entrance into the eternal reign of our Lord and Savior, Lifesaviour the Designated, will be richly provided for you. 12 Therefore, I intend to remind you constantly of these things even though you know them and are well established in the truth that you now have. 13 Indeed, as long as I’m in this booth , I consider it right to stir you up by way of a reminder, 14 since I know that my booth will soon be removed, because our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated revealed this to me. 15 Indeed, I’ll also make every effort that, after my departure, you have a testimony of these things. 16 For we did not follow cleverly concocted fables when we made known to you the power and return of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated; no, we were eyewitnesses of his grandeur. 17 For he received honor and glory from Supermights the Father, when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory: “This is my dear Son, in whom I’m delighted.” 18 When this voice was conveyed from Heaven, we ourselves heard it, for we were with him on the sacred mountain. 19 Moreover, we possess the prophetic word as an altogether reliable thing. You do well if you pay attention to this as you would to a light shining in a murky place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you do well if you recognize this: No prophecy of scripture ever comes about by the prophet’s own imagination, 21 for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from Supermights.

2 Peter 2

1 But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies, even to the point of denying the Master who bought them. As a result, they’ll bring swift destruction on themselves. 2 And many will follow their debauched lifestyles. Because of these false teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. 3 And in their greed they’ll exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation pronounced long ago is not sitting idly by; their destruction is not asleep. 4 For if Supermights did not spare the messenger s who sinned, but threw them into hell and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until the judgment, 5 and if he did not spare the ancient world, but did protect Noah, a herald of rightness, along with seven others, when Supermights brought a flood on an unscrupulous world, 6 and if he turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when he condemned them to destruction, having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations of the unscrupulous, 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man in anguish over the debauched lifestyle of lawless men, 8 (for while he lived among them day after day, that righteous man was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) 9 – if so, then Lifegiver knows how to rescue the Supermights ly from their trials, and to reserve the unrighteous for punishment at the day of judgment, 10 especially those who indulge their fleshly desires and who despise authority. Brazen and insolent, they are not afraid to insult the glorious ones, 11 yet even messenger s, who are much more powerful, do not bring a slanderous judgment against them before Lifegiver. 12 But these men, like irrational animals – creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed – do not understand whom they are insulting, and consequently in their destruction they’ll be destroyed, 13 suffering harm as the wages for their harmful ways. By considering it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight, they are stains and blemishes, indulging in their deceitful pleasures when they feast together with you. 14 Their eyes, full of adultery, never stop sinning; they entice unstable people. They have trained their hearts for greed, these cursed children! 15 By forsaking the right path they have gone astray, because they followed the way of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrightness, 16 yet was rebuked for his own transgression (a dumb donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the prophet’s madness). 17 These men are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm, for whom the utter depths of darkness have been reserved. 18 For by speaking high-sounding but empty words they are able to entice, with fleshly desires and with debauchery, people who have just escaped from those who reside in error. 19 Although these false teachers promise such people freedom, they themselves are enslaved to immorality. For whatever a person succumbs to, to that he is enslaved. 20 For if after they have escaped the filthy things of the world through the rich knowledge of our Lord and Savior Lifesaviour the Designated, they again get entangled in them and succumb to them, their last state has become worse for them than their first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of rightness than, having known it, to turn back from the sacred commandment that had been delivered to them. 22 They are illustrations of this true proverb: “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and “A sow, after washing herself, wallows in the mire.”

2 Peter 3

1 Dear friends, this is already the second letter I’ve written you, in which I’m trying to stir up your pure mind by way of reminder: 2 I want you to recall both the predictions foretold by the sacred prophets and the commandment of Lifegiver and Savior through your apostles. 3 Above all, understand this: In the last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own bad urges 4 and saying, “Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For they deliberately suppress this fact, that by the word of Supermights Celestial Bodies existed long ago and an Earth was formed out of water and by means of water. 6 Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water. 7 But by the same word the present Celestial Bodies and Earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the unscrupulous. 8 Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with Lifegiver and a thousand years are like a single day. 9 Lifegiver is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of Lifegiver will come like a thief; when it comes, the Celestial Bodies will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the Earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare. 11 Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must we be, conducting our lives in holiness and spirituality, 12 while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of Supermights ? Because of this day, the Celestial Bodies will be burned up and dissolve, and the Celestial Bodies will melt away in a blaze! 13 But based on his promise, we anticipate new Celestial Bodies and new Earth in which rightness resides. 14 Therefore, dear friends, since you are waiting for these things, strive to be found at peace, without spot or blemish, when you come into his presence. 15 And regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him, 16 speaking of these things in all his letters. Some things in these letters are hard to understand, things the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they also do to the rest of the scriptures. 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard that you do not get led astray by the error of these unprincipled men and fall from your firm grasp on the truth. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Lifesaviour the Designated. To him be the honor both now and on that eternal day.

1 John 1

1 This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we’ve heard, what we’ve seen with our eyes, what we’ve looked at and our hands have touched (concerning the word of life – 2 and the life was revealed, and we’ve seen and testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us). 3 What we’ve seen and heard we announce to you too, so that you may have fellowship with us (and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Lifesaviour the Designated). 4 Thus we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 Now this is the gospel message we’ve heard from him and announce to you: Supermights is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we’ve fellowship with him and yet keep on walking in the darkness, we are lying and not practicing the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we’ve fellowship with one another and the blood of Lifesaviour his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we do not bear the guilt of sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrightness. 10 If we say we’ve not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

1 John 2

1 (My little children, I’m writing these things to you so that you may not sin.) But if anyone does sin, we’ve an advocate with the Father, Lifesaviour the Designated the righteous One, 2 and he himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the whole world. 3 Now by this we know that we’ve come to know Supermights : if we keep his commandments. 4 The one who says “I’ve come to know Supermights ” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. 5 But whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of Supermights has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him. 6 The one who says he resides in Supermights ought himself to walk just as Lifesaviour walked. 7 Dear friends, I’m not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have already heard. 8 On the other hand, I’m writing a new commandment to you which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 The one who says he is in the light but still hates his fellow the Designatedian is still in the darkness. 10 The one who loves his fellow the Designatedian resides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his fellow the Designatedian is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. 12 I’m writing to you, little children, that your sins have been forgiven because of his name. 13 I’m writing to you, fathers, that you have known him who has been from the beginning. I’m writing to you, young people, that you have conquered the bad one. 14 I’ve written to you, children, that you have known the Father. I’ve written to you, fathers, that you have known him who has been from the beginning. I’ve written to you, young people, that you are strong, and the word of Supermights resides in you, and you have conquered the bad one. 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 16 because all that is in the world (the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance produced by material possessions) is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away with all its desires, but the person who does the will of Supermights remains forever. 18 Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that the antithe Designated is coming, so now many antithe Designateds have appeared. We know from this that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us, because if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But they went out from us to demonstrate that all of them do not belong to us. 20 Nevertheless you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I’ve not written to you that you do not know the truth, but that you do know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the person who denies that Lifesaviour is the the Designated? This one is the antithe Designated: the person who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. The person who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, what you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 Now this is the promise that he himself made to us: eternal life. 26 These things I’ve written to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 Now as for you, the anointing that you received from him resides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, it is true and is not a lie. Just as it has taught you, you reside in him. 28 And now, little children, remain in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from him in shame when he comes back. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices rightness has been fathered by him.

1 John 3

1 (See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called Supermights ’s children – and indeed we are! For this reason the world does not know us: because it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, we are Supermights ’s children now, and what we’ll be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever it is revealed we’ll be like him, because we’ll see him just as he is. 3 And everyone who has this hope focused on him purifies himself, just as Lifesaviour is pure).

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; indeed, sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that Lifesaviour was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 Everyone who resides in him does not sin; everyone who sins has neither seen him nor known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices rightness is righteous, just as Lifesaviour is righteous. 8 The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the dbad has been sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Kin of Supermights was revealed: to destroy the works of the devil. 9 Everyone who has been fathered by Supermights does not practice sin, because Supermights ’s seed resides in him, and thus he is not able to sin, because he has been fathered by Supermights. 10 By this the children of Supermights and the children of the dbad are revealed: Everyone who does not practice rightness – the one who does not love his fellow the Designatedian – is not of Supermights. 11 For this is the gospel message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another, 12 not like Cain who was of the bad one and brutally murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, but his brother’s were righteous. 13 Therefore do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we’ve crossed over from death to life because we love our fellow the Designatedians. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his fellow the Designatedian is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. 16 We’ve come to know love by this: that Lifesaviour laid down his life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow the Designatedians. 17 But whoever has the world’s possessions and sees his fellow the Designatedian in need and shuts off his compassion against him, how can the love of Supermights reside in such a person? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue but in deed and truth. 19 And by this we’ll know that we are of the truth and will convince our conscience in his presence, 20 that if our conscience condemns us, that Supermights is greater than our conscience and knows all things. 21 Dear friends, if our conscience does not condemn us, we’ve confidence in the presence of Supermights , 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing to him. 23 Now this is his commandment: that we believe in the name of his Son Lifesaviour the Designated and love one another, just as he gave us the commandment. 24 And the person who keeps his commandments resides in Supermights , and Supermights in him. Now by this we know that Supermights resides in us: by the Spirit he has given us.

1 John 4

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from Supermights , because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of Supermights : Every spirit that confesses Lifesaviour as the the Designated who has come in the flesh is from Supermights , 3 but every spirit that does not confess Lifesaviour is not from Supermights , and this is the spirit of the antithe Designated, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world. 4 You are from Supermights , little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world’s perspective and the world listens to them. 6 We are from Supermights ; the person who knows Supermights listens to us, but whoever is not from Supermights does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit. 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from Supermights , and everyone who loves has been fathered by Supermights and knows Supermights. 8 The person who does not love does not know Supermights , because Supermights is love. 9 By this the love of Supermights is revealed in us: that Supermights has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him. 10 In this is love: not that we’ve loved Supermights , but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, if Supermights loved us this much, we must also love one another. 12 At no time has anybody seen Supermights , yet if Supermights lives in us then his love is realised in us. 13 Through this we know that we live in him and he in us in that he has given us his Spirit heartily. 14 Indeed we’ve seen and do bear witness that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone confesses that Lifesaviour is the Kin of Supermights , Supermights lives in him and he in Supermights. 16 And we’ve come to know and to believe the love that Supermights has in us. Supermights is love, and the one who resides in love resides in Supermights , and Supermights resides in him. 17 By this love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because just as Lifesaviour is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears punishment has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he loved us first. 20 If anyone says “I love Supermights ” and yet hates his fellow the Designatedian, he is a liar, because the one who does not love his fellow the Designatedian whom he has seen cannot love Supermights whom he has not seen. 21 And the commandment we’ve from him is this: that the one who loves Supermights should love his fellow the Designatedian too.

1 John 5

1 Everyone who believes that Lifesaviour is the the Designated has been fathered by Supermights , and everyone who loves the father loves the child fathered by him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of Supermights : whenever we love Supermights and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of Supermights : that we keep his commandments. And his commandments do not weigh us down, 4 because everyone who has been fathered by Supermights conquers the world. This is the conquering power that has conquered the world: our faith. 5 Now who is the person who has conquered the world except the one who believes that Lifesaviour is the Kin of Supermights ? 6 Lifesaviour the Designated is the one who came by water and blood – not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify, 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three are in agreement. 9 If we accept the testimony of men, the testimony of Supermights is greater, because this is the testimony of Supermights that he has testified concerning his Son. 10 (The one who believes in the Kin of Supermights has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe Supermights has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that Supermights has testified concerning his Son.) 11 And this is the testimony: Supermights has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Kin of Supermights does not have this eternal life. 13 I’ve written these things to you who believe in the name of the Kin of Supermights so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And this is the confidence that we’ve before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, then we know that we’ve the requests that we’ve asked from him. 16 If anyone sees his fellow the Designatedian committing a sin not resulting in death, he should ask, and Supermights will grant life to the person who commits a sin not resulting in death. There is a sin resulting in death. I do not say that he should ask about that. 17 All unrightness is sin, but there is sin not resulting in death. 18 We know that everyone fathered by Supermights does not sin, but Supermights protects the one he has fathered, and the bad one cannot touch him. 19 We know that we are from Supermights , and the whole world lies in the power of the bad one. 20 And we know that the Kin of Supermights has come and has given us insight to know him who is true, and we are in him who is true, in his Son Lifesaviour the Designated. This one is the true Supermights and eternal life. 21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

2 John 1

1. The elder to the favourite Cyria and her children whom I truly love - not myself alone but also all those that know the truth -

2. because of the truth which resides in us and will forever live with us.

3. May grace, mercy, peace from God the Father and from the Lord Lifesaviour the Designated the Son continue to be with you through truth and love.

4. I was very glad that I came across your children living according to the truth, just as we’ve received an instruction from the Father.

5. But I now ask you, Cyria, not like I’m writing a new instruction to you but what we had from the beginning so that we love one another.

6. So this is love: walk according to his instructions. This is the instruction that, just as you have heard from the beginning - walk in it

7. because many deceivers have come into the world. They do not confess the physical coming of Lifesaviour the Designated.

8. Check yourselves so that we do not lose what we’ve laboured for but that we may receive a full reward.

9. Whoever contravenes or does not continue in the teaching of the Designated does not have God. The one that continues in the teaching of the Designated has both the Father and the Son.

10. If any one comes to you and does not uphold this teaching, do not welcome them into your house and do not offer them a success farewell

11. because the one that offers them welcome shares in their evil deeds.

12. I’ve a great deal to write to you yet I do not want through paper and ink. But I expect to visit you and speak face to face so that our joy may be complete.

13. The children of your favourite sister greet you.

3 John 1

1 The elder to the dearly loved Gaius whom I truly love. 2 Beloved, above all things, I wish you to be successful and healthy, just as as you are successful spiritually.

3 I was indeed delighted when the fellows arrived and reported the truth about you, as you live by the truth. 4 I’ve no greater joy than this: to hear report that my children walk in truth.

5 Beloved, you prove to be trustworthy whatever you do for the fellows, even for the strangers. 6 Some have testified about your benevolence in the presence of the church. Some you appropriately accompany. Supermights will provide well 7 because for his name sake they went abroad taking nothing from the nationalities.

8 We must certainly host such people so that we can become companions in the work of the truth.

9 I wrote to the church even though Diotrephes who loves prominence among them does not receive us. 10 For that reason whenever I come I’ll bring up his actions which he does - blabbering against us with malicious intent. Then, not satisfied by that, he does not welcome the fellows and prevents those who want to and chases them out of the church.11 Beloved, do not imitate bad but what is good. The one that is doing good is of Supermights but the one that does bad has not experienced Supermights. 12 Demetrius gave a report among all, and about the truth itself - but we also have a report, and you know that our evidence is true. 13 I’ve many things to describe but I’ll not want to write to you with ink and paper. 14 But I expect to see you shortly, and we’ll speak face to face.

Peace to you. Friends greet to you. Greet the friends by name.

JUDE

Jude 1

1 Jude, a servant of Lifesaviour the Designated, and a brother of James; to those that are called, made holy by Supermights the Father and preserved in Lifesaviour the Designated. 2 May mercy, peace and love be multiplied on you.

3 Beloved, I’ve made every effort to write to you about our common salvation. I’ve been compelled to write to you to urge you to earnestly contend for the faith which was once transmitted to the saints. 4 For Indeed some people have stealthily crept in unannounced previous to this judgement, unscrupulous ones, perverting the grace of our Supermights into licentiousness, and denying the only Lord Supermights and our Master Lifesaviour the Designated. 5 But I want to remind you. You once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people from the land of Egypt, destroyed those that did not believe afterwards. 6 Even the messengers that did not maintain their in principality but left their own inhabitancy he has reserved for eternal chains under darkness until the judgement of the great day. 7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities surrounding them, having given themselves over to sexual idolatry and deviated to backward carnality, are exemplified as an exhibit by undergoing the punishment of indeterminate fire. 8 Yet in a similar way, these dreamers in fact pollute the body, reject rulership and insult dignitaries. 9 Yet Michael the chief messenger when he was contending with the dbad argued for the body of Moses, not daring to bring a slandarous condemnation, but he said; “The Lord reprimand you.” 10 But these persons blaspheme whatever they in fact do not understand. But whatever they understand naturally, like irrational animals, they corrupt themselves through those things.

11 Shame to them because they have gone Cain’s path, and have greedily run after Balaam’s fraudulence for profit, and they have perished in Korah’s disobedience. 12 These are the reefs in your love, feasting with you, pasturing themselves fearlessly. They are dry clouds, blown away by the winds. They are unfruitful autumn trees, twice dead, uprooted. 13 They are raging waves of the sea, foaming their own shame. They are roving stars for whom the gloom of the darkness is reserved into perpetuity.

14 But Enoch, the seventh from Adam, even prophesied about them saying; “Look, the Lord is coming with a myriad of his saints. 15 to execute judgement on everyone and to convict the wicked ones about all their wicked deeds which they have wickedly committed, and about all of their harshness against him.”

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their passions, and their mouths speak excessive insolence, appearing to be admirable on account of some advantage. 17 But you beloved, remember the words which were predicted by the apostles of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated. 18 For they explained to you that there will be deriders in the end time, walking according to their wicked passions. 19 These persons are seperating themselves. They are sensual. They do not have the Spirit.

20 But you beloved, building yourselves up on your holiest faith, praying through the Holy Spirit, 21 preserve yourselves in the love of Supermights , anticipating the mercy of our Lord Lifesaviour the Designated towards eternal life 22 yet have compassion on those who waver. 23 Also save those who are afraid by snatching them from the fire, while despising the garment tainted by human nature.

24 Now to him that can preserve you from falling and triumphantly bring you faultless before his glorious presence, 25 to the only wise Supermights , our Saviour: glory and greatness, power and authority, both now and till all perpetuity. Amen.

REVELATION

Revelation 1

1 The revelation of Lifesaviour the Designated, which Supermights gave him to show his servants what must happen very soon. He made it clear by sending his messenger to his servant John, 2 who then testified to everything that he saw concerning the word of Supermights and the testimony about Lifesaviour the Designated. 3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy aloud, and blessed are those who hear and obey the things written in it, because the time is near! 4 From John, to the seven churches that are in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from “he who is,” and who was, and who is still to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Lifesaviour the Designated – the faithful witness, the firstborn from among the dead, the ruler over the kings of the Earth . To the one who loves us and has set us free from our sins at the cost of his own blood 6 and has appointed us as a reign, as priests serving his Supermights and Father – to him be the glory and the power for ever and ever! Amen. 7 ​​​​​​​(Look! He is returning with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes on the Earth will mourn because of him. This will certainly come to pass! Amen.) 8 “I’m the Alpha and the Omega,” says Lifegiver the Supermights – the one who is, and who was, and who is still to come – the All-Powerful! 9 I, John, your brother and the one who shares with you in the persecution, reign, and endurance that are in Lifesaviour, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of Supermights and the testimony about Lifesaviour. 10 I was in the Spirit on Lifegiver’s Day when I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, 11 saying: “Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches – to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.” 12 I turned to see whose voice was speaking to me, and when I did so, I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands was one like a Kin of Humanity. He was dressed in a robe extending down to his feet and he wore a wide golden belt around his chest. 14 His head and hair were as white as wool, even as white as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame. 15 His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp double-edged sword extended out of his mouth. His face shone like the sun shining at full strength. 17 When I saw him I fell down at his feet as though I were dead, but he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid! I’m the first and the last, 18 and the one who lives! I was dead, but look, now I’m alive – forever and ever – and I hold the keys of death and of Hades! 19 Therefore write what you saw, what is, and what will be after these things. 20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the messenger s of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 2

1 “To the messenger of the church in Ephesus, write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the one who has a firm grasp on the seven stars in his right hand – the one who walks among the seven golden lampstands: 2 ‘I know your works as well as your labor and steadfast endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil. You have even put to the test those who refer to themselves as apostles (but are not), and have discovered that they are false. 3 I’m also aware that you have persisted steadfastly, endured much for the sake of my name, and have not grown weary. 4 But I’ve this against you: You have departed from your first love! 5 Therefore, remember from what high state you have fallen and repent! Do the deeds you did at the first; if not, I’ll come to you and remove your lampstand from its place – that is, if you do not repent. 6 But you do have this going for you: You hate what the Nicolaitans practice – practices I also hate. 7 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I’ll permit him to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of Supermights.’ 8 “To the messenger of the church in Smyrna write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the one who is the first and the last, the one who was dead, but came to life: 9 ‘I know the distress you are suffering and your poverty (but you are rich). I also know the slander against you by those who call themselves Jews and really are not, but are a local congregation of Satan. 10 Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. The dbad is about to have some of you thrown into prison so you may be tested, and you’ll experience suffering for ten days. Remain faithful even to the point of death, and I’ll give you the crown that is life itself. 11 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will in no way be harmed by the second death.’ 12 “To the messenger of the church in Pergamum write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the one who has the sharp double-edged sword: 13 ‘I know where you live – where Satan’s throne is. Yet you continue to cling to my name and you have not denied your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was killed in your city where Satan lives. 14 But I’ve a few things against you: You have some people there who follow the teaching of Balaam, who instructed Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality. 15 In the same way, there are also some among you who follow the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore, repent! If not, I’ll come against you quickly and make war against those people with the sword of my mouth. 17 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I’ll give him some of the hidden manna, and I’ll give him a white stone, and on that stone will be written a new name that no one can understand except the one who receives it.’ 18 “To the messenger of the church in Thyatira write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the Kin of Supermights , the one who has eyes like a fiery flame and whose feet are like polished bronze: 19 ‘I know your deeds: your love, faith, service, and steadfast endurance. In fact, your more recent deeds are greater than your earlier ones. 20 But I’ve this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and by her teaching deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I’ve given her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Look! I’m throwing her onto a bed of violent illness, and those who commit adultery with her into terrible suffering, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 Furthermore, I’ll strike her followers with a deadly disease, and then all the churches will know that I’m the one who searches minds and hearts. I’ll repay each one of you what your deeds deserve. 24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, all who do not hold to this teaching (who have not learned the so-called “deep secrets of Satan”), to you I say: I do not put any additional burden on you. 25 However, hold on to what you have until I come. 26 And to the one who conquers and who continues in my deeds until the end, I’ll give him authority over the nationalities – 27 ​​​​​​​he will rule them with an iron rod and like clay jars he’ll break them to pieces, 28 just as I’ve received the right to rule from my Father – and I’ll give him the morning star. 29 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Revelation 3

1 “To the messenger of the church in Sardis write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the one who holds the seven spirits of Supermights and the seven stars: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a reputation that you are alive, but in reality you are dead. 2 Wake up then, and strengthen what remains that was about to die, because I’ve not found your deeds complete in the sight of my Supermights. 3 Therefore, remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I’ll come like a thief, and you’ll never know at what hour I’ll come against you. 4 But you have a few individuals in Sardis who have not stained their clothes, and they’ll walk with me dressed in white, because they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be dressed like them in white clothing, and I’ll never erase his name from life, but will declare his name before my Father and before his messenger s. 6 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ 7 “To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the Holy One, the True One, who holds the key of David, who opens doors no one can shut, and shuts doors no one can open: 8 ‘I know your deeds. (Look! I’ve put in front of you an open door that no one can shut.) I know that you have little strength, but you have obeyed my word and have not denied my name. 9 Listen! I’m going to make those people from the local congregation of Satan – who say they are Jews yet are not, but are lying – Look, I’ll make them come and bow down at your feet and acknowledge that I’ve loved you. 10 Because you have kept my admonition to endure steadfastly, I’ll also keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come on the whole world to test those who live on the Earth . 11 I’m coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one can take away your crown. 12 The one who conquers I’ll make a pillar in the temple of my Supermights , and he’ll never depart from it. I’ll write on him the name of my Supermights and the name of the city of my Supermights (the new Jerusalem that comes down out of Heaven from my Supermights ), and my new name as well. 13 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ 14 “To the messenger of the church in Laodicea write the following: “This is the solemn pronouncement of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of Supermights ’s creation: 15 ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot! 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I’m going to vomit you out of my mouth! 17 Because you say, “I’m rich and have acquired great wealth, and need nothing,” but do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, 18 take my advice and buy gold from me refined by fire so you can become rich! Buy from me white clothing so you can be clothed and your shameful nakedness will not be exposed, and buy eye salve to put on your eyes so you can see! 19 All those I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent! 20 Listen! I’m standing at the door and knocking! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I’ll come into his home and share a meal with him, and he with me. 21 I’ll grant the one who conquers permission to sit with me on my throne, just as I too conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

Revelation 4

1 After these things I looked, and there was a door standing open in Heaven! And the first voice I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said: “Come up here so that I can show you what must happen after these things.” 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit, and a throne was standing in Heaven with someone seated on it! 3 And the one seated on it was like jasper and carnelian in appearance, and a rainbow looking like it was made of emerald encircled the throne. 4 In a circle around the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on those thrones were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white clothing and had golden crowns on their heads. 5 From the throne came out flashes of lightning and roaring and crashes of thunder. Seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of Supermights , were burning in front of the throne 6 and in front of the throne was something like a sea of glass, like crystal. In the middle of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second creature like an ox, the third creature had a face like a man’s, and the fourth creature looked like an eagle flying. 8 Each one of the four living creatures had six wings and was full of eyes all around and inside. They never rest day or night, saying: “Holy Holy Holy is Lifegiver the Supermights , the All-Powerful, Who was and who is, and who is still to come!” 9 And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four seniors throw themselves to the ground before the one who sits on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever, and they offer their crowns before his throne, saying: 11 ​​​​​​​“You are worthy, our Lord and Supermights , to receive glory and honor and power, since you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created!”

Revelation 5

1 Then I saw in the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne a scroll written on the front and back and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a powerful messenger proclaiming in a loud voice: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?” 3 But no one in Heaven or on Earth or under the Earth was able to open the scroll or look into it.

4 So I began weeping bitterly because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 Then one of the seniors said to me, “Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered; thus he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” 6 Then I saw standing in the middle of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the middle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been killed. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of Supermights sent out into all the Earth . 7 Then he came and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne, 8 and when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four seniors threw themselves to the ground before the Lamb. Each of them had a harp and golden bowls full of incense (which are the prayers of the saints). 9 They were singing a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were killed, and at the cost of your own blood you have purchased for Supermights persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation. 10 ​​​​​​​You have appointed them as a reign and priests to serve our Supermights , and they’ll reign on the Earth .” 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many messenger s in a circle around the throne, as well as the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand – thousands times thousands – 12 all of whom were singing in a loud voice: “Worthy is the lamb who was killed to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and praise!” 13 Then I heard every creature – in Heaven, on Earth , under the Earth , in the sea, and all that is in them – singing: “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be praise, honor, glory, and ruling power forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures were saying “Amen,” and the seniors threw themselves to the ground and worshiped.

Revelation 6

1 I looked on when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a thunderous voice, “Come!” 2 So I looked, and here came a white horse! The one who rode it had a bow, and he was given a crown, and as a conqueror he rode out to conquer. 3 Then when the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come!” 4 And another horse, fiery red, came out, and the one who rode it was granted permission to take peace from the Earth , so that people would butcher one another, and he was given a huge sword. 5 Then when the Lamb opened the third seal I heard the third living creature saying, “Come!” So I looked, and here came a black horse! The one who rode it had a balance scale in his hand. 6 Then I heard something like a voice from among the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat will cost a day’s pay and three quarts of barley will cost a day’s pay. But do not damage the olive oil and the wine!” 7 Then when the Lamb opened the fourth seal I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come!” 8 So I looked and here came a pale green horse! The name of the one who rode it was Death, and Hades followed right behind. They were given authority over a fourth of the Earth , to kill its population with the sword, drought, and disease, and by the wild animals of the Earth . 9 Now when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been violently killed because of the word of Supermights and because of the testimony they had given. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, “How long, Supreme Master, sacred and true, before you judge those who live on the Earth and avenge our blood?” 11 Each of them was given a long white robe and they were told to rest for a little longer, until the full number was reached of both their fellow servants and their brothers who were going to be killed just as they had been. 12 Then I looked when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and a huge Earth quake took place; the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the full moon became blood red; 13 and the stars in the sky fell to the Earth like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when shaken by a fierce wind. 14 The sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. 15 Then the kings of the Earth , the very important people, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?”

Revelation 7

1 After this I saw four messenger s standing at the four corners of the Earth , holding back the four winds of the Earth so no wind could blow on the Earth , on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another messenger ascending from the east, who had the seal of the living Supermights. He shouted out with a loud voice to the four messenger s who had been given permission to damage the Earth and the sea: 3 “Do not damage the Earth or the sea or the trees until we’ve put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our Supermights.” 4 Now I heard the number of those who were marked with the seal, one hundred and fourty-four thousand, sealed from all the tribes of the people of Israel: 5 ​​​​​​​From the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand, 6 ​​​​​​​from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand, 7 ​​​​​​​from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand, 8 ​​​​​​​from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed. 9 After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. 10 They were shouting out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our Supermights , to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the messenger s stood there in a circle around the throne and around the seniors and the four living creatures, and they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground before the throne and worshiped Supermights , 12 saying, “Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and strength be to our Supermights for ever and ever. Amen!” 13 Then one of the seniors asked me, “These dressed in long white robes – who are they and where have they come from?” 14 So I said to him, “My lord, you know the answer.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb! 15 For this reason they are before the throne of Supermights , and they serve him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They’ll never go hungry or be thirsty again, and the sun will not beat down on them, nor any burning heat, 17 because the Lamb in the middle of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of living water, and Supermights will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 8

1 Now when the Lamb opened the seventh seal there was silence in Heaven for about half an hour. 2 Then I saw the seven messenger s who stand before Supermights , and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 Another messenger holding a golden censer came and was stationed at the altar. A large amount of incense was given to him to offer up, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar that is before the throne. 4 The smoke coming from the incense, along with the prayers of the saints, ascended before Supermights from the messenger ’s hand. 5 Then the messenger took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it on the Earth , and there were crashes of thunder, roaring, flashes of lightning, and an Earth quake. 6 Now the seven messenger s holding the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. 7 The first messenger blew his trumpet, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was thrown at the Earth so that a third of the Earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. 8 Then the second messenger blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain of burning fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures living in the sea died, and a third of the ships were completely destroyed. 10 Then the third messenger blew his trumpet, and a huge star burning like a torch fell from the sky; it landed on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 (Now the name of the star is Wormwood.) So a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from these waters because they were poisoned. 12 Then the fourth messenger blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. And there was no light for a third of the day and for a third of the night likewise. 13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying directly overhead, proclaiming with a loud voice, “Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the Earth because of the remaining sounds of the trumpets of the three messenger s who are about to blow them!”

Revelation 9

1 Then the fifth messenger blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the Earth , and he was given the key to the shaft of the abyss. 2 He opened the shaft of the abyss and smoke rose out of it like smoke from a giant furnace. The sun and the air were darkened with smoke from the shaft. 3 Then out of the smoke came locusts onto the Earth , and they were given power like that of the scorpions of the Earth . 4 They were told not to damage the grass of the Earth , or any green plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of Supermights on their forehead. 5 The locusts were not given permission to kill them, but only to torture them for five months, and their torture was like that of a scorpion when it stings a person. 6 In those days people will seek death, but will not be able to find it; they’ll long to die, but death will flee from them. 7 Now the locusts looked like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were something like crowns similar to gold, and their faces looked like men’s faces. 8 They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. 9 They had body armours like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings was like the noise of many horse-drawn chariots charging into battle. 10 They have tails and stingers like scorpions, and their ability to injure people for five months is in their tails. 11 They have as king over them the messenger of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. 12 The first woe has passed, but two woes are still coming after these things! 13 Then the sixth messenger blew his trumpet, and I heard a single voice coming from the horns on the golden altar that is before Supermights , 14 saying to the sixth messenger , the one holding the trumpet, “Set free the four messenger s who are bound at the great river Euphrates!” 15 Then the four messenger s who had been prepared for this hour, day, month, and year were set free to kill a third of humanity. 16 The number of soldiers on horseback was two hundred million; I heard their number. 17 Now this is what the horses and their riders looked like in my vision: The riders had body armours that were fiery red, dark blue, and sulfurous yellow in color. The heads of the horses looked like lions’ heads, and fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths. 18 A third of humanity was killed by these three plagues, that is, by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses resides in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails are like snakes, having heads that inflict injuries. 20 The rest of humanity, who had not been killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so that they did not stop worshiping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or walk about. 21 Furthermore, they did not repent of their murders, of their magic spells, of their sexual immorality, or of their stealing.

Revelation 10

1 Then I saw another powerful messenger descending from Heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun and his legs were like pillars of fire. 2 He held in his hand a little scroll that was open, and he put his right foot on the sea and his left on the land. 3 Then he shouted in a loud voice like a lion roaring, and when he shouted, the seven thunders sounded their voices. 4 When the seven thunders spoke, I was preparing to write, but just then I heard a voice from Heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders spoke and do not write it down.” 5 Then the messenger I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to Heaven 6 and swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created Heaven and what is in it, and the Earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, “There will be no more delay! 7 But in the days when the seventh messenger is about to blow his trumpet, the mystery of Supermights is completed, just as he has proclaimed to his servants the prophets.” 8 Then the voice I had heard from Heaven began to speak to me again, “Go and take the open scroll in the hand of the messenger who is standing on the sea and on the land.” 9 So I went to the messenger and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take the scroll and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.” 10 So I took the little scroll from the messenger ’s hand and ate it, and it did taste as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 Then they told me: “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nationalities, languages, and kings.”

Revelation 11

1 Then a measuring rod like a staff was given to me, and I was told, “Get up and measure the temple of Supermights , and the altar, and the ones who worship there. 2 But do not measure the outer courtyard of the temple; leave it out, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they’ll trample on the sacred city for fourty-two months. 3 And I’ll grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth. 4 (These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before Lifegiver of the Earth .) 5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and completely consumes their enemies. If anyone wants to harm them, they must be killed this way. 6 These two have the power to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the time they are prophesying. They have power to turn the waters to blood and to strike the Earth with every kind of plague whenever they want. 7 When they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war on them and conquer them and kill them. 8 Their corpses will lie in the street of the great city that is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also crucified. 9 For three and a half days those from every people, tribe, nation, and language will look at their corpses, because they’ll not permit them to be placed in a tomb. 10 And those who live on the Earth will rejoice over them and celebrate, even sending gifts to each other, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the Earth . 11 But after three and a half days a breath of life from Supermights entered them, and they stood on their feet, and tremendous fear seized those who were watching them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from Heaven saying to them: “Come up here!” So the two prophets went up to Heaven in a cloud while their enemies stared at them. 13 Just then a major Earth quake took place and a tenth of the city collapsed; seven thousand people were killed in the Earth quake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the Supermights of Heaven. 14 The second woe has come and gone; the third is coming quickly. 15 Then the seventh messenger blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in Heaven saying: “The reign of the world has become the reign of our Lord and of his the Designated, and he’ll reign for ever and ever.” 16 Then the twenty-four seniors who are seated on their thrones before Supermights threw themselves down with their faces to the ground and worshiped Supermights 17 with these words: “We give you thanks, Lord Supermights , the All-Powerful, the one who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun to reign. 18 ​​​​​​​The nationalities were enraged, but your wrath has come, and the time has come for the dead to be judged, and the time has come to give to your servants, the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the Earth .” 19 Then the temple of Supermights in Heaven was opened and the Cabinet of his agreement was visible witlitrehis temple. And there were flashes of lightning, roaring, crashes of thunder, an Earth quake, and a great hailstorm.

Revelation 12

1 Then a great sign appeared in Heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and with the moon under her feet, and on her head was a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was screaming in labor pains, struggling to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in Heaven: a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadem crowns. 4 Now the dragon’s tail swept away a third of the stars in Heaven and hurled them to the Earth . Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 So the woman gave birth to a son, a male child, who is going to rule over all the nationalities with an iron rod. Her child was suddenly caught up to Supermights and to his throne, 6 and she fled into the desert where a place had been prepared for her by Supermights , so she could be taken care of for 1,260 days. 7 Then war broke out in Heaven: Michael and his messenger s fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his messenger s fought back. 8 But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in Heaven for him and his messenger s. 9 So that huge dragon – the ancient serpent, the one called the dbad and Satan, who deceives the whole world – was thrown down to the Earth , and his messenger s along with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in Heaven saying, “The salvation and the power and the reign of our Supermights , and the ruling authority of his the Designated, have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, the one who accuses them day and night before our Supermights , has been thrown down. 11 ​​​​​​​But they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. 12 ​​​​​​​Therefore you Celestial Bodies rejoice, and all who reside in them! But woe to the Earth and the sea because the devil has come down to you! He is filled with terrible anger, for he knows that he only has a little time!” 13 Now when the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the Earth , he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of a giant eagle so that she could fly out into the desert, to the place Supermights prepared for her, where she is taken care of – away from the presence of the serpent – for a time, times, and half a time. 15 Then the serpent spouted water like a river out of his mouth after the woman in an attempt to sweep her away by a flood, 16 but the Earth came to her rescue; the ground opened up and swallowed the river that the dragon had spewed from his mouth. 17 So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep Supermights ’s commandments and hold to the testimony about Lifesaviour. (12:18) And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

Revelation 13

1 Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns were ten diadem crowns, and on its heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like a bear’s, and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority to rule. 3 One of the beast’s heads appeared to have been killed, but the lethal wound had been healed. And the whole world followed the beast in amazement; 4 they worshiped the dragon because he had given ruling authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast too, saying: “Who is like the beast?” and “Who is able to make war against him?” 5 The beast was given a mouth speaking proud words and blasphemies, and he was permitted to exercise ruling authority for fourty-two months. 6 So the beast opened his mouth to blaspheme against Supermights – to blaspheme both his name and his dwelling place, that is, those who dwell in Heaven. 7 The beast was permitted to go to war against the saints and conquer them. He was given ruling authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation, 8 and all those who live on the Earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in life belonging to the Lamb who was killed. 9 If anyone has an ear, he had better listen! 10 ​​​​​​​If anyone is meant for captivity, into captivity he’ll go. If anyone is to be killed by the sword, then by the sword he must be killed. This requires steadfast endurance and faith from the saints. 11 Then I saw another beast coming up from the Earth . He had two horns like a lamb, but was speaking like a dragon. 12 He exercised all the ruling authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the Earth and those who inhabit it worship the first beast, the one whose lethal wound had been healed. 13 He performed momentous signs, even making fire come down from Heaven in front of people 14 and, by the signs he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the Earth . He told those who live on the Earth to make an image to the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived. 15 The second beast was empowered to give life to the image of the first beast so that it could speak, and could cause all those who did not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 He also caused everyone (small and great, rich and poor, free and slave) to obtain a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. 17 Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he bore the mark of the beast – that is, his name or his number. 18 This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the beast’s number, for it is man’s number, and his number is 666.

Revelation 14

1 Then I looked, and here was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were one hundred and fourty-four thousand, who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. 2 I also heard a sound coming out of Heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. Now the sound I heard was like that made by harpists playing their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one was able to learn the song except the one hundred and fourty-four thousand who had been repurchaseed from the Earth . 4 These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were repurchaseed from humanity as firstfruits to Supermights and to the Lamb, 5 and no lie was found on their lips; they are blameless.

6 Then I saw another messenger flying across the mid-sky, carrying the everlasting gospel to broadcast to the inhabitants of Earth, and to every race and tribe, language and people. 7 He spoke in a high volume; “Revere Supermights and give him honour because the era of his justice has come. Worship the Maker of Heaven and Earth as well as the sea and water sources!”

8 Then another messenger followed, saying; “Babylon, that big city, has fallen! It’s fallen because it made nations excessively drink the wine of her passionate promiscuity.”

9 Then a third messenger followed them and spoke with a high volume: “If anyone worships the wild animal and its representation and receives its imprint on his forehead or on his hand, 10 they will indeed drink from the wine of Supermights’ fury which is poured out undiluted into his cup of outrage. They will be tortured with fire and sulphur in the presence of the sared, messengers and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 Then the smoke of their torture will go up forever and ever, and those who worship the beast and its representation will have no rest day or night, along with anyone who receives the imprint of its name.”

12 This requires the steadfast endurance of the saints – those who obey Supermights ’s commandments and hold to their faith in Lifesaviour. 13 Then I heard a voice from Heaven say, “Write this: ‘Blessed are the dead, those who die in Lifegiver from this moment on!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so they can rest from their hard work, because their deeds will follow them.” 14 Then I looked, and a white cloud appeared, and seated on the cloud was one like a Kin of Humanity! He had a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another messenger came out of the temple, shouting in a loud voice to the one seated on the cloud, “Use your sickle and start to reap, because the time to reap has come, since the Earth ’s harvest is ripe!” 16 So the one seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the Earth , and the Earth was reaped. 17 Then another messenger came out of the temple in Heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Another messenger , who was in charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to the messenger who had the sharp sickle, “Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes off the vine of the Earth , because its grapes are now ripe.” 19 So the messenger swung his sickle over the Earth and gathered the grapes from the vineyard of the Earth and tossed them into the great winepress of the wrath of Supermights. 20 Then the winepress was stomped outside the city, and blood poured out of the winepress up to the height of horses’ bridles for a distance of almost two hundred miles.

Revelation 15

1 Then I saw another great and astounding sign in Heaven: seven messenger s who have seven final plagues (they are final because in them Supermights ’s anger is completed). 2 Then I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and his image and the number of his name. They were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps given to them by Supermights. 3 They sang the song of Moses the servant of Supermights and the song of the Lamb: “Great and astounding are your deeds, Lord Supermights , the All-Powerful! Just and true are your ways, King over the nationalities! 4 ​​​​​​​Who will not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name, because you alone are holy? All nationalities will come and worship before you for your righteous acts have been revealed.” 5 After these things I looked, and the temple (the tent of the testimony) was opened in Heaven, 6 and the seven messenger s who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, dressed in clean bright linen, wearing wide golden belts around their chests. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven messenger s seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of Supermights who lives forever and ever, 8 and the temple was filled with smoke from Supermights ’s glory and from his power. Thus no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues from the seven messenger s were completed.

Revelation 16

1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple declaring to the seven messenger s: “Go and pour out on the Earth the seven bowls containing Supermights ’s wrath.” 2 So the first messenger went and poured out his bowl on the Earth . Then ugly and painful sores appeared on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. 3 Next, the second messenger poured out his bowl on the sea and it turned into blood, like that of a corpse, and every living creature that was in the sea died. 4 Then the third messenger poured out his bowl on the rivers and the springs of water, and they turned into blood. 5 Now I heard the messenger of the waters saying: “You are just – the one who is and who was, the Holy One – because you have passed these judgments, 6 ​​​​​​​because they poured out the blood of your saints and prophets, so you have given them blood to drink. They got what they deserved!” 7 Then I heard the altar reply, “Yes, Lord Supermights , the All-Powerful, your judgments are true and just!” 8 Then the fourth messenger poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was permitted to scorch people with fire. 9 Thus people were scorched by the terrible heat, yet they blasphemed the name of Supermights , who has ruling authority over these plagues, and they would not repent and give him glory. 10 Then the fifth messenger poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast so that darkness covered his reign, and people began to bite their tongues because of their pain. 11 They blasphemed the Supermights of Heaven because of their sufferings and because of their sores, but nevertheless they still refused to repent of their deeds. 12 Then the sixth messenger poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates and dried up its water to prepare the way for the kings from the east. 13 Then I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of the demons performing signs who go out to the kings of the Earth to bring them together for the battle that will take place on the great day of Supermights , the All-Powerful. 15 ​​​​​​​(Look! I’ll come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays alert and does not lose his clothes so that he’ll not have to walk around naked and his shameful condition be seen.) 16 Now the spirits gathered the kings and their armies to the place that is called Armageddon in Hebrew. 17 Finally the seventh messenger poured out his bowl into the air and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying: “It is done!” 18 Then there were flashes of lightning, roaring, and crashes of thunder, and there was a tremendous Earth quake – an Earth quake unequaled since humanity has been on the Earth , so tremendous was that Earth quake. 19 The great city was split into three parts and the cities of the nationalities collapsed. So Babylon the great was remembered before Supermights , and was given the cup filled with the wine made of Supermights ’s furious wrath. 20 Every island fled away and no mountains could be found. 21 And gigantic hailstones, weighing about a hundred pounds each, fell from Heaven on people, but they blasphemed Supermights because of the plague of hail, since it was so horrendous.

Revelation 17

1 Then one of the seven messenger s who had the seven bowls came and spoke to me. “Come,” he said, “I’ll show you the condemnation and punishment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the Earth committed sexual immorality and the Earth ’s inhabitants got drunk with the wine of her immorality.” 3 So he carried me away in the Spirit to a desert, and there I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. 4 Now the woman was dressed in purple and scarlet clothing, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup filled with detestable things and unclean things from her sexual immorality. 5 On her forehead was written a name, a mystery: “Babylon the Great, the Mother of prostitutes and of the detestable things of the Earth .” 6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of those who testified to Lifesaviour. I was greatly astounded when I saw her. 7 But the messenger said to me, “Why are you astounded? I’ll interpret for you the mystery of the woman and of the beast with the seven heads and ten horns that carries her. 8 The beast you saw was, and is not, but is about to come up from the abyss and then go to destruction. The inhabitants of the Earth – all those whose names have not been written in life since the foundation of the world – will be astounded when they see that the beast was, and is not, but is to come. 9 (This requires a mind that has wisdom.) The seven heads are seven mountains the woman sits on. They are also seven kings: 10 five have fallen; one is, and the other has not yet come, but whenever he does come, he must remain for only a brief time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself an eighth king and yet is one of the seven, and is going to destruction. 12 The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a reign, but will receive ruling authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13 These kings have a single intent, and they’ll give their power and authority to the beast. 14 They’ll make war with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those accompanying the Lamb are the called, Designated, and faithful.” 15 Then the messenger said to me, “The waters you saw (where the prostitute is seated) are peoples, multitudes, nationalities, and languages. 16 The ten horns that you saw, and the beast – these will hate the prostitute and make her desolate and naked. They’ll consume her flesh and burn her up with fire. 17 For Supermights has put into their minds to carry out his purpose by making a decision to give their royal power to the beast until the words of Supermights are fulfilled. 18 As for the woman you saw, she is the great city that has sovereignty over the kings of the Earth .”

Revelation 18

1 After these things I saw another messenger , who possessed great authority, coming down out of Heaven, and the Earth was lit up by his radiance. 2 He shouted with a powerful voice: “Fallen, fallen, is Babylon the great! She has become a lair for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detested beast. 3 ​​​​​​​For all the nationalities have fallen from the wine of her immoral passion, and the kings of the Earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the Earth have gotten rich from the power of her sensual behavior.” 4 Then I heard another voice from Heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, so you’ll not take part in her sins and so you’ll not receive her plagues, 5 because her sins have piled up all the way to Heaven and Supermights has remembered her crimes. 6 Repay her the same way she repaid others; pay her back double corresponding to her deeds. In the cup she mixed, mix double the amount for her. 7 As much as she exalted herself and lived in sensual luxury, to this extent give her torment and grief because she said to herself, ‘I rule as queen and am no widow; I’ll never experience grief!’ 8 For this reason, she’ll experience her plagues in a single day: disease, mourning, and drought, and she’ll be burned down with fire, because Lifegiver the Supermights who judges her is powerful!” 9 Then the kings of the Earth who committed immoral acts with her and lived in sensual luxury with her will weep and wail for her when they see the smoke from the fire that burns her up. 10 They’ll stand a long way off because they are afraid of her torment, and will say, “Woe, woe, O great city, Babylon the powerful city! For in a single hour your doom has come!” 11 Then the merchants of the Earth will weep and mourn for her because no one buys their cargo any longer – 12 cargo such as gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all sorts of things made of citron wood, all sorts of objects made of ivory, all sorts of things made of expensive wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon, spice, incense, perfumed ointment, frankincense, wine, olive oil and costly flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and four-wheeled carriages, slaves and human lives. 14 ​​​​​​​(The ripe fruit you greatly desired has gone from you, and all your luxury and splendor have gone from you – they’ll never ever be found again!) 15 The merchants who sold these things, who got rich from her, will stand a long way off because they are afraid of her torment. They’ll weep and mourn, 16 saying, “Woe, woe, O great city – dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet clothing, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls – 17 ​​​​​​​because in a single hour such great wealth has been destroyed!” And every ship’s captain, and all who sail along the coast – seamen, and all who make their living from the sea, stood a long way off 18 and began to shout when they saw the smoke from the fire that burned her up, “Who is like the great city?” 19 And they threw dust on their heads and were shouting with weeping and mourning, “Woe, Woe, O great city – in which all those who had ships on the sea got rich from her wealth – because in a single hour she has been destroyed!” 20 ​​​​​​​(Rejoice over her, O Heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for Supermights has pronounced judgment against her on your behalf!) 21 Then one powerful messenger picked up a stone like a huge millstone, threw it into the sea, and said, “With this kind of sudden violent force Babylon the great city will be thrown down and it will never be found again! 22 ​​​​​​​And the sound of the harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again. No craftsman who practices any trade will ever be found in you again; the noise of a mill will never be heard in you again. 23 ​​​​​​​Even the light from a lamp will never shine in you again! The voices of the bridegroom and his bride will never be heard in you again. For your merchants were the tycoons of the world, because all the nationalities were deceived by your magic spells! 24 ​​​​​​​The blood of the saints and prophets was found in her, along with the blood of all those who had been killed on the Earth .”

Revelation 19

1 After these things I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a vast throng in Heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our Supermights , 2 ​​​​​​​because his judgments are true and just. For he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the Earth with her sexual immorality, and has avenged the blood of his servants poured out by her own hands!” 3 Then a second time the crowd shouted, “Hallelujah!” The smoke rises from her forever and ever. 4 The twenty-four seniors and the four living creatures threw themselves to the ground and worshiped Supermights , who was seated on the throne, saying: “Amen! Hallelujah!” 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our Supermights all you his servants, and all you who fear Him, both the small and the great!” 6 Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a vast throng, like the roar of many waters and like loud crashes of thunder. They were shouting: “Hallelujah! For Lifegiver our Supermights , the All-Powerful, reigns! 7 ​​​​​​​Let us rejoice and exult and give him glory, because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 ​​​​​​​She was permitted to be dressed in bright, clean, fine linen” (for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints). 9 Then the messenger said to me, “Write the following: Blessed are those who are invited to the banquet at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!” He also said to me, “These are the true words of Supermights.” 10 So I threw myself down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “Do not do this! I’m only a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony about Lifesaviour. Worship Supermights , for the testimony about Lifesaviour is the spirit of prophecy.” 11 Then I saw Heaven opened and here came a white horse! The one riding it was called “Faithful” and “True,” and with justice he judges and goes to war. 12 His eyes are like a fiery flame and there are many diadem crowns on his head. He has a name written that no one knows except himself. 13 He is dressed in clothing dipped in blood, and he is called the Word of Supermights. 14 The armies that are in Heaven, dressed in white, clean, fine linen, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth extends a sharp sword, so that with it he can strike the nationalities. he’ll rule them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the furious wrath of Supermights , the All-Powerful. 16 He has a name written on his clothing and on his thigh: “King of kings and Lord of lords.” 17 Then I saw one messenger standing in the sun, and he shouted in a loud voice to all the birds flying high in the sky: “Come, gather around for the great banquet of Supermights , 18 ​​​​​​​to eat your fill of the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of powerful people, the flesh of horses and those who ride them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slave, and small and great!” 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the Earth and their armies assembled to do battle with the one who rode the horse and with his army. 20 Now the beast was seized, and along with him the false prophet who had performed the signs on his behalf – signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire burning with sulfur. 21 The others were killed by the sword that extended from the mouth of the one who rode the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves with their flesh.

Revelation 20

1 Then I saw a messenger descending from Heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a huge chain. 2 He seized the dragon – the ancient serpent, who is the dbad and Satan – and tied him up for a thousand years. 3 The messenger then threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it so that he could not deceive the nationalities until the one thousand years were finished. (After these things he must be released for a brief period of time.) 4 Then I saw thrones and seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony about Lifesaviour and because of the word of Supermights. These had not worshiped the beast or his image and had refused to receive his mark on their forehead or hand. They came to life and reigned with the Designated for a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were finished.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and sacred is the one who takes part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they’ll be priests of Supermights and of the Designated, and they’ll reign with him for a thousand years. 7 Now when the thousand years are finished, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nationalities at the four corners of the Earth , Gog and Magog, to bring them together for the battle. They are as numerous as the grains of sand in the sea. 9 They went up on the broad plain of the Earth and encircled the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from Heaven and devoured them completely. 10 And the dbad who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are too, and they’ll be tormented there day and night forever and ever. 11 Then I saw a large white throne and the one who was seated on it; the Earth and the Heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne. Then books were opened, and another book was opened – life. So the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each one was judged according to his deeds. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death – the lake of fire. 15 If anyone’s name was not found written in life, that person was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21

1 Then I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth because the first Heaven and the first Earth had ceased to exist, and the sea existed no more. 2 Then I saw the sacred city – the new Jerusalem – descending from Heaven from Supermights, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. 3 Then I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Look! Supermights’ The residence is among humanity. He’ll live with them, and they’ll be his people, and Supermights himself will be with them. 4 He’ll wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist anymore – or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the previous things have ceased to exist.” 5 And the one seated on the throne said: “Look! I’m making all things new!” Then he said to me, “Write it down, because these words are reliable and true.” 6 He also said to me, “It is done! I’m the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who is thirsty I’ll give water free of charge from the spring of the water of life. 7 The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I’ll be his Supermights and he’ll be my son. 8 But to the cowards, unbelievers, detestable persons, murderers, the sexually immoral, and those who practice magic spells, idol worshipers, and all those who lie, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. That is the second death.” 9 Then one of the seven messenger s who had the seven bowls full of the seven final plagues came and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I’ll show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb!” 10 So he took me away in the Spirit to a huge, majestic mountain and showed me the sacred city, Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from Supermights. 11 The city possesses the glory of Supermights ; its brilliance is like a precious jewel, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It has a massive, high wall with twelve gates, with twelve messenger s at the gates, and the names of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel are written on the gates. 13 There are three gates on the east side, three gates on the north side, three gates on the south side and three gates on the west side. 14 The wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 The messenger who spoke to me had a golden measuring rod with which to measure the city and its foundation stones and wall. 16 Now the city is laid out as a square, its length and width the same. He measured the city with the measuring rod at fourteen hundred miles (its length and width and height are equal). 17 He also measured its wall, one hundred fourty-four cubits according to human measurement, which is also the messenger ’s. 18 The city’s wall is made of jasper and the city is pure gold, like transparent glass. 19 The foundations of the city’s wall are decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates are twelve pearls – each one of the gates is made from just one pearl! The main street of the city is pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 Now I saw no temple in the city, because Lifegiver the Supermights – the All-Powerful – and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of Supermights lights it up, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nationalities will walk by its light and the kings of the Earth will bring their grandeur into it. 25 Its gates will never be closed during the day (and there will be no night there). 26 They’ll bring the grandeur and the wealth of the nationalities into it, 27 but nothing ritually unclean will ever enter into it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or practices falsehood, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Revelation 22

1 Then the messenger showed me the river of the water of life – water as clear as crystal – pouring out from the throne of Supermights and of the Lamb, 2 flowing down the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month of the year. Its leaves are for the healing of the nationalities. 3 And there will no longer be any curse, and the throne of Supermights and the Lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him, 4 and they’ll see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 Night will be no more, and they’ll not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because Lifegiver the Supermights will shine on them, and they’ll reign forever and ever. 6 Then the messenger said to me, “These words are reliable and true. Lifegiver, the Supermights of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his messenger to show his servants what must happen soon.” 7 ​​​​​​​(Look! I’m coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy expressed in this book.) 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things, and when I heard and saw them, I threw myself down to worship at the feet of the messenger who was showing them to me. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do this! I’m a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets, and with those who obey the words of this book. Worship Supermights !” 10 Then he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy contained in this book, because the time is near. 11 The evildoer must continue to do evil, and the one who is morally filthy must continue to be filthy. The one who is righteous must continue to act righteously, and the one who is sacred must continue to be holy.” 12 ​​​​​​​(Look! I’m coming soon, and my reward is with me to pay each one according to what he has done! 13 ​​​​​​​I’m the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end!) 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can have access to the tree of life and can enter into the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the sexually immoral, and the murderers, and the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood! 16 “I, Lifesaviour, have sent my messenger to testify to you about these things for the churches. I’m the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star!” 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say: “Come!” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wants it take the water of life free of charge. 18 I testify to the one who hears the words of the prophecy contained in this book: If anyone adds to them, Supermights will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, Supermights will take away his share in the tree of life and in the sacred city that are described in this book. 20 The one who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I’m coming soon!” Amen! Come, Lord Lifesaviour! 21 The grace of Lifegiver Lifesaviour be with all.