### Ezekiel

## Chapter 31

1It was in the 11th year (on the 1st day of the 3rd month) that the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 2‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Ask this of PharaOh (Egypt’s king) and his armies:  
  
 ‘When it comes to being high minded,  
 Who else is equal to you?  
  
 3‘{Look!} Assyria is like Lebanon’s cypress,  
 Since it had many dense branches.  
 It was also protected and stood very tall…  
 Amidst the clouds, stood its top.  
 4By waters from the deep, it was nourished,  
 And as a result, it grew mighty.  
  
 ‘To the plants around him, a river was led…  
 She poured her waters on the trees in his fields,  
 5And because of this, he grew even greater  
 Than all the other trees on the earth.  
  
 ‘He had more branches and much taller shoots,  
 And over many waters, he stretched.  
 6Among his boughs sat the birds of the skies;  
 Beneath his limbs bred the beasts of the plains;  
 And many nations dwelled in his shadow.  
  
 7‘He became great in his height  
 Because of his tender branches,  
 And his long roots that reached down to the water.  
  
 8‘In the Paradise God, none others were like him…  
 No pines could be compared to his shoots;  
 No firs had branches like his;  
 And there in God’s paradise,  
 None others could be compared to his beauty.  
  
 9‘I’m the one who made him so great  
 And gave him all his tender branches.  
 So the rest of the trees in My paradise  
 Soon became jealous of him…  
 Yes the rest of the trees in that garden,  
 Which was the delight of [Jehovah].  
  
 10‘But because of this,’ said the Lord…  
 ‘Because he grew to such greatness  
 And put his tops high in the clouds  
 As he lifted his heart to the heights;  
 11I gave him to those who rule other nations,  
 And they brought about his destruction.  
  
 12‘By strangers, he was cut to the ground…  
 Yes, pestilent ones from the nations  
 Threw him down on the mountains,  
 And in the ravines, fell his branches,  
 As his [wood was strewn] ‘cross the plains.  
  
 ‘He had fallen from his lofty position  
 As the protector of all of his people…  
 All the nations cut him down to the ground.  
  
 13‘So that one among which the birds of the skies  
 Had once found places to rest  
 And under whose branches the beasts had once lived,  
 Has now been cut to the ground.  
  
 14‘So the trees next to him lost their greatness,  
 Those trees that stood by his water,  
 And no longer put their tops in the clouds…  
 Those with whom he once had shared water  
 Couldn’t stand as tall after that.  
  
 ‘So they were all handed to death  
 And went into the depths of the ground…  
 Like sons of men, they went down to the pit.  
  
 15‘And thus says Jehovah, the Lord:  
  
 ‘In that day, he went down to the place of the dead,  
 And in the abyss, he was mourned.  
  
 ‘Then I took control of the river  
 And withheld its abundance of water.  
 Lebanon then shadowed above him,  
 And all the trees of the plains became weak.  
  
 16‘From the sound of his downfall, the nations all shook  
 When I brought him down to the place of the dead,  
 Along with those who went into the pit.  
  
 ‘And there in the bowels of the earth,  
 All the earth’s trees offered comfort…  
 All the select and best trees…  
 Those choice ones of Lebanon that once shared his water.  
  
 17‘But with him, they too went into the grave;  
 For, they were also slain by the sword.  
 And the offspring of those whom he sheltered  
 Were destroyed in the middle of their lives.  
  
 18‘So to whom can you liken such power,  
 As well as the glory and greatness  
 Among all the choicest of trees?  
  
 ‘He went down with the choicest of trees  
 Into the depths of the ground,  
 Where he sleeps among the uncircumcised;  
 Among those who were slain by the sword…  
 And this is what will happen to PharaOh,  
 As well as to all his friends,’ said Jehovah.’