

²⁷Therefore those who speak in proverbs say: "Come to Heshbon, let it be built; Let the city of Sihon be repaired.

²⁸"For fire went out from Heshbon, A flame from the city of Sihon; It consumed Ar of Moab, The lords of the heights of the Arnon.

²⁹Woe to you, Moab! You have perished, O people of Chemosh! He has given his sons as fugitives, And his daughters into captivity, To Sihon king of the Amorites.

³⁰"But we have shot at them; Heshbon has perished as far as Dibon. Then we laid waste as far as Nophah, Which reaches to Medeba."

³¹Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites.

³²Then Moses sent to spy out Jazer; and they took its villages and drove out the Amorites who were there.

³³And they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. So Og king of Bashan went out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

³⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Do not fear him, for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon."

³⁵So they defeated him, his sons, and all his people, until there was no survivor left him; and they took possession of his land.

22

Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.

²Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

³And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel.

⁴So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

⁵Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me!

⁶Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

⁷So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak.

⁸And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

⁹Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"

¹⁰So Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying,

¹¹"Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out."

¹²And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

¹³So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you."

¹⁴And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."

¹⁵Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they.

¹⁶And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: "Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me;

¹⁷for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me.

Therefore please come, curse this people for me."

¹⁸Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

¹⁹Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me."

²⁰And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you--that you shall do."

²¹So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

²²Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

²³Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road.

²⁴Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

²⁵And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again.

²⁶Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

²⁷And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

²⁸Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

²⁹And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

³⁰So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

³¹Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

³²And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come

out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me.

³³The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

³⁴And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

³⁵Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

³⁶Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory.

³⁷Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?"

³⁸And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak."

³⁹So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth.

⁴⁰Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent some to Balaam and to the princes who were with him.

⁴¹So it was, the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.

23 Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams."

²And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

³Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you." So he went to a desolate height.

⁴And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, "I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram."

⁵Then the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak."

⁶So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab.

⁷And he took up his oracle and said: "Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the

east. "Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!"

⁸"How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?

⁹For from the top of the rocks I see him, And from the hills I behold him; There! A people dwelling alone, Not reckoning itself among the nations.

¹⁰"Who can count the dust of Jacob, Or number one-fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my end be like his!"

¹¹Then Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed them bountifully!"

¹²So he answered and said, "Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?"

¹³Then Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there."

¹⁴So he brought him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

¹⁵And he said to Balak, "Stand here by your burnt offering while I meet the LORD over there."

¹⁶Then the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, "Go back to Balak, and thus you shall speak."

¹⁷So he came to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, "What has the LORD spoken?"

¹⁸Then he took up his oracle and said: "Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Zippor!"

¹⁹"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

²⁰Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.

²¹"He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The LORD his God is with him, And the shout of a King is among them.

²²God brings them out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox.

²³"For there is no sorcery against Jacob, Nor any divination against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob And of Israel, "Oh, what God has done!"

²⁴Look, a people rises like a lioness, And lifts itself up like a lion; It shall not lie down until it devours the prey, And drinks the blood of the slain."

²⁵Then Balak said to Balaam, "Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!"

²⁶So Balaam answered and said to Balak, "Did I not tell you, saying, "All that the LORD speaks, that I must do'?"

²⁷Then Balak said to Balaam, "Please come, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there."

²⁸So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, that overlooks the wasteland.

²⁹Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams."

³⁰And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on every altar.

24 Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery, but he set his face toward the wilderness.

²And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him.

³Then he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened,

⁴The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of

the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

⁵"How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel!

⁶Like valleys that stretch out, Like gardens by the riverside, Like aloes planted by the LORD, Like cedars beside the waters.

⁷He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. "His king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted.

⁸"God brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox; He shall consume the nations, his enemies; He shall break their bones And pierce them with his arrows.

⁹"He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?" "Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you."

¹⁰Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times!

¹¹Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the LORD has kept you back from honor."

¹²So Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying,

¹³"If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD, to do good or bad of my own will. What the LORD says, that I must speak'?

¹⁴And now, indeed, I am going to my people. Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days."

¹⁵So he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;

¹⁶The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

¹⁷"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.

¹⁸"And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, While Israel does valiantly.

¹⁹Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, And destroy the remains of the city."

²⁰Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and said: "Amalek was first among the nations, But shall be last until he perishes."

²¹Then he looked on the Kenites, and he took up his oracle and said: "Firm is

your dwelling place, And your nest is set in the rock;

²²Nevertheless Kain shall be burned. How long until Asshur carries you away captive?"

²³Then he took up his oracle and said: "Alas! Who shall live when God does this?"

²⁴But ships shall come from the coasts of Cyprus, And they shall afflict Asshur and afflict Eber, And so shall Amalek, until he perishes."

²⁵So Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place; Balak also went his way.

25 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab.

²They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

³So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel."

⁵So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor."

⁶And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁷Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand;

⁸and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.

⁹And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁰Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹¹"Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.

¹²Therefore say, "Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace;

¹³and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel."

¹⁴Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite

woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father's house among the Simeonites.

¹⁵And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a father's house in Midian.

¹⁶Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹⁷"Harass the Midianites, and attack them;

¹⁸for they harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Peor and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Peor."

26And it came to pass, after the plague, that the LORD spoke to Moses and Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying:

²"Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel from twenty years old and above, by their fathers' houses, all who are able to go to war in Israel."

³So Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying:

⁴"Take a census of the people from twenty years old and above, just as the LORD commanded Moses and the children of Israel who came out of the land of Egypt."

⁵Reuben was the firstborn of Israel. The children of Reuben were: of Hanoch, the family of the Hanochites; of Pallu, the family of the Palluites;

⁶of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the family of the Carmites.

⁷These are the families of the Reubenites: those who were numbered of them were forty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty.

⁸And the son of Pallu was Eliab.

⁹The sons of Eliab were Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These are the Dathan and Abiram, representatives of the congregation, who contended against Moses and Aaron in the company of Korah, when they contended against the LORD;

¹⁰and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah when that company died, when the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men; and they became a sign.

¹¹Nevertheless the children of Korah did not die.

¹²The sons of Simeon according to their families were: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites;

¹³of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites; of Shaul, the family of the Shaulites.

¹⁴These are the families of the Simeonites: twenty-two thousand two hundred.

¹⁵The sons of Gad according to their families were: of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the family of the Haggites; of Shuni, the family of the Shunites;

¹⁶of Ozni, the family of the Oznites; of Eri, the family of the Erites;

¹⁷of Arod, the family of the Arodites; of Areli, the family of the Arelites.

¹⁸These are the families of the sons of Gad according to those who were numbered of them: forty thousand five hundred.

¹⁹The sons of Judah were Er and Onan; and Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.

²⁰And the sons of Judah according to their families were: of Shelah, the family of the Shelanites; of Perez, the family of the Parzites; of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites.

²¹And the sons of Perez were: of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites.

²²These are the families of Judah according to those who were numbered of them: seventy-six thousand five hundred.

²³The sons of Issachar according to their families were: of Tola, the family of the

Tolaites; of Puah, the family of the Punites;

²⁴of Jashub, the family of the Jashubites; of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites.

²⁵These are the families of Issachar according to those who were numbered of them: sixty-four thousand three hundred.

²⁶The sons of Zebulun according to their families were: of Sered, the family of the Sardites; of Elon, the family of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites.

²⁷These are the families of the Zebulunites according to those who were numbered of them: sixty thousand five hundred.

²⁸The sons of Joseph according to their families, by Manasseh and Ephraim, were:

²⁹The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites; and Machir begot Gilead; of Gilead, the family of the Gileadites.

³⁰These are the sons of Gilead: of Jeezer, the family of the Jeezerites; of Helek, the family of the Helekites;

³¹of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites; of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites;

³²of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites; of Hephher, the family of the Hephherites.

³³Now Zelophehad the son of Hephher had no sons, but daughters; and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

³⁴These are the families of Manasseh; and those who were numbered of them were fifty-two thousand seven hundred.

³⁵These are the sons of Ephraim according to their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthalhites; of Becher, the family of the Bachrites; of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites.

³⁶And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

³⁷These are the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those who were numbered of them: thirty-two thousand five hundred. These are the sons of Joseph according to their families.

³⁸The sons of Benjamin according to their families were: of Bela, the family of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites;

³⁹of Shupham, the family of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the family of the Huphamites.

⁴⁰And the sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: of Ard, the family of the Ardites; of Naaman, the family of the Naamites.

⁴¹These are the sons of Benjamin according to their families; and those

who were numbered of them were forty-five thousand six hundred.

⁴²These are the sons of Dan according to their families: of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan according to their families.

⁴³All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those who were numbered of them, were sixty-four thousand four hundred.

⁴⁴The sons of Asher according to their families were: of Jimna, the family of the Jimnites; of Jesui, the family of the Jesuites; of Beriah, the family of the Beriites.

⁴⁵Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the family of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the family of the Malchielites.

⁴⁶And the name of the daughter of Asher was Serah.

⁴⁷These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those who were numbered of them: fifty-three thousand four hundred.

⁴⁸The sons of Naphtali according to their families were: of Jahzeel, the family of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the family of the Gunites;

⁴⁹of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites; of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites.

⁵⁰These are the families of Naphtali according to their families; and those

who were numbered of them were forty-five thousand four hundred.

⁵¹These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel: six hundred and one thousand seven hundred and thirty.

⁵²Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁵³"To these the land shall be divided as an inheritance, according to the number of names.

⁵⁴To a large tribe you shall give a larger inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a smaller inheritance. Each shall be given its inheritance according to those who were numbered of them.

⁵⁵But the land shall be divided by lot; they shall inherit according to the names of the tribes of their fathers.

⁵⁶According to the lot their inheritance shall be divided between the larger and the smaller."

⁵⁷And these are those who were numbered of the Levites according to their families: of Gershon, the family of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the family of the Kohathites; of Merari, the family of the Merarites.

⁵⁸These 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, and the family of the Korathites. And Kohath begot Amram.

⁵⁹The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; and to Amram she bore Aaron and Moses and their sister Miriam.

⁶⁰To Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

⁶¹And Nadab and Abihu died when they offered profane fire before the LORD.

⁶²Now those who were numbered of them were twenty-three thousand, every male from a month old and above; for they were not numbered among the other children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given to them among the children of Israel.

⁶³These are those who were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

⁶⁴But among these there was not a man of those who were numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they numbered the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Sinai.

⁶⁵For the LORD had said of them, "They shall surely die in the wilderness." So there was not left a man of them, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

27 Then came the daughters of Zelophehad the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, from the families of

Manasseh the son of Joseph; and these were the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

²And they stood before Moses, before Eleazar the priest, and before the leaders and all the congregation, by the doorway of the tabernacle of meeting, saying:

³"Our father died in the wilderness; but he was not in the company of those who gathered together against the LORD, in company with Korah, but he died in his own sin; and he had no sons.

⁴"Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers."

⁵So Moses brought their case before the LORD.

⁶And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁷"The daughters of Zelophehad speak what is right; you shall surely give them a possession of inheritance among their father's brothers, and cause the inheritance of their father to pass to them.

⁸And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: "If a man dies and has no son, then you shall cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter.

⁹If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.

¹⁰If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

¹¹And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the relative closest to him in his family, and he shall possess it." And it shall be to the children of Israel a statute of judgment, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹²Now the LORD said to Moses: "Go up into this Mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the children of Israel.

¹³And when you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was gathered.

¹⁴For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes." (These are the waters of Meribah, at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.)

¹⁵Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying:

¹⁶"Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation,

¹⁷who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

¹⁸And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man

in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

¹⁹set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight.

²⁰And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

²¹He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him--all the congregation."

²²So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation.

²³And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

28Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²"Command the children of Israel, and say to them, "My offering, My food for My offerings made by fire as a sweet aroma to Me, you shall be careful to offer to Me at their appointed time.'

³"And you shall say to them, "This is the offering made by fire which you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs in

their first year without blemish, day by day, as a regular burnt offering.

⁴The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, the other lamb you shall offer in the evening,

⁵and one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil.

⁶It is a regular burnt offering which was ordained at Mount Sinai for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

⁷And its drink offering shall be one-fourth of a hin for each lamb; in a holy place you shall pour out the drink to the LORD as an offering.

⁸The other lamb you shall offer in the evening; as the morning grain offering and its drink offering, you shall offer it as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

⁹"And on the Sabbath day two lambs in their first year, without blemish, and two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, with its drink offering--

¹⁰this is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering with its drink offering.

¹¹"At the beginnings of your months you shall present a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish;

¹²three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, for each bull; two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, for the one ram;

¹³and one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with oil, as a grain offering for each lamb, as a burnt offering of sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

¹⁴Their drink offering shall be half a hin of wine for a bull, one-third of a hin for a ram, and one-fourth of a hin for a lamb; this is the burnt offering for each month throughout the months of the year.

¹⁵Also one kid of the goats as a sin offering to the LORD shall be offered, besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

¹⁶"On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD.

¹⁷And on the fifteenth day of this month is the feast; unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days.

¹⁸On the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

¹⁹And you shall present an offering made by fire as a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year. Be sure they are without blemish.

²⁰Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an

ephah you shall offer for a bull, and two-tenths for a ram;

²¹you shall offer one-tenth of an ephah for each of the seven lambs;

²²also one goat as a sin offering, to make atonement for you.

²³You shall offer these besides the burnt offering of the morning, which is for a regular burnt offering.

²⁴In this manner you shall offer the food of the offering made by fire daily for seven days, as a sweet aroma to the LORD; it shall be offered besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

²⁵And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

²⁶"Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the LORD at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

²⁷You shall present a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year,

²⁸with their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for each bull, two-tenths for the one ram,

²⁹and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs;

³⁰also one kid of the goats, to make atonement for you.

³¹Be sure they are without blemish. You shall present them with their drink offerings, besides the regular burnt offering with its grain offering.

29"And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets.

²You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish.

³Their grain offering shall be fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram,

⁴and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs;

⁵also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, to make atonement for you;

⁶besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the New Moon, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

⁷"On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall afflict your souls; you shall not do any work.

⁸You shall present a burnt offering to the LORD as a sweet aroma: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year. Be sure they are without blemish.

⁹Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the one ram,

¹⁰and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs;

¹¹also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the sin offering for atonement, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings.]

¹²"On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work, and you shall keep a feast to the LORD seven days.

¹³You shall present a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a sweet aroma to the LORD: thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year. They shall be without blemish.

¹⁴Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for each of the thirteen bulls, two-tenths for each of the two rams,

¹⁵and one-tenth for each of the fourteen lambs;

¹⁶also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

¹⁷"On the second day present twelve young bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

¹⁸and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

¹⁹also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings.

²⁰"On the third day present eleven bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

²¹and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

²²also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

²³"On the fourth day present ten bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year, without blemish,

²⁴and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

²⁵also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

²⁶"On the fifth day present nine bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

²⁷and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

²⁸also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

²⁹"On the sixth day present eight bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

³⁰and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

³¹also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³²"On the seventh day present seven bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

³³and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

³⁴also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³⁵"On the eighth day you shall have a sacred assembly. You shall do no customary work.

³⁶You shall present a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a sweet aroma to the LORD: one bull, one ram, seven lambs in their first year without blemish,

³⁷and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

³⁸also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³⁹"These you shall present to the LORD at your appointed feasts (besides your vowed offerings and your freewill offerings) as your burnt offerings and your grain offerings, as your drink offerings and your peace offerings."

⁴⁰So Moses told the children of Israel everything, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

30 Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded:

²If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

³"Or if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by some agreement while in her father's house in her youth,

⁴and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand.

⁵But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will release her, because her father overruled her.

⁶"If indeed she takes a husband, while bound by her vows or by a rash utterance from her lips by which she bound herself,

⁷and her husband hears it, and makes no response to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her agreements by which she bound herself shall stand.

⁸But if her husband overrules her on the day that he hears it, he shall make void her vow which she took and what she uttered with her lips, by which she bound herself, and the LORD will release her.

⁹"Also any vow of a widow or a divorced woman, by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her.

¹⁰"If she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an agreement with an oath,

¹¹and her husband heard it, and made no response to her and did not overrule her, then all her vows shall stand, and

every agreement by which she bound herself shall stand.

¹²But if her husband truly made them void on the day he heard them, then whatever proceeded from her lips concerning her vows or concerning the agreement binding her, it shall not stand; her husband has made them void, and the LORD will release her.

¹³Every vow and every binding oath to afflict her soul, her husband may confirm it, or her husband may make it void.

¹⁴Now if her husband makes no response whatever to her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all the agreements that bind her; he confirms them, because he made no response to her on the day that he heard them.

¹⁵But if he does make them void after he has heard them, then he shall bear her guilt."

¹⁶These are the statutes which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, and between a father and his daughter in her youth in her father's house.

31 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²"Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people."

³So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian.

⁴A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war."

⁵So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

⁶Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand.

⁷And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males.

⁸They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed--Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.

⁹And the children of Israel took the women of Midian captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their cattle, all their flocks, and all their goods.

¹⁰They also burned with fire all the cities where they dwelt, and all their forts.

¹¹And they took all the spoil and all the booty--of man and beast.

¹²Then they brought the captives, the booty, and the spoil to Moses, to

Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of the children of Israel, to the camp in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

¹³And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp.

¹⁴But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, with the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, who had come from the battle.

¹⁵And Moses said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive?

¹⁶Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

¹⁷Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately.

¹⁸But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately.

¹⁹And as for you, remain outside the camp seven days; whoever has killed any person, and whoever has touched any slain, purify yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day.

²⁰Purify every garment, everything made of leather, everything woven of goats' hair, and everything made of wood."

²¹Then Eleazar the priest said to the men of war who had gone to the battle, "This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD commanded Moses:

²²"Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead,

²³everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the fire, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified with the water of purification. But all that cannot endure fire you shall put through water.

²⁴And you shall wash your clothes on the seventh day and be clean, and afterward you may come into the camp."

²⁵Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²⁶"Count up the plunder that was taken--of man and beast--you and Eleazar the priest and the chief fathers of the congregation;

²⁷and divide the plunder into two parts, between those who took part in the war, who went out to battle, and all the congregation.

²⁸And levy a tribute for the LORD on the men of war who went out to battle: one of every five hundred of the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep;

²⁹take it from their half, and give it to Eleazar the priest as a heave offering to the LORD.

³⁰And from the children of Israel's half you shall take one of every fifty, drawn from the persons, the cattle, the

donkeys, and the sheep, from all the livestock, and give them to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle of the LORD."

³¹So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

³²The booty remaining from the plunder, which the men of war had taken, was six hundred and seventy-five thousand sheep,

³³seventy-two thousand cattle,

³⁴sixty-one thousand donkeys,

³⁵and thirty-two thousand persons in all, of women who had not known a man intimately.

³⁶And the half, the portion for those who had gone out to war, was in number three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep;

³⁷and the LORD's tribute of the sheep was six hundred and seventy-five.

³⁸The cattle were thirty-six thousand, of which the LORD's tribute was seventy-two.

³⁹The donkeys were thirty thousand five hundred, of which the LORD's tribute was sixty-one.

⁴⁰The persons were sixteen thousand, of which the LORD's tribute was thirty-two persons.

⁴¹So Moses gave the tribute which was the LORD's heave offering to Eleazar

the priest, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴²And from the children of Israel's half, which Moses separated from the men who fought--

⁴³now the half belonging to the congregation was three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep,

⁴⁴thirty-six thousand cattle,

⁴⁵thirty thousand five hundred donkeys,

⁴⁶and sixteen thousand persons--

⁴⁷and from the children of Israel's half Moses took one of every fifty, drawn from man and beast, and gave them to the Levites, who kept charge of the tabernacle of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴⁸Then the officers who were over thousands of the army, the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, came near to Moses;

⁴⁹and they said to Moses, "Your servants have taken a count of the men of war who are under our command, and not a man of us is missing.

⁵⁰Therefore we have brought an offering for the LORD, what every man found of ornaments of gold: armlets and bracelets and signet rings and earrings and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD."

⁵¹So Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from them, all the fashioned ornaments.

⁵²And all the gold of the offering that they offered to the LORD, from the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels.

⁵³(The men of war had taken spoil, every man for himself.)

⁵⁴And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of meeting as a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD.

32 Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of livestock; and when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that indeed the region was a place for livestock,

²the children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying,

³"Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Shebam, Nebo, and Beon,

⁴the country which the LORD defeated before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock."

⁵Therefore they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan."

⁶And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben: "Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here?

⁷Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD has given them?

⁸Thus your fathers did when I sent them away from Kadesh Barnea to see the land.

⁹For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, so that they did not go into the land which the LORD had given them.

¹⁰So the LORD's anger was aroused on that day, and He swore an oath, saying,

¹¹"Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they have not wholly followed Me,

¹²except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.'

¹³So the LORD's anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years,

until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone.

¹⁴And look! You have risen in your fathers' place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the LORD against Israel.

¹⁵For if you turn away from following Him, He will once again leave them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all these people."

¹⁶Then they came near to him and said: "We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones,

¹⁷but we ourselves will be armed, ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place; and our little ones will dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land.

¹⁸We will not return to our homes until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance.

¹⁹For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has fallen to us on this eastern side of the Jordan."

²⁰Then Moses said to them: "If you do this thing, if you arm yourselves before the LORD for the war,

²¹and all your armed men cross over the Jordan before the LORD until He has driven out His enemies from before Him,

²²and the land is subdued before the LORD, then afterward you may return

and be blameless before the LORD and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.

²³But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

²⁴Build cities for your little ones and folds for your sheep, and do what has proceeded out of your mouth."

²⁵And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spoke to Moses, saying: "Your servants will do as my lord commands.

²⁶Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our livestock will be there in the cities of Gilead;

²⁷but your servants will cross over, every man armed for war, before the LORD to battle, just as my lord says."

²⁸So Moses gave command concerning them to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel.

²⁹And Moses said to them: "If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben cross over the Jordan with you, every man armed for battle before the LORD, and the land is subdued before you, then you shall give them the land of Gilead as a possession.

³⁰But if they do not cross over armed with you, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan."

³¹Then the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying: "As the LORD has said to your servants, so we will do.

³²We will cross over armed before the LORD into the land of Canaan, but the possession of our inheritance shall remain with us on this side of the Jordan."

³³So Moses gave to the children of Gad, to the children of Reuben, and to half the tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land with its cities within the borders, the cities of the surrounding country.

³⁴And the children of Gad built Dibon and Ataroth and Aroer,

³⁵Atroth and Shopan and Jazer and Jogbehah,

³⁶Beth Nimrah and Beth Haran, fortified cities, and folds for sheep.

³⁷And the children of Reuben built Heshbon and Elealeh and Kirjathaim,

³⁸Nebo and Baal Meon (their names being changed) and Shibmah; and they gave other names to the cities which they built.

³⁹And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead and took it, and dispossessed the Amorites who were in it.

⁴⁰So Moses gave Gilead to Machir the son of Manasseh, and he dwelt in it.

⁴¹Also Jair the son of Manasseh went and took its small towns, and called them Havoth Jair.

⁴²Then Nobah went and took Kenath and its villages, and he called it Nobah, after his own name.

33 These are the journeys of the children of Israel, who went out of the land of Egypt by their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron.

²Now Moses wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the command of the LORD. And these are their journeys according to their starting points:

³They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.

⁴For the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had killed among them. Also on their gods the LORD had executed judgments.

⁵Then the children of Israel moved from Rameses and camped at Succoth.

⁶They departed from Succoth and camped at Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness.

⁷They moved from Etham and turned back to Pi Hahiroth, which is east of Baal Zephon; and they camped near Migdol.

⁸They departed from before Hahiroth and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, went three days' journey in the Wilderness of Etham, and camped at Marah.

⁹They moved from Marah and came to Elim. At Elim were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there.

¹⁰They moved from Elim and camped by the Red Sea.

¹¹They moved from the Red Sea and camped in the Wilderness of Sin.

¹²They journeyed from the Wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah.

¹³They departed from Dophkah and camped at Alush.

¹⁴They moved from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

¹⁵They departed from Rephidim and camped in the Wilderness of Sinai.

¹⁶They moved from the Wilderness of Sinai and camped at Kibroth Hattaavah.

¹⁷They departed from Kibroth Hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.

¹⁸They departed from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

¹⁹They departed from Rithmah and camped at Rimmon Perez.

²⁰They departed from Rimmon Perez and camped at Libnah.

²¹They moved from Libnah and camped at Rissah.

²²They journeyed from Rissah and camped at Kehelathah.

²³They went from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher.

²⁴They moved from Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.

²⁵They moved from Haradah and camped at Makheloth.

²⁶They moved from Makheloth and camped at Tahath.

²⁷They departed from Tahath and camped at Terah.

²⁸They moved from Terah and camped at Mithkah.

²⁹They went from Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah.

³⁰They departed from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.

³¹They departed from Moseroth and camped at Bene Jaakan.

³²They moved from Bene Jaakan and camped at Hor Hagidgad.

³³They went from Hor Hagidgad and camped at Jotbathah.

³⁴They moved from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.

³⁵They departed from Abronah and camped at Ezion Geber.

³⁶They moved from Ezion Geber and camped in the Wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh.

³⁷They moved from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, on the boundary of the land of Edom.

³⁸Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the LORD, and died there in the fortieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, on the first day of the fifth month.

³⁹Aaron was one hundred and twenty-three years old when he died on Mount Hor.

⁴⁰Now the king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the children of Israel.

⁴¹So they departed from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.

⁴²They departed from Zalmonah and camped at Punon.

⁴³They departed from Punon and camped at Oboth.

⁴⁴They departed from Oboth and camped at Ije Abarim, at the border of Moab.

⁴⁵They departed from Ijim and camped at Dibon Gad.

⁴⁶They moved from Dibon Gad and camped at Almon Diblathaim.

⁴⁷They moved from Almon Diblathaim and camped in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo.

⁴⁸They departed from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

⁴⁹They camped by the Jordan, from Beth Jesimoth as far as the Abel Acacia Grove in the plains of Moab.

⁵⁰Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying,

⁵¹"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: "When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

⁵²then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places;

⁵³you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.

⁵⁴And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to

the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone's inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

⁵⁵But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.

⁵⁶Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them."

34Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²"Command the children of Israel, and say to them: "When you come into the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance--the land of Canaan to its boundaries.

³Your southern border shall be from the Wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom; then your southern border shall extend eastward to the end of the Salt Sea;

⁴your border shall turn from the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, continue to Zin, and be on the south of Kadesh Barnea; then it shall go on to Hazar Addar, and continue to Azmon;

⁵the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and it shall end at the Sea.

⁶"As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea for a border; this shall be your western border.

⁷"And this shall be your northern border: From the Great Sea you shall mark out your border line to Mount Hor;

⁸from Mount Hor you shall mark out your border to the entrance of Hamath; then the direction of the border shall be toward Zedad;

⁹the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and it shall end at Hazar Enan. This shall be your northern border.

¹⁰"You shall mark out your eastern border from Hazar Enan to Shepham;

¹¹the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain; the border shall go down and reach to the eastern side of the Sea of Chinnereth;

¹²the border shall go down along the Jordan, and it shall end at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land with its surrounding boundaries."

¹³Then Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying: "This is the land which you shall inherit by lot, which the LORD has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe.

¹⁴For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received their inheritance; and the

half-tribe of Manasseh has received its inheritance.

¹⁵The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance on this side of the Jordan, across from Jericho eastward, toward the sunrise."

¹⁶And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁷"These are the names of the men who shall divide the land among you as an inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun.

¹⁸And you shall take one leader of every tribe to divide the land for the inheritance.

¹⁹These are the names of the men: from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh;

²⁰from the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud;

²¹from the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon;

²²a leader from the tribe of the children of Dan, Bukki the son of Jogli;

²³from the sons of Joseph: a leader from the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod,

²⁴and a leader from the tribe of the children of Ephraim, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan;

²⁵a leader from the tribe of the children of Zebulun, Elizaphan the son of Parnach;

²⁶a leader from the tribe of the children of Issachar, Paltiel the son of Azzan;

²⁷a leader from the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of Shelomi;

²⁸and a leader from the tribe of the children of Naphtali, Pedahel the son of Ammihud."

²⁹These are the ones the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance among the children of Israel in the land of Canaan.

35 And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, saying:

²"Command the children of Israel that they give the Levites cities to dwell in from the inheritance of their possession, and you shall also give the Levites common-land around the cities.

³They shall have the cities to dwell in; and their common-land shall be for their cattle, for their herds, and for all their animals.

⁴The common-land of the cities which you will give the Levites shall extend from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits all around.

⁵And you shall measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits, on the south side two thousand cubits, on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits. The city shall be in the middle. This shall

belong to them as common-land for the cities.

⁶"Now among the cities which you will give to the Levites you shall appoint six cities of refuge, to which a manslayer may flee. And to these you shall add forty-two cities.

⁷So all the cities you will give to the Levites shall be forty-eight; these you shall give with their common-land.

⁸And the cities which you will give shall be from the possession of the children of Israel; from the larger tribe you shall give many, from the smaller you shall give few. Each shall give some of its cities to the Levites, in proportion to the inheritance that each receives."

⁹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁰"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: "When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

¹¹then you shall appoint cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee there.

¹²They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment.

¹³And of the cities which you give, you shall have six cities of refuge.

¹⁴You shall appoint three cities on this side of the Jordan, and three cities you

shall appoint in the land of Canaan, which will be cities of refuge.

¹⁵These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there.

¹⁶"But if he strikes him with an iron implement, so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

¹⁷And if he strikes him with a stone in the hand, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

¹⁸Or if he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

¹⁹The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.

²⁰If he pushes him out of hatred or, while lying in wait, hurls something at him so that he dies,

²¹or in enmity he strikes him with his hand so that he dies, the one who struck him shall surely be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.

²²"However, if he pushes him suddenly without enmity, or throws anything at him without lying in wait,

²³or uses a stone, by which a man could die, throwing it at him without seeing him, so that he dies, while he was not his enemy or seeking his harm,

²⁴then the congregation shall judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood according to these judgments.

²⁵So the congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall return him to the city of refuge where he had fled, and he shall remain there until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

²⁶But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled,

²⁷and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood,

²⁸because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.

²⁹"And these things shall be a statute of judgment to you throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

³⁰Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not sufficient testimony against a person for the death penalty.

³¹Moreover you shall take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.

³²And you shall take no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the priest.

³³So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.

³⁴Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel."

36 Now the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near and spoke before Moses and before the leaders, the chief fathers of the children of Israel.

²And they said: "The LORD commanded my lord Moses to give the land as an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.

³Now if they are married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then their inheritance will be taken from the inheritance of our fathers, and it will be added to the inheritance of

the tribe into which they marry; so it will be taken from the lot of our inheritance.

⁴And when the Jubilee of the children of Israel comes, then 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 the tribe of our fathers."

⁵Then Moses commanded the children of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying: "What the tribe of the sons of Joseph speaks is right.

⁶This is what the LORD commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, "Let them marry whom they think best, but they may marry only within the family of their father's tribe.'

⁷So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

⁸And every daughter who possesses an inheritance in any tribe of the children of

Israel shall be the wife of one of the family of her father's tribe, so that the children of Israel each may possess the inheritance of his fathers.

⁹Thus no inheritance shall change hands from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance."

¹⁰Just as the LORD commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad;

¹¹for Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married to the sons of their father's brothers.

¹²They were married into the families of the children of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of their father's family.

¹³These are the commandments and the judgments which the LORD commanded the children of Israel by the hand of Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

Deuteronomy

1 These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea.

3 Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them,

4 after he had killed Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who dwelt at Ashtaroth in Edrei.

5 On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying,

6 "The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: "You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.

7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates.

8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers--to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob--to give to them and their descendants after them.'

9 "And I spoke to you at that time, saying: "I alone am not able to bear you.

10 The LORD your God has multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude.

11 May the LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you!

12 How can I alone bear your problems and your burdens and your complaints?

13 Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.'

14 And you answered me and said, "The thing which you have told us to do is good.'

15 So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes.

16 "Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, "Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge

righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him.

¹⁷You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.'

¹⁸And I commanded you at that time all the things which you should do.

¹⁹"So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the LORD our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea.

²⁰And I said to you, "You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

²¹Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.'

²²"And every one of you came near to me and said, "Let us send men before us, and let them search out the land for us, and bring back word to us of the way by which we should go up, and of the cities into which we shall come.'

²³"The plan pleased me well; so I took twelve of your men, one man from each tribe.

²⁴And they departed and went up into the mountains, and came to the Valley of Eshcol, and spied it out.

²⁵They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us; and they brought back word to us, saying, "It is a good land which the LORD our God is giving us.'

²⁶"Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God;

²⁷and you complained in your tents, and said, "Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

²⁸Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."

²⁹"Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified, or afraid of them.

³⁰The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

³¹and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.'

³²Yet, for all that, you did not believe the LORD your God,

³³who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day.

³⁴"And the LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, and took an oath, saying,

³⁵"Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers,

³⁶except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the LORD.'

³⁷The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes, saying, "Even you shall not go in there.

³⁸Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

³⁹"Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.

⁴⁰But as for you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.'

⁴¹"Then you answered and said to me, "We have sinned against the LORD; we will go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us.' And when

everyone of you had girded on his weapons of war, you were ready to go up into the mountain.

⁴²"And the LORD said to me, "Tell them, "Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; lest you be defeated before your enemies.'"

⁴³So I spoke to you; yet you would not listen, but rebelled against the command of the LORD, and presumptuously went up into the mountain.

⁴⁴And the Amorites who dwelt in that mountain came out against you and chased you as bees do, and drove you back from Seir to Hormah.

⁴⁵Then you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD would not listen to your voice nor give ear to you.

⁴⁶"So you remained in Kadesh many days, according to the days that you spent there.

2"Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness of the Way of the Red Sea, as the LORD spoke to me, and we skirted Mount Seir for many days.

²"And the LORD spoke to me, saying:

³"You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward.

⁴And command the people, saying, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid

of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully.

⁵Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.

⁶You shall buy food from them with money, that you may eat; and you shall also buy water from them with money, that you may drink.

⁷"For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing."

⁸"And when we passed beyond our brethren, the descendants of Esau who dwell in Seir, away from the road of the plain, away from Elath and Ezion Geber, we turned and passed by way of the Wilderness of Moab.

⁹Then the LORD said to me, "Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession."

¹⁰(The Emim had dwelt there in times past, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim.

¹¹They were also regarded as giants, like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim.

¹²The Horites formerly dwelt in Seir, but the descendants of Esau dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their place, just as Israel did to the land of their possession which the LORD gave them.)

¹³"Now rise and cross over the Valley of the Zered.' So we crossed over the Valley of the Zered.

¹⁴And the time we took to come from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them.

¹⁵For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from the midst of the camp until they were consumed.

¹⁶"So it was, when all the men of war had finally perished from among the people,

¹⁷that the LORD spoke to me, saying:

¹⁸"This day you are to cross over at Ar, the boundary of Moab.

¹⁹And when you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession."

²⁰(That was also regarded as a land of giants; giants formerly dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim,

²¹a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. But the LORD destroyed them before them, and they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place,

²²just as He had done for the descendants of Esau, who dwelt in Seir, when He destroyed the Horites from before them. They dispossessed them and dwelt in their place, even to this day.

²³And the Avim, who dwelt in villages as far as Gaza--the Caphtorim, who came from Caphtor, destroyed them and dwelt in their place.)

²⁴""Rise, take your journey, and cross over the River Arnon. Look, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to possess it, and engage him in battle.

²⁵This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the nations under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.'

²⁶"And I sent messengers from the Wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon king of Heshbon, with words of peace, saying,

²⁷"Let me pass through your land; I will keep strictly to the road, and I will turn neither to the right nor to the left.

²⁸You shall sell me food for money, that I may eat, and give me water for money,

that I may drink; only let me pass through on foot,

²⁹just as the descendants of Esau who dwell in Seir and the Moabites who dwell in Ar did for me, until I cross the Jordan to the land which the LORD our God is giving us.'

³⁰"But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through, for the LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as it is this day.

³¹"And the LORD said to me, "See, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you. Begin to possess it, that you may inherit his land.'

³²Then Sihon and all his people came out against us to fight at Jahaz.

³³And the LORD our God delivered him over to us; so we defeated him, his sons, and all his people.

³⁴We took all his cities at that time, and we utterly destroyed the men, women, and little ones of every city; we left none remaining.

³⁵We took only the livestock as plunder for ourselves, with the spoil of the cities which we took.

³⁶From Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and from the city that is in the ravine, as far as Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us; the LORD our God delivered all to us.

³⁷Only you did not go near the land of the people of Ammon--anywhere along the River Jabbok, or to the cities of the mountains, or wherever the LORD our God had forbidden us.

3"Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan; and Og king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

²And the LORD said to me, "Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand; you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon."

³"So the LORD our God also delivered into our hands Og king of Bashan, with all his people, and we attacked him until he had no survivors remaining.

⁴And we took all his cities at that time; there was not a city which we did not take from them: sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

⁵All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides a great many rural towns.

⁶And we utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city.

⁷But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as booty for ourselves.

⁸"And at that time we took the land from the hand of the two kings of the

Amorites who were on this side of the Jordan, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon

⁹(the Sidonians call Hermon Sirion, and the Amorites call it Senir),

¹⁰all the cities of the plain, all Gilead, and all Bashan, as far as Salcah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

¹¹"For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead. (Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width, according to the standard cubit.

¹²"And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon, and half the mountains of Gilead and its cities, I gave to the Reubenites and the Gadites.

¹³The rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, the kingdom of Og, I gave to half the tribe of Manasseh. (All the region of Argob, with all Bashan, was called the land of the giants.

¹⁴Jair the son of Manasseh took all the region of Argob, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and called Bashan after his own name, Havoth Jair, to this day.)

¹⁵"Also I gave Gilead to Machir.

¹⁶And to the Reubenites and the Gadites I gave from Gilead as far as the River Arnon, the middle of the river as the

border, as far as the River Jabbok, the border of the people of Ammon;

¹⁷the plain also, with the Jordan as the border, from Chinnereth as far as the east side of the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), below the slopes of Pisgah.

¹⁸"Then I commanded you at that time, saying: "The LORD your God has given you this land to possess. All you men of valor shall cross over armed before your brethren, the children of Israel.

¹⁹But your wives, your little ones, and your livestock (I know that you have much livestock) shall stay in your cities which I have given you,

²⁰until the LORD has given rest to your brethren as to you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them beyond the Jordan. Then each of you may return to his possession which I have given you.'

²¹"And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, "Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass.

²²You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.'

²³"Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying:

²⁴"O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do

anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?

²⁵I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'

²⁶"But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: "Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.

²⁷Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.

²⁸But command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.'

²⁹"So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

4"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.

²You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

³Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.

⁴But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.

⁵"Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.

⁶Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

⁷"For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?

⁸And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

⁹Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,

¹⁰especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, "Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children."

¹¹"Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness.

¹²And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.

¹³So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

¹⁴And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.

¹⁵"Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

¹⁶lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,

¹⁷the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,

¹⁸the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth.

¹⁹And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them

and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

²⁰But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.

²¹Furthermore the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan, and that I would not enter the good land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

²²But I must die in this land, I must not cross over the Jordan; but you shall cross over and possess that good land.

²³Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you.

²⁴For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

²⁵"When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger,

²⁶I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.

²⁷And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you.

²⁸And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

²⁹But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

³⁰When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice

³¹(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

³²"For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard.

³³Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live?

³⁴Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD

your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

³⁵To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.

³⁶Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire.

³⁷And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,

³⁸driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day.

³⁹Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

⁴⁰You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

⁴¹Then Moses set apart three cities on this side of the Jordan, toward the rising of the sun,

⁴²that the manslayer might flee there, who kills his neighbor unintentionally,

without having hated him in time past, and that by fleeing to one of these cities he might live:

⁴³Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau for the Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites.

⁴⁴Now this is the law which Moses set before the children of Israel.

⁴⁵These are the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which Moses spoke to the children of Israel after they came out of Egypt,

⁴⁶on this side of the Jordan, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon, whom Moses and the children of Israel defeated after they came out of Egypt.

⁴⁷And they took possession of his land and the land of Og king of Bashan, two kings of the Amorites, who were on this side of the Jordan, toward the rising of the sun,

⁴⁸from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, even to Mount Sion (that is, Hermon),

⁴⁹and all the plain on the east side of the Jordan as far as the Sea of the Arabah, below the slopes of Pisgah.

5 And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your

hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them.

²The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

³The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive.

⁴The LORD talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.

⁵I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. He said:

⁶"I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

⁷"You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁸"You shall not make for yourself a carved image--any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

⁹you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

¹⁰but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

¹¹"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

¹²"Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

¹⁴but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

¹⁵And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷"You shall not murder.

¹⁸"You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹"You shall not steal.

²⁰"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

²¹"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

²²"These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

²³"So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders.

²⁴And you said: "Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.

²⁵Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die.

²⁶For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?

²⁷You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all

that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'

²⁸"Then the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me: "I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.

²⁹Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

³⁰Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."

³¹But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.'

³²"Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³³You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

6"Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may

observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,

²that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

³Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you--"a land flowing with milk and honey.'

⁴"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰"So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,

¹¹houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant--when you have eaten and are full--

¹²then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

¹³You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

¹⁴You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you

¹⁵(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

¹⁶"You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.

¹⁷You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

¹⁸And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers,

¹⁹to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.

²⁰"When your son asks you in time to come, saying, "What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?"

²¹then you shall say to your son: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand;

²²and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household.

²³Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.

²⁴And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

²⁵Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.'

7"When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,

²and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer

them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

³Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.

⁴For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

⁵But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

⁶"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

⁷The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

⁸but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a

thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

¹⁰and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

¹¹Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.

¹²"Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.

¹³And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.

¹⁴You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock.

¹⁵And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.

¹⁶Also you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on

them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

¹⁷"If you should say in your heart, "These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?"--

¹⁸you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:

¹⁹the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

²⁰Moreover the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed.

²¹You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, is among you.

²²And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.

²³But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed.

²⁴And He will deliver their kings into your hand, and you will destroy their name from under heaven; no one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.

²⁵You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.

²⁶Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.

8"Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.

²And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

³So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

⁴Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

⁵You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

⁶"Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;

⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;

⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

¹⁰When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

¹¹"Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

¹²lest--when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;

¹³and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;

¹⁴when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

¹⁵who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;

¹⁶who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end--

¹⁷then you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth."

¹⁸"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

¹⁹Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

²⁰As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

9"Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven,

²a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said,

"Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?"

³Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you.

⁴"Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, "Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land"; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you.

⁵It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

⁶Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

⁷"Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

⁸Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you.

⁹When I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

¹⁰Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

¹¹And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

¹²"Then the LORD said to me, "Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly; they have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made themselves a molded image."

¹³"Furthermore the LORD spoke to me, saying, "I have seen this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people.

¹⁴"Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they."

¹⁵"So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with

fire; and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands.

¹⁶And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God--had made for yourselves a molded calf! You had turned aside quickly from the way which the LORD had commanded you.

¹⁷Then I took the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.

¹⁸And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

¹⁹For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also.

²⁰And the LORD was very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

²¹Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it and ground it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

²²"Also at Taberah and Massah and Kibroth Hattaavah you provoked the LORD to wrath.

²³Likewise, when the LORD sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, "Go up

and possess the land which I have given you,' then you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and you did not believe Him nor obey His voice.

²⁴You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

²⁵"Thus I prostrated myself before the LORD; forty days and forty nights I kept prostrating myself, because the LORD had said He would destroy you.

²⁶Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: "O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

²⁷Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sin,

²⁸lest the land from which You brought us should say, "Because the LORD was not able to bring them to the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness."

²⁹Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.'

10"At that time the LORD said to me, "Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the

mountain and make yourself an ark of wood.

²And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.'

³"So I made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand.

⁴And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the LORD had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me.

⁵Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the LORD commanded me."

⁶(Now the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of Bene Jaakan to Moserah, where Aaron died, and where he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered as priest in his stead.

⁷From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land of rivers of water.

⁸At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day.

⁹Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD

is his inheritance, just as the LORD your God promised him.)

¹⁰"As at the first time, I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights; the LORD also heard me at that time, and the LORD chose not to destroy you.

¹¹Then the LORD said to me, "Arise, begin your journey before the people, that they may go in and possess the land which I swore to their fathers to give them."

¹²"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹³and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

¹⁴Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.

¹⁵The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

¹⁶Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.

¹⁷For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.

¹⁸He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.

¹⁹Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

²⁰You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.

²¹He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen.

²²Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

11

"Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.

²Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the LORD your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm--

³His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land;

⁴what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and

how the LORD has destroyed them to this day;

⁵what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place;

⁶and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel--

⁷but your eyes have seen every great act of the LORD which He did.

⁸"Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess,

⁹and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, "a land flowing with milk and honey.'

¹⁰For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden;

¹¹but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven,

¹²a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God

are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

¹³"And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹⁴then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

¹⁵And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'

¹⁶Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

¹⁷lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

¹⁸"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

¹⁹You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

²⁰And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,

²¹that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

²²"For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do--to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him--

²³then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves.

²⁴Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.

²⁵No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.

²⁶"Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse:

²⁷the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today;

²⁸and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

²⁹Now it shall be, when the LORD your God has brought you into the land which you go to possess, that you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal.

³⁰Are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of the Canaanites who dwell in the plain opposite Gilgal, beside the terebinth trees of Moreh?

³¹For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and you will possess it and dwell in it.

³²And you shall be careful to observe all the statutes and judgments which I set before you today.

12"These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.

²You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

³And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place.

⁴You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things.

⁵"But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.

⁶There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

⁷And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.

⁸"You shall not at all do as we are doing here today--every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes--

⁹for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁰But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety,

¹¹then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD.

¹²And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your

daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you.

¹³Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see;

¹⁴but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.

¹⁵"However, you may slaughter and eat meat within all your gates, whatever your heart desires, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike.

¹⁶Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water.

¹⁷You may not eat within your gates the tithe of your grain or your new wine or your oil, of the firstborn of your herd or your flock, of any of your offerings which you vow, of your freewill offerings, or of the heave offering of your hand.

¹⁸But you must eat them before the LORD your God in the place which the LORD your God chooses, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all to which you put your hands.

¹⁹Take heed to yourself that you do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.

²⁰"When the LORD your God enlarges your border as He has promised you, and you say, 'Let me eat meat,' because you long to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your heart desires.

²¹If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your herd and from your flock which the LORD has given you, just as I have commanded you, and you may eat within your gates as much as your heart desires.

²²Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them.

²³Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat.

²⁴You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water.

²⁵You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your children after you, when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.

²⁶Only the holy things which you have, and your vowed offerings, you shall take and go to the place which the LORD chooses.

²⁷And you shall offer your burnt offerings, the meat and the blood, on the altar of

the LORD your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the LORD your God, and you shall eat the meat.

²⁸Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

²⁹"When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

³⁰take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'

³¹You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

³²"Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

13"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,

²and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'--which you

have not known--"and let us serve them,'

³you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

⁵But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

⁶"If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers,

⁷of the gods of the people which are all around you, near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth,

⁸you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him;

⁹but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

¹⁰And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

¹¹So all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness as this among you.

¹²"If you hear someone in one of your cities, which the LORD your God gives you to dwell in, saying,

¹³"Corrupt men have gone out from among you and enticed the inhabitants of their city, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods"--which you have not known--

¹⁴then you shall inquire, search out, and ask diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination was committed among you,

¹⁵you shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying it, all that is in it and its livestock--with the edge of the sword.

¹⁶And you shall gather all its plunder into the middle of the street, and completely burn with fire the city and all its plunder, for the LORD your God. It shall be a heap forever; it shall not be built again.

¹⁷So none of the accursed things shall remain in your hand, that the LORD may

turn from the fierceness of His anger and show you mercy, have compassion on you and multiply you, just as He swore to your fathers,

¹⁸because you have listened to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep all His commandments which I command you today, to do what is right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

14"You are the children of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave the front of your head for the dead.

²For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

³"You shall not eat any detestable thing.

⁴These are the animals which you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,

⁵the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the mountain goat, the antelope, and the mountain sheep.

⁶And you may eat every animal with cloven hooves, having the hoof split into two parts, and that chews the cud, among the animals.

⁷Nevertheless, of those that chew the cud or have cloven hooves, you shall not eat, such as these: the camel, the hare, and the rock hyrax; for they chew the cud but do not have cloven hooves; they are unclean for you.

⁸Also the swine is unclean for you, because it has cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud; you shall not eat their flesh or touch their dead carcasses.

⁹"These you may eat of all that are in the waters: you may eat all that have fins and scales.

¹⁰And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you.

¹¹"All clean birds you may eat.

¹²But these you shall not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard,

¹³the red kite, the falcon, and the kite after their kinds;

¹⁴every raven after its kind;

¹⁵the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the sea gull, and the hawk after their kinds;

¹⁶the little owl, the screech owl, the white owl,

¹⁷the jackdaw, the carrion vulture, the fisher owl,

¹⁸the stork, the heron after its kind, and the hoopoe and the bat.

¹⁹"Also every creeping thing that flies is unclean for you; they shall not be eaten.

²⁰"You may eat all clean birds.

²¹"You shall not eat anything that dies of itself; you may give it to the alien who is

within your gates, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you are a holy people to the LORD your God. "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

²²"You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.

²³And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.

²⁴But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you,

²⁵then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.

²⁶And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.

²⁷You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.

²⁸"At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates.

²⁹And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

15"At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts.

²And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD's release.

³Of a foreigner you may require it; but you shall give up your claim to what is owed by your brother,

⁴except when there may be no poor among you; for the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance--

⁵only if you carefully obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today.

⁶For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.

⁷"If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,

⁸but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

⁹Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, "The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand," and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you.

¹⁰You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand.

¹¹For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, "You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land."

¹²"If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.

¹³And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed;

¹⁴you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD has blessed you with, you shall give to him.

¹⁵You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.

¹⁶And if it happens that he says to you, "I will not go away from you," because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you,

¹⁷then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.

¹⁸It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you; for he has been worth a double hired servant in serving you six years. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

¹⁹"All the firstborn males that come from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify to the LORD your God; you shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock.

²⁰You and your household shall eat it before the LORD your God year by year in the place which the LORD chooses.

²¹But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

²²You may eat it within your gates; the unclean and the clean person alike may eat it, as if it were a gazelle or a deer.

²³Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it on the ground like water.

16"Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

²Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name.

³You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

⁴And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning.

⁵"You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you;

⁶but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt.

⁷And you shall roast and eat it in the place which the LORD your God chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.

⁸Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it.

⁹"You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain.

¹⁰Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.

¹¹You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

¹²And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

¹³"You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress.

¹⁴And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant

and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates.

¹⁵Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.

¹⁶"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

¹⁷Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

¹⁸"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

¹⁹You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

²⁰You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

²¹"You shall not plant for yourself any tree, as a wooden image, near the altar which you build for yourself to the LORD your God.

²²You shall not set up a sacred pillar, which the LORD your God hates.

17"You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.

²"If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing His covenant,

³who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded,

⁴and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel,

⁵then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.

⁶Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

⁷The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you.

⁸"If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge, between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, matters of controversy within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses.

⁹And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.

¹⁰You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the LORD chooses. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you.

¹¹According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you, according to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the sentence which they pronounce upon you.

¹²Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.

¹³And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.

¹⁴"When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,'

¹⁵you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

¹⁶But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'

¹⁷Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

¹⁸"Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.

¹⁹And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,

²⁰that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

18"The priests, the Levites--all the tribe of Levi--shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and His portion.

²Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the LORD is their inheritance, as He said to them.

³"And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether it is bull or sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach.

⁴The firstfruits of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and the first of the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.

⁵For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever.

⁶"So if a Levite comes from any of your gates, from where he dwells among all Israel, and comes with all the desire of his mind to the place which the LORD chooses,

⁷then he may serve in the name of the LORD his God as all his brethren the Levites do, who stand there before the LORD.

⁸They shall have equal portions to eat, besides what comes from the sale of his inheritance.

⁹"When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.

¹⁰There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his

daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

¹¹or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

¹²For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

¹³You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.

¹⁴For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

¹⁵"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

¹⁶according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, "Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die."

¹⁷"And the LORD said to me: "What they have spoken is good.

¹⁸I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

¹⁹And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

²¹And if you say in your heart, "How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?"--

²²when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

19"When the LORD your God has cut off the nations whose land the LORD your God is giving you, and you dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,

²you shall separate three cities for yourself in the midst of your land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

³You shall prepare roads for yourself, and divide into three parts the territory of your land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, that any manslayer may flee there.

⁴"And this is the case of the manslayer who flees there, that he may live: Whoever kills his neighbor

unintentionally, not having hated him in time past--

⁵as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies--he shall flee to one of these cities and live;

⁶lest the avenger of blood, while his anger is hot, pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and kill him, though he was not deserving of death, since he had not hated the victim in time past.

⁷Therefore I command you, saying, "You shall separate three cities for yourself.'

⁸"Now if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as He swore to your fathers, and gives you the land which He promised to give to your fathers,

⁹and if you keep all these commandments and do them, which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to walk always in His ways, then you shall add three more cities for yourself besides these three,

¹⁰lest innocent blood be shed in the midst of your land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and thus guilt of bloodshed be upon you.

¹¹"But if anyone hates his neighbor, lies in wait for him, rises against him and strikes him mortally, so that he dies, and he flees to one of these cities,

¹²then the elders of his city shall send and bring him from there, and deliver him over to the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die.

¹³Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with you.

¹⁴"You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

¹⁵"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

¹⁶If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing,

¹⁷then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days.

¹⁸And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother,

¹⁹then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.

²⁰And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you.

²¹Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

20"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.

²So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people.

³And he shall say to them, "Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them;

⁴for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'

⁵"Then the officers shall speak to the people, saying: "What man is there who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it.

⁶Also what man is there who has planted a vineyard and has not eaten of it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man eat of it.

⁷And what man is there who is betrothed to a woman and has not married her? Let him go and return to his house, lest

he die in the battle and another man marry her.'

⁸"The officers shall speak further to the people, and say, "What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brethren faint like his heart.'

⁹And so it shall be, when the officers have finished speaking to the people, that they shall make captains of the armies to lead the people.

¹⁰"When you go near a city to fight against it, then proclaim an offer of peace to it.

¹¹And it shall be that if they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you.

¹²Now if the city will not make peace with you, but war against you, then you shall besiege it.

¹³And when the LORD your God delivers it into your hands, you shall strike every male in it with the edge of the sword.

¹⁴But the women, the little ones, the livestock, and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall plunder for yourself; and you shall eat the enemies' plunder which the LORD your God gives you.

¹⁵Thus you shall do to all the cities which are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations.

¹⁶"But of the cities of these peoples which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive,

¹⁷but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you,

¹⁸lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the LORD your God.

¹⁹"When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them; if you can eat of them, do not cut them down to use in the siege, for the tree of the field is man's food.

²⁰Only the trees which you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, to build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it is subdued.

21"If anyone is found slain, lying in the field in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess, and it is not known who killed him,

²then your elders and your judges shall go out and measure the distance from the slain man to the surrounding cities.

³And it shall be that the elders of the city nearest to the slain man will take a

heifer which has not been worked and which has not pulled with a yoke.

⁴The elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with flowing water, which is neither plowed nor sown, and they shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley.

⁵Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister to Him and to bless in the name of the LORD; by their word every controversy and every assault shall be settled.

⁶And all the elders of that city nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley.

⁷Then they shall answer and say, "Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it.

⁸Provide atonement, O LORD, for Your people Israel, whom You have redeemed, and do not lay innocent blood to the charge of Your people Israel.' And atonement shall be provided on their behalf for the blood.

⁹So you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁰"When you go out to war against your enemies, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hand, and you take them captive,

¹¹and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and desire her and would take her for your wife,

¹²then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and trim her nails.

¹³She shall put off the clothes of her captivity, remain in your house, and mourn her father and her mother a full month; after that you may go in to her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife.

¹⁴And it shall be, if you have no delight in her, then you shall set her free, but you certainly shall not sell her for money; you shall not treat her brutally, because you have humbled her.

¹⁵"If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, both the loved and the unloved, and if the firstborn son is of her who is unloved,

¹⁶then it shall be, on the day he bequeaths his possessions to his sons, that he must not bestow firstborn status on the son of the loved wife in preference to the son of the unloved, the true firstborn.

¹⁷But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

¹⁸"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his

mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them,

¹⁹then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city.

²⁰And they shall say to the elders of his city, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard."

²¹Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

²²"If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,

²³his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

22"You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray, and hide yourself from them; you shall certainly bring them back to your brother.

²And if your brother is not near you, or if you do not know him, then you shall bring it to your own house, and it shall remain with you until your brother seeks it; then you shall restore it to him.

³You shall do the same with his donkey, and so shall you do with his garment; with any lost thing of your brother's,

which he has lost and you have found, you shall do likewise; you must not hide yourself.

⁴"You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fall down along the road, and hide yourself from them; you shall surely help him lift them up again.

⁵"A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God.

⁶"If a bird's nest happens to be before you along the way, in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs, with the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young;

⁷you shall surely let the mother go, and take the young for yourself, that it may be well with you and that you may prolong your days.

⁸"When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it.

⁹"You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled.

¹⁰"You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

¹¹"You shall not wear a garment of different sorts, such as wool and linen mixed together.

¹²"You shall make tassels on the four corners of the clothing with which you cover yourself.

¹³"If any man takes a wife, and goes in to her, and detests her,

¹⁴and charges her with shameful conduct, and brings a bad name on her, and says, "I took this woman, and when I came to her I found she was not a virgin,"

¹⁵then the father and mother of the young woman shall take and bring out the evidence of the young woman's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate.

¹⁶And the young woman's father shall say to the elders, "I gave my daughter to this man as wife, and he detests her.

¹⁷Now he has charged her with shameful conduct, saying, "I found your daughter was not a virgin," and yet these are the evidences of my daughter's virginity.' And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.

¹⁸Then the elders of that city shall take that man and punish him;

¹⁹and they shall fine him one hundred shekels of silver and give them to the father of the young woman, because he has brought a bad name on a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

²⁰"But if the thing is true, and evidences of virginity are not found for the young woman,

²¹then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done a disgraceful thing in Israel, to play the harlot in her father's house. So you shall put away the evil from among you.

²²"If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die--the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.

²³"If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her,

²⁴then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife; so you shall put away the evil from among you.

²⁵"But if a man finds a betrothed young woman in the countryside, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die.

²⁶But you shall do nothing to the young woman; there is in the young woman no sin deserving of death, for just as when a man rises against his neighbor and kills him, even so is this matter.

²⁷For he found her in the countryside, and the betrothed young woman cried out, but there was no one to save her.

²⁸"If a man finds a young woman who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and he seizes her and lies with her, and they are found out,

²⁹then the man who lay with her shall give to the young woman's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife because he has humbled her; he shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days.

³⁰"A man shall not take his father's wife, nor uncover his father's bed.

23"He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the LORD.

²"One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

³"An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever,

⁴because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

⁵Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

⁶You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

⁷"You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land.

⁸The children of the third generation born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD.

⁹"When the army goes out against your enemies, then keep yourself from every wicked thing.

¹⁰If there is any man among you who becomes unclean by some occurrence in the night, then he shall go outside the camp; he shall not come inside the camp.

¹¹But it shall be, when evening comes, that he shall wash with water; and when the sun sets, he may come into the camp.

¹²"Also you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out;

¹³and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse.

¹⁴For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and

give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.

¹⁵"You shall not give back to his master the slave who has escaped from his master to you.

¹⁶He may dwell with you in your midst, in the place which he chooses within one of your gates, where it seems best to him; you shall not oppress him.

¹⁷"There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted one of the sons of Israel.

¹⁸You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the LORD your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

¹⁹"You shall not charge interest to your brother--interest on money or food or anything that is lent out at interest.

²⁰To a foreigner you may charge interest, but to your brother you shall not charge interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land which you are entering to possess.

²¹"When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you.

²²But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.

²³That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

²⁴"When you come into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes at your pleasure, but you shall not put any in your container.

²⁵When you come into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor's standing grain.

24"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,

²when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife,

³if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,

⁴then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

⁵"When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.

⁶"No man shall take the lower or the upper millstone in pledge, for he takes one's living in pledge.

⁷"If a man is found kidnapping any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and mistreats him or sells him, then that kidnapper shall die; and you shall put away the evil from among you.

⁸"Take heed in an outbreak of leprosy, that you carefully observe and do according to all that the priests, the Levites, shall teach you; just as I commanded them, so you shall be careful to do.

⁹Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the way when you came out of Egypt!

¹⁰"When you lend your brother anything, you shall not go into his house to get his pledge.

¹¹You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you lend shall bring the pledge out to you.

¹²And if the man is poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight.

¹³You shall in any case return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment and bless you; and it shall be

righteousness to you before the LORD your God.

¹⁴"You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates.

¹⁵Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you.

¹⁶"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.

¹⁷"You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge.

¹⁸But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this thing.

¹⁹"When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

²⁰When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

²¹When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it

afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

²²And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.

25"If there is a dispute between men, and they come to court, that the judges may judge them, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked,

²then it shall be, if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, that the judge will cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence, according to his guilt, with a certain number of blows.

³Forty blows he may give him and no more, lest he should exceed this and beat him with many blows above these, and your brother be humiliated in your sight.

⁴"You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.

⁵"If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

⁶And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

⁷But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife

go up to the gate to the elders, and say, "My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'

⁸Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, "I do not want to take her,'

⁹then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, "So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'

¹⁰And his name shall be called in Israel, "The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

¹¹"If two men fight together, and the wife of one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of the one attacking him, and puts out her hand and seizes him by the genitals,

¹²then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not pity her.

¹³"You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light.

¹⁴You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small.

¹⁵You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁶For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.

¹⁷"Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt,

¹⁸how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

¹⁹Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

26"And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it,

²that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

³And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us."

⁴"Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵And you shall answer and say before the LORD your God: "My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

⁶But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us.

⁷Then we cried out to the LORD God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression.

⁸So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.

⁹He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey";

¹⁰and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O LORD, have given me." "Then you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God.

¹¹So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.

¹²"When you have finished laying aside all the tithe of your increase in the third

year--the year of tithing--and have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled,

¹³then you shall say before the LORD your God: "I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them.

¹⁴I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed any of it for an unclean use, nor given any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me.

¹⁵Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

¹⁶"This day the LORD your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹⁷Today you have proclaimed the LORD to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.

¹⁸Also today the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He

promised you, that you should keep all His commandments,

¹⁹and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken."

27 Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: "Keep all the commandments which I command you today.

²And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime.

³You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the LORD your God is giving you, "a land flowing with milk and honey," just as the LORD God of your fathers promised you.

⁴Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime.

⁵And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them.

⁶You shall build with whole stones the altar of the LORD your God, and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God.

⁷You shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God.

⁸And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law."

⁹Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

¹⁰Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."

¹¹And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying,

¹²"These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin;

¹³and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

¹⁴"And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel:

¹⁵"Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, "Amen!"

¹⁶"Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

¹⁷"Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

¹⁸"Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

¹⁹"Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

²⁰"Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

²¹"Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

²²"Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

²³"Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

²⁴"Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

²⁵"Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

²⁶"Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, "Amen!"

28"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

²And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

³"Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

⁴"Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

⁵"Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

⁶"Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

⁷"The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

⁸"The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will

bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

⁹"The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

¹⁰Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

¹¹And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

¹²The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

¹³And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

¹⁴So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

¹⁵"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these

curses will come upon you and overtake you:

¹⁶"Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.

¹⁷"Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

¹⁸"Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

¹⁹"Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

²⁰"The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.

²¹The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess.

²²The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.

²³And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.

²⁴The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the

heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

²⁵"The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.

²⁶Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away.

²⁷The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.

²⁸The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart.

²⁹And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.

³⁰"You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.

³¹Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them.

³²Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand.

³³A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.

³⁴So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see.

³⁵The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.

³⁶"The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods--wood and stone.

³⁷And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.

³⁸"You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.

³⁹You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

⁴⁰You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.

⁴¹You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.

⁴²Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.

⁴³"The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.

⁴⁴He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

⁴⁵"Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

⁴⁶And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.

⁴⁷"Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,

⁴⁸therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

⁴⁹The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand,

⁵⁰a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.

⁵¹And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.

⁵²"They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.

⁵³You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you.

⁵⁴The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind,

⁵⁵so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

⁵⁶The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and

sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter,

⁵⁷her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

⁵⁸"If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD,

⁵⁹then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues--great and prolonged plagues--and serious and prolonged sicknesses.

⁶⁰Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.

⁶¹Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed.

⁶²You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

⁶³And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.

⁶⁴"Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known--wood and stone.

⁶⁵And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

⁶⁶Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.

⁶⁷In the morning you shall say, "Oh, that it were evening!" And at evening you shall say, "Oh, that it were morning!" because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

⁶⁸"And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, "You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you."

29 These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.

²Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt,

to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land--

³the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders.

⁴Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

⁵And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet.

⁶You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or similar drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

⁷And when you came to this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out against us to battle, and we conquered them.

⁸We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁹Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

¹⁰"All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel,

¹¹your little ones and your wives--also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water--

¹²that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today,

¹³that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

¹⁴"I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone,

¹⁵but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today

¹⁶(for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by,

¹⁷and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them--wood and stone and silver and gold);

¹⁸so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood;

¹⁹and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, "I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart"--as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

²⁰"The LORD would not spare him; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven.

²¹And the LORD would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law,

²²so that the coming generation of your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, would say, when they see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the LORD has laid on it:

²³"The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'

²⁴All nations would say, "Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?"

²⁵Then people would say: "Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt;

²⁶for they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them.

²⁷Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book.

²⁸And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.'

²⁹"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

30"Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you,

²and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,

³that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.

⁴If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

⁵Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He

will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.

⁶And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

⁷"Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

⁸And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today.

⁹The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,

¹⁰if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹"For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.

¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?"

¹³Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?"

¹⁴But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

¹⁵"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,

¹⁶in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,

¹⁸I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.

¹⁹I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

²⁰that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

31 Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

²And he said to them: "I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the LORD has said to me, "You shall not cross over this Jordan."

³The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said.

⁴And the LORD will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them.

⁵The LORD will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you.

⁶Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

⁷Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

⁸And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He

will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

⁹So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

¹⁰And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles,

¹¹when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

¹²Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,

¹³and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."

¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die; call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of meeting, that I may inaugurate him." So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tabernacle of meeting.

¹⁵Now the LORD appeared at the tabernacle in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood above the door of the tabernacle.

¹⁶And the LORD said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

¹⁷Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, "Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?"

¹⁸And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.

¹⁹"Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.

²⁰When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant.

²¹Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify against them as a witness; for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them."

²²Therefore Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel.

²³Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you."

²⁴So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished,

²⁵that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying:

²⁶"Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;

²⁷for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD, then how much more after my death?

²⁸Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them.

²⁹For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands."

³⁰Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:

32"Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

²Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.

³For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.

⁴He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

⁵"They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.

⁶Do you thus deal with the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?

⁷"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you:

⁸When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.

⁹For the LORD's portion is His people;
Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

¹⁰"He found him in a desert land And in
the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He
encircled him, He instructed him, He
kept him as the apple of His eye.

¹¹As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers
over its young, Spreading out its wings,
taking them up, Carrying them on its
wings,

¹²So the LORD alone led him, And there
was no foreign god with him.

¹³"He made him ride in the heights of the
earth, That he might eat the produce of
the fields; He made him draw honey
from the rock, And oil from the flinty
rock;

¹⁴Curds from the cattle, and milk of the
flock, With fat of lambs; And rams of the
breed of Bashan, and goats, With the
choicest wheat; And you drank wine, the
blood of the grapes.

¹⁵"But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked;
You grew fat, you grew thick, You are
obese! Then he forsook God who made
him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock
of his salvation.

¹⁶They provoked Him to jealousy with
foreign gods; With abominations they
provoked Him to anger.

¹⁷They sacrificed to demons, not to God,
To gods they did not know, To new gods,
new arrivals That your fathers did not
fear.

¹⁸Of the Rock who begot you, you are
unmindful, And have forgotten the God
who fathered you.

¹⁹"And when the LORD saw it, He
spurned them, Because of the
provocation of His sons and His
daughters.

²⁰And He said: "I will hide My face from
them, I will see what their end will be,
For they are a perverse generation,
Children in whom is no faith.

²¹They have provoked Me to jealousy by
what is not God; They have moved Me
to anger by their foolish idols. But I will
provoke them to jealousy by those who
are not a nation; I will move them to
anger by a foolish nation.

²²For a fire is kindled in My anger, And
shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall
consume the earth with her increase,
And set on fire the foundations of the
mountains.

²³"I will heap disasters on them; I will
spend My arrows on them.

²⁴They shall be wasted with hunger,
Devoured by pestilence and bitter
destruction; I will also send against them
the teeth of beasts, With the poison of
serpents of the dust.

²⁵The sword shall destroy outside; There
shall be terror within For the young man
and virgin, The nursing child with the
man of gray hairs.

²⁶I would have said, "I will dash them in pieces, I will make the memory of them to cease from among men,"

²⁷Had I not feared the wrath of the enemy, Lest their adversaries should misunderstand, Lest they should say, "Our hand is high; And it is not the LORD who has done all this."

²⁸"For they are a nation void of counsel, Nor is there any understanding in them.

²⁹Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would consider their latter end!

³⁰How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them?

³¹For their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves being judges.

³²For their vine is of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters are bitter.

³³Their wine is the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras.

³⁴"Is this not laid up in store with Me, Sealed up among My treasures?

³⁵Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'

³⁶"For the LORD will judge His people And have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their power is gone, And there is no one remaining, bond or free.

³⁷He will say: "Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge?

³⁸Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, And drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise and help you, And be your refuge.

³⁹"Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.

⁴⁰For I raise My hand to heaven, And say, "As I live forever,

⁴¹If I whet My glittering sword, And My hand takes hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to My enemies, And repay those who hate Me.

⁴²I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword shall devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the heads of the leaders of the enemy."

⁴³"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people."

⁴⁴So Moses came with Joshua the son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.

⁴⁵Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel,

⁴⁶and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe--all the words of this law.

⁴⁷For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."

⁴⁸Then the LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying:

⁴⁹"Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, across from Jericho; view the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel as a possession;

⁵⁰and die on the mountain which you ascend, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people;

⁵¹because you trespassed against Me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Zin, because you did not hallow Me in the midst of the children of Israel.

⁵²Yet you shall see the land before you, though you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving to the children of Israel."

33 Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.

²And he said: "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them.

³Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; everyone receives Your words.

⁴Moses commanded a law for us, A heritage of the congregation of Jacob.

⁵And He was King in Jeshurun, When the leaders of the people were gathered, All the tribes of Israel together.

⁶"Let Reuben live, and not die, Nor let his men be few."

⁷And this he said of Judah: "Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, And bring him to his people; Let his hands be sufficient for him, And may You be a help against his enemies."

⁸And of Levi he said: "Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,

⁹Who says of his father and mother, "I have not seen them"; Nor did he acknowledge his brothers, Or know his own children; For they have observed Your word And kept Your covenant.

¹⁰They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar.

¹¹Bless his substance, LORD, And accept the work of his hands; Strike the loins of those who rise against him, And of those who hate him, that they rise not again."

¹²Of Benjamin he said: "The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders."

¹³And of Joseph he said: "Blessed of the LORD is his land, With the precious things of heaven, with the dew, And the deep lying beneath,

¹⁴With the precious fruits of the sun, With the precious produce of the months,

¹⁵With the best things of the ancient mountains, With the precious things of the everlasting hills,

¹⁶With the precious things of the earth and its fullness, And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Let the blessing come "on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.'

¹⁷His glory is like a firstborn bull, And his horns like the horns of the wild ox; Together with them He shall push the peoples To the ends of the earth; They are the ten thousands of Ephraim, And they are the thousands of Manasseh."

¹⁸And of Zebulun he said: "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, And Issachar in your tents!

¹⁹They shall call the peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas And of treasures hidden in the sand."

²⁰And of Gad he said: "Blessed is he who enlarges Gad; He dwells as a lion, And tears the arm and the crown of his head.

²¹He provided the first part for himself, Because a lawgiver's portion was reserved there. He came with the heads of the people; He administered the justice of the LORD, And His judgments with Israel."

²²And of Dan he said: "Dan is a lion's whelp; He shall leap from Bashan."

²³And of Naphtali he said: "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, And full of the blessing of the LORD, Possess the west and the south."

²⁴And of Asher he said: "Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil.

²⁵Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be.

²⁶"There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds.

²⁷The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, "Destroy!"

²⁸Then Israel shall dwell in safety, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew.

²⁹Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places."

34Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan,

²all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,

³the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

⁴Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, "I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

⁶And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.

⁷Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.

⁸And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.

⁹Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

¹¹in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land,

¹²and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Joshua

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

²"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them--the children of Israel.

³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

⁶Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

⁷Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

¹⁰Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

¹¹"Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, "Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess."

¹²And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying,

¹³"Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, "The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.'

¹⁴Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them,

¹⁵until the LORD has given your brethren rest, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD's servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

¹⁶So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go."

¹⁷Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.

¹⁸Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

2Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

²And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country."

³So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

⁴Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."

⁵And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

⁶(But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

⁷Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

⁸Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,

⁹and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you."

¹⁰For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

¹¹And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God,

He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

¹²Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token,

¹³and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

¹⁴So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

¹⁵Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.

¹⁶And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

¹⁷So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear,

¹⁸unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home.

¹⁹So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own

head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.

²⁰And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."

²¹Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

²²They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought them all along the way, but did not find them.

²³So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them.

²⁴And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

3Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.

²So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp;

³and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the

covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.

⁴Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."

⁵And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

⁶Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

⁷And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

⁸You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, "When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan."

⁹So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God."

¹⁰And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the

Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

¹¹Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.

¹²Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe.

¹³And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

¹⁴So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,

¹⁵and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),

¹⁶that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

¹⁷Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan;

and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

4 And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying:

² "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe,

³ and command them, saying, "Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight."

⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe;

⁵ and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel,

⁶ that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, "What do these stones mean to you?"

⁷ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And

these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

⁸ And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

⁹ Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

¹⁰ So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over.

¹¹ Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.

¹² And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses had spoken to them.

¹³ About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho.

¹⁴ On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared

him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

¹⁵Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying,

¹⁶"Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan."

¹⁷Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan."

¹⁸And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

¹⁹Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho.

²⁰And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal.

²¹Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, "What are these stones?"

²²then you shall let your children know, saying, "Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land";

²³for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD

your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over,

²⁴that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

5 So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel.

²At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time."

³So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

⁴And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt.

⁵For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised.

⁶For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD--to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

⁷Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

⁸So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.

⁹Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho.

¹¹And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day.

¹²Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

¹³And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

¹⁴So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

¹⁵Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

6Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

²And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

³You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.

⁴And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

⁵It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a

great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

⁶Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."

⁷And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD."

⁸So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

⁹The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

¹⁰Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

¹¹So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

¹²And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

¹³Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

¹⁴And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

¹⁵But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times.

¹⁶And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!"

¹⁷Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

¹⁸And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

¹⁹But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

²⁰So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

²¹And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

²²But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her."

²³And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

²⁵And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

²⁶Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation

with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

²⁷So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

7 But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.

²Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

³And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."

⁴So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.

⁵And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

⁶Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the

elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.

⁷And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all--to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!

⁸O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?

⁹For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?"

¹⁰So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?

¹¹Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.

¹²Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

¹³Get up, sanctify the people, and say, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand

before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

¹⁴In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man.

¹⁵Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel."

¹⁶So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.

¹⁷He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

¹⁸Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

¹⁹Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

²⁰And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done:

²¹When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

²²So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it.

²³And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

²⁴Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.

²⁵And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

²⁶Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

8 Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your

hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.

²And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."

³So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night.

⁴And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready.

⁵Then I and all the people who are with me will approach the city; and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first, that we shall flee before them.

⁶For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, "They are fleeing before us as at the first.' Therefore we will flee before them.

⁷Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.

⁸And it will be, when you have taken the city, that you shall set the city on fire. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do. See, I have commanded you."

⁹Joshua therefore sent them out; and they went to lie in ambush, and stayed

between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai; but Joshua lodged that night among the people.

¹⁰Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and mustered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai.

¹¹And all the people of war who were with him went up and drew near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai. Now a valley lay between them and Ai.

¹²So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.

¹³And when they had set the people, all the army that was on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.

¹⁴Now it happened, when the king of Ai saw it, that the men of the city hurried and rose early and went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at an appointed place before the plain. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city.

¹⁵And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness.

¹⁶So all the people who were in Ai were called together to pursue them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city.

¹⁷There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel.

¹⁸Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city.

¹⁹So those in ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and took it, and hurried to set the city on fire.

²⁰And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended to heaven. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers.

²¹Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.

²²Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were caught in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape.

²³But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.

²⁴And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the

inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword.

²⁵So it was that all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand--all the people of Ai.

²⁶For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.

²⁷Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua.

²⁸So Joshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, a desolation to this day.

²⁹And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones that remains to this day.

³⁰Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal,

³¹as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: "an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

³²And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

³³Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

³⁴And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

³⁵There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

9 And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon--the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite--heard about it,

²that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.

³But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,

⁴they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended,

⁵old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy.

⁶And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us."

⁷Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?"

⁸But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you, and where do you come from?"

⁹So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt,

¹⁰and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan--to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth.

¹¹Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, "Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say

to them, "We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us."

¹²This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy.

¹³And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey."

¹⁴Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.

¹⁵So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.

¹⁶And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them.

¹⁷Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim.

¹⁸But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers.

¹⁹Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them

by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.

²⁰This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them."

²¹And the rulers said to them, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them."

²²Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell near us?"

²³Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves--woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

²⁴So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

²⁵And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us."

²⁶So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them.

²⁷And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the

congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.

10 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it--as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king--and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them,

²that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.

³Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying,

⁴"Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel."

⁵Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

⁶And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the

mountains have gathered together against us."

⁷So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

⁸And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

⁹Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.

¹⁰So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

¹¹And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

¹²Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

¹³So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood

still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

¹⁴And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

¹⁵Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

¹⁶But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah.

¹⁷And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah."

¹⁸So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them.

¹⁹And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand."

²⁰Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities.

²¹And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace. No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

²²Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave."

²³And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

²⁴So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks.

²⁵Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

²⁶And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening.

²⁷So it was at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

²⁸On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them --all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of

Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

²⁹Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah; and they fought against Libnah.

³⁰And the LORD also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel; he struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword. He let none remain in it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

³¹Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish; and they encamped against it and fought against it.

³²And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, who took it on the second day, and struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah.

³³Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he left him none remaining.

³⁴From Lachish Joshua passed to Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it and fought against it.

³⁵They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; all the people who were in it he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

³⁶ So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it.

³⁷ And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword--its king, all its cities, and all the people who were in it; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who were in it.

³⁸ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and they fought against it.

³⁹ And he took it and its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who were in it. He left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king.

⁴⁰ So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded.

⁴¹ And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon.

⁴² All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

⁴³ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

11 And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph,

² and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west,

³ to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

⁴ So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.

⁵ And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

⁶ But the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

⁷ So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them.

⁸ And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the

Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining.

⁹So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

¹⁰Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazer, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazer was formerly the head of all those kingdoms.

¹¹And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazer with fire.

¹²So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.

¹³But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazer only, which Joshua burned.

¹⁴And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the children of Israel took as booty for themselves; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing.

¹⁵As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁶Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain --the mountains of Israel and its lowlands,

¹⁷from Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, even as far as Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them.

¹⁸Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.

¹⁹There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others they took in battle.

²⁰For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²¹And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains: from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities.

²²None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.

²³So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an

inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.

12 These are the kings of the land whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the other side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern Jordan plain:

²One king was Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon and ruled half of Gilead, from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, from the middle of that river, even as far as the River Jabbok, which is the border of the Ammonites,

³and the eastern Jordan plain from the Sea of Chinneroth as far as the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), the road to Beth Jeshimoth, and southward below the slopes of Pisgah.

⁴The other king was Og king of Bashan and his territory, who was of the remnant of the giants, who dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

⁵and reigned over Mount Hermon, over Salcah, over all Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and over half of Gilead to the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

⁶These Moses the servant of the LORD and the children of Israel had conquered; and Moses the servant of the LORD had given it as a possession

to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁷And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel conquered on this side of the Jordan, on the west, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon as far as Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, which Joshua gave to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions,

⁸in the mountain country, in the lowlands, in the Jordan plain, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the South--the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites:

⁹the king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside Bethel, one;

¹⁰the king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one;

¹¹the king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one;

¹²the king of Eglon, one; the king of Gezer, one;

¹³the king of Debir, one; the king of Geder, one;

¹⁴the king of Hormah, one; the king of Arad, one;

¹⁵the king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one;

¹⁶the king of Makkedah, one; the king of Bethel, one;

¹⁷the king of Tappuah, one; the king of Hephher, one;

¹⁸the king of Aphek, one; the king of Lasharon, one;

¹⁹the king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one;

²⁰the king of Shimron Meron, one; the king of Achshaph, one;

²¹the king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one;

²²the king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one;

²³the king of Dor in the heights of Dor, one; the king of the people of Gilgal, one;

²⁴the king of Tirzah, one--all the kings, thirty-one.

13 Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

²This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all that of the Geshurites,

³from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines--the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the

Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites;

⁴from the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites;

⁵the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath;

⁶all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook Misrephoth, and all the Sidonians--them I will drive out from before the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you.

⁷Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."

⁸With the other half-tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses had given them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the LORD had given them:

⁹from Aroer which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the town that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain of Medeba as far as Dibon;

¹⁰all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the border of the children of Ammon;

¹¹Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salcah;

¹²all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants; for Moses had defeated and cast out these.

¹³Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

¹⁴Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them.

¹⁵And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben an inheritance according to their families.

¹⁶Their territory was from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain by Medeba;

¹⁷Heshbon and all its cities that are in the plain: Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon,

¹⁸Jahaza, Kedemoth, Mephaath,

¹⁹Kirjathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahar on the mountain of the valley,

²⁰Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth Jeshimoth--

²¹all the cities of the plain and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses had struck with the princes of Midian: Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, who were princes of Sihon dwelling in the country.

²²The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them.

²³And the border of the children of Reuben was the bank of the Jordan. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben according to their families, the cities and their villages.

²⁴Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad, to the children of Gad according to their families.

²⁵Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites as far as Aroer, which is before Rabbah,

²⁶and from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir,

²⁷and in the valley Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, with the Jordan as its border, as far as the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth, on the other side of the Jordan eastward.

²⁸This is the inheritance of the children of Gad according to their families, the cities and their villages.

²⁹Moses also had given an inheritance to half the tribe of Manasseh; it was for half the tribe of the children of Manasseh according to their families:

³⁰Their territory was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair which are in Bashan, sixty cities;

³¹half of Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were for the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, for half of the children of Machir according to their families.

³²These are the areas which Moses had distributed as an inheritance in the plains of Moab on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward.

³³But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.

14These are the areas which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them.

²Their inheritance was by lot, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.

³For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan; but to the

Levites he had given no inheritance among them.

⁴For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim. And they gave no part to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for their livestock and their property.

⁵As the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did; and they divided the land.

⁶Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

⁷I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.

⁸Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

⁹So Moses swore on that day, saying, "Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God."

¹⁰And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this

word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

¹¹As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.

¹²Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

¹³And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

¹⁴Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.

15 So this was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families: The border of Edom at the Wilderness of Zin southward was the extreme southern boundary.

²And their southern border began at the shore of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward.

³Then it went out to the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, passed along to Zin, ascended on the south side of Kadesh Barnea, passed along to Hezron, went up to Adar, and went around to Karkaa.

⁴From there it passed toward Azmon and went out to the Brook of Egypt; and the border ended at the sea. This shall be your southern border.

⁵The east border was the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan. And the border on the northern quarter began at the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

⁶The border went up to Beth Hoglah and passed north of Beth Arabah; and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben.

⁷Then the border went up toward Debir from the Valley of Achor, and it turned northward toward Gilgal, which is before the Ascent of Adummim, which is on the south side of the valley. The border continued toward the waters of En Shemesh and ended at En Rogel.

⁸And the border went up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to the southern slope of the Jebusite city (which is Jerusalem). The border went up to the top of the mountain that lies before the Valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the Valley of Rephaim northward.

⁹Then the border went around from the top of the hill to the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and extended to the cities of Mount Ephron. And the border went around to Baalah (which is Kirjath Jearim).

¹⁰Then the border turned westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, passed along to the side of Mount Jearim on the north (which is Chesalon), went down to Beth Shemesh, and passed on to Timnah.

¹¹And the border went out to the side of Ekron northward. Then the border went around to Shicron, passed along to Mount Baalah, and extended to Jabneel; and the border ended at the sea.

¹²The west border was the coastline of the Great Sea. This is the boundary of the children of Judah all around according to their families.

¹³Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).

¹⁴Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.

¹⁵Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher).

¹⁶And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."

¹⁷So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

¹⁸Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?"

¹⁹She answered, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

²⁰This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families:

²¹The cities at the limits of the tribe of the children of Judah, toward the border of Edom in the South, were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,

²²Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

²³Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,

²⁴Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,

²⁵Hazor, Hadattah, Keriath, Hezron (which is Hazor),

²⁶Amam, Shema, Moladah,

²⁷Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet,

²⁸Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Bizjathjah,

²⁹Baalath, Ijim, Ezem,

³⁰Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,

³¹Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

³²Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon: all the cities are twenty-nine, with their villages.

³³In the lowland: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,

³⁴Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam,

³⁵Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,

³⁶Sharaim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim: fourteen cities with their villages;

³⁷Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad,

³⁸Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel,

³⁹Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,

⁴⁰Cabbon, Lahmas, Kithlish,

⁴¹Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah: sixteen cities with their villages;

⁴²Libnah, Ether, Ashan,

⁴³Jiphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,

⁴⁴Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah: nine cities with their villages;

⁴⁵Ekron, with its towns and villages;

⁴⁶from Ekron to the sea, all that lay near Ashdod, with their villages;

⁴⁷Ashdod with its towns and villages, Gaza with its towns and villages--as far as the Brook of Egypt and the Great Sea with its coastline.

⁴⁸And in the mountain country: Shamir, Jattir, Sochoh,

⁴⁹Dannah, Kirjath Sannah (which is Debir),

⁵⁰Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,

⁵¹Goshen, Holon, and Giloh: eleven cities with their villages;

⁵²Arab, Dumah, Eshean,

⁵³Janum, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah,

⁵⁴Humtah, Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron), and Zior: nine cities with their villages;

⁵⁵Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,

⁵⁶Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,

⁵⁷Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah: ten cities with their villages;

⁵⁸Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor,

⁵⁹Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon: six cities with their villages;

⁶⁰Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim) and Rabbah: two cities with their villages.

⁶¹In the wilderness: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah,

⁶²Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En Gedi: six cities with their villages.

⁶³As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

16 The lot fell to the children of Joseph from the Jordan, by Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goes up from Jericho through the mountains to Bethel,

²then went out from Bethel to Luz, passed along to the border of the Archites at Ataroth,

³and went down westward to the boundary of the Japhletites, as far as the boundary of Lower Beth Horon to Gezer; and it ended at the sea.

⁴So the children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance.

⁵The border of the children of Ephraim, according to their families, was thus: The border of their inheritance on the east side was Ataroth Addar as far as Upper Beth Horon.

⁶And the border went out toward the sea on the north side of Michmethath; then the border went around eastward to Taanath Shiloh, and passed by it on the east of Janohah.

⁷Then it went down from Janohah to Ataroth and Naarah, reached to Jericho, and came out at the Jordan.

⁸The border went out from Tappuah westward to the Brook Kanah, and it ended at the sea. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Ephraim according to their families.

⁹The separate cities for the children of Ephraim were among the inheritance of the children of Manasseh, all the cities with their villages.

¹⁰And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers.

17 There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph: namely for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was a man of war; therefore he was given Gilead and Bashan.

²And there was a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families: for the children of Abiezer, the children of Helek, the children of Asriel, the children of Shechem, the children of Hephher, and the children of Shemida; these were the male children of Manasseh the son of Joseph according to their families.

³But Zelophehad the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters. And these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

⁴And they came near before Eleazar the priest, before Joshua the son of Nun, and before the rulers, saying, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." Therefore, according to the commandment of the LORD, he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers.

⁵Ten shares fell to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side of the Jordan,

⁶because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons; and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead.

⁷And the territory of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethath, that lies east of Shechem; and the border went along south to the inhabitants of En Tappuah.

⁸Manasseh had the land of Tappuah, but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh belonged to the children of Ephraim.

⁹And the border descended to the Brook Kanah, southward to the brook. These cities of Ephraim are among the cities of Manasseh. The border of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook; and it ended at the sea.

¹⁰Southward it was Ephraim's, northward it was Manasseh's, and the sea was its border. Manasseh's territory was adjoining Asher on the north and Issachar on the east.

¹¹And in Issachar and in Asher, Manasseh had Beth Shean and its

towns, Ibleam and its towns, the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of En Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns--three hilly regions.

¹²Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities, but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.

¹³And it happened, when the children of Israel grew strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.

¹⁴Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given us only one lot and one share to inherit, since we are a great people, inasmuch as the LORD has blessed us until now?"

¹⁵So Joshua answered them, "If you are a great people, then go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you."

¹⁶But the children of Joseph said, "The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel."

¹⁷And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph--to Ephraim and Manasseh--saying, "You are a great people and have great power; you shall not have only one lot,

¹⁸but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong."

18 Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.

²But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.

³Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?"

⁴Pick out from among you three men for each tribe, and I will send them; they shall rise and go through the land, survey it according to their inheritance, and come back to me.

⁵And they shall divide it into seven parts. Judah shall remain in their territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall remain in their territory on the north.

⁶You shall therefore survey the land in seven parts and bring the survey here to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.

⁷But the Levites have no part among you, for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have

received their inheritance beyond the Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them."

⁸Then the men arose to go away; and Joshua charged those who went to survey the land, saying, "Go, walk through the land, survey it, and come back to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh."

⁹So the men went, passed through the land, and wrote the survey in a book in seven parts by cities; and they came to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh.

¹⁰Then Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions.

¹¹Now the lot of the tribe of the children of Benjamin came up according to their families, and the territory of their lot came out between the children of Judah and the children of Joseph.

¹²Their border on the north side began at the Jordan, and the border went up to the side of Jericho on the north, and went up through the mountains westward; it ended at the Wilderness of Beth Aven.

¹³The border went over from there toward Luz, to the side of Luz (which is Bethel) southward; and the border descended to Ataroth Addar, near the hill that lies on the south side of Lower Beth Horon.

¹⁴Then the border extended around the west side to the south, from the hill that

lies before Beth Horon southward; and it ended at Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim), a city of the children of Judah. This was the west side.

¹⁵The south side began at the end of Kirjath Jearim, and the border extended on the west and went out to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah.

¹⁶Then the border came down to the end of the mountain that lies before the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is in the Valley of the Rephaim on the north, descended to the Valley of Hinnom, to the side of the Jebusite city on the south, and descended to En Rogel.

¹⁷And it went around from the north, went out to En Shemesh, and extended toward Geliloth, which is before the Ascent of Adummim, and descended to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben.

¹⁸Then it passed along toward the north side of Arabah, and went down to Arabah.

¹⁹And the border passed along to the north side of Beth Hoglah; then the border ended at the north bay at the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan. This was the southern boundary.

²⁰The Jordan was its border on the east side. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin, according to its boundaries all around, according to their families.

²¹Now the cities of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, according to their

families, were Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz,

²²Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,

²³Avim, Parah, Ophrah,

²⁴Chephar Haammoni, Ophni, and Gaba: twelve cities with their villages;

²⁵Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,

²⁶Mizpah, Chephirah, Mozah,

²⁷Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,

²⁸Zelah, Eleph, Jebus (which is Jerusalem), Gibeath, and Kirjath: fourteen cities with their villages. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

19 The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. And their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah.

²They had in their inheritance Beersheba (Sheba), Moladah,

³Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem,

⁴Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,

⁵Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah,

⁶Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhem: thirteen cities and their villages;

⁷Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan: four cities and their villages;

⁸and all the villages that were all around these cities as far as Baalath Beer, Ramah of the South. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families.

⁹The inheritance of the children of Simeon was included in the share of the children of Judah, for the share of the children of Judah was too much for them. Therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of that people.

¹⁰The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun according to their families, and the border of their inheritance was as far as Sarid.

¹¹Their border went toward the west and to Maralah, went to Dabbasheth, and extended along the brook that is east of Jokneam.

¹²Then from Sarid it went eastward toward the sunrise along the border of Chisloth Tabor, and went out toward Daberath, bypassing Japhia.

¹³And from there it passed along on the east of Gath Hopher, toward Eth Kazin, and extended to Rimmon, which borders on Neah.

¹⁴Then the border went around it on the north side of Hannathon, and it ended in the Valley of Jiphthah El.

¹⁵Included were Kattath, Nahallal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem: twelve cities with their villages.

¹⁶This was the inheritance of the children of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages.

¹⁷The fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families.

¹⁸And their territory went to Jezreel, and included Chesulloth, Shunem,

¹⁹Haphraim, Shion, Anaharath,

²⁰Rabbith, Kishion, Abez,

²¹Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pazzez.

²²And the border reached to Tabor, Shahazimah, and Beth Shemesh; their border ended at the Jordan: sixteen cities with their villages.

²³This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Issachar according to their families, the cities and their villages.

²⁴The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families.

²⁵And their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph,

²⁶Alammelech, Amad, and Mishal; it reached to Mount Carmel westward, along the Brook Shihor Libnath.

²⁷It turned toward the sunrise to Beth Dagon; and it reached to Zebulun and to the Valley of Jiphthah El, then northward beyond Beth Emek and Neiel, bypassing Cabul which was on the left,

²⁸including Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon.

²⁹And the border turned to Ramah and to the fortified city of Tyre; then the border turned to Hosah, and ended at the sea by the region of Achzib.

³⁰Also Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob were included: twenty-two cities with their villages.

³¹This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families, these cities with their villages.

³²The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali, for the children of Naphtali according to their families.

³³And their border began at Heleph, enclosing the territory from the terebinth tree in Zaanannim, Adami Nekeb, and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum; it ended at the Jordan.

³⁴From Heleph the border extended westward to Aznoth Tabor, and went out from there toward Hukkok; it adjoined Zebulun on the south side and Asher on the west side, and ended at Judah by the Jordan toward the sunrise.

³⁵And the fortified cities are Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,

³⁶Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,

³⁷Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor,

³⁸Iron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemesh: nineteen cities with their villages.

³⁹This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Naphtali according to their families, the cities and their villages.

⁴⁰The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families.

⁴¹And the territory of their inheritance was Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh,

⁴²Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Jethlah,

⁴³Elon, Timnah, Ekron,

⁴⁴Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,

⁴⁵Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon,

⁴⁶Me Jarkon, and Rakkon, with the region near Joppa.

⁴⁷And the border of the children of Dan went beyond these, because the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem and took it; and they struck it with the edge of the sword, took possession of it, and dwelt in it. They called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.

⁴⁸This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.

⁴⁹When they had made an end of dividing the land as an inheritance according to their borders, the children of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun.

⁵⁰According to the word of the LORD they gave him the city which he asked for, Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim; and he built the city and dwelt in it.

⁵¹These were the inheritances which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel divided as an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. So they made an end of dividing the country.

20 The LORD also spoke to Joshua, saying,

²"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses,

³that the slayer who kills a person accidentally or unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

⁴And when he flees to one of those cities, and stands at the entrance of the gate of the city, and declares his case in the hearing of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city as one of them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

⁵Then if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not deliver the slayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unintentionally, but did not hate him beforehand.

⁶And he shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then the slayer may return and come to his own city and his own house, to the city from which he fled."

⁷So they appointed Kedesh in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali, Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron) in the mountains of Judah.

⁸And on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness on the plain, from the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh.

⁹These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwelt among them, that whoever killed a person accidentally might flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stood before the congregation.

21 Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came near to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel.

²And they spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, "The LORD commanded through Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for our livestock."

³So the children of Israel gave to the Levites from their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their common-lands:

⁴Now the lot came out for the families of the Kohathites. And the children of Aaron the priest, who were of the Levites, had thirteen cities by lot from the tribe of Judah, from the tribe of Simeon, and from the tribe of Benjamin.

⁵The rest of the children of Kohath had ten cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Ephraim, from the tribe of Dan, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh.

⁶And the children of Gershon had thirteen cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Issachar, from the tribe of Asher, from the tribe of Naphtali, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

⁷The children of Merari according to their families had twelve cities from the tribe of Reuben, from the tribe of Gad, and from the tribe of Zebulun.

⁸And the children of Israel gave these cities with their common-lands by lot to the Levites, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.

⁹So they gave from the tribe of the children of Judah and from the tribe of

the children of Simeon these cities which are designated by name,

¹⁰which were for the children of Aaron, one of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi; for the lot was theirs first.

¹¹And they gave them Kirjath Arba (Arba was the father of Anak), which is Hebron, in the mountains of Judah, with the common-land surrounding it.

¹²But the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession.

¹³Thus to the children of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), Libnah with its common-land,

¹⁴Jattir with its common-land, Eshtemoa with its common-land,

¹⁵Holon with its common-land, Debir with its common-land,

¹⁶Ain with its common-land, Juttah with its common-land, and Beth Shemesh with its common-land: nine cities from those two tribes;

¹⁷and from the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with its common-land, Geba with its common-land,

¹⁸Anathoth with its common-land, and Almon with its common-land: four cities.

¹⁹All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their common-lands.

²⁰And the families of the children of Kohath, the Levites, the rest of the children of Kohath, even they had the cities of their lot from the tribe of Ephraim.

²¹For they gave them Shechem with its common-land in the mountains of Ephraim (a city of refuge for the slayer), Gezer with its common-land,

²²Kibzaim with its common-land, and Beth Horon with its common-land: four cities;

²³and from the tribe of Dan, Eltekeh with its common-land, Gibbethon with its common-land,

²⁴Aijalon with its common-land, and Gath Rimmon with its common-land: four cities;

²⁵and from the half-tribe of Manasseh, Tanach with its common-land and Gath Rimmon with its common-land: two cities.

²⁶All the ten cities with their common-lands were for the rest of the families of the children of Kohath.

²⁷Also to the children of Gershon, of the families of the Levites, from the other half-tribe of Manasseh, they gave Golan in Bashan with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), and Be Eshterah with its common-land: two cities;

²⁸and from the tribe of Issachar, Kishion with its common-land, Daberath with its common-land,

²⁹Jarmuth with its common-land, and En Gannim with its common-land: four cities;

³⁰and from the tribe of Asher, Mishal with its common-land, Abdon with its common-land,

³¹Helkath with its common-land, and Rehob with its common-land: four cities;

³²and from the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), Hammoth Dor with its common-land, and Kartan with its common-land: three cities.

³³All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their common-lands.

³⁴And to the families of the children of Merari, the rest of the Levites, from the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with its common-land, Kartah with its common-land,

³⁵Dimnah with its common-land, and Nahalal with its common-land: four cities;

³⁶and from the tribe of Reuben, Bezer with its common-land, Jahaz with its common-land,

³⁷Kedemoth with its common-land, and Mephaath with its common-land: four cities;

³⁸and from the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), Mahanaim with its common-land,

³⁹Heshbon with its common-land, and Jazer with its common-land: four cities in all.

⁴⁰So all the cities for the children of Merari according to their families, the rest of the families of the Levites, were by their lot twelve cities.

⁴¹All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel were forty-eight cities with their common-lands.

⁴²Every one of these cities had its common-land surrounding it; thus were all these cities.

⁴³So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it.

⁴⁴The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

⁴⁵Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

22 Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh,

²and said to them: "You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you.

³You have not left your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God.

⁴And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them; now therefore, return and go to your tents and to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

⁵But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

⁶So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

⁷Now to half the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half of it Joshua gave a possession among their brethren on this side of the Jordan, westward. And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them,

⁸and spoke to them, saying, "Return with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren."

⁹So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of

Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

¹⁰And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan--a great, impressive altar.

¹¹Now the children of Israel heard someone say, "Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan--on the children of Israel's side."

¹²And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

¹³Then the children of Israel sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead,

¹⁴and with him ten rulers, one ruler each from the chief house of every tribe of Israel; and each one was the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel.

¹⁵Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying,

¹⁶"Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD: "What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the LORD?"

¹⁷Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us, from which we are not cleansed till this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD,

¹⁸but that you must turn away this day from following the LORD? And it shall be, if you rebel today against the LORD, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.

¹⁹Nevertheless, if the land of your possession is unclean, then cross over to the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and take possession among us; but do not rebel against the LORD, nor rebel against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the LORD our God.

²⁰Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity."

²¹Then the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered and said to the heads of the divisions of Israel:

²²"The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know--if it is in rebellion, or if in

treachery against the LORD, do not save us this day.

²³If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the LORD, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, let the LORD Himself require an account.

²⁴But in fact we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying, "In time to come your descendants may speak to our descendants, saying, "What have you to do with the LORD God of Israel?"

²⁵For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between you and us, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no part in the LORD." So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the LORD.'

²⁶Therefore we said, "Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice,

²⁷but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the LORD before Him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, "You have no part in the LORD."

²⁸Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, "Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.'

²⁹Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which is before His tabernacle."

³⁰Now when Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them.

³¹Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, "This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the LORD. Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD."

³²And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them.

³³So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.

³⁴The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, Witness, "For it is a witness between us that the LORD is God."

23 Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age.

² And Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers, and said to them: "I am old, advanced in age.

³ You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you.

⁴ See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward.

⁵ And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

⁶ Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

⁷ and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them,

⁸ but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day.

⁹ For the LORD has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day.

¹⁰ One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you.

¹¹ Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.

¹² Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations--these that remain among you--and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you,

¹³ know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁴ Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.

¹⁵ Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all the good things have come upon you which the LORD your God promised you, so the LORD will bring upon you all harmful things, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁶When you have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you."

24Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

³Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.

⁴To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

⁵Also I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to what I did among them. Afterward I brought you out.

⁶"Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and the

Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.

⁷So they cried out to the LORD; and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, brought the sea upon them, and covered them. And your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. Then you dwelt in the wilderness a long time.

⁸And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you.

⁹Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose to make war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you.

¹⁰But I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he continued to bless you. So I delivered you out of his hand.

¹¹Then you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the men of Jericho fought against you--also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I delivered them into your hand.

¹²I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, also the two kings of the Amorites, but not with your sword or with your bow.

¹³I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat

of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

¹⁴"Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

¹⁵And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

¹⁷for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.

¹⁸And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God."

¹⁹But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

²⁰If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do

you harm and consume you, after He has done you good."

²¹And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD!"

²²So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!"

²³"Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel."

²⁴And the people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!"

²⁵So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

²⁶Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

²⁷And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God."

²⁸So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.

²⁹Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant

of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old.

³⁰And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

³¹Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

³²The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

³³And Eleazar the son of Aaron died. They buried him in a hill belonging to Phinehas his son, which was given to him in the mountains of Ephraim.

Judges

1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, "Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?"

2 And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand."

3 So Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him.

4 Then Judah went up, and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek.

5 And they found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

6 Then Adoni-Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes.

7 And Adoni-Bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me." Then they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

8 Now the children of Judah fought against Jerusalem and took it; they struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

9 And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who dwelt in the mountains, in the South, and in the lowland.

10 Then Judah went against the Canaanites who dwelt in Hebron. (Now the name of Hebron was formerly Kirjath Arba.) And they killed Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai.

11 From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. (The name of Debir was formerly Kirjath Sepher.)

12 Then Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give my daughter Achsah as wife."

13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as wife.

14 Now it happened, when she came to him, that she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?"

15 So she said to him, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

¹⁶Now the children of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the City of Palms with the children of Judah into the Wilderness of Judah, which lies in the South near Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people.

¹⁷And Judah went with his brother Simeon, and they attacked the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah.

¹⁸Also Judah took Gaza with its territory, Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

¹⁹So the LORD was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron.

²⁰And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said. Then he expelled from there the three sons of Anak.

²¹But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

²²And the house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them.

²³So the house of Joseph sent men to spy out Bethel. (The name of the city was formerly Luz.)

²⁴And when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him,

"Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will show you mercy."

²⁵So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go.

²⁶And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called its name Luz, which is its name to this day.

²⁷However, Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.

²⁸And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out.

²⁹Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

³⁰Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute.

³¹Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob.

³²So the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

³³Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath; but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them.

³⁴And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley;

³⁵and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute.

³⁶Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward.

2 Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you.

²And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?

³Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'"

⁴So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.

⁵Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD.

⁶And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

⁷So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

⁸Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.

⁹And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

¹¹Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

¹²and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the

people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

¹³They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

¹⁴And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

¹⁵Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

¹⁶Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

¹⁷Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.

¹⁸And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them.

¹⁹And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and

behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.

²⁰Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice,

²¹I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

²²so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not."

²³Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

3 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan

²(this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it),

³namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.

⁴And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

⁵Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁶And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.

⁷So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.

⁸Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.

⁹When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

¹⁰The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim.

¹¹So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

¹²And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹³Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms.

¹⁴So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.

¹⁵But when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. By him the children of Israel sent tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

¹⁶Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was double-edged and a cubit in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh.

¹⁷So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.)

¹⁸And when he had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who had carried the tribute.

¹⁹But he himself turned back from the stone images that were at Gilgal, and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." He said, "Keep silence!" And all who attended him went out from him.

²⁰So Ehud came to him (now he was sitting upstairs in his cool private chamber). Then Ehud said, "I have a

message from God for you." So he arose from his seat.

²¹Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly.

²²Even the hilt went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out of his belly; and his entrails came out.

²³Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them.

²⁴When he had gone out, Eglon's servants came to look, and to their surprise, the doors of the upper room were locked. So they said, "He is probably attending to his needs in the cool chamber."

²⁵So they waited till they were embarrassed, and still he had not opened the doors of the upper room. Therefore they took the key and opened them. And there was their master, fallen dead on the floor.

²⁶But Ehud had escaped while they delayed, and passed beyond the stone images and escaped to Seirah.

²⁷And it happened, when he arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the mountains of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mountains; and he led them.

²⁸Then he said to them, "Follow me, for the LORD has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they

went down after him, seized the fords of the Jordan leading to Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross over.

²⁹And at that time they killed about ten thousand men of Moab, all stout men of valor; not a man escaped.

³⁰So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

³¹After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.

4When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.

²So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim.

³And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he had harshly oppressed the children of Israel.

⁴Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

⁵And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

⁶Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, "Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;

⁷and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand'?"

⁸And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"

⁹So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

¹⁰And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹Now Heber the Kenite, of the children of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, had separated himself from the Kenites and pitched his tent near the terebinth tree at Zaanaim, which is beside Kedesh.

¹²And they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.

¹³So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron,

and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon.

¹⁴Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

¹⁵And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.

¹⁶But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

¹⁷However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

¹⁸And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear." And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket.

¹⁹Then he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him.

²⁰And he said to her, "Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, "Is there any man here?" you shall say, "No."

²¹Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

²²And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, "Come, I will show you the man whom you seek." And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple.

²³So on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel.

²⁴And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

5Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:

²"When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the LORD!

³"Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, even I, will sing to the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

⁴"LORD, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth trembled and the heavens poured, The clouds also poured water;

⁵The mountains gushed before the LORD, This Sinai, before the LORD God of Israel.

⁶"In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways.

⁷Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel.

⁸They chose new gods; Then there was war in the gates; Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

⁹My heart is with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. Bless the LORD!

¹⁰"Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, Who sit in judges' attire, And who walk along the road.

¹¹Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous acts of the LORD, The righteous acts for His villagers in Israel; Then the people of the LORD shall go down to the gates.

¹²"Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, and lead your captives away, O son of Abinoam!

¹³"Then the survivors came down, the people against the nobles; The LORD came down for me against the mighty.

¹⁴From Ephraim were those whose roots were in Amalek. After you, Benjamin,

with your peoples, From Machir rulers came down, And from Zebulun those who bear the recruiter's staff.

¹⁵And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; As Issachar, so was Barak Sent into the valley under his command; Among the divisions of Reuben There were great resolves of heart.

¹⁶Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the pipings for the flocks? The divisions of Reuben have great searchings of heart.

¹⁷Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan, And why did Dan remain on ships? Asher continued at the seashore, And stayed by his inlets.

¹⁸Zebulun is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.

¹⁹"The kings came and fought, Then the kings of Canaan fought In Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; They took no spoils of silver.

²⁰They fought from the heavens; The stars from their courses fought against Sisera.

²¹The torrent of Kishon swept them away, That ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon. O my soul, march on in strength!

²²Then the horses' hooves pounded, The galloping, galloping of his steeds.

²³"Curse Meroz," said the angel of the LORD, "Curse its inhabitants bitterly,

Because they did not come to the help of the LORD, To the help of the LORD against the mighty.'

²⁴"Most blessed among women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she among women in tents.

²⁵He asked for water, she gave milk; She brought out cream in a lordly bowl.

²⁶She stretched her hand to the tent peg, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head, She split and struck through his temple.

²⁷At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; At her feet he sank, he fell; Where he sank, there he fell dead.

²⁸"The mother of Sisera looked through the window, And cried out through the lattice, "Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarries the clatter of his chariots?"

²⁹Her wisest ladies answered her, Yes, she answered herself,

³⁰"Are they not finding and dividing the spoil: To every man a girl or two; For Sisera, plunder of dyed garments, Plunder of garments embroidered and dyed, Two pieces of dyed embroidery for the neck of the looter?"

³¹"Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But let those who love Him be like the sun When it comes out in full strength." So the land had rest for forty years.

6 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,

² and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.

³ So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

⁴ Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.

⁵ For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.

⁶ So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

⁷ And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites,

⁸ that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;

⁹ and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.

¹⁰ Also I said to you, "I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice."

¹¹ Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

¹² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

¹³ Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, "Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?" But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

¹⁵ So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

¹⁷Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me.

¹⁸Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

¹⁹So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.

²⁰The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

²¹Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

²²Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face."

²³Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die."

²⁴So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

²⁵Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;

²⁶and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."

²⁷So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.

²⁸And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built.

²⁹So they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they had inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing."

³⁰Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it."

³¹But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for

himself, because his altar has been torn down!"

³²Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar."

³³Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.

³⁴But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.

³⁵And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

³⁶So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said--

³⁷look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said."

³⁸And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.

³⁹Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry

only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew."

⁴⁰And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

7 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

²And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'

³Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, "Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead." And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

⁴But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go."

⁵So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set

apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."

⁶And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

⁷Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place."

⁸So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.

¹⁰But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant,

¹¹and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp." Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp.

¹²Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.

¹³And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed."

¹⁴Then his companion answered and said, "This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp."

¹⁵And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand."

¹⁶Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

¹⁷And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do:

¹⁸When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

¹⁹So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and

broke the pitchers that were in their hands.

²⁰Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers--they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing--and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

²¹And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

²²When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

²³And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

²⁴Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.

²⁵And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

8 Now the men of Ephraim said to him, "Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?" And they reprimanded him sharply.

²So he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?"

³God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.

⁴When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit.

⁵Then he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian."

⁶And the leaders of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"

⁷So Gideon said, "For this cause, when the LORD has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers!"

⁸Then he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in the same way.

And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered.

⁹So he also spoke to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower!"

¹⁰Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand, all who were left of all the army of the people of the East; for one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew the sword had fallen.

¹¹Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah; and he attacked the army while the camp felt secure.

¹²When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army.

¹³Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle, from the Ascent of Heres.

¹⁴And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth and interrogated him; and he wrote down for him the leaders of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.

¹⁵Then he came to the men of Succoth and said, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you ridiculed me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your weary men?'"

¹⁶And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.

¹⁷Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.

¹⁸And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?" So they answered, "As you are, so were they; each one resembled the son of a king."

¹⁹Then he said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you."

²⁰And he said to Jether his firstborn, "Rise, kill them!" But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he was still a youth.

²¹So Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man is, so is his strength." So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

²²Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian."

²³But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you."

²⁴Then Gideon said to them, "I would like to make a request of you, that each of you would give me the earrings from

his plunder." For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.

²⁵So they answered, "We will gladly give them." And they spread out a garment, and each man threw into it the earrings from his plunder.

²⁶Now the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was one thousand seven hundred shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments, pendants, and purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the chains that were around their camels' necks.

²⁷Then Gideon made it into an ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah. And all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house.

²⁸Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.

²⁹Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.

³⁰Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives.

³¹And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

³²Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

³³So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god.

³⁴Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;

³⁵nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.

9 Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

²"Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: "Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?" Remember that I am your own flesh and bone."

³And his mother's brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

⁴So they gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men; and they followed him.

⁵Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, because he hid himself.

⁶And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all of Beth Millo, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth tree at the pillar that was in Shechem.

⁷Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and cried out. And he said to them: "Listen to me, you men of Shechem, That God may listen to you!

⁸"The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, "Reign over us!"

⁹But the olive tree said to them, "Should I cease giving my oil, With which they honor God and men, And go to sway over trees?"

¹⁰"Then the trees said to the fig tree, "You come and reign over us!"

¹¹But the fig tree said to them, "Should I cease my sweetness and my good fruit, And go to sway over trees?"

¹²"Then the trees said to the vine, "You come and reign over us!"

¹³But the vine said to them, "Should I cease my new wine, Which cheers both God and men, And go to sway over trees?"

¹⁴"Then all the trees said to the bramble, "You come and reign over us!"

¹⁵And the bramble said to the trees, "If in truth you anoint me as king over you, Then come and take shelter in my shade; But if not, let fire come out of the bramble And devour the cedars of Lebanon!"

¹⁶"Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves--

¹⁷for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;

¹⁸but you have risen up against my father's house this day, and killed his seventy sons on one stone, and made Abimelech, the son of his female servant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother--

¹⁹if then you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.

²⁰But if not, let fire come from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo; and let fire come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!"

²¹And Jotham ran away and fled; and he went to Beer and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

²²After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years,

²³God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

²⁴that the crime done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be settled and their blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers.

²⁵And the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who passed by them along that way; and it was told Abimelech.

²⁶Now Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers and went over to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.

²⁷So they went out into the fields, and gathered grapes from their vineyards and trod them, and made merry. And they went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.

²⁸Then Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, and is not Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem; but why should we serve him?"

²⁹If only this people were under my authority! Then I would remove

Abimelech." So he said to Abimelech, "Increase your army and come out!"

³⁰When Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was aroused.

³¹And he sent messengers to Abimelech secretly, saying, "Take note! Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and here they are, fortifying the city against you.

³²Now therefore, get up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field.

³³And it shall be, as soon as the sun is up in the morning, that you shall rise early and rush upon the city; and when he and the people who are with him come out against you, you may then do to them as you find opportunity."

³⁴So Abimelech and all the people who were with him rose by night, and lay in wait against Shechem in four companies.

³⁵When Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood in the entrance to the city gate, Abimelech and the people who were with him rose from lying in wait.

³⁶And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains!" But Zebul said to him, "You see the shadows of the mountains as if they were men."

³⁷So Gaal spoke again and said, "See, people are coming down from the center of the land, and another company is

coming from the Diviners' Terebinth Tree."

³⁸Then Zebul said to him, "Where indeed is your mouth now, with which you said, 'Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?' Are not these the people whom you despised? Go out, if you will, and fight with them now."

³⁹So Gaal went out, leading the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

⁴⁰And Abimelech chased him, and he fled from him; and many fell wounded, to the very entrance of the gate.

⁴¹Then Abimelech dwelt at Arumah, and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers, so that they would not dwell in Shechem.

⁴²And it came about on the next day that the people went out into the field, and they told Abimelech.

⁴³So he took his people, divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field. And he looked, and there were the people, coming out of the city; and he rose against them and attacked them.

⁴⁴Then Abimelech and the company that was with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the gate of the city; and the other two companies rushed upon all who were in the fields and killed them.

⁴⁵So Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city and killed the people who were in it; and he demolished the city and sowed it with salt.

⁴⁶Now when all the men of the tower of Shechem had heard that, they entered the stronghold of the temple of the god Berith.

⁴⁷And it was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

⁴⁸Then Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him. And Abimelech took an ax in his hand and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it and laid it on his shoulder; then he said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, make haste and do as I have done."

⁴⁹So each of the people likewise cut down his own bough and followed Abimelech, put them against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire above them, so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died, about a thousand men and women.

⁵⁰Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he encamped against Thebez and took it.

⁵¹But there was a strong tower in the city, and all the men and women--all the people of the city--fled there and shut themselves in; then they went up to the top of the tower.

⁵²So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

⁵³But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull.

⁵⁴Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me, "A woman killed him."" So his young man thrust him through, and he died.

⁵⁵And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed, every man to his place.

⁵⁶Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers.

⁵⁷And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

10After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim.

²He judged Israel twenty-three years; and he died and was buried in Shamir.

³After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty-two years.

⁴Now he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys; they also had thirty towns, which are called "Havoth Jair" to this day, which are in the land of Gilead.

⁵And Jair died and was buried in Camon.

⁶Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.

⁷So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon.

⁸From that year they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years--all the children of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead.

⁹Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah also, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed.

¹⁰And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!"

¹¹So the LORD said to the children of Israel, "Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines?"

¹²Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand.

¹³Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more.

¹⁴Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress."

¹⁵And the children of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray."

¹⁶So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.

¹⁷Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah.

¹⁸And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, "Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

11 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah.

²Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, "You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."

³Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and

worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out raiding with him.

⁴It came to pass after a time that the people of Ammon made war against Israel.

⁵And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶Then they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon."

⁷So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?"

⁸And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

⁹So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the LORD delivers them to me, shall I be your head?"

¹⁰And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words."

¹¹Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and

Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah.

¹²Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, saying, "What do you have against me, that you have come to fight against me in my land?"

¹³And the king of the people of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore, restore those lands peaceably."

¹⁴So Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon,

¹⁵and said to him, "Thus says Jephthah: "Israel did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the people of Ammon;

¹⁶for when Israel came up from Egypt, they walked through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and came to Kadesh.

¹⁷Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, "Please let me pass through your land." But the king of Edom would not heed. And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained in Kadesh.

¹⁸And they went along through the wilderness and bypassed the land of Edom and the land of Moab, came to the east side of the land of Moab, and encamped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the border

of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab.

¹⁹Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon; and Israel said to him, "Please let us pass through your land into our place."

²⁰But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together, encamped in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

²¹And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. Thus Israel gained possession of all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited that country.

²²They took possession of all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the wilderness to the Jordan.

²³"And now the LORD God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel; should you then possess it?

²⁴Will you not possess whatever Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the LORD our God takes possession of before us, we will possess.

²⁵And now, are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against Israel? Did he ever fight against them?

²⁶While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and its villages, in Aroer and its villages, and in

all the cities along the banks of the Arnon, for three hundred years, why did you not recover them within that time?

²⁷Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you wronged me by fighting against me. May the LORD, the Judge, render judgment this day between the children of Israel and the people of Ammon."

²⁸However, the king of the people of Ammon did not heed the words which Jephthah sent him.

²⁹Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.

³⁰And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands,

³¹then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."

³²So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the LORD delivered them into his hands.

³³And he defeated them from Aroer as far as Minnith--twenty cities--and to Abel Keramim, with a very great slaughter. Thus the people of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

³⁴When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

³⁵And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it."

³⁶So she said to him, "My father, if you have given your word to the LORD, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon."

³⁷Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I."

³⁸So he said, "Go." And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains.

³⁹And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel

⁴⁰that the daughters of Israel went four days each year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

12 Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!"

² And Jephthah said to them, "My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands.

³ So when I saw that you would not deliver me, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?"

⁴ Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, "You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites."

⁵ The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites arrived. And when any Ephraimite who escaped said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No,"

⁶ then they would say to him, "Then say, 'Shibboleth!'" And he would say, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they would take him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. There

fell at that time forty-two thousand Ephraimites.

⁷ And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried among the cities of Gilead.

⁸ After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

⁹ He had thirty sons. And he gave away thirty daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He judged Israel seven years.

¹⁰ Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.

¹¹ After him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. He judged Israel ten years.

¹² And Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

¹³ After him, Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel.

¹⁴ He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy young donkeys. He judged Israel eight years.

¹⁵ Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the mountains of the Amalekites.

13 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD

delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

²Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.

³And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

⁴Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

⁵For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

⁶So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.

⁷And He said to me, "Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death."

⁸Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again

and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."

⁹And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her.

¹⁰Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!"

¹¹So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?" And He said, "I am."

¹²Manoah said, "Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?"

¹³So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful.

¹⁴She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe."

¹⁵Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You."

¹⁶And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.)

¹⁷Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?"

¹⁸And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?"

¹⁹So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on--

²⁰it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar--the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.

²¹When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD.

²²And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"

²³But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time."

²⁴So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

²⁵And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.

²So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

³Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."

⁴But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD--that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

⁵So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him.

⁶And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

⁷Then he went down and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

⁸After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion.

⁹He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

¹⁰So his father went down to the woman. And Samson gave a feast there, for young men used to do so.

¹¹And it happened, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

¹²Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing.

¹³But if you cannot explain it to me, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing." And they said to him, "Pose your riddle, that we may hear it."

¹⁴So he said to them: "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet." Now for three days they could not explain the riddle.

¹⁵But it came to pass on the seventh day that they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, that he may explain the riddle to us, or else we will burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us in order to take what is ours? Is that not so?"

¹⁶Then Samson's wife wept on him, and said, "You only hate me! You do not love me! You have posed a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not explained it to me." And he said to her, "Look, I have not explained it to my father or my mother; so should I explain it to you?"

¹⁷Now she had wept on him the seven days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people.

¹⁸So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down: "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them: "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have solved my riddle!"

¹⁹Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house.

²⁰And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

15 After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into her room." But her father would not permit him to go in.

² Her father said, "I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead."

³ And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!"

⁴ Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.

⁵ When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.

⁶ Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.

⁷ Samson said to them, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease."

⁸ So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

⁹ Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi.

¹⁰ And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So they answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us."

¹¹ Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them."

¹² But they said to him, "We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." Then Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves."

¹³ So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.

¹⁵He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

¹⁶Then Samson said: "With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!"

¹⁷And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi.

¹⁸Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

¹⁹So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

²⁰And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

16Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

²When the Gazites were told, "Samson has come here!" they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, "In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him."

³And Samson lay low till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the

doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

⁴Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

⁵And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

⁶So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you."

⁷And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

⁸So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them.

⁹Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

¹⁰Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies.

Now, please tell me what you may be bound with."

¹¹So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

¹²Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.

¹³Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom"--

¹⁴So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

¹⁵Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies."

¹⁶And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death,

¹⁷that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am

shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

¹⁸When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.

¹⁹Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

²⁰And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

²¹Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

²²However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

²³Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!"

²⁴When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said: "Our god

has delivered into our hands our enemy,
The destroyer of our land, And the one
who multiplied our dead."

²⁵So it happened, when their hearts
were merry, that they said, "Call for
Samson, that he may perform for us."
So they called for Samson from the
prison, and he performed for them. And
they stationed him between the pillars.

²⁶Then Samson said to the lad who held
him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars
which support the temple, so that I can
lean on them."

²⁷Now the temple was full of men and
women. All the lords of the Philistines
were there--about three thousand men
and women on the roof watching while
Samson performed.

²⁸Then Samson called to the LORD,
saying, "O Lord GOD, remember me, I
pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this
once, O God, that I may with one blow
take vengeance on the Philistines for my
two eyes!"

²⁹And Samson took hold of the two
middle pillars which supported the
temple, and he braced himself against
them, one on his right and the other on
his left.

³⁰Then Samson said, "Let me die with
the Philistines!" And he pushed with all
his might, and the temple fell on the
lords and all the people who were in it.
So the dead that he killed at his death
were more than he had killed in his life.

³¹And his brothers and all his father's
household came down and took him,
and brought him up and buried him
between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb
of his father Manoah. He had judged
Israel twenty years.

17

Now there was a man from the
mountains of Ephraim, whose name
was Micah.

²And he said to his mother, "The eleven
hundred shekels of silver that were
taken from you, and on which you put a
curse, even saying it in my ears--here is
the silver with me; I took it." And his
mother said, "May you be blessed by
the LORD, my son!"

³So when he had returned the eleven
hundred shekels of silver to his mother,
his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated
the silver from my hand to the LORD for
my son, to make a carved image and a
molded image; now therefore, I will
return it to you."

⁴Thus he returned the silver to his
mother. Then his mother took two
hundred shekels of silver and gave them
to the silversmith, and he made it into a
carved image and a molded image; and
they were in the house of Micah.

⁵The man Micah had a shrine, and
made an ephod and household idols;
and he consecrated one of his sons,
who became his priest.

⁶In those days there was no king in
Israel; everyone did what was right in
his own eyes.

⁷Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.

⁸The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to stay wherever he could find a place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

⁹And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" So he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay."

¹⁰Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.

¹¹Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him.

¹²So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah.

¹³Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!"

18 In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.

²So the children of Dan sent five men of their family from their territory, men of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and search it. They said to them, "Go, search the land." So they went to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.

³While they were at the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. They turned aside and said to him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?"

⁴He said to them, "Thus and so Micah did for me. He has hired me, and I have become his priest."

⁵So they said to him, "Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous."

⁶And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. The presence of the LORD be with you on your way."

⁷So the five men departed and went to Laish. They saw the people who were there, how they dwelt safely, in the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure. There were no rulers in the land who might put them to shame for anything. They were far from the Sidonians, and they had no ties with anyone.

⁸Then the spies came back to their brethren at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brethren said to them, "What is your report?"

⁹So they said, "Arise, let us go up against them. For we have seen the land, and indeed it is very good. Would you do nothing? Do not hesitate to go, and enter to possess the land.

¹⁰When you go, you will come to a secure people and a large land. For God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth."

¹¹And six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war.

¹²Then they went up and encamped in Kirjath Jearim in Judah. (Therefore they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. There it is, west of Kirjath Jearim.)

¹³And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

¹⁴Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, "Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do."

¹⁵So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite man--to the house of Micah--and greeted him.

¹⁶The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.

¹⁷Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, they took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image. The priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war.

¹⁸When these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

¹⁹And they said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?"

²⁰So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people.

²¹Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them.

²²When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan.

²³And they called out to the children of Dan. So they turned around and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?"

²⁴So he said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and

you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, "What ails you?"

²⁵And the children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry men fall upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household!"

²⁶Then the children of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house.

²⁷So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire.

²⁸There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth Rehob. So they rebuilt the city and dwelt there.

²⁹And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city formerly was Laish.

³⁰Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

³¹So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

19 And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

²But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months.

³Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.

⁴Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank and lodged there.

⁵Then it came to pass on the fourth day that they arose early in the morning, and he stood to depart; but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way."

⁶So they sat down, and the two of them ate and drank together. Then the young woman's father said to the man, "Please be content to stay all night, and let your heart be merry."

⁷And when the man stood to depart, his father-in-law urged him; so he lodged there again.

⁸Then he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart, but the young woman's father said, "Please refresh your heart." So they delayed until afternoon; and both of them ate.

⁹And when the man stood to depart--he and his concubine and his servant--his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, "Look, the day is now drawing toward evening; please spend the night. See, the day is coming to an end; lodge here, that your heart may be merry. Tomorrow go your way early, so that you may get home."

¹⁰However, the man was not willing to spend that night; so he rose and departed, and came opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). With him were the two saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him.

¹¹They were near Jebus, and the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it."

¹²But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners, who are not of the children of Israel; we will go on to Gibeah."

¹³So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and spend the night in Gibeah or in Ramah."

¹⁴And they passed by and went their way; and the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin.

¹⁵They turned aside there to go in to lodge in Gibeah. And when he went in, he sat down in the open square of the city, for no one would take them into his house to spend the night.

¹⁶Just then an old man came in from his work in the field at evening, who also was from the mountains of Ephraim; he was staying in Gibeah, whereas the men of the place were Benjamites.

¹⁷And when he raised his eyes, he saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?"

¹⁸So he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah toward the remote mountains of Ephraim; I am from there. I went to Bethlehem in Judah; now I am going to the house of the LORD. But there is no one who will take me into his house,

¹⁹although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man who is with your servant; there is no lack of anything."

²⁰And the old man said, "Peace be with you! However, let all your needs be my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square."

²¹So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

²²As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city,

perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!"

²³But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage.

²⁴Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"

²⁵But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.

²⁶Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.

²⁷When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold.

²⁸And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

²⁹When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

³⁰And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!"

20 So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the LORD at Mizpah.

²And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword.

³(Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the children of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this wicked deed happen?"

⁴So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "My concubine and I went into Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, to spend the night.

⁵And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me, but instead they ravished my concubine so that she died.

⁶So I took hold of my concubine, cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of the inheritance of Israel, because they committed lewdness and outrage in Israel.

⁷Look! All of you are children of Israel; give your advice and counsel here and now!"

⁸So all the people arose as one man, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house;

⁹but now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: We will go up against it by lot.

¹⁰We will take ten men out of every hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, a hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every ten thousand, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel."

¹¹So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.

¹²Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What is this wickedness that has occurred among you?

¹³Now therefore, deliver up the men, the perverted men who are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove the evil from Israel!" But the children of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel.

¹⁴Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel.

¹⁵And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered twenty-six thousand men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred select men.

¹⁶Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss.

¹⁷Now besides Benjamin, the men of Israel numbered four hundred thousand men who drew the sword; all of these were men of war.

¹⁸Then the children of Israel arose and went up to the house of God to inquire of God. They said, "Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?" The LORD said, "Judah first!"

¹⁹So the children of Israel rose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah.

²⁰And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel put themselves in battle array to fight against them at Gibeah.

²¹Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground twenty-two thousand men of the Israelites.

²²And the people, that is, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and

again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day.

²³Then the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until evening, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, "Shall I again draw near for battle against the children of my brother Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Go up against him."

²⁴So the children of Israel approached the children of Benjamin on the second day.

²⁵And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword.

²⁶Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

²⁷So the children of Israel inquired of the LORD (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days,

²⁸and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."

²⁹Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah.

³⁰And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times.

³¹So the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city. They began to strike down and kill some of the people, as at the other times, in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah) and in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

³²And the children of Benjamin said, "They are defeated before us, as at first." But the children of Israel said, "Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways."

³³So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar. Then Israel's men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba.

³⁴And ten thousand select men from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But the Benjamites did not know that disaster was upon them.

³⁵The LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel. And the children of Israel destroyed that day twenty-five thousand one hundred Benjamites; all these drew the sword.

³⁶So the children of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of Israel

had given ground to the Benjamites, because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah.

³⁷And the men in ambush quickly rushed upon Gibeah; the men in ambush spread out and struck the whole city with the edge of the sword.

³⁸Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city,

³⁹whereupon the men of Israel would turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty of the men of Israel. For they said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle."

⁴⁰But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up in smoke to heaven.

⁴¹And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin panicked, for they saw that disaster had come upon them.

⁴²Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them, and whoever came out of the cities they destroyed in their midst.

⁴³They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them, and easily trampled them down as far as the front of Gibeah toward the east.

⁴⁴And eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these were men of valor.

⁴⁵Then they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and they cut down five thousand of them on the highways. Then they pursued them relentlessly up to Gidom, and killed two thousand of them.

⁴⁶So all who fell of Benjamin that day were twenty-five thousand men who drew the sword; all these were men of valor.

⁴⁷But six hundred men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon for four months.

⁴⁸And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword--from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to.

21 Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, "None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife."

²Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly,

³and said, "O LORD God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?"

⁴So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

⁵The children of Israel said, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the LORD?" For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who had not come up to the LORD at Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

⁶And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel today.

⁷What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them our daughters as wives?"

⁸And they said, "What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the LORD?" And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly.

⁹For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead was there.

¹⁰So the congregation sent out there twelve thousand of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and children.

¹¹And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately."

¹²So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young virgins who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

¹³Then the whole congregation sent word to the children of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and announced peace to them.

¹⁴So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them.

¹⁵And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a void in the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?"

¹⁷And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel.

¹⁸However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, "Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin."

¹⁹Then they said, "In fact, there is a yearly feast of the LORD in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah."

²⁰Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, "Go, lie in wait in the vineyards,

²¹and watch; and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin.

²²Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, "Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath."

²³And the children of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.

²⁴So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance.

²⁵In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ruth

1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

2 The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion--Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

4 Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

7 Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

10 And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Turn back, my daughters, go--for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

13 would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!"

14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

¹⁶But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.

¹⁷Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

¹⁸When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

¹⁹Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

²⁰But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

²¹I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

2There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.

²So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

³Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

⁴Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

⁵Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

⁶So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

⁷And she said, "Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves." So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

⁸Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

⁹Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

¹⁰ So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

¹² The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

¹³ Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

¹⁴ Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

¹⁵ And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

¹⁶ Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

¹⁸ Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

²¹ Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, "You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest."

²² And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

²³ So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

3 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant.

Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

13 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you--good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.

16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

¹⁷And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, "Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law."

¹⁸Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

4Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

²And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

³Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

⁴And I thought to inform you, saying, "Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you." And he said, "I will redeem it."

⁵Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

⁶And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

⁸Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

⁹And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

¹⁰Moreover, Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."

¹¹And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

¹²May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

¹⁵ And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.

¹⁷ Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron;

¹⁹ Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab;

²⁰ Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon;

²¹ Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed;

²² Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

1st Samuel

¹Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

²And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

³This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

⁴And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

⁵But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.

⁶And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.

⁷So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

⁸Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

⁹So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD.

¹⁰And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

¹¹Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

¹²And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

¹³Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

¹⁴So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

¹⁵But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit.

I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

¹⁶Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

¹⁷Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

¹⁸And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

¹⁹Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

²⁰So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

²¹Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

²³So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the

LORD establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

²⁴Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young.

²⁵Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

²⁶And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD.

²⁷For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

²⁸Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

2And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

²"No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

³"Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.

⁴"The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble.

⁶"The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.

⁸He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, And He has set the world upon them.

⁹He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. "For by strength no man shall prevail.

¹⁰The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."

¹¹Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

¹²Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

¹³And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling.

¹⁴Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

¹⁵Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw."

¹⁶And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force."

¹⁷Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

¹⁸But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁹Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

²⁰And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the

loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.

²¹And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

²²Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

²³So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people.

²⁴No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD's people transgress.

²⁵If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

²⁶And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.

²⁷Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: "Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

²⁸Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not

give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire?

²⁹Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?'

³⁰Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: "I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: "Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

³¹Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.

³²And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever.

³³But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age.

³⁴Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them.

³⁵Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is

in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.

³⁶And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread."""

3Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.

²And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,

³and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down,

⁴that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"

⁵So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

⁶Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

⁷(Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)

⁸And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.

⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, "Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears."" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

¹²In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

¹³For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

¹⁴And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of

the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

¹⁶Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" He answered, "Here I am."

¹⁷And he said, "What is the word that the LORD spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you."

¹⁸Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."

¹⁹So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.

²¹Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

4 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines, and encamped beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines encamped in Aphek.

²Then the Philistines put themselves in battle array against Israel. And when they joined battle, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men of the army in the field.

³And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies."

⁴So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

⁵And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook.

⁶Now when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, "What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" Then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp.

⁷So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp!" And they said, "Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before.

⁸Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

⁹Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!"

¹⁰ So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers.

¹¹ Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

¹² Then a man of Benjamin ran from the battle line the same day, and came to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.

¹³ Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told it, all the city cried out.

¹⁴ When Eli heard the noise of the outcry, he said, "What does the sound of this tumult mean?" And the man came quickly and told Eli.

¹⁵ Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see.

¹⁶ Then the man said to Eli, "I am he who came from the battle. And I fled today from the battle line." And he said, "What happened, my son?"

¹⁷ So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured."

¹⁸ Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

¹⁹ Now his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her.

²⁰ And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not fear, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer, nor did she regard it.

²¹ Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

²² And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

5 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

² When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.

³ And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the

ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again.

⁴And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it.

⁵Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

⁶But the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and He ravaged them and struck them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory.

⁷And when the men of Ashdod saw how it was, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is harsh toward us and Dagon our god."

⁸Therefore they sent and gathered to themselves all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath." So they carried the ark of the God of Israel away.

⁹So it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them.

¹⁰Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. So it was, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!"

¹¹So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

¹²And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

6 Now the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

²And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it to its place."

³So they said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but by all means return it to Him with a trespass offering. Then you will be healed, and it will be known to you why His hand is not removed from you."

⁴Then they said, "What is the trespass offering which we shall return to Him?" They answered, "Five golden tumors and five golden rats, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines. For the same plague was on all of you and on your lords."

⁵Therefore you shall make images of your tumors and images of your rats that ravage the land, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will lighten His hand from you, from your gods, and from your land.

⁶Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He did mighty things among them, did they not let the people go, that they might depart?

⁷Now therefore, make a new cart, take two milk cows which have never been yoked, and hitch the cows to the cart; and take their calves home, away from them.

⁸Then take the ark of the LORD and set it on the cart; and put the articles of gold which you are returning to Him as a trespass offering in a chest by its side. Then send it away, and let it go.

⁹And watch: if it goes up the road to its own territory, to Beth Shemesh, then He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we shall know that it is not His hand that struck us--it happened to us by chance."

¹⁰Then the men did so; they took two milk cows and hitched them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home.

¹¹And they set the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the chest with the gold rats and the images of their tumors.

¹²Then the cows headed straight for the road to Beth Shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and

did not turn aside to the right hand or the left. And the lords of the Philistines went after them to the border of Beth Shemesh.

¹³Now the people of Beth Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted their eyes and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.

¹⁴Then the cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and stood there; a large stone was there. So they split the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹⁵The Levites took down the ark of the LORD and the chest that was with it, in which were the articles of gold, and put them on the large stone. Then the men of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices the same day to the LORD.

¹⁶So when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.

¹⁷These are the golden tumors which the Philistines returned as a trespass offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron;

¹⁸and the golden rats, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both fortified cities and country villages, even as far as the large stone of Abel on which they set the ark of the LORD, which stone remains to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

¹⁹Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. He struck fifty thousand and seventy men of the people, and the people lamented because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter.

²⁰And the men of Beth Shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? And to whom shall it go up from us?"

²¹So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up with you."

7 Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

²So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

³Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

⁴So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.

⁵And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."

⁶So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

⁸So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."

⁹And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.

¹¹And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.

¹²Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

¹³So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

¹⁴Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

¹⁶He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places.

¹⁷But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

8 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

²The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

³But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

⁵and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

⁷And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

⁸According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also.

⁹Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

¹⁰So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king.

¹¹And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.

¹²He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and

reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.

¹⁴And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.

¹⁵He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.

¹⁶And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.

¹⁷He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.

¹⁸And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."

¹⁹Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,

²⁰that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

²¹And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD.

²²So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And

Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

9 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

²And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

³Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to his son Saul, "Please take one of the servants with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys."

⁴So he passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and they were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them.

⁵When they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us return, lest my father cease caring about the donkeys and become worried about us."

⁶And he said to him, "Look now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass. So let us go there; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go."

⁷Then Saul said to his servant, "But look, if we go, what shall we bring the man? For the bread in our vessels is all gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?"

⁸And the servant answered Saul again and said, "Look, I have here at hand one-fourth of a shekel of silver. I will give that to the man of God, to tell us our way."

⁹(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he spoke thus: "Come, let us go to the seer"; for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer.)

¹⁰Then Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

¹¹As they went up the hill to the city, they met some young women going out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?"

¹²And they answered them and said, "Yes, there he is, just ahead of you. Hurry now; for today he came to this city, because there is a sacrifice of the people today on the high place.

¹³As soon as you come into the city, you will surely find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now therefore, go up, for about this time you will find him."

¹⁴So they went up to the city. As they were coming into the city, there was

Samuel, coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

¹⁵Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying,

¹⁶"Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me."

¹⁷So when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, "There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people."

¹⁸Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, "Please tell me, where is the seer's house?"

¹⁹Samuel answered Saul and said, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart.

²⁰But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not be anxious about them, for they have been found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?"

²¹And Saul answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?"

²²Now Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall, and had them sit in the place of honor among those who were invited; there were about thirty persons.

²³And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion which I gave you, of which I said to you, "Set it apart.""

²⁴So the cook took up the thigh with its upper part and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, "Here it is, what was kept back. It was set apart for you. Eat; for until this time it has been kept for you, since I said I invited the people." So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

²⁵When they had come down from the high place into the city, Samuel spoke with Saul on the top of the house.

²⁶They arose early; and it was about the dawning of the day that Samuel called to Saul on the top of the house, saying, "Get up, that I may send you on your way." And Saul arose, and both of them went outside, he and Samuel.

²⁷As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God."

10 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"

²When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, "The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?""

³Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine.

⁴And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands.

⁵After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying.

⁶Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

⁷And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.

⁸You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall

wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

⁹So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.

¹⁰When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

¹¹And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹²Then a man from there answered and said, "But who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹³And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place.

¹⁴Then Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" So he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they were nowhere to be found, we went to Samuel."

¹⁵And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you."

¹⁶So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said.

¹⁷Then Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah,

¹⁸and said to the children of Israel, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.'

¹⁹But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, "No, set a king over us!" Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans."

²⁰And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

²¹When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found.

²²Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD answered, "There he is, hidden among the equipment."

²³So they ran and brought him from there; and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward.

²⁴And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like him

among all the people?" So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"

²⁵Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

²⁶And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.

²⁷But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

11

Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you."

²And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, "On this condition I will make a covenant with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel."

³Then the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Hold off for seven days, that we may send messengers to all the territory of Israel. And then, if there is no one to save us, we will come out to you."

⁴So the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and told the news in the hearing of the people. And all the people lifted up their voices and wept.

⁵Now there was Saul, coming behind the herd from the field; and Saul said, "What troubles the people, that they weep?" And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh.

⁶Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused.

⁷So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen." And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

⁸When he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

⁹And they said to the messengers who came, "Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh Gilead: "Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have help." Then the messengers came and reported it to the men of Jabesh, and they were glad.

¹⁰Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do with us whatever seems good to you."

¹¹So it was, on the next day, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and killed Ammonites until the heat of the day. And it happened that those who

survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

¹²Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is he who said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death."

¹³But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has accomplished salvation in Israel."

¹⁴Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there."

¹⁵So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they made sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

12 Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you.

²And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

³Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you."

⁴And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand."

⁵Then he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they answered, "He is witness."

⁶Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt.

⁷Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers:

⁸When Jacob had gone into Egypt, and your fathers cried out to the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.

⁹And when they forgot the LORD their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them.

¹⁰Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, "We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You."

¹¹And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered

you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety.

¹²And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, "No, but a king shall reign over us," when the LORD your God was your king.

¹³"Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the LORD has set a king over you.

¹⁴If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.

¹⁵However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

¹⁶"Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes:

¹⁷Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves."

¹⁸So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

¹⁹And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."

²⁰Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

²¹And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.

²²For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.

²³Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

²⁴Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

²⁵But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

13 Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

²Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the mountains of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The

rest of the people he sent away, every man to his tent.

³And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!"

⁴Now all Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel had also become an abomination to the Philistines. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

⁵Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven.

⁶When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits.

⁷And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

⁸Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

⁹So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering.

¹⁰Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

¹¹And Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

¹²then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

¹³And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

¹⁴But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

¹⁵Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people present with him, about six hundred men.

¹⁶Saul, Jonathan his son, and the people present with them remained in Gibeah of Benjamin. But the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

¹⁷Then raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned onto the road to Ophrah, to the land of Shual,

¹⁸another company turned to the road to Beth Horon, and another company turned to the road of the border that overlooks the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

¹⁹Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears."

²⁰But all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each man's plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his sickle;

²¹and the charge for a sharpening was a pim for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to set the points of the goads.

²²So it came about, on the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan. But they were found with Saul and Jonathan his son.

²³And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

14Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

²And Saul was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men.

³Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.

⁴Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on one side and a sharp rock on the other side. And the name of one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

⁵The front of one faced northward opposite Michmash, and the other southward opposite Gibeah.

⁶Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."

⁷So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."

⁸Then Jonathan said, "Very well, let us cross over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them.

⁹If they say thus to us, "Wait until we come to you," then we will stand still in our place and not go up to them.

¹⁰But if they say thus, "Come up to us," then we will go up. For the LORD has

delivered them into our hand, and this will be a sign to us."

¹¹ So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden."

¹² Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer, and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you something." Jonathan said to his armorbearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has delivered them into the hand of Israel."

¹³ And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them.

¹⁴ That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land.

¹⁵ And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling.

¹⁶ Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and there was the multitude, melting away; and they went here and there.

¹⁷ Then Saul said to the people who were with him, "Now call the roll and see who has gone from us." And when they had called the roll, surprisingly,

Jonathan and his armorbearer were not there.

¹⁸ And Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God here" (for at that time the ark of God was with the children of Israel).

¹⁹ Now it happened, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise which was in the camp of the Philistines continued to increase; so Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."

²⁰ Then Saul and all the people who were with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed every man's sword was against his neighbor, and there was very great confusion.

²¹ Moreover the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

²² Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden in the mountains of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle.

²³ So the LORD saved Israel that day, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven.

²⁴ And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, "Cursed is the man who eats any food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food.

²⁵Now all the people of the land came to a forest; and there was honey on the ground.

²⁶And when the people had come into the woods, there was the honey, dripping; but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath.

²⁷But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath; therefore he stretched out the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his countenance brightened.

²⁸Then one of the people said, "Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, "Cursed is the man who eats food this day." And the people were faint.

²⁹But Jonathan said, "My father has troubled the land. Look now, how my countenance has brightened because I tasted a little of this honey.

³⁰How much better if the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now would there not have been a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?"

³¹Now they had driven back the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. So the people were very faint.

³²And the people rushed on the spoil, and took sheep, oxen, and calves, and slaughtered them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood.

³³Then they told Saul, saying, "Look, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood!" So he said, "You have dealt treacherously; roll a large stone to me this day."

³⁴Then Saul said, "Disperse yourselves among the people, and say to them, "Bring me here every man's ox and every man's sheep, slaughter them here, and eat; and do not sin against the LORD by eating with the blood.'" So every one of the people brought his ox with him that night, and slaughtered it there.

³⁵Then Saul built an altar to the LORD. This was the first altar that he built to the LORD.

³⁶Now Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and plunder them until the morning light; and let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever seems good to you." Then the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here."

³⁷So Saul asked counsel of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will You deliver them into the hand of Israel?" But He did not answer him that day.

³⁸And Saul said, "Come over here, all you chiefs of the people, and know and see what this sin was today.

³⁹For as the LORD lives, who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But not a man among all the people answered him.

⁴⁰Then he said to all Israel, "You be on one side, and my son Jonathan and I will be on the other side." And the people said to Saul, "Do what seems good to you."

⁴¹Therefore Saul said to the LORD God of Israel, "Give a perfect lot." So Saul and Jonathan were taken, but the people escaped.

⁴²And Saul said, "Cast lots between my son Jonathan and me." So Jonathan was taken.

⁴³Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." And Jonathan told him, and said, "I only tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. So now I must die!"

⁴⁴Saul answered, "God do so and more also; for you shall surely die, Jonathan."

⁴⁵But the people said to Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who has accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! As the LORD lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.

⁴⁶Then Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place.

⁴⁷So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and

against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed them.

⁴⁸And he gathered an army and attacked the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them.

⁴⁹The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Jishui, and Malchishua. And the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal.

⁵⁰The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the commander of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.

⁵¹Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

⁵²Now there was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself.

15 Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD.

²Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

³Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and

woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

⁴So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.

⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

⁶Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

⁷And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

⁸He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

⁹But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

¹⁰Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,

¹¹"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

¹²So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

¹³Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

¹⁴But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

¹⁵And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

¹⁶Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on."

¹⁷So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"

¹⁸Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, "Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed."

¹⁹Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

²⁰And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

²¹But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

²²So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

²⁴Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

²⁵Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

²⁶But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

²⁷And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.

²⁸So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

²⁹And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

³⁰Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God."

³¹So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

³²Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

³³But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul.

³⁵And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

16 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"

³ Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!"

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸ So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

¹⁰ Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

¹⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

¹⁵ And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you."

¹⁶ Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the

harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

¹⁷So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

¹⁸Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

¹⁹Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

²⁰And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.

²¹So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.

²²Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

²³And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

17 Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were

gathered at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.

²And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.

³The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

⁴And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

⁶And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.

⁷Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

⁸Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I

prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

¹⁰And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

¹²Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.

¹³The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

¹⁴David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.

¹⁵But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

¹⁶And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

¹⁷Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.

¹⁸And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."

¹⁹Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

²⁰So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.

²¹For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.

²²And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.

²³Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.

²⁴And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

²⁵So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

²⁶Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from

Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

²⁷And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

²⁸Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

²⁹And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

³⁰Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.

³¹Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.

³²Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

³³And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

³⁴But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

³⁵I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

³⁶Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

³⁷Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

³⁸So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.

³⁹David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

⁴⁰Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.

⁴²And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

⁴³So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

⁴⁴And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

⁴⁶This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

⁴⁸So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

⁴⁹Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

⁵⁰So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

⁵¹Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

⁵²Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.

⁵³Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

⁵⁴And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

⁵⁵When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

⁵⁶So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is."

⁵⁷Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

⁵⁸And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

18Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

²Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.

³Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

⁴And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

⁵So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

⁶Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments.

⁷So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."

⁸Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"

⁹So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

¹⁰And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand.

¹¹And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

¹²Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.

¹³Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

¹⁴And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him.

¹⁵Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.

¹⁶But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

¹⁷Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to

you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

¹⁸So David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?"

¹⁹But it happened at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.

²⁰Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

²¹So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall be my son-in-law today."

²²And Saul commanded his servants, "Communicate with David secretly, and say, "Look, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now therefore, become the king's son-in-law."

²³So Saul's servants spoke those words in the hearing of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?"

²⁴And the servants of Saul told him, saying, "In this manner David spoke."

²⁵Then Saul said, "Thus you shall say to David: "The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

²⁶So when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to become the king's son-in-law. Now the days had not expired;

²⁷therefore David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred men of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full count to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as a wife.

²⁸Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him;

²⁹and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually.

³⁰Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed.

19 Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.

²So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide.

³And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you."

⁴Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you.

⁵For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?"

⁶So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed."

⁷Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past.

⁸And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him.

⁹Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand.

¹⁰Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night.

¹¹Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."

¹²So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped.

¹³And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats' hair for his head, and covered it with clothes.

¹⁴So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."

¹⁵Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him."

¹⁶And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' hair for his head.

¹⁷Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

¹⁸So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

¹⁹Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!"

²⁰Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

²¹And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

²²Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And someone said, "Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah."

²³So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

²⁴And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

20 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"

²So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or

small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!"

³Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."

⁴So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you."

⁵And David said to Jonathan, "Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at evening.

⁶If your father misses me at all, then say, "David earnestly asked permission of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.'

⁷If he says thus: "It is well,' your servant will be safe. But if he is very angry, be sure that evil is determined by him.

⁸Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?"

⁹But Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I knew certainly that evil was determined by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you?"

¹⁰Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me, or what if your father answers you roughly?"

¹¹And Jonathan said to David, "Come, let us go out into the field." So both of them went out into the field.

¹²Then Jonathan said to David: "The LORD God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you,

¹³may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.

¹⁴And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die;

¹⁵but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

¹⁶So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies."

¹⁷Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

¹⁸Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the New Moon; and you

will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

¹⁹And when you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel.

²⁰Then I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target;

²¹and there I will send a lad, saying, "Go, find the arrows.' If I expressly say to the lad, "Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them and come'--then, as the LORD lives, there is safety for you and no harm.

²²But if I say thus to the young man, "Look, the arrows are beyond you'--go your way, for the LORD has sent you away.

²³And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD be between you and me forever."

²⁴Then David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast.

²⁵Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall. And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.

²⁶Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him; he is unclean, surely he is unclean."

²⁷And it happened the next day, the second day of the month, that David's

place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?"

²⁸So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem.

²⁹And he said, "Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore he has not come to the king's table."

³⁰Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?

³¹For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

³²And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?"

³³Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.

³⁴So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for

David, because his father had treated him shamefully.

³⁵And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him.

³⁶Then he said to his lad, "Now run, find the arrows which I shoot." As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

³⁷When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?"

³⁸And Jonathan cried out after the lad, "Make haste, hurry, do not delay!" So Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master.

³⁹But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter.

⁴⁰Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city."

⁴¹As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so.

⁴²Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, "May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my

descendants, forever.'" So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

21 Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one is with you?"

² So David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has ordered me on some business, and said to me, 'Do not let anyone know anything about the business on which I send you, or what I have commanded you.' And I have directed my young men to such and such a place.

³ Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give me five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever can be found."

⁴ And the priest answered David and said, "There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women."

⁵ Then David answered the priest, and said to him, "Truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out. And the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in effect common, even though it was consecrated in the vessel this day."

⁶ So the priest gave him holy bread; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD, in order to put hot

bread in its place on the day when it was taken away.

⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. And his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul.

⁸ And David said to Ahimelech, "Is there not here on hand a spear or a sword? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste."

⁹ So the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it. For there is no other except that one here." And David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

¹⁰ Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"

¹² Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

¹³ So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard.

¹⁴Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me?"

¹⁵Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

22David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

²And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

³Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me."

⁴So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

⁵Now the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

⁶When Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered--now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah,

with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him--

⁷then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds?"

⁸All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day."

⁹Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, "I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

¹⁰And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king.

¹²And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" He answered, "Here I am, my lord."

¹³Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?"

¹⁴So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house?"

¹⁵Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much."

¹⁶And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!"

¹⁷Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD.

¹⁸And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod.

¹⁹Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep--with the edge of the sword.

²⁰Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.

²¹And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD's priests.

²²So David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house.

²³Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe."

23 Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."

²Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah."

³But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"

⁴Then David inquired of the LORD once again. And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand."

⁵And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah,

that he went down with an ephod in his hand.

⁷And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars."

⁸Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

⁹When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

¹⁰Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake.

¹¹Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down."

¹²Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will deliver you."

¹³So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

¹⁴And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph.

Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

¹⁵So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest.

¹⁶Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

¹⁷And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that."

¹⁸So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.

¹⁹Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?"

²⁰Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand."

²¹And Saul said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me.

²²Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty.

²³See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides;

and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah."

²⁴So they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.

²⁵When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David. Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon.

²⁶Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.

²⁷But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land!"

²⁸Therefore Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape.

²⁹Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.

24 Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi."

²Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

³So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

⁴Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, "Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

⁶And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

⁷So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

⁸David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down.

⁹And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, "Indeed David seeks your harm'?"

¹⁰Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, "I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed."

¹¹Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it.

¹²Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.

¹³As the proverb of the ancients says, "Wickedness proceeds from the wicked." But my hand shall not be against you.

¹⁴After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea?

¹⁵Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand."

¹⁶So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

¹⁷Then he said to David: "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil.

¹⁸And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me.

¹⁹For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.

²⁰And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

²¹Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house."

²²So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

25Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

²Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

³The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb.

⁴When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep,

⁵David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name.

⁶And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: "Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!

⁷Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel.

⁸Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David."

⁹So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited.

¹⁰Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master.

¹¹Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

¹²So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words.

¹³Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.

¹⁴Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them.

¹⁵But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields.

¹⁶They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep.

¹⁷Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him."

¹⁸Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys.

¹⁹And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

²⁰So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.

²¹Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good.

²²May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light."

²³Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground.

²⁴So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.

²⁵Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.

²⁶Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal.

²⁷And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.

²⁸Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days.

²⁹Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling.

³⁰And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel,

³¹that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."

³²Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me!

³³And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.

³⁴For indeed, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!"

³⁵So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."

³⁶Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light.

³⁷So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone.

³⁸Then it happened, after about ten days, that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

³⁹So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head." And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

⁴⁰When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife."

⁴¹Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord."

⁴²So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife.

⁴³David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives.

⁴⁴But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

26

Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?"

²Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph.

³And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

⁴David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come.

⁵So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp,

with the people encamped all around him.

⁶Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

⁷So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him.

⁸Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

⁹But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?"

¹⁰David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

¹¹The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."

¹²So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep,

because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

¹³Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them.

¹⁴And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out to the king?"

¹⁵So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king.

¹⁶This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head."

¹⁷Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."

¹⁸And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand?

¹⁹Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the

inheritance of the LORD, saying, "Go, serve other gods."

²⁰So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

²¹Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."

²²And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it."

²³May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed.

²⁴And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

²⁵Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

27 And David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair

of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand."

²Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath.

³So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow.

⁴And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.

⁵Then David said to Achish, "If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?"

⁶So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day.

⁷Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months.

⁸And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt.

⁹Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the

donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.

¹⁰Then Achish would say, "Where have you made a raid today?" And David would say, "Against the southern area of Judah, or against the southern area of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern area of the Kenites."

¹¹David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring news to Gath, saying, "Lest they should inform on us, saying, 'Thus David did.'" And thus was his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.

¹²So Achish believed David, saying, "He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever."

28 Now it happened in those days that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, "You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men."

²So David said to Achish, "Surely you know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Therefore I will make you one of my chief guardians forever."

³Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.

⁴Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa.

⁵When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.

⁶And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.

⁷Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor."

⁸So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Please conduct a séance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you."

⁹Then the woman said to him, "Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?"

¹⁰And Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

¹¹Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!"

¹³And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth."

¹⁴So he said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

¹⁵Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do."

¹⁶Then Samuel said: "So why do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy?"

¹⁷And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.

¹⁸Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

¹⁹Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

²⁰Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night.

²¹And the woman came to Saul and saw that he was severely troubled, and said to him, "Look, your maidservant has obeyed your voice, and I have put my life in my hands and heeded the words which you spoke to me.

²²Now therefore, please, heed also the voice of your maidservant, and let me set a piece of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way."

²³But he refused and said, "I will not eat." So his servants, together with the woman, urged him; and he heeded their voice. Then he arose from the ground and sat on the bed.

²⁴Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she hastened to kill it. And she took flour and kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread from it.

²⁵So she brought it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

29 Then the Philistines gathered together all their armies at Aphek, and the Israelites encamped by a fountain which is in Jezreel.

² And the lords of the Philistines passed in review by hundreds and by thousands, but David and his men passed in review at the rear with Achish.

³ Then the princes of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" And Achish said to the princes of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or these years? And to this day I have found no fault in him since he defected to me."

⁴ But the princes of the Philistines were angry with him; so the princes of the Philistines said to him, "Make this fellow return, that he may go back to the place which you have appointed for him, and do not let him go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become our adversary. For with what could he reconcile himself to his master, if not with the heads of these men?"

⁵ Is this not David, of whom they sang to one another in dances, saying: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"

⁶ Then Achish called David and said to him, "Surely, as the LORD lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army is good in my sight. For to this day I have not found evil in you since the day

of your coming to me. Nevertheless the lords do not favor you.

⁷ Therefore return now, and go in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines."

⁸ So David said to Achish, "But what have I done? And to this day what have you found in your servant as long as I have been with you, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

⁹ Then Achish answered and said to David, "I know that you are as good in my sight as an angel of God; nevertheless the princes of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.'"

¹⁰ Now therefore, rise early in the morning with your master's servants who have come with you. And as soon as you are up early in the morning and have light, depart."

¹¹ So David and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

30 Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,

² and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.

³So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive.

⁴Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

⁵And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive.

⁶Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

⁷Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David.

⁸So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

⁹So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind.

¹⁰But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor.

¹¹Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water.

¹²And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights.

¹³Then David said to him, "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" And he said, "I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick.

¹⁴We made an invasion of the southern area of the Cherethites, in the territory which belongs to Judah, and of the southern area of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire."

¹⁵And David said to him, "Can you take me down to this troop?" So he said, "Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop."

¹⁶And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.

¹⁷Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled.

¹⁸So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives.

¹⁹And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all.

²⁰Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those other livestock, and said, "This is David's spoil."

²¹Now David came to the two hundred men who had been so weary that they could not follow David, whom they also had made to stay at the Brook Besor. So they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near the people, he greeted them.

²²Then all the wicked and worthless men of those who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart."

²³But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us.

²⁴For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike."

²⁵So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

²⁶Now when David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD"--

²⁷to those who were in Bethel, those who were in Ramoth of the South, those who were in Jattir,

²⁸those who were in Aroer, those who were in Siphmoth, those who were in Eshtemoa,

²⁹those who were in Rachal, those who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, those who were in the cities of the Kenites,

³⁰those who were in Hormah, those who were in Chorashan, those who were in Athach,

³¹those who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were accustomed to rove.

31 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

²Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

³The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.

⁴Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.

⁵And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him.

⁶So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day.

⁷And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were on the other side of the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

⁸So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the temple of their idols and among the people.

¹⁰Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

¹¹Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹²all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there.

¹³Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

2nd Samuel

1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag,

2 on the third day, behold, it happened that a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. So it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself.

3 And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" So he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

4 Then David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

5 So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?"

6 Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance to be on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

7 Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, "Here I am."

8 And he said to me, "Who are you?" So I answered him, "I am an Amalekite."

9 He said to me again, "Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me."

10 So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."

11 Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him.

12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

13 Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite."

14 So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died.

16 So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth

has testified against you, saying, "I have killed the LORD's anointed."

¹⁷Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son,

¹⁸and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher:

¹⁹"The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon-- Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

²¹"O mountains of Gilboa, Let there be no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

²²From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty.

²³"Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.

²⁴"O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

²⁵"How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places.

²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women.

²⁷"How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!"

2It happened after this that David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron."

²So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite.

³And David brought up the men who were with him, every man with his household. So they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

⁴Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, "The men of Jabesh Gilead were the ones who buried Saul."

⁵So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "You are blessed of the LORD, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him.

⁶And now may the LORD show kindness and truth to you. I also will repay you this kindness, because you have done this thing.

⁷Now therefore, let your hands be strengthened, and be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

⁸But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim;

⁹and he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

¹⁰Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.

¹¹And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

¹²Now Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

¹³And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon. So they sat down, one on one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool.

¹⁴Then Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men now arise and compete

before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise."

¹⁵So they arose and went over by number, twelve from Benjamin, followers of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve from the servants of David.

¹⁶And each one grasped his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side; so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called the Field of Sharp Swords, which is in Gibeon.

¹⁷So there was a very fierce battle that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

¹⁸Now the three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab and Abishai and Asahel. And Asahel was as fleet of foot as a wild gazelle.

¹⁹So Asahel pursued Abner, and in going he did not turn to the right hand or to the left from following Abner.

²⁰Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Are you Asahel?" He answered, "I am."

²¹And Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and lay hold on one of the young men and take his armor for yourself." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him.

²²So Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I face your brother Joab?"

²³However, he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the blunt end of the spear, so that the spear came out of his back; and he fell down there and died on the spot. So it was that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died, stood still.

²⁴Joab and Abishai also pursued Abner. And the sun was going down when they came to the hill of Ammah, which is before Giah by the road to the Wilderness of Gibeon.

²⁵Now the children of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became a unit, and took their stand on top of a hill.

²⁶Then Abner called to Joab and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the latter end? How long will it be then until you tell the people to return from pursuing their brethren?"

²⁷And Joab said, "As God lives, unless you had spoken, surely then by morning all the people would have given up pursuing their brethren."

²⁸So Joab blew a trumpet; and all the people stood still and did not pursue Israel anymore, nor did they fight anymore.

²⁹Then Abner and his men went on all that night through the plain, crossed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron; and they came to Mahanaim.

³⁰So Joab returned from pursuing Abner. And when he had gathered all the

people together, there were missing of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel.

³¹But the servants of David had struck down, of Benjamin and Abner's men, three hundred and sixty men who died.

³²Then they took up Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb, which was in Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at daybreak.

3Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

²Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

³his second, Chileab, by Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur;

⁴the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

⁵and the sixth, Ithream, by David's wife Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron.

⁶Now it was so, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner was strengthening his hold on the house of Saul.

⁷And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. So Ishbosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?"

⁸Then Abner became very angry at the words of Ishbosheth, and said, "Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah? Today I show loyalty to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not delivered you into the hand of David; and you charge me today with a fault concerning this woman?"

⁹May God do so to Abner, and more also, if I do not do for David as the LORD has sworn to him--

¹⁰to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul, and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba."

¹¹And he could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

¹²Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to David, saying, "Whose is the land?" saying also, "Make your covenant with me, and indeed my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel to you."

¹³And David said, "Good, I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you: you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face."

¹⁴So David sent messengers to Ishbosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to

myself for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines."

¹⁵And Ishbosheth sent and took her from her husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish.

¹⁶Then her husband went along with her to Bahurim, weeping behind her. So Abner said to him, "Go, return!" And he returned.

¹⁷Now Abner had communicated with the elders of Israel, saying, "In time past you were seeking for David to be king over you.

¹⁸Now then, do it! For the LORD has spoken of David, saying, "By the hand of My servant David, I will save My people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and the hand of all their enemies."

¹⁹And Abner also spoke in the hearing of Benjamin. Then Abner also went to speak in the hearing of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel and the whole house of Benjamin.

²⁰So Abner and twenty men with him came to David at Hebron. And David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him.

²¹Then Abner said to David, "I will arise and go, and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

²²At that moment the servants of David and Joab came from a raid and brought

much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace.

²³When Joab and all the troops that were with him had come, they told Joab, saying, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he sent him away, and he has gone in peace."

²⁴Then Joab came to the king and said, "What have you done? Look, Abner came to you; why is it that you sent him away, and he has already gone?"

²⁵Surely you realize that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you, to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

²⁶And when Joab had gone from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, who brought him back from the well of Sirah. But David did not know it.

²⁷Now when Abner had returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him privately, and there stabbed him in the stomach, so that he died for the blood of Asahel his brother.

²⁸Afterward, when David heard it, he said, "My kingdom and I are guiltless before the LORD forever of the blood of Abner the son of Ner.

²⁹Let it rest on the head of Joab and on all his father's house; and let there never fail to be in the house of Joab one who has a discharge or is a leper, who leans on a staff or falls by the sword, or who lacks bread."

³⁰So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

³¹Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes, gird yourselves with sackcloth, and mourn for Abner." And King David followed the coffin.

³²So they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept.

³³And the king sang a lament over Abner and said: "Should Abner die as a fool dies?"

³⁴Your hands were not bound Nor your feet put into fetters; As a man falls before wicked men, so you fell." Then all the people wept over him again.

³⁵And when all the people came to persuade David to eat food while it was still day, David took an oath, saying, "God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!"

³⁶Now all the people took note of it, and it pleased them, since whatever the king did pleased all the people.

³⁷For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's intent to kill Abner the son of Ner.

³⁸Then the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?"

³⁹And I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men, the sons of Zeruiah, are too harsh for me. The LORD shall repay the evildoer according to his wickedness."

4When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled.

²Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of troops. The name of one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (For Beeroth also was part of Benjamin,

³because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there until this day.)

⁴Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

⁵Then the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out and came at about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who was lying on his bed at noon.

⁶And they came there, all the way into the house, as though to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

⁷For when they came into the house, he was lying on his bed in his bedroom; then they struck him and killed him, beheaded him and took his head, and were all night escaping through the plain.

⁸And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the LORD has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul and his descendants."

⁹But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity,

¹⁰when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag--the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news.

¹¹How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?"

¹²So David commanded his young men, and they executed them, cut off their hands and feet, and hanged them by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.

5Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.

²Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, "You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel."

³Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel.

⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

⁵In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

⁶And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here."

⁷Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).

⁸Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul), he shall be chief and captain." Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

⁹Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward.

¹⁰So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

¹¹Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house.

¹²So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.

¹³And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David.

¹⁴Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

¹⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,

¹⁶Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

¹⁷Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold.

¹⁸The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁹So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand."

²⁰So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.

²¹And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away.

²²Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

²³Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees.

²⁴And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."

²⁵And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

6 Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.

²And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.

³So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of

Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

⁴And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.

⁶And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

⁷Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

⁸And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.

⁹David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"

¹⁰So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

¹¹The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three

months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

¹²Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.

¹³And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

¹⁴Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

¹⁸And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

¹⁹Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

²⁰Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

²¹So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.

²²And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

²³Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

7 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around,

²that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."

³Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,

⁵"Go and tell My servant David, "Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?"

⁶For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

⁷Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"

⁸Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

⁹And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.

¹⁰Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

¹¹since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

¹²"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁴I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

¹⁵But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."

¹⁷According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

¹⁸Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?"

¹⁹And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

²⁰Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.

²¹For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them.

²²Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

²³And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name--and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land--before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods?

²⁴For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.

²⁵"Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said.

²⁶So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, "The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel." And let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

²⁷For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, "I will build you a house." Therefore Your servant has

found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.

²⁸"And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant.

²⁹Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever."

8After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines and subdued them. And David took Gath from the hand of the Philistines.

²Then he defeated Moab. Forcing them down to the ground, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured off those to be put to death, and with one full line those to be kept alive. So the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute.

³David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his territory at the River Euphrates.

⁴David took from him one thousand chariots, seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Also David hamstrung all the chariot horses, except that he spared enough of them for one hundred chariots.

⁵When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David

killed twenty-two thousand of the Syrians.

⁶Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute. So the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

⁷And David took the shields of gold that had belonged to the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸Also from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a large amount of bronze.

⁹When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer,

¹⁰then Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and Joram brought with him articles of silver, articles of gold, and articles of bronze.

¹¹King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued--

¹²from Syria, from Moab, from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³And David made himself a name when he returned from killing eighteen thousand Syrians in the Valley of Salt.

¹⁴He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

¹⁵So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people.

¹⁶Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

¹⁷Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests; Seraiah was the scribe;

¹⁸Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

9 Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

²And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" He said, "At your service!"

³Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet."

⁴So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

⁵Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

⁶Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

⁷So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

⁸Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

⁹And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.

¹⁰You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has

commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons."

¹²Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth.

¹³So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

10 It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

²Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the people of Ammon.

³And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Has David not rather sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?"

⁴Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.

⁵When they told David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at

Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

⁶When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah one thousand men, and from Ish-Tob twelve thousand men.

⁷Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

⁸Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Beth Rehob, Ish-Tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

⁹When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best and put them in battle array against the Syrians.

¹⁰And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, that he might set them in battle array against the people of Ammon.

¹¹Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

¹²Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

¹³So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him.

¹⁴When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city. So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.

¹⁵When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered together.

¹⁶Then Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam. And Shobach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them.

¹⁷When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in battle array against David and fought with him.

¹⁸Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven hundred charioteers and forty thousand horsemen of the Syrians, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, who died there.

¹⁹And when all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.

11 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to

battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

²Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

³So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

⁴Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

⁵And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

⁶Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered.

⁸And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him.

⁹But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

¹⁰So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

¹¹And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

¹²Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

¹³Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

¹⁵And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

¹⁶So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men.

¹⁷Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

¹⁸Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war,

¹⁹and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king,

²⁰if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: "Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

²¹Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?'--then you shall say, "Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

²²So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.

²³And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate.

²⁴The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

²⁵Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: "Do not let

this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

²⁷And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

12

Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.

²The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.

³But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

⁴And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

⁵So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan,

"As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!

⁶And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

⁷Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

⁸I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!

⁹Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

¹⁰Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

¹¹Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

¹²For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun."

¹³So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

¹⁴However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

¹⁵Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.

¹⁶David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.

¹⁷So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

¹⁸Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!"

¹⁹When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

²⁰So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into

the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

²¹Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food."

²²And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'

²³But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

²⁴Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him,

²⁵and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

²⁶Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the people of Ammon, and took the royal city.

²⁷And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah, and I have taken the city's water supply.

²⁸Now therefore, gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called after my name."

²⁹So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it.

³⁰Then he took their king's crown from his head. Its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.

³¹And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws and iron picks and iron axes, and made them cross over to the brick works. So he did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

13

After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

²Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.

³But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man.

⁴And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

⁵So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to

him, "Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand."

⁶Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

⁷And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him."

⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes.

⁹And she took the pan and placed them out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." And they all went out from him.

¹⁰Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom.

¹¹Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

¹²But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing!

¹³And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you."

¹⁴However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.

¹⁵Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!"

¹⁶So she said to him, "No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her.

¹⁷Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, "Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her."

¹⁸Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

¹⁹Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly.

²⁰And Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

²¹But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

²²And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

²³And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons.

²⁴Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant."

²⁵But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.

²⁶Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?"

²⁷But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

²⁸Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."

²⁹So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded.

Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.

³⁰And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!"

³¹So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

³²Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar.

³³Now therefore, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead."

³⁴Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind him.

³⁵And Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is."

³⁶So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.

³⁷But Absalom fled and went to Talmi the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

³⁸So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

³⁹And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.

14 So Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom.

²And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead.

³Go to the king and speak to him in this manner." So Joab put the words in her mouth.

⁴And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, "Help, O king!"

⁵Then the king said to her, "What troubles you?" And she answered, "Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead.

⁶Now your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part

them, but the one struck the other and killed him.

⁷And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant, and they said, "Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also." So they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth."

⁸Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you."

⁹And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My lord, O king, let the iniquity be on me and on my father's house, and the king and his throne be guiltless."

¹⁰So the king said, "Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore."

¹¹Then she said, "Please let the king remember the LORD your God, and do not permit the avenger of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son." And he said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

¹²Therefore the woman said, "Please, let your maidservant speak another word to my lord the king." And he said, "Say on."

¹³So the woman said: "Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the

king does not bring his banished one home again.

¹⁴For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him.

¹⁵Now therefore, I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. And your maidservant said, "I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his maidservant.

¹⁶For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the inheritance of God.'

¹⁷Your maidservant said, "The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you."

¹⁸Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you." And the woman said, "Please, let my lord the king speak."

¹⁹So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman answered and said, "As you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab commanded me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant.

²⁰To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth."

²¹And the king said to Joab, "All right, I have granted this thing. Go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom."

²²Then Joab fell to the ground on his face and bowed himself, and thanked the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant."

²³So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

²⁴And the king said, "Let him return to his own house, but do not let him see my face." So Absalom returned to his own house, but did not see the king's face.

²⁵Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

²⁶And when he cut the hair of his head--at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him--when he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels according to the king's standard.

²⁷To Absalom were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar.

She was a woman of beautiful appearance.

²⁸And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, but did not see the king's face.

²⁹Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

³⁰So he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

³¹Then Joab arose and came to Absalom's house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

³²And Absalom answered Joab, "Look, I sent to you, saying, 'Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, 'Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still.'" Now therefore, let me see the king's face; but if there is iniquity in me, let him execute me."

³³So Joab went to the king and told him. And when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom.

15 After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

²Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And he would say, "Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel."

³Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you."

⁴Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice."

⁵And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him.

⁶In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, "Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the LORD.

⁸For your servant took a vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, "If the LORD indeed brings me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD."

⁹And the king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.

¹⁰Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, "Absalom reigns in Hebron!"

¹¹And with Absalom went two hundred men invited from Jerusalem, and they went along innocently and did not know anything.

¹²Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city--from Giloh--while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number.

¹³Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or we shall not escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

¹⁵And the king's servants said to the king, "We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands."

¹⁶Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house.

¹⁷And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts.

¹⁸Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath, passed before the king.

¹⁹Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also going with us? Return and remain with the king. For you are a foreigner and also an exile from your own place.

²⁰In fact, you came only yesterday. Should I make you wander up and down with us today, since I go I know not where? Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth be with you."

²¹But Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be."

²²So David said to Ittai, "Go, and cross over." Then Ittai the Gittite and all his men and all the little ones who were with him crossed over.

²³And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness.

²⁴There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city.

²⁵Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place.

²⁶But if He says thus: "I have no delight in you," here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."

²⁷The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

²⁸See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me."

²⁹Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

³⁰So David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot. And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up.

³¹Then someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!"

³²Now it happened when David had come to the top of the mountain, where he worshiped God--there was Hushai the Archite coming to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head.

³³David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me.

³⁴But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, "I will be your servant, O king; as I was your father's servant previously, so I will now also be your servant," then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

³⁵And do you not have Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? Therefore it will be that whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

³⁶Indeed they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son; and by them you shall send me everything you hear."

³⁷So Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

16When David was a little past the top of the mountain, there was Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, who met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, one hundred clusters of raisins, one hundred summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

²And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean to do with these?" So Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who are faint in the wilderness to drink."

³Then the king said, "And where is your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, "Today the house of Israel will restore the kingdom of my father to me."

⁴So the king said to Ziba, "Here, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours." And Ziba said, "I humbly bow before you, that I may find favor in your sight, my lord, O king!"

⁵Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came.

⁶And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

⁷Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue!"

⁸The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!"

⁹Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!"

¹⁰But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let

him curse, because the LORD has said to him, "Curse David." Who then shall say, "Why have you done so?"

¹¹And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him.

¹²It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day."

¹³And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust.

¹⁴Now the king and all the people who were with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there.

¹⁵Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel was with him.

¹⁶And so it was, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

¹⁷So Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?"

¹⁸And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, but whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain.

¹⁹"Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence."

²⁰Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give advice as to what we should do."

²¹And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong."

²²So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

²³Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

17 Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Now let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight.

²I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king.

³Then I will bring back all the people to you. When all return except the man whom you seek, all the people will be at peace."

⁴And the saying pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

⁵Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he says too."

⁶And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, "Ahithophel has spoken in this manner. Shall we do as he says? If not, speak up."

⁷So Hushai said to Absalom: "The advice that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time.

⁸For," said Hushai, "you know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and your father is a man of war, and will not camp with the people.

⁹Surely by now he is hidden in some pit, or in some other place. And it will be, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears it will say, "There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom."

¹⁰And even he who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will melt completely. For all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and those who are with him are valiant men.

¹¹Therefore I advise that all Israel be fully gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that is by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person.

¹²So we will come upon him in some place where he may be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground. And of him and all the men who are with him there shall not be left so much as one.

¹³Moreover, if he has withdrawn into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city; and we will pull it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there."

¹⁴So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel." For the LORD had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring disaster on Absalom.

¹⁵Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so I have advised.

¹⁶Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, "Do not spend this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily cross over, lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up."

¹⁷Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed at En Rogel, for they dared not be seen coming into the city; so a female servant would come and tell them, and they would go and tell King David.

¹⁸Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom. But both of them went away quickly and came to a man's house in

Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down into it.

¹⁹Then the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground grain on it; and the thing was not known.

²⁰And when Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" So the woman said to them, "They have gone over the water brook." And when they had searched and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

²¹Now it came to pass, after they had departed, that they came up out of the well and went and told King David, and said to David, "Arise and cross over the water quickly. For thus has Ahithophel advised against you."

²²So David and all the people who were with him arose and crossed over the Jordan. By morning light not one of them was left who had not gone over the Jordan.

²³Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey, and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died; and he was buried in his father's tomb.

²⁴Then David went to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

²⁵And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab. This Amasa

was the son of a man whose name was Jithra, an Israelite, who had gone in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother.

²⁶So Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

²⁷Now it happened, when David had come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the people of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim,

²⁸brought beds and basins, earthen vessels and wheat, barley and flour, parched grain and beans, lentils and parched seeds,

²⁹honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who were with him to eat. For they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."

18 And David numbered the people who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

²Then David sent out one third of the people under the hand of Joab, one third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I also will surely go out with you myself."

³But the people answered, "You shall not go out! For if we flee away, they will not care about us; nor if half of us die,

will they care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us now. For you are now more help to us in the city."

⁴Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

⁵Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains orders concerning Absalom.

⁶So the people went out into the field of battle against Israel. And the battle was in the woods of Ephraim.

⁷The people of Israel were overthrown there before the servants of David, and a great slaughter of twenty thousand took place there that day.

⁸For the battle there was scattered over the face of the whole countryside, and the woods devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

⁹Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on.

¹⁰Now a certain man saw it and told Joab, and said, "I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree!"

¹¹ So Joab said to the man who told him, "You just saw him! And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten shekels of silver and a belt."

¹² But the man said to Joab, "Though I were to receive a thousand shekels of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king's son. For in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Beware lest anyone touch the young man Absalom!'"

¹³ Otherwise I would have dealt falsely against my own life. For there is nothing hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself against me."

¹⁴ Then Joab said, "I cannot linger with you." And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree.

¹⁵ And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.

¹⁶ So Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel. For Joab held back the people.

¹⁷ And they took Absalom and cast him into a large pit in the woods, and laid a very large heap of stones over him. Then all Israel fled, everyone to his tent.

¹⁸ Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which is in the King's Valley. For he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." He called the pillar after his own name.

And to this day it is called Absalom's Monument.

¹⁹ Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run now and take the news to the king, how the LORD has avenged him of his enemies."

²⁰ And Joab said to him, "You shall not take the news this day, for you shall take the news another day. But today you shall take no news, because the king's son is dead."

²¹ Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran.

²² And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite." So Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, since you have no news ready?"

²³ "But whatever happens," he said, "let me run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain, and outran the Cushite.

²⁴ Now David was sitting between the two gates. And the watchman went up to the roof over the gate, to the wall, lifted his eyes and looked, and there was a man, running alone.

²⁵ Then the watchman cried out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he came rapidly and drew near.

²⁶Then the watchman saw another man running, and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "There is another man, running alone!" And the king said, "He also brings news."

²⁷So the watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and comes with good news."

²⁸So Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, "All is well!" Then he bowed down with his face to the earth before the king, and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king!"

²⁹The king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant and me your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I did not know what it was about."

³⁰And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

³¹Just then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "There is good news, my lord the king! For the LORD has avenged you this day of all those who rose against you."

³²And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" So the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!"

³³Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom--my son, my son Absalom--if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!"

19 And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."

²So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son."

³And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

⁴But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines,

⁶in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well.

⁷Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by

the LORD, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now."

⁸Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king. For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent.

⁹Now all the people were in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, he delivered us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled from the land because of Absalom.

¹⁰But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. Now therefore, why do you say nothing about bringing back the king?"

¹¹So King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, "Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house, since the words of all Israel have come to the king, to his very house?"

¹²You are my brethren, you are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring back the king?"

¹³And say to Amasa, "Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you are not commander of the army before me continually in place of Joab."

¹⁴So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah, just as the heart of one

man, so that they sent this word to the king: "Return, you and all your servants!"

¹⁵Then the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan.

¹⁶And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was from Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

¹⁷There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over the Jordan before the king.

¹⁸Then a ferryboat went across to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. Now Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan.

¹⁹Then he said to the king, "Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember what wrong your servant did on the day that my lord the king left Jerusalem, that the king should take it to heart.

²⁰For I, your servant, know that I have sinned. Therefore here I am, the first to come today of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king."

²¹But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?"

²²And David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"

²³Therefore the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king swore to him.

²⁴Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

²⁵So it was, when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

²⁶And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go to the king,' because your servant is lame.

²⁷And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes.

²⁸For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?"

²⁹So the king said to him, "Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.'"

³⁰Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."

³¹And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan.

³²Now Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. And he had provided the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very rich man.

³³And the king said to Barzillai, "Come across with me, and I will provide for you while you are with me in Jerusalem."

³⁴But Barzillai said to the king, "How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?"

³⁵I am today eighty years old. Can I discern between the good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any longer the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be a further burden to my lord the king?

³⁶Your servant will go a little way across the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me with such a reward?

³⁷Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city,

near the grave of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king, and do for him what seems good to you."

³⁸And the king answered, "Chimham shall cross over with me, and I will do for him what seems good to you. Now whatever you request of me, I will do for you."

³⁹Then all the people went over the Jordan. And when the king had crossed over, the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own place.

⁴⁰Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

⁴¹Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, "Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David's men with him across the Jordan?"

⁴²So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we ever eaten at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?"

⁴³And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, "We have ten shares in the king; therefore we also have more right to David than you. Why then do you despise us--were we not the first to advise bringing back our king?" Yet the words of the men of

Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

20 And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!"

²So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king.

³Now David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women, his concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in seclusion and supported them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood.

⁴And the king said to Amasa, "Assemble the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present here yourself."

⁵So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him.

⁶And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he find for himself fortified cities, and escape us."

⁷So Joab's men, with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the mighty men, went out after him. And they went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

⁸When they were at the large stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa came before them. Now Joab was dressed in battle armor; on it was a belt with a sword fastened in its sheath at his hips; and as he was going forward, it fell out.

⁹Then Joab said to Amasa, "Are you in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

¹⁰But Amasa did not notice the sword that was in Joab's hand. And he struck him with it in the stomach, and his entrails poured out on the ground; and he did not strike him again. Thus he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹¹Meanwhile one of Joab's men stood near Amasa, and said, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David--follow Joab!"

¹²But Amasa wallowed in his blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came upon him halted.

¹³When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Berites. So they were gathered together and also went after Sheba.

¹⁵Then they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maachah; and they cast up a siege mound against the city, and it stood by the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down.

¹⁶Then a wise woman cried out from the city, "Hear, hear! Please say to Joab, 'Come nearby, that I may speak with you.'"

¹⁷When he had come near to her, the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Hear the words of your maidservant." And he answered, "I am listening."

¹⁸So she spoke, saying, "They used to talk in former times, saying, 'They shall surely seek guidance at Abel,' and so they would end disputes.

¹⁹I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?"

²⁰And Joab answered and said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy!

²¹That is not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city."

So the woman said to Joab, "Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall."

²²Then the woman in her wisdom went to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. Then he blew a trumpet, and they withdrew from the city, every man to his tent. So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem.

²³And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites;

²⁴Adoram was in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

²⁵Sheva was scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests;

²⁶and Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David.

21

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."

²So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.

³Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?"

⁴And the Gibeonites said to him, "We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any man in Israel for us." So he said, "Whatever you say, I will do for you."

⁵Then they answered the king, "As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel,

⁶let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD chose." And the king said, "I will give them."

⁷But the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

⁸So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

⁹and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the LORD. So they fell, all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

¹⁰Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.

¹¹And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

¹²Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

¹³So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

¹⁴They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.

¹⁵When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint.

¹⁶Then Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels, who was bearing a new sword, thought he could kill David.

¹⁷But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."

¹⁸Now it happened afterward that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was one of the sons of the giant.

¹⁹Again there was war at Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

²⁰Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant.

²¹So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

²²These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

22 Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

²And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

³The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence.

⁴I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁵"When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

⁶The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.

⁷In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears.

⁸"Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.

⁹Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.

¹⁰He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.

¹¹He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind.

¹²He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

¹³From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled.

¹⁴"The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice.

¹⁵He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.

¹⁶Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered, At the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

¹⁷"He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters.

¹⁸He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me.

¹⁹They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support.

²⁰He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

²¹"The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

²²For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God.

²³For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them.

²⁴I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.

²⁵Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes.

²⁶"With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;

²⁷With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

²⁸You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down.

²⁹"For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.

³⁰For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall.

³¹As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

³²"For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?

³³God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect.

³⁴He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places.

³⁵He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁶"You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.

³⁷You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip.

³⁸"I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.

³⁹And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet.

⁴⁰For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me.

⁴¹You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me.

⁴²They looked, but there was none to save; Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

⁴³Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I trod them like dirt in the streets, And I spread them out.

⁴⁴"You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people; You have kept me as the head of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me.

⁴⁵The foreigners submit to me; As soon as they hear, they obey me.

⁴⁶The foreigners fade away, And come frightened from their hideouts.

⁴⁷"The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!

⁴⁸It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;

⁴⁹He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man.

⁵⁰Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.

⁵¹He is the tower of salvation to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore."

23 Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:

²"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

³The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: "He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.

⁴And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, Like the tender grass springing out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.'

⁵"Although my house is not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire; Will He not make it increase?

⁶But the sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with hands.

⁷But the man who touches them Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear, And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place."

⁸These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time.

⁹And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated.

¹⁰He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

¹¹And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines.

¹²But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

¹³Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁴David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

¹⁵And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"

¹⁶So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

¹⁷And he said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

¹⁸Now Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of another three. He lifted his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three.

¹⁹Was he not the most honored of three? Therefore he became their

captain. However, he did not attain to the first three.

²⁰Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

²¹And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

²²These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men.

²³He was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.

²⁴Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁵Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,

²⁶Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

²⁷Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

²⁸Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

²⁹Heleb the son of Baanah (the Netophathite), Ittai the son of Ribai from Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,

³⁰Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai from the brooks of Gaash,

³¹Abi-Albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

³²Eliabha the Shaalbonite (of the sons of Jashen), Jonathan,

³³Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

³⁴Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

³⁵Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

³⁶Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

³⁷Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite (armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah),

³⁸Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

³⁹and Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

24 Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah."

²So the king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Now go throughout all the tribes of

Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people."

³And Joab said to the king, "Now may the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?"

⁴Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. Therefore Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel.

⁵And they crossed over the Jordan and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the town which is in the midst of the ravine of Gad, and toward Jazer.

⁶Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim Hodshi; they came to Dan Jaan and around to Sidon;

⁷and they came to the stronghold of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites. Then they went out to South Judah as far as Beersheba.

⁸So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

⁹Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king. And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

¹⁰And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

¹¹Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹²"Go and tell David, "Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.""

¹³So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

¹⁴And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁵So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.

¹⁶And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel

of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁷Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

¹⁸And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

¹⁹So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

²⁰Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground.

²¹Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."

²²Now Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood."

²³All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you."

²⁴Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

1st Kings

1 Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm.

2 Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm."

3 So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

4 The young woman was very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her.

5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

6 (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)

7 Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah.

8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah.

9 And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants.

10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.

11 So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it?"

12 Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

13 Go immediately to King David and say to him, "Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, 'Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'? Why then has Adonijah become king?"

14 Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

15 So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old,

and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.)

¹⁶And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, "What is your wish?"

¹⁷Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.'

¹⁸So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it.

¹⁹He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited.

²⁰And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

²¹Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders."

²²And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

²³So they told the king, saying, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

²⁴And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, "Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'?"

²⁵For he has gone down today, and has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest; and look! They are eating and drinking before him; and they say, "Long live King Adonijah!"

²⁶But he has not invited me--me your servant--nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon.

²⁷Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

²⁸Then King David answered and said, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.

²⁹And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress,

³⁰just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, "Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day."

³¹Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!"

³²And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.

³³The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon.

³⁴There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, "Long live King Solomon!"

³⁵Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah."

³⁶Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, "Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so too.

³⁷As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David."

³⁸So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon.

³⁹Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

⁴⁰And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.

⁴¹Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, "Why is the city in such a noisy uproar?"

⁴²While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, "Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news."

⁴³Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, "No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king.

⁴⁴The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king's mule.

⁴⁵So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard.

⁴⁶Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.

⁴⁷And moreover the king's servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, "May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than

your throne.' Then the king bowed himself on the bed.

⁴⁸Also the king said thus, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!"

⁴⁹So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.

⁵⁰Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

⁵¹And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, "Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword."

⁵²Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."

⁵³So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And he came and fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

2Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying:

²"I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.

³And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;

⁴that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, "If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, "you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁵"Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist, and on his sandals that were on his feet.

⁶Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

⁷"But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

⁸"And see, you have with you Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, "I will not put you to death with the sword.'

⁹Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man and know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood."

¹⁰So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.

¹¹The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years.

¹²Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

¹³Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. So she said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably."

¹⁴Moreover he said, "I have something to say to you." And she said, "Say it."

¹⁵Then he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign. However, the kingdom has been turned over, and has become my brother's; for it was his from the LORD.

¹⁶Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me." And she said to him, "Say it."

¹⁷Then he said, "Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as wife."

¹⁸So Bathsheba said, "Very well, I will speak for you to the king."

¹⁹Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king's mother; so she sat at his right hand.

²⁰Then she said, "I desire one small petition of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."

²¹So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife."

²²And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also--for he is my older brother--for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah."

²³Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life!

²⁴Now therefore, as the LORD lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

²⁵So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.

²⁶And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for

you are deserving of death; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father David, and because you were afflicted every time my father was afflicted."

²⁷So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, that he might fulfill the word of the LORD which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh.

²⁸Then news came to Joab, for Joab had defected to Adonijah, though he had not defected to Absalom. So Joab fled to the tabernacle of the LORD, and took hold of the horns of the altar.

²⁹And King Solomon was told, "Joab has fled to the tabernacle of the LORD; there he is, by the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down."

³⁰So Benaiah went to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said to him, "Thus says the king, 'Come out!'" And he said, "No, but I will die here." And Benaiah brought back word to the king, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me."

³¹Then the king said to him, "Do as he has said, and strike him down and bury him, that you may take away from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood which Joab shed.

³²So the LORD will return his blood on his head, because he struck down two men more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword--Abner the son of Ner, the commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of

Jether, the commander of the army of Judah--though my father David did not know it.

³³Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his descendants forever. But upon David and his descendants, upon his house and his throne, there shall be peace forever from the LORD."

³⁴So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck and killed him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.

³⁵The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his place over the army, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

³⁶Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere.

³⁷For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head."

³⁸And Shimei said to the king, "The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do." So Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

³⁹Now it happened at the end of three years, that two slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish the son of Maachah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, "Look, your slaves are in Gath!"

⁴⁰ So Shimei arose, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to seek his slaves. And Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath.

⁴¹ And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had come back.

⁴² Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.'"

⁴³ Why then have you not kept the oath of the LORD and the commandment that I gave you?"

⁴⁴ The king said moreover to Shimei, "You know, as your heart acknowledges, all the wickedness that you did to my father David; therefore the LORD will return your wickedness on your own head.

⁴⁵ But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever."

⁴⁶ So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

3 Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished

building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall all around Jerusalem.

² Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the LORD until those days.

³ And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

⁴ Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

⁶ And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

⁷ Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

⁸ And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

⁹Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.

¹¹Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,

¹²behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.

¹³And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.

¹⁴So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

¹⁶Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him.

¹⁷And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house.

¹⁸Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house.

¹⁹And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.

²⁰So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

²¹And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne."

²²Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king.

²³And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'"

²⁴Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king.

²⁵And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

²⁶Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

²⁷So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

²⁸And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

4 So King Solomon was king over all Israel.

²And these were his officials: Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest;

³Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder;

⁴Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, over the army; Zadok and Abiathar, the priests;

⁵Azariah the son of Nathan, over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest and the king's friend;

⁶Ahishar, over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda, over the labor force.

⁷And Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each one made provision for one month of the year.

⁸These are their names: Ben-Hur, in the mountains of Ephraim;

⁹Ben-Deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan;

¹⁰Ben-Hesed, in Arubboth; to him belonged Sochoh and all the land of Hephher;

¹¹Ben-Abinadab, in all the regions of Dor; he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as wife;

¹²Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth Shean, which is beside Zaretan below Jezreel, from Beth Shean to Abel Meholah, as far as the other side of Jokneam;

¹³Ben-Geber, in Ramoth Gilead; to him belonged the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, in Gilead; to him also belonged the region of Argob in Bashan—sixty large cities with walls and bronze gate-bars;

¹⁴Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim;

¹⁵Ahimaaz, in Naphtali; he also took Basemath the daughter of Solomon as wife;

¹⁶Baanah the son of Hushai, in Asher and Aloth;

¹⁷ Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar;

¹⁸ Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin;

¹⁹ Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan. He was the only governor who was in the land.

²⁰ Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing.

²¹ So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

²² Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal,

²³ ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl.

²⁴ For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the River from Tiphseh even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him.

²⁵ And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

²⁶ Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

²⁷ And these governors, each man in his month, provided food for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table. There was no lack in their supply.

²⁸ They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, each man according to his charge.

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.

³⁰ Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.

³¹ For he was wiser than all men--than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

³² He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

³³ Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish.

³⁴ And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

5 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, because he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always loved David.

2 Then Solomon sent to Hiram, saying:

3 You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the LORD put his foes under the soles of his feet.

4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence.

5 And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name."

6 Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and my servants will be with your servants, and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know there is none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians.

7 So it was, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly and said, 4 Blessed be the LORD this day, for He has given David a wise son over this great people!

8 Then Hiram sent to Solomon, saying: 4 I have considered the message which you sent me, and I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs.

9 My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you indicate to me, and will have them broken apart there; then you can take them away. And you shall fulfill my desire by giving food for my household.

10 Then Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs according to all his desire.

11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors of pressed oil. Thus Solomon gave to Hiram year by year.

12 So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty together.

13 Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel; and the labor force was thirty thousand men.

14 And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts: they were one month in Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the labor force.

15 Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens, and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains,

¹⁶besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work.

¹⁷And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the temple.

¹⁸So Solomon's builders, Hiram's builders, and the Gebalites quarried them; and they prepared timber and stones to build the temple.

6And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

²Now the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits.

³The vestibule in front of the sanctuary of the house was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the width of the vestibule extended ten cubits from the front of the house.

⁴And he made for the house windows with beveled frames.

⁵Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around, against the walls of the temple, all around the sanctuary

and the inner sanctuary. Thus he made side chambers all around it.

⁶The lowest chamber was five cubits wide, the middle was six cubits wide, and the third was seven cubits wide; for he made narrow ledges around the outside of the temple, so that the support beams would not be fastened into the walls of the temple.

⁷And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

⁸The doorway for the middle story was on the right side of the temple. They went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle to the third.

⁹So he built the temple and finished it, and he paneled the temple with beams and boards of cedar.

¹⁰And he built side chambers against the entire temple, each five cubits high; they were attached to the temple with cedar beams.

¹¹Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying:

¹²"Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David.

¹³And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

¹⁴So Solomon built the temple and finished it.

¹⁵And he built the inside walls of the temple with cedar boards; from the floor of the temple to the ceiling he paneled the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the temple with planks of cypress.

¹⁶Then he built the twenty-cubit room at the rear of the temple, from floor to ceiling, with cedar boards; he built it inside as the inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place.

¹⁷And in front of it the temple sanctuary was forty cubits long.

¹⁸The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with ornamental buds and open flowers. All was cedar; there was no stone to be seen.

¹⁹And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there.

²⁰The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar.

²¹So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold. He stretched gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold.

²²The whole temple he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the temple; also he overlaid with gold the entire altar that was by the inner sanctuary.

²³Inside the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

²⁴One wing of the cherub was five cubits, and the other wing of the cherub five cubits: ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.

²⁵And the other cherub was ten cubits; both cherubim were of the same size and shape.

²⁶The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was the other cherub.

²⁷Then he set the cherubim inside the inner room; and they stretched out the wings of the cherubim so that the wing of the one touched one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall. And their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.

²⁸Also he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers.

³⁰And the floor of the temple he overlaid with gold, both the inner and outer sanctuaries.

³¹For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood; the lintel and doorposts were one-fifth of the wall.

³²The two doors were of olive wood; and he carved on them figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

³³So for the door of the sanctuary he also made doorposts of olive wood, one-fourth of the wall.

³⁴And the two doors were of cypress wood; two panels comprised one folding door, and two panels comprised the other folding door.

³⁵Then he carved cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers on them, and overlaid them with gold applied evenly on the carved work.

³⁶And he built the inner court with three rows of hewn stone and a row of cedar beams.

³⁷In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.

³⁸And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

7 But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.

²He also built the House of the Forest of Lebanon; its length was one hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits, with four rows of cedar pillars, and cedar beams on the pillars.

³And it was paneled with cedar above the beams that were on forty-five pillars, fifteen to a row.

⁴There were windows with beveled frames in three rows, and window was opposite window in three tiers.

⁵And all the doorways and doorposts had rectangular frames; and window was opposite window in three tiers.

⁶He also made the Hall of Pillars: its length was fifty cubits, and its width thirty cubits; and in front of them was a portico with pillars, and a canopy was in front of them.

⁷Then he made a hall for the throne, the Hall of Judgment, where he might judge; and it was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling.

⁸And the house where he dwelt had another court inside the hall, of like workmanship. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken as wife.

⁹All these were of costly stones cut to size, trimmed with saws, inside and out, from the foundation to the eaves, and also on the outside to the great court.

¹⁰The foundation was of costly stones, large stones, some ten cubits and some eight cubits.

¹¹And above were costly stones, hewn to size, and cedar wood.

¹²The great court was enclosed with three rows of hewn stones and a row of cedar beams. So were the inner court of the house of the LORD and the vestibule of the temple.

¹³Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre.

¹⁴He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.

¹⁵And he cast two pillars of bronze, each one eighteen cubits high, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of each.

¹⁶Then he made two capitals of cast bronze, to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits.

¹⁷He made a lattice network, with wreaths of chainwork, for the capitals which were on top of the pillars: seven chains for one capital and seven for the other capital.

¹⁸So he made the pillars, and two rows of pomegranates above the network all

around to cover the capitals that were on top; and thus he did for the other capital.

¹⁹The capitals which were on top of the pillars in the hall were in the shape of lilies, four cubits.

²⁰The capitals on the two pillars also had pomegranates above, by the convex surface which was next to the network; and there were two hundred such pomegranates in rows on each of the capitals all around.

²¹Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz.

²²The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. So the work of the pillars was finished.

²³And he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

²⁴Below its brim were ornamental buds encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The ornamental buds were cast in two rows when it was cast.

²⁵It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward.

²⁶It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained two thousand baths.

²⁷He also made ten carts of bronze; four cubits was the length of each cart, four cubits its width, and three cubits its height.

²⁸And this was the design of the carts: They had panels, and the panels were between frames;

²⁹on the panels that were between the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. And on the frames was a pedestal on top. Below the lions and oxen were wreaths of plaited work.

³⁰Every cart had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and its four feet had supports. Under the laver were supports of cast bronze beside each wreath.

³¹Its opening inside the crown at the top was one cubit in diameter; and the opening was round, shaped like a pedestal, one and a half cubits in outside diameter; and also on the opening were engravings, but the panels were square, not round.

³²Under the panels were the four wheels, and the axles of the wheels were joined to the cart. The height of a wheel was one and a half cubits.

³³The workmanship of the wheels was like the workmanship of a chariot wheel; their axle pins, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all of cast bronze.

³⁴And there were four supports at the four corners of each cart; its supports were part of the cart itself.

³⁵On the top of the cart, at the height of half a cubit, it was perfectly round. And on the top of the cart, its flanges and its panels were of the same casting.

³⁶On the plates of its flanges and on its panels he engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, wherever there was a clear space on each, with wreaths all around.

³⁷Thus he made the ten carts. All of them were of the same mold, one measure, and one shape.

³⁸Then he made ten lavers of bronze; each laver contained forty baths, and each laver was four cubits. On each of the ten carts was a laver.

³⁹And he put five carts on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house. He set the Sea on the right side of the house, toward the southeast.

⁴⁰Huram made the lavers and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing all the work that he was to do for King Solomon for the house of the LORD:

⁴¹the two pillars, the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the pillars;

⁴²four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of

pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the pillars);

⁴³the ten carts, and ten lavers on the carts;

⁴⁴one Sea, and twelve oxen under the Sea;

⁴⁵the pots, the shovels, and the bowls. All these articles which Hiram made for King Solomon for the house of the LORD were of burnished bronze.

⁴⁶In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zaretan.

⁴⁷And Solomon did not weigh all the articles, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

⁴⁸Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold on which was the showbread;

⁴⁹the lampstands of pure gold, five on the right side and five on the left in front of the inner sanctuary, with the flowers and the lamps and the wick-trimmers of gold;

⁵⁰the basins, the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner room (the Most Holy Place) and for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

⁵¹So all the work that King Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and the furnishings. He put them in the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

8 Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the City of David, which is Zion.

²Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

³So all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

⁴Then they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

⁵Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude.

⁶Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.

⁷For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.

⁸The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

⁹Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁰And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

¹¹so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

¹²Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

¹³I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever."

¹⁴Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

¹⁵And he said: "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying,

¹⁶"Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.'

¹⁷Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁸But the LORD said to my father David, "Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.

¹⁹Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.'

²⁰So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

²¹And there I have made a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven;

²³and he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your

covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

²⁴You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.

²⁵Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, "You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me."

²⁶And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.

²⁷"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

²⁸Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today:

²⁹that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, "My name shall be there," that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.

³⁰And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

³¹"When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple,

³²then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

³³"When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple,

³⁴then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.

³⁵"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them,

³⁶then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

³⁷"When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is;

³⁸whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple:

³⁹then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men),

⁴⁰that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

⁴¹"Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake

⁴²(for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple,

⁴³hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

⁴⁴"When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name,

⁴⁵then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

⁴⁶"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near;

⁴⁷yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, "We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness";

⁴⁸and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name:

⁴⁹then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause,

⁵⁰and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them

⁵¹(for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace),

⁵²that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You.

⁵³For You separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You spoke by Your servant Moses, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD."

⁵⁴And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

⁵⁵Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

⁵⁶"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.

⁵⁷May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us,

⁵⁸that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.

⁵⁹And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of

His people Israel, as each day may require,

⁶⁰that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.

⁶¹Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day."

⁶²Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD.

⁶³And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.

⁶⁴On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

⁶⁵At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven more days-fourteen days.

⁶⁶On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and

went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the LORD had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.

9 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do,

² that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon.

³ And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

⁴ Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments,

⁵ then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, "You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁶ But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them,

⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house

which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

⁸ And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, "Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?"

⁹ Then they will answer, "Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the LORD has brought all this calamity on them."

¹⁰ Now it happened at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house

¹¹ (Hiram the king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress and gold, as much as he desired), that King Solomon then gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.

¹² Then Hiram went from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him, but they did not please him.

¹³ So he said, "What kind of cities are these which you have given me, my brother?" And he called them the land of Cabul, as they are to this day.

¹⁴ Then Hiram sent the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold.

¹⁵And this is the reason for the labor force which King Solomon raised: to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer.

¹⁶(Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and taken Gezer and burned it with fire, had killed the Canaanites who dwelt in the city, and had given it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.)

¹⁷And Solomon built Gezer, Lower Beth Horon,

¹⁸Baalath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land of Judah,

¹⁹all the storage cities that Solomon had, cities for his chariots and cities for his cavalry, and whatever Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.

²⁰All the people who were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not of the children of Israel--

²¹that is, their descendants who were left in the land after them, whom the children of Israel had not been able to destroy completely--from these Solomon raised forced labor, as it is to this day.

²²But of the children of Israel Solomon made no forced laborers, because they were men of war and his servants: his officers, his captains, commanders of his chariots, and his cavalry.

²³Others were chiefs of the officials who were over Solomon's work: five hundred

and fifty, who ruled over the people who did the work.

²⁴But Pharaoh's daughter came up from the City of David to her house which Solomon had built for her. Then he built the Millo.

²⁵Now three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar which he had built for the LORD, and he burned incense with them on the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the temple.

²⁶King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom.

²⁷Then Hiram sent his servants with the fleet, seamen who knew the sea, to work with the servants of Solomon.

²⁸And they went to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and twenty talents of gold from there, and brought it to King Solomon.

10 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.

²She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.

³So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her.

⁴And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

⁵the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

⁶Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

⁷However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.

⁸Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

⁹Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

¹⁰Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such

abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹¹Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir.

¹²And the king made steps of the almug wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers. There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day.

¹³Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

¹⁴The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold,

¹⁵besides that from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country.

¹⁶And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield.

¹⁷He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁸Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

¹⁹The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round at the back; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests.

²⁰Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

²¹All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.

²²For the king had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

²³So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²⁴Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

²⁵Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

²⁶And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the

chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.

²⁷The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

²⁸Also Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price.

²⁹Now a chariot that was imported from Egypt cost six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse one hundred and fifty; and thus, through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

11 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites--

²from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

³And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

⁴For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal

to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

⁵For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.

⁷Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.

⁸And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

⁹So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,

¹⁰and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded.

¹¹Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

¹²Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

¹³However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

¹⁴Now the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was a descendant of the king in Edom.

¹⁵For it happened, when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, after he had killed every male in Edom

¹⁶(because for six months Joab remained there with all Israel, until he had cut down every male in Edom),

¹⁷that Hadad fled to go to Egypt, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him. Hadad was still a little child.

¹⁸Then they arose from Midian and came to Paran; and they took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house, apportioned food for him, and gave him land.

¹⁹And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him as wife the sister of his own wife, that is, the sister of Queen Tahpenes.

²⁰Then the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

²¹So when Hadad heard in Egypt that David rested with his fathers, and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to my own country."

²²Then Pharaoh said to him, "But what have you lacked with me, that suddenly you seek to go to your own country?" So he answered, "Nothing, but do let me go anyway."

²³And God raised up another adversary against him, Rezon the son of Eliadah, who had fled from his lord, Hadadezer king of Zobah.

²⁴So he gathered men to him and became captain over a band of raiders, when David killed those of Zobah. And they went to Damascus and dwelt there, and reigned in Damascus.

²⁵He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon (besides the trouble that Hadad caused); and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

²⁶Then Solomon's servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite from Zereda, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king.

²⁷And this is what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo and repaired the damages to the City of David his father.

²⁸The man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made him

the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph.

²⁹Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field.

³⁰Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces.

³¹And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you

³²(but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel),

³³because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.

³⁴However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes.

³⁵But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you--ten tribes.

³⁶And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.

³⁷So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel.

³⁸Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you.

³⁹And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever."

⁴⁰Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

⁴¹Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

⁴²And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

⁴³Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

12

And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

²So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt),

³that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

⁴"Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.

⁶Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

⁷And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

⁸But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

⁹And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, "Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

¹⁰Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, "Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us"--thus you shall say to them: "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist!"

¹¹And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."

¹³Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him;

¹⁴and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

¹⁵So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the LORD, that He might fulfill His word, which the LORD had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

¹⁷But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

²⁰Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

²¹And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

²²But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

²³"Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying,

²⁴"Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me."" Therefore they obeyed the word of the LORD, and turned back, according to the word of the LORD.

²⁵Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel.

²⁶And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David:

²⁷If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

²⁸Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

²⁹And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

³⁰Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.

³¹He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

³²Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.

³³So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

13 And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

²Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: "Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you."

³And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

⁴So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

⁵The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

⁶Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

⁷Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

⁸But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place.

⁹For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, "You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came."

¹⁰So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

¹¹Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their

father the words which he had spoken to the king.

¹²And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah.

¹³Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him; and he rode on it,

¹⁴and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am."

¹⁵Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

¹⁶And he said, "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place.

¹⁷For I have been told by the word of the LORD, "You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came."

¹⁸He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, "Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.)

¹⁹So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

²⁰Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came

to the prophet who had brought him back;

²¹and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: "Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you,

²²but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which the LORD said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers."

²³So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back.

²⁴When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

²⁵And there, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

²⁶Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the LORD. Therefore the LORD has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to him."

²⁷And he spoke to his sons, saying, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled it.

²⁸Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse nor torn the donkey.

²⁹And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him.

³⁰Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!"

³¹So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones.

³²For the saying which he cried out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass."

³³After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

³⁴And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.

14At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick.

²And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people.

³Also take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child."

⁴And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age.

⁵Now the LORD had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman."

⁶And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news.

⁷Go, tell Jeroboam, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel,

⁸and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes;

⁹but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back--

¹⁰therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone.

¹¹The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!"

¹²Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die.

¹³And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

¹⁴"Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam; this is the day. What? Even now!

¹⁵For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will

uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger.

¹⁶And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."

¹⁷Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed, and came to Tirzah. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died.

¹⁸And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through His servant Ahijah the prophet.

¹⁹Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

²⁰The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. So he rested with his fathers. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.

²¹And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess.

²²Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they

committed, more than all that their fathers had done.

²³For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.

²⁴And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

²⁵It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem.

²⁶And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything. He also took away all the gold shields which Solomon had made.

²⁷Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king's house.

²⁸And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards carried them, then brought them back into the guardroom.

²⁹Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

³⁰And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

³¹So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.

15 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah.

²He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.

³And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

⁴Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem;

⁵because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

⁶And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.

⁷Now the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.

⁸So Abijam rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place.

⁹In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king over Judah.

¹⁰And he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.

¹¹Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David.

¹²And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

¹³Also he removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

¹⁴But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

¹⁵He also brought into the house of the LORD the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

¹⁶Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

¹⁷And Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

¹⁸Then Asa took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying,

¹⁹"Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you a present of silver and gold. Come and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

²⁰So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maachah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.

²¹Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah, and remained in Tirzah.

²²Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted. And they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

²³The rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.

²⁴So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of

David his father. Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.

²⁵Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.

²⁶And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

²⁷Then Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha killed him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.

²⁸Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

²⁹And it was so, when he became king, that he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite,

³⁰because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he had sinned and by which he had made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he had provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.

³¹Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

³²And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

³³In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in Tirzah, and reigned twenty-four years.

³⁴He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

16 Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani, against Baasha, saying:

²"Inasmuch as I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam, and have made My people Israel sin, to provoke Me to anger with their sins,

³surely I will take away the posterity of Baasha and the posterity of his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

⁴The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Baasha and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the fields."

⁵Now the rest of the acts of Baasha, what he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

⁶So Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah. Then Elah his son reigned in his place.

⁷And also the word of the LORD came by the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha and his house, because of all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD in provoking Him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and because he killed them.

⁸In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel, and reigned two years in Tirzah.

⁹Now his servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him as he was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, steward of his house in Tirzah.

¹⁰And Zimri went in and struck him and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

¹¹Then it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he was seated on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave him one male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends.

¹²Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which He spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet,

¹³for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, by which they had sinned and by which they had made Israel sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.

¹⁴Now the rest of the acts of Elah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

¹⁵In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri had reigned in Tirzah seven days. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

¹⁶Now the people who were encamped heard it said, "Zimri has conspired and also has killed the king." So all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

¹⁷Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon, and they besieged Tirzah.

¹⁸And it happened, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house down upon himself with fire, and died,

¹⁹because of the sins which he had committed in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin.

²⁰Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and the treason he committed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²¹Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri.

²²But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri reigned.

²³In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah.

²⁴And he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; then he built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, Samaria, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill.

²⁵Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him.

²⁶For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.

²⁷Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and the might that he showed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²⁸So Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. Then Ahab his son reigned in his place.

²⁹In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

³⁰Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

³¹And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

³²Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

³³And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

³⁴In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

17 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

²Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

³"Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

⁴And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

⁵So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

⁶The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

⁷And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

⁹"Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink."

¹¹And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

¹²So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for

myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

¹³And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son.

¹⁴For thus says the LORD God of Israel: "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth."

¹⁵So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

¹⁶The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

¹⁷Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him.

¹⁸So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

¹⁹And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed.

²⁰Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also

brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?"

²¹And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."

²²Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

²³And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

²⁴Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth."

18And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

²So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.

³And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly.

⁴For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

⁵And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock."

⁶So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

⁷Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is that you, my lord Elijah?"

⁸And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here."

⁹So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?"

¹⁰As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, "He is not here," he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you.

¹¹And now you say, "Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here"!"

¹²And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.

¹³Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid one hundred men of the LORD's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

¹⁴And now you say, "Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here." He will kill me!"

¹⁵Then Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today."

¹⁶So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

¹⁷Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.

¹⁹Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

²¹And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

²²Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

²³Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

²⁴Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

²⁵Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

²⁶So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

²⁷And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

²⁸So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

²⁹And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

³¹And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

³²Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

³³And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

³⁴Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

³⁵So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant,

and that I have done all these things at Your word.

³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

⁴⁰And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

⁴¹Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

⁴²So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

⁴³and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

⁴⁴Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab,

"Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you."

⁴⁵Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

⁴⁶Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

19

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

³And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

⁵Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

⁶Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of

water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

⁷And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."

⁸So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

⁹And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

¹¹Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

¹³So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went

out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria.

¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

¹⁷It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.

¹⁸Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

¹⁹So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.

²⁰And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will

follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

²¹So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

20 Now Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his forces together; thirty-two kings were with him, with horses and chariots. And he went up and besieged Samaria, and made war against it.

²Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, "Thus says Ben-Hadad:

³"Your silver and your gold are mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine."

⁴And the king of Israel answered and said, "My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all that I have are yours."

⁵Then the messengers came back and said, "Thus speaks Ben-Hadad, saying, "Indeed I have sent to you, saying, "You shall deliver to me your silver and your gold, your wives and your children";

⁶but I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants. And it shall be, that

whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they will put it in their hands and take it."

⁷So the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, "Notice, please, and see how this man seeks trouble, for he sent to me for my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold; and I did not deny him."

⁸And all the elders and all the people said to him, "Do not listen or consent."

⁹Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben-Hadad, "Tell my lord the king, "All that you sent for to your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do." And the messengers departed and brought back word to him.

¹⁰Then Ben-Hadad sent to him and said, "The gods do so to me, and more also, if enough dust is left of Samaria for a handful for each of the people who follow me."

¹¹So the king of Israel answered and said, "Tell him, "Let not the one who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off."

¹²And it happened when Ben-Hadad heard this message, as he and the kings were drinking at the command post, that he said to his servants, "Get ready." And they got ready to attack the city.

¹³Suddenly a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel, saying, "Thus says the LORD: "Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

¹⁴So Ahab said, "By whom?" And he said, "Thus says the LORD: "By the young leaders of the provinces.'" Then he said, "Who will set the battle in order?" And he answered, "You."

¹⁵Then he mustered the young leaders of the provinces, and there were two hundred and thirty-two; and after them he mustered all the people, all the children of Israel--seven thousand.

¹⁶So they went out at noon. Meanwhile Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings helping him were getting drunk at the command post.

¹⁷The young leaders of the provinces went out first. And Ben-Hadad sent out a patrol, and they told him, saying, "Men are coming out of Samaria!"

¹⁸So he said, "If they have come out for peace, take them alive; and if they have come out for war, take them alive."

¹⁹Then these young leaders of the provinces went out of the city with the army which followed them.

²⁰And each one killed his man; so the Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them; and Ben-Hadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the cavalry.

²¹Then the king of Israel went out and attacked the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great slaughter.

²²And the prophet came to the king of Israel and said to him, "Go, strengthen yourself; take note, and see what you should do, for in the spring of the year

the king of Syria will come up against you."

²³Then the servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills. Therefore they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they.

²⁴So do this thing: Dismiss the kings, each from his position, and put captains in their places;

²⁵and you shall muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse and chariot for chariot. Then we will fight against them in the plain; surely we will be stronger than they." And he listened to their voice and did so.

²⁶So it was, in the spring of the year, that Ben-Hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel.

²⁷And the children of Israel were mustered and given provisions, and they went against them. Now the children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, while the Syrians filled the countryside.

²⁸Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the LORD: "Because the Syrians have said, "The LORD is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys," therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

²⁹And they encamped opposite each other for seven days. So it was that on the seventh day the battle was joined; and the children of Israel killed one hundred thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians in one day.

³⁰But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; then a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the men who were left. And Ben-Hadad fled and went into the city, into an inner chamber.

³¹Then his servants said to him, "Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Please, let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will spare your life."

³²So they wore sackcloth around their waists and put ropes around their heads, and came to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-Hadad says, "Please let me live.'" And he said, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

³³Now the men were watching closely to see whether any sign of mercy would come from him; and they quickly grasped at this word and said, "Your brother Ben-Hadad." So he said, "Go, bring him." Then Ben-Hadad came out to him; and he had him come up into the chariot.

³⁴So Ben-Hadad said to him, "The cities which my father took from your father I will restore; and you may set up marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria." Then Ahab said, "I will send you away with this

treaty." So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.

³⁵Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the LORD, "Strike me, please." And the man refused to strike him.

³⁶Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, surely, as soon as you depart from me, a lion shall kill you." And as soon as he left him, a lion found him and killed him.

³⁷And he found another man, and said, "Strike me, please." So the man struck him, inflicting a wound.

³⁸Then the prophet departed and waited for the king by the road, and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes.

³⁹Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, "Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.'

⁴⁰While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." Then the king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it."

⁴¹And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets.

⁴²Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: "Because you have let slip out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people."

⁴³So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and displeased, and came to Samaria.

21 And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

²So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

³But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

⁴So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

⁵But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

⁶He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him,

"Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, "I will not give you my vineyard."

⁷Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

⁸And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.

⁹She wrote in the letters, saying, 4 Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people;

¹⁰and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, You have blasphemed God and the king. Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

¹¹So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them.

¹²They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people.

¹³And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the

city and stoned him with stones, so that he died.

¹⁴Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

¹⁵And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead."

¹⁶So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

¹⁷Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

¹⁸"Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it.

¹⁹You shall speak to him, saying, "Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?" And you shall speak to him, saying, "Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.""

²⁰So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD:

²¹"Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut

off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free.

²²I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.'

²³And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, "The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'

²⁴The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field."

²⁵But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.

²⁶And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

²⁷So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.

²⁸And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

²⁹"See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his

son I will bring the calamity on his house."

22 Now three years passed without war between Syria and Israel.

² Then it came to pass, in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went down to visit the king of Israel.

³ And the king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, but we hesitate to take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?"

⁴ So he said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight at Ramoth Gilead?" Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁵ Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the LORD today."

⁶ Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?" So they said, "Go up, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."

⁷ And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?"

⁸ So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good

concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

⁹ Then the king of Israel called an officer and said, "Bring Micaiah the son of Imlah quickly!"

¹⁰ The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, having put on their robes, sat each on his throne, at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

¹¹ Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he said, "Thus says the LORD: "With these you shall gore the Syrians until they are destroyed."

¹² And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for the LORD will deliver it into the king's hand."

¹³ Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Please, let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."

¹⁴ And Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak."

¹⁵ Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall we refrain?" And he answered him, "Go and prosper, for the LORD will deliver it into the hand of the king!"

¹⁶So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁷Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, "These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace."

¹⁸And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

¹⁹Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.

²⁰And the LORD said, "Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?" So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.

²¹Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, "I will persuade him."

²²The LORD said to him, "In what way?" So he said, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." And the LORD said, "You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so."

²³Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

²⁴Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go from me to speak to you?"

²⁵And Micaiah said, "Indeed, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!"

²⁶So the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son;

²⁷and say, "Thus says the king: "Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I come in peace.""

²⁸But Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!"

²⁹So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

³⁰And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

³¹Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel."

³²So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel!"

Therefore they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out.

³³And it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

³⁴Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

³⁵The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot.

³⁶Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!"

³⁷So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria.

³⁸Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken.

³⁹Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, the ivory house which he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

⁴⁰So Ahab rested with his fathers. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

⁴¹Jehoshaphat the son of Asa had become king over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

⁴²Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

⁴³And he walked in all the ways of his father Asa. He did not turn aside from them, doing what was right in the eyes of the LORD. Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for the people offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

⁴⁴Also Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, the might that he showed, and how he made war, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

⁴⁶And the rest of the perverted persons, who remained in the days of his father Asa, he banished from the land.

⁴⁷There was then no king in Edom, only a deputy of the king.

⁴⁸Jehoshaphat made merchant ships to go to Ophir for gold; but they never sailed, for the ships were wrecked at Ezion Geber.

⁴⁹Then Ahaziah the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships." But Jehoshaphat would not.

⁵⁰And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

⁵¹Ahaziah the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king

of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.

⁵²He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin;

⁵³for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done.

2nd Kings

1 Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

2 Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury."

3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'"

4 Now therefore, thus says the LORD: "You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah departed.

5 And when the messengers returned to him, he said to them, "Why have you come back?"

6 So they said to him, "A man came up to meet us, and said to us, 'Go, return to the king who sent you, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.''"

7 Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?"

8 So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

9 Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!'"

10 So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

11 Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!'"

12 So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

13 Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: "Man of God, please let my life and the life of these

fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.

¹⁴Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight."

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king.

¹⁶Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: "Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die."

¹⁷So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. Because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.

¹⁸Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

2 And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

²Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD

lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.

³Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

⁴Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.

⁵Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on.

⁷And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.

⁸Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said,

"Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

¹⁰So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

¹¹Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

¹²And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.

¹³He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

¹⁴Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

¹⁶Then they said to him, "Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some

valley." And he said, "You shall not send anyone."

¹⁷But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send them!" Therefore they sent fifty men, and they searched for three days but did not find him.

¹⁸And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"

¹⁹Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the ground barren."

²⁰And he said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him.

²¹Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, "Thus says the LORD: 'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.'"

²²So the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

²³Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

²⁴So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two

female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

²⁵Then he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

3Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.

²And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made.

³Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.

⁴Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheepbreeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams.

⁵But it happened, when Ahab died, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

⁶So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.

⁷Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" And he said, "I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁸Then he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "By way of the Wilderness of Edom."

⁹So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them.

¹⁰And the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab."

¹¹But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?" So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah."

¹²And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

¹³Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother." But the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab."

¹⁴And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you."

¹⁵But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.

¹⁶And he said, "Thus says the LORD: "Make this valley full of ditches.'

¹⁷For thus says the LORD: "You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.'

¹⁸And this is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand.

¹⁹Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones."

²⁰Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water.

²¹And when all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to bear arms and older were gathered; and they stood at the border.

²²Then they rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood.

²³And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely struck swords and have

killed one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"

²⁴So when they came to the camp of Israel, Israel rose up and attacked the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they entered their land, killing the Moabites.

²⁵Then they destroyed the cities, and each man threw a stone on every good piece of land and filled it; and they stopped up all the springs of water and cut down all the good trees. But they left the stones of Kir Haraseth intact. However the slingers surrounded and attacked it.

²⁶And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him seven hundred men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not.

²⁷Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Israel. So they departed from him and returned to their own land.

4A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

²So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your

maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

³Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors--empty vessels; do not gather just a few.

⁴And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

⁵So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out.

⁶Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased.

⁷Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."

⁸Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.

⁹And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.

¹⁰Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair

and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

¹¹And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there.

¹²Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him.

¹³And he said to him, "Say now to her, "Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?"" She answered, "I dwell among my own people."

¹⁴So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway.

¹⁶Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!"

¹⁷But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.

¹⁸And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers.

¹⁹And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

²⁰When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

²¹And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out.

²²Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."

²³So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well."

²⁴Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."

²⁵And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman!

²⁶Please run now to meet her, and say to her, "Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?" And she answered, "It is well."

²⁷Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me."

²⁸So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, "Do not deceive me'?"

²⁹Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child."

³⁰And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.

³¹Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."

³²When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed.

³³He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.

³⁴And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm.

³⁵He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

³⁶And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son."

³⁷So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

³⁸And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."

³⁹So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, though they did not know what they were.

⁴⁰Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.

⁴¹So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put it into the pot, and said, "Serve it to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

⁴²Then a man came from Baal Shalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley bread, and newly ripened grain in his knapsack. And he said, "Give it to the people, that they may eat."

⁴³But his servant said, "What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?" He said again, "Give it to the people, that they may eat; for thus says the LORD: "They shall eat and have some left over."

⁴⁴So he set it before them; and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.

5Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

²And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

³Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

⁴And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

⁵Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

⁶Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, ⁴ Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I

have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

⁷And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

⁸So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

¹¹But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

¹²Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

¹³And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something

great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

¹⁴So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

¹⁶But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

¹⁷So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD.

¹⁸Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon--when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."

¹⁹Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

²⁰But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not

receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him."

²¹So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all well?"

²²And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, "Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments."

²³So Naaman said, "Please, take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants; and they carried them on ahead of him.

²⁴When he came to the citadel, he took them from their hand, and stored them away in the house; then he let the men go, and they departed.

²⁵Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

²⁶Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?

²⁷Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants

forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

6 And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us.

²Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell." So he answered, "Go."

³Then one said, "Please consent to go with your servants." And he answered, "I will go."

⁴So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

⁵But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed."

⁶So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float.

⁷Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it.

⁸Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place."

⁹And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

¹⁰Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

¹¹Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

¹²And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

¹³So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan."

¹⁴Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

¹⁶So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold,

the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

¹⁸So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

¹⁹Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria.

²⁰So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

²¹Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

²²But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

²³Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

²⁴And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria.

²⁵And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver.

²⁶Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!"

²⁷And he said, "If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?"

²⁸Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.'"

²⁹So we boiled my son, and ate him. And I said to her on the next day, "Give your son, that we may eat him"; but she has hidden her son."

³⁰Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and as he passed by on the wall, the people looked, and there underneath he had sackcloth on his body.

³¹Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!"

³²But Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. And the king sent a man ahead of him, but before the messenger came to him, he

said to the elders, "Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent someone to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?"

³³And while he was still talking with them, there was the messenger, coming down to him; and then the king said, "Surely this calamity is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

7 Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'"

²So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

³Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die?

⁴If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die."

⁵And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there.

⁶For the LORD had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses--the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!"

⁷Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact--their tents, their horses, and their donkeys--and they fled for their lives.

⁸And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it.

⁹Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."

¹⁰So they went and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, saying, "We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one was there, not a human sound--only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact."

¹¹And the gatekeepers called out, and they told it to the king's household inside.

¹²So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "Let me now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, "When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.""

¹³And one of his servants answered and said, "Please, let several men take five of the remaining horses which are left in the city. Look, they may either become like all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; or indeed, I say, they may become like all the multitude of Israel left from those who are consumed; so let us send them and see."

¹⁴Therefore they took two chariots with horses; and the king sent them in the direction of the Syrian army, saying, "Go and see."

¹⁵And they went after them to the Jordan; and indeed all the road was full of garments and weapons which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned and told the king.

¹⁶Then the people went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁷Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

¹⁸So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria."

¹⁹Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, "Now look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

²⁰And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

8 Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years."

²So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years.

³It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land.

⁴Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done."

⁵Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."

⁶And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."

⁷Then Elisha went to Damascus, and Ben-Hadad king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, "The man of God has come here."

⁸And the king said to Hazael, "Take a present in your hand, and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this disease?'"

⁹So Hazael went to meet him and took a present with him, of every good thing of Damascus, forty camel-loads; and he came and stood before him, and said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this disease?'"

¹⁰And Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall certainly recover.' However the LORD has shown me that he will really die."

¹¹Then he set his countenance in a stare until he was ashamed; and the man of God wept.

¹²And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the children of Israel: Their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword; and you will dash their children, and rip open their women with child."

¹³So Hazael said, "But what is your servant--a dog, that he should do this gross thing?" And Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you will become king over Syria."

¹⁴Then he departed from Elisha, and came to his master, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "He told me you would surely recover."

¹⁵But it happened on the next day that he took a thick cloth and dipped it in water, and spread it over his face so that he died; and Hazael reigned in his place.

¹⁶Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jehoshaphat having been king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat began to reign as king of Judah.

¹⁷He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

¹⁸And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁹Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, for the sake of His servant David, as He promised him to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

²⁰In his days Edom revolted against Judah's authority, and made a king over themselves.

²¹So Joram went to Zair, and all his chariots with him. Then he rose by night and attacked the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots; and the troops fled to their tents.

²²Thus Edom has been in revolt against Judah's authority to this day. And Libnah revolted at that time.

²³Now the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁴So Joram rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

²⁵In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, began to reign.

²⁶Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri, king of Israel.

²⁷And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the

LORD, like the house of Ahab, for he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

²⁸Now he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth Gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

²⁹Then King Joram went back to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which the Syrians had inflicted on him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

9 And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, "Get yourself ready, take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead.

²Now when you arrive at that place, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, and go in and make him rise up from among his associates, and take him to an inner room.

³Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, "Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel.'" Then open the door and flee, and do not delay."

⁴So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth Gilead.

⁵And when he arrived, there were the captains of the army sitting; and he said, "I have a message for you, Commander." Jehu said, "For which one

of us?" And he said, "For you, Commander."

⁶Then he arose and went into the house. And he poured the oil on his head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.

⁷You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.

⁸For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab all the males in Israel, both bond and free.

⁹So I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.

¹⁰The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.'" And he opened the door and fled.

¹¹Then Jehu came out to the servants of his master, and one said to him, "Is all well? Why did this madman come to you?" And he said to them, "You know the man and his babble."

¹²And they said, "A lie! Tell us now." So he said, "Thus and thus he spoke to me, saying, "Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel.'""

¹³Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top

of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!"

¹⁴So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had been defending Ramoth Gilead, he and all Israel, against Hazael king of Syria.

¹⁵But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which the Syrians had inflicted on him when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, "If you are so minded, let no one leave or escape from the city to go and tell it in Jezreel."

¹⁶So Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram was laid up there; and Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram.

¹⁷Now a watchman stood on the tower in Jezreel, and he saw the company of Jehu as he came, and said, "I see a company of men." And Joram said, "Get a horseman and send him to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?'"

¹⁸So the horseman went to meet him, and said, "Thus says the king: 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu said, "What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me." So the watchman reported, saying, "The messenger went to them, but is not coming back."

¹⁹Then he sent out a second horseman who came to them, and said, "Thus says the king: 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me."

²⁰So the watchman reported, saying, "He went up to them and is not coming back; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously!"

²¹Then Joram said, "Make ready." And his chariot was made ready. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot; and they went out to meet Jehu, and met him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.

²²Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" So he answered, "What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?"

²³Then Joram turned around and fled, and said to Ahaziah, "Treachery, Ahaziah!"

²⁴Now Jehu drew his bow with full strength and shot Jehoram between his arms; and the arrow came out at his heart, and he sank down in his chariot.

²⁵Then Jehu said to Bidkar his captain, "Pick him up, and throw him into the tract of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I were riding together behind Ahab his father, that the LORD laid this burden upon him:

²⁶"Surely I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,' says the LORD, 'and I will repay you in this plot,' says the LORD. Now therefore, take and throw him on the plot of ground, according to the word of the LORD."

²⁷But when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth Haggan. So Jehu pursued him, and said, "Shoot him also in the chariot." And they shot him at the Ascent of Gur, which is by Ibleam. Then he fled to Megiddo, and died there.

²⁸And his servants carried him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the City of David.

²⁹In the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king over Judah.

³⁰Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window.

³¹Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

³²And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him.

³³Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.

³⁴And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter."

³⁵So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

³⁶Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel;

³⁷and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel."""

10 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote and sent letters to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to those who reared Ahab's sons, saying:

²Now as soon as this letter comes to you, since your master's sons are with you, and you have chariots and horses, a fortified city also, and weapons,

³choose the best qualified of your master's sons, set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.

⁴But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, "Look, two kings could not stand up to him; how then can we stand?"

⁵And he who was in charge of the house, and he who was in charge of the city, the elders also, and those who reared the sons, sent to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, we will do all you tell us; but we will not make anyone king. Do what is good in your sight."

⁶Then he wrote a second letter to them, saying: ⁴If you are for me and will obey my voice, take the heads of the men,

your master's sons, and come to me at Jezreel by this time tomorrow. Now the king's sons, seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, who were rearing them.

⁷So it was, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons and slaughtered seventy persons, put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel.

⁸Then a messenger came and told him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons." And he said, "Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning."

⁹So it was, in the morning, that he went out and stood, and said to all the people, "You are righteous. Indeed I conspired against my master and killed him; but who killed all these?"

¹⁰Know now that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the LORD which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the LORD has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah."

¹¹So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his close acquaintances and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

¹²And he arose and departed and went to Samaria. On the way, at Beth Eked of the Shepherds,

¹³Jehu met with the brothers of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, "Who are you?" So they answered, "We are the brothers

of Ahaziah; we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother."

¹⁴And he said, "Take them alive!" So they took them alive, and killed them at the well of Beth Eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them.

¹⁵Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab, coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.

¹⁶Then he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD." So they had him ride in his chariot.

¹⁷And when he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed them, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to Elijah.

¹⁸Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much.

¹⁹Now therefore, call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. Let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu acted deceptively, with the intent of destroying the worshipers of Baal.

²⁰And Jehu said, "Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it.

²¹Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. So they came into the temple of Baal, and the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other.

²²And he said to the one in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out vestments for them.

²³Then Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the temple of Baal, and said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search and see that no servants of the LORD are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal."

²⁴So they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had appointed for himself eighty men on the outside, and had said, "If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escapes, whoever lets him escape, it shall be his life for the life of the other."

²⁵Now it happened, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, "Go in and kill them; let no one come out!" And they killed them with the edge of the sword; then the guards and the officers threw them out, and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal.

²⁶And they brought the sacred pillars out of the temple of Baal and burned them.

²⁷Then they broke down the sacred pillar of Baal, and tore down the temple of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day.

²⁸Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.

²⁹However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.

³⁰And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation."

³¹But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin.

³²In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael conquered them in all the territory of Israel

³³from the Jordan eastward: all the land of Gilead--Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh--from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon, including Gilead and Bashan.

³⁴Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

³⁵So Jehu rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place.

³⁶And the period that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

11 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs.

²But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed.

³So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

⁴In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds--of the bodyguards and the escorts--and brought them into the house of the LORD to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son.

⁵Then he commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king's house,

⁶one-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the escorts. You shall keep the watch of the house, lest it be broken down.

⁷The two contingents of you who go off duty on the Sabbath shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD for the king.

⁸But you shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in."

⁹So the captains of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each of them took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

¹⁰And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of the LORD.

¹¹Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, by the altar and the house.

¹²And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"

¹³Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD.

¹⁴When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom;

and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁵And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD."

¹⁶So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and there she was killed.

¹⁷Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people.

¹⁸And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.

¹⁹Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings.

²⁰So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house.

²¹Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.

12In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

²Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

³But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁴And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD--each man's census money, each man's assessment money --and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD,

⁵let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found."

⁶Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple.

⁷So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple."

⁸And the priests agreed that they would neither receive more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple.

⁹Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD.

¹⁰So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

¹¹Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD,

¹²and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple.

¹³However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD.

¹⁴But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it.

¹⁵Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully.

¹⁶The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests.

¹⁷Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

¹⁸And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem.

¹⁹Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁰And his servants arose and formed a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla.

²¹For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

13 In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years.

² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.

³ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days.

⁴ So Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.

⁵ Then the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents as before.

⁶ Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin, but walked in them; and the wooden image also remained in Samaria.

⁷ For He left of the army of Jehoahaz only fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand foot soldiers; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing.

⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all that he did, and his might, are they

not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

⁹ So Jehoahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Joash his son reigned in his place.

¹⁰ In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years.

¹¹ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, but walked in them.

¹² Now the rest of the acts of Joash, all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

¹³ So Joash rested with his fathers. Then Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

¹⁴ Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

¹⁵ And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows.

¹⁶ Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

¹⁷And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them."

¹⁸Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped.

¹⁹And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times."

²⁰Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year.

²¹So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

²²And Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

²³But the LORD was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence.

²⁴Now Hazael king of Syria died. Then Ben-Hadad his son reigned in his place.

²⁵And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz recaptured from the hand of Ben-Hadad, the son of Hazael, the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel.

14In the second year of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, became king.

²He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

³And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done.

⁴However the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁵Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established in his hand, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

⁶But the children of the murderers he did not execute, according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, in which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put

to death for their fathers; but a person shall be put to death for his own sin."

⁷He killed ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt, and took Sela by war, and called its name Joktheel to this day.

⁸Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face one another in battle."

⁹And Jehoash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as wife'; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

¹⁰You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Glory in that, and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall--you and Judah with you?"

¹¹But Amaziah would not heed. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went out; so he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

¹²And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent.

¹³Then Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash, the son of Ahaziah, at Beth Shemesh; and he went to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate--four hundred cubits.

¹⁴And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

¹⁵Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did--his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah--are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

¹⁶So Jehoash rested with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. Then Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.

¹⁷Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

¹⁸Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

¹⁹And they formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.

²⁰Then they brought him on horses, and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of David.

²¹And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

²²He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

²³In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, became king in Samaria, and reigned forty-one years.

²⁴And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

²⁵He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hepher.

²⁶For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter; and whether bond or free, there was no helper for Israel.

²⁷And the LORD did not say that He would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven; but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

²⁸Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did--his might, how he made war, and how he recaptured for Israel, from Damascus and Hamath, what had belonged to Judah--are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²⁹So Jeroboam rested with his fathers, the kings of Israel. Then Zechariah his son reigned in his place.

15In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, became king.

²He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

³And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done,

⁴except that the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁵Then the LORD struck the king, so that he was a leper until the day of his death; so he dwelt in an isolated house. And Jotham the king's son was over the royal house, judging the people of the land.

⁶Now the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

⁷So Azariah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

⁸In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months.

⁹And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done; he did not

depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

¹⁰Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck and killed him in front of the people; and he reigned in his place.

¹¹Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

¹²This was the word of the LORD which He spoke to Jehu, saying, "Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." And so it was.

¹³Shallum the son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria.

¹⁴For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, came to Samaria, and struck Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him; and he reigned in his place.

¹⁵Now the rest of the acts of Shallum, and the conspiracy which he led, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

¹⁶Then from Tirzah, Menahem attacked Tiphsah, all who were there, and its territory. Because they did not surrender, therefore he attacked it. All the women there who were with child he ripped open.

¹⁷In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi

became king over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria.

¹⁸And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

¹⁹Pul king of Assyria came against the land; and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his control.

²⁰And Menahem exacted the money from Israel, from all the very wealthy, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and did not stay there in the land.

²¹Now the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²²So Menahem rested with his fathers. Then Pekahiah his son reigned in his place.

²³In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years.

²⁴And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

²⁵Then Pekah the son of Remaliah, an officer of his, conspired against him and killed him in Samaria, in the citadel of

the king's house, along with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of Gilead. He killed him and reigned in his place.

²⁶Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

²⁷In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years.

²⁸And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

²⁹In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.

³⁰Then Hoshea the son of Elah led a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck and killed him; so he reigned in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

³¹Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

³²In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, began to reign.

³³He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.

³⁴And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

³⁵However the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD.

³⁶Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

³⁷In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah.

³⁸So Jotham rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

16 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign.

²Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David had done.

³But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel; indeed he made his son pass through the fire, according to the

abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel.

⁴And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him.

⁶At that time Rezin king of Syria captured Elath for Syria, and drove the men of Judah from Elath. Then the Edomites went to Elath, and dwell there to this day.

⁷So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me."

⁸And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasuries of the king's house, and sent it as a present to the king of Assyria.

⁹So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin.

¹⁰Now King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus; and King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the

design of the altar and its pattern, according to all its workmanship.

¹¹Then Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. So Urijah the priest made it before King Ahaz came back from Damascus.

¹²And when the king came back from Damascus, the king saw the altar; and the king approached the altar and made offerings on it.

¹³So he burned his burnt offering and his grain offering; and he poured his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.

¹⁴He also brought the bronze altar which was before the LORD, from the front of the temple--from between the new altar and the house of the LORD--and put it on the north side of the new altar.

¹⁵Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, "On the great new altar burn the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, the king's burnt sacrifice, and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice. And the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by."

¹⁶Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that King Ahaz commanded.

¹⁷And King Ahaz cut off the panels of the carts, and removed the lavers from them; and he took down the Sea from

the bronze oxen that were under it, and put it on a pavement of stones.

¹⁸Also he removed the Sabbath pavilion which they had built in the temple, and he removed the king's outer entrance from the house of the LORD, on account of the king of Assyria.

¹⁹Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁰So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

17

In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years.

²And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

³Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute money.

⁴And the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

⁵Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

⁶In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods,

⁸and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

⁹Also the children of Israel secretly did against the LORD their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city.

¹⁰They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.

¹¹There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger,

¹²for they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

¹³Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes,

according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

¹⁴Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

¹⁵And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them.

¹⁶So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

¹⁷And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

¹⁸Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

¹⁹Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

²⁰And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight.

²¹For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin.

²²For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them,

²³until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.

²⁴Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

²⁵And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

²⁶So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

²⁷Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

²⁸Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

²⁹However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.

³⁰The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

³¹and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

³²So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

³³They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods--according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

³⁴To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had

commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

³⁵with whom the LORD had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them;

³⁶but the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

³⁷And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods.

³⁸And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

³⁹But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

⁴⁰However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.

⁴¹So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

18 Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

²He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.

³And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

⁴He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.

⁵He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.

⁶For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁷The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

⁸He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

⁹Now it came to pass in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it.

¹⁰And at the end of three years they took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is, the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

¹¹Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and put them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,

¹²because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed His covenant and all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded; and they would neither hear nor do them.

¹³And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.

¹⁴Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

¹⁵So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house.

¹⁶At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

¹⁷Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great

army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.

¹⁸And when they had called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them.

¹⁹Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, "Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust?

²⁰You speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. And in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me?

²¹Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

²²But if you say to me, "We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem'?"

²³Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses--if you are able on your part to put riders on them!

²⁴How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?

²⁵Have I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, "Go up against this land, and destroy it."

²⁶Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on the wall."

²⁷But the Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?"

²⁸Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, saying, "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!

²⁹Thus says the king: "Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand;

³⁰nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

³¹Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: "Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig

tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern;

³²until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive groves and honey, that you may live and not die. But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, "The LORD will deliver us."

³³Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria?

³⁴Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand?

³⁵Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"

³⁶But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him."

³⁷Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

19 And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his

clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

²Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz.

³And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: "This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.

⁴It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

⁵So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

⁶And Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, "Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

⁷Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.""

⁸Then the Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish.

⁹And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "Look, he has come out to make war with you." So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

¹⁰"Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: "Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, "Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

¹¹Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered?

¹²Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?

¹³Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?"

¹⁴And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

¹⁵Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

¹⁶Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

¹⁷Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands,

¹⁸and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands--wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them.

¹⁹Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone."

²⁰Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.'

²¹This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: "The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind your back!

²²"Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel.

²³By your messengers you have reproached the Lord, And said: "By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars And its choice cypress trees; I will enter the extremity of its borders, To its fruitful forest.

²⁴I have dug and drunk strange water,
And with the soles of my feet I have
dried up All the brooks of defense."

²⁵"Did you not hear long ago How I
made it, From ancient times that I
formed it? Now I have brought it to pass,
That you should be For crushing fortified
cities into heaps of ruins.

²⁶Therefore their inhabitants had little
power; They were dismayed and
confounded; They were as the grass of
the field And the green herb, As the
grass on the housetops And grain
blighted before it is grown.

²⁷"But I know your dwelling place, Your
going out and your coming in, And your
rage against Me.

²⁸Because your rage against Me and
your tumult Have come up to My ears,
Therefore I will put My hook in your
nose And My bridle in your lips, And I
will turn you back By the way which you
came.

²⁹"This shall be a sign to you: You shall
eat this year such as grows of itself, And
in the second year what springs from
the same; Also in the third year sow and
reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of
them.

³⁰And the remnant who have escaped of
the house of Judah Shall again take root
downward, And bear fruit upward.

³¹For out of Jerusalem shall go a
remnant, And those who escape from
Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of
hosts will do this.'

³²"Therefore thus says the LORD
concerning the king of Assyria: "He shall
not come into this city, Nor shoot an
arrow there, Nor come before it with
shield, Nor build a siege mound against
it.

³³By the way that he came, By the same
shall he return; And he shall not come
into this city,' Says the LORD.

³⁴"For I will defend this city, to save it
For My own sake and for My servant
David's sake."

³⁵And it came to pass on a certain night
that the angel of the LORD went out,
and killed in the camp of the Assyrians
one hundred and eighty-five thousand;
and when people arose early in the
morning, there were the corpses--all
dead.

³⁶So Sennacherib king of Assyria
departed and went away, returned home,
and remained at Nineveh.

³⁷Now it came to pass, as he was
worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his
god, that his sons Adrammelech and
Sharezer struck him down with the
sword; and they escaped into the land of
Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son
reigned in his place.

20 In those days Hezekiah was sick
and near death. And Isaiah the prophet,
the son of Amoz, went to him and said
to him, "Thus says the LORD: "Set your
house in order, for you shall die, and not
live."

²Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying,

³"Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

⁴And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

⁵"Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD.

⁶And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.""

⁷Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

⁸And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?"

⁹Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?"

¹⁰And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees."

¹¹So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.

¹²At that time Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures--the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory--all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

¹⁴Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon."

¹⁵And he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."

¹⁶Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD:

¹⁷"Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day,

shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD.

¹⁸"And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

¹⁹So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?"

²⁰Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah--all his might, and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city--are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²¹So Hezekiah rested with his fathers. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

21 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah.

²And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

³For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

⁴He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name."

⁵And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

⁷He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

⁸and I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers--only if they are careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them."

⁹But they paid no attention, and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

¹⁰And the LORD spoke by His servants the prophets, saying,

¹¹"Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who

were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols),

¹²therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.

¹³And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

¹⁴So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies,

¹⁵because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day."

¹⁶Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁷Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh--all that he did, and the sin that he committed--are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

¹⁸So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.

¹⁹Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

²⁰And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done.

²¹So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them.

²²He forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.

²³Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his own house.

²⁴But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

²⁵Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁶And he was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza. Then Josiah his son reigned in his place.

22 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.

²And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying:

⁴"Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.

⁵And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who are in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house--

⁶to carpenters and builders and masons--and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.

⁷However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully."

⁸Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

⁹So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have

delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD."

¹⁰Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

¹²Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,

¹³"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

¹⁴So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke with her.

¹⁵Then she said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "Tell the man who sent you to Me,

¹⁶"Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its

inhabitants--all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read--

¹⁷because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.'"

¹⁸But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard--

¹⁹because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.

²⁰Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.'"" So they brought back word to the king.

23 Now the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him.

²The king went up to the house of the LORD with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem--the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great.

And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD.

³Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

⁴And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the articles that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel.

⁵Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven.

⁶And he brought out the wooden image from the house of the LORD, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people.

⁷Then he tore down the ritual booths of the perverted persons that were in the

house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image.

⁸And he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; also he broke down the high places at the gates which were at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were to the left of the city gate.

⁹Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brethren.

¹⁰And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

¹¹Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech, the officer who was in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

¹²The altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, the king broke down and pulverized there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron.

¹³Then the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the

Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon.

¹⁴And he broke in pieces the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men.

¹⁵Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image.

¹⁶As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that were there on the mountain. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar, and defiled it according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

¹⁷Then he said, "What gravestone is this that I see?" So the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things which you have done against the altar of Bethel."

¹⁸And he said, "Let him alone; let no one move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria.

¹⁹Now Josiah also took away all the shrines of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to

anger; and he did to them according to all the deeds he had done in Bethel.

²⁰He executed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned men's bones on them; and he returned to Jerusalem.

²¹Then the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant."

²²Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah.

²³But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem.

²⁴Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

²⁵Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.

²⁶Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused

against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.

²⁷And the LORD said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, "My name shall be there."

²⁸Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁹In his days Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went to the aid of the king of Assyria, to the River Euphrates; and King Josiah went against him. And Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo when he confronted him.

³⁰Then his servants moved his body in a chariot from Megiddo, brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.

³¹Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

³²And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

³³Now Pharaoh Necho put him in prison at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he

might not reign in Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

³⁴Then Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Pharaoh took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and he died there.

³⁵So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give money according to the command of Pharaoh; he exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land, from every one according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Necho.

³⁶Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebudah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

³⁷And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

24In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him.

²And the LORD sent against him raiding bands of Chaldeans, bands of Syrians, bands of Moabites, and bands of the people of Ammon; He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servants the prophets.

³Surely at the commandment of the LORD this came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,

⁴and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon.

⁵Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

⁶So Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

⁷And the king of Egypt did not come out of his land anymore, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Brook of Egypt to the River Euphrates.

⁸Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

⁹And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

¹⁰At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

¹¹And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it.

¹²Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took him prisoner.

¹³And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.

¹⁴Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.

¹⁵And he carried Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

¹⁶All the valiant men, seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths, one thousand, all who were strong and fit for war, these the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

¹⁷Then the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

¹⁸Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

¹⁹He also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

²⁰For because of the anger of the LORD this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, that He finally cast them out from His presence. Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

25 Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around.

²So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

³By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

⁴Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain.

⁵But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him.

⁶So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him.

⁷Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

⁸And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

⁹He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.

¹⁰And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.

¹¹Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude.

¹²But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.

¹³The bronze pillars that were in the house of the LORD, and the carts and the bronze Sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried their bronze to Babylon.

¹⁴They also took away the pots, the shovels, the trimmers, the spoons, and

all the bronze utensils with which the priests ministered.

¹⁵The firepans and the basins, the things of solid gold and solid silver, the captain of the guard took away.

¹⁶The two pillars, one Sea, and the carts, which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure.

¹⁷The height of one pillar was eighteen cubits, and the capital on it was of bronze. The height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and pomegranates all around the capital were all of bronze. The second pillar was the same, with a network.

¹⁸And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the second priest, and the three doorkeepers.

¹⁹He also took out of the city an officer who had charge of the men of war, five men of the king's close associates who were found in the city, the chief recruiting officer of the army, who mustered the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city.

²⁰So Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, took these and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

²¹Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.

²²Then he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, governor over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left.

²³Now when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah--Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Careah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men.

²⁴And Gedaliah took an oath before them and their men, and said to them, "Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

²⁵But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah, the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.

²⁶And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

²⁷Now it came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that Evil-Merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison.

²⁸He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

²⁹So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life.

³⁰And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.

1st Chronicles

1

Adam, Seth, Enosh,

²Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared,

³Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,

⁴Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

⁵The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

⁶The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Diphath, and Togarmah.

⁷The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshishah, Kittim, and Rodanim.

⁸The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁹The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama, and Sabtecha. The sons of Raama were Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

¹¹Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

¹²Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and the Caphtorim).

¹³Canaan begot Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth;

¹⁴the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite;

¹⁵the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

¹⁶the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite.

¹⁷The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸Arphaxad begot Shelah, and Shelah begot Eber.

¹⁹To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

²⁰Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²¹Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²²Ebal, Abimael, Sheba,

²³Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

²⁴Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah,

²⁵Eber, Peleg, Reu,

²⁶Serug, Nahor, Terah,

²⁷and Abram, who is Abraham.

²⁸The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹These are their genealogies: The firstborn of Ishmael was Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

³⁰Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,

³¹Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael.

³²Now the sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine, were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan were Sheba and Dedan.

³³The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

³⁴And Abraham begot Isaac. The sons of Isaac were Esau and Israel.

³⁵The sons of Esau were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.

³⁶And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, and Kenaz; and by Timna, Amalek.

³⁷The sons of Reuel were Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

³⁸The sons of Seir were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

³⁹And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Homam; Lotan's sister was Timna.

⁴⁰The sons of Shobal were Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. The sons of Zibeon were Ajah and Anah.

⁴¹The son of Anah was Dishon. The sons of Dishon were Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

⁴²The sons of Ezer were Bilhan, Zaavan, and Jaakan. The sons of Dishan were Uz and Aran.

⁴³Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before a king reigned over the children of Israel: Bela the son of Beor, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

⁴⁴And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.

⁴⁵When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

⁴⁶And when Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who attacked Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place. The name of his city was Avith.

⁴⁷When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.

⁴⁸And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place.

⁴⁹When Saul died, Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place.

⁵⁰And when Baal-Hanan died, Hadad reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pai. His wife's name was

Mehetabel the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

⁵¹Hadad died also. And the chiefs of Edom were Chief Timnah, Chief Aliah, Chief Jetheth,

⁵²Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon,

⁵³Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar,

⁵⁴Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom.

2 These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun,

²Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

³The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, and Shelah. These three were born to him by the daughter of Shua, the Canaanitess. Er, the firstborn of Judah, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; so He killed him.

⁴And Tamar, his daughter-in-law, bore him Perez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah were five.

⁵The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

⁶The sons of Zerah were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara--five of them in all.

⁷The son of Carmi was Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the accursed thing.

⁸The son of Ethan was Azariah.

⁹Also the sons of Hezron who were born to him were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai.

¹⁰Ram begot Amminadab, and Amminadab begot Nahshon, leader of the children of Judah;

¹¹Nahshon begot Salma, and Salma begot Boaz;

¹²Boaz begot Obed, and Obed begot Jesse;

¹³Jesse begot Eliab his firstborn, Abinadab the second, Shimea the third,

¹⁴Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth,

¹⁵Ozem the sixth, and David the seventh.

¹⁶Now their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruiah were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel--three.

¹⁷Abigail bore Amasa; and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

¹⁸Caleb the son of Hezron had children by Azubah, his wife, and by Jerioth. Now these were her sons: Jeshar, Shobab, and Ardon.

¹⁹When Azubah died, Caleb took Ephrath as his wife, who bore him Hur.

²⁰And Hur begot Uri, and Uri begot Bezalel.

²¹Now afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he was sixty years old; and she bore him Segub.

²²Segub begot Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead.

²³(Geshur and Syria took from them the towns of Jair, with Kenath and its towns--sixty towns.) All these belonged to the sons of Machir the father of Gilead.

²⁴After Hezron died in Caleb Ephrathah, Hezron's wife Abijah bore him Ashhur the father of Tekoa.

²⁵The sons of Jerahmeel, the firstborn of Hezron, were Ram, the firstborn, and Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah.

²⁶Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam.

²⁷The sons of Ram, the firstborn of Jerahmeel, were Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

²⁸The sons of Onam were Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai were Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹And the name of the wife of Abishur was Abihail, and she bore him Ahban and Molid.

³⁰The sons of Nadab were Seled and Appaim; Seled died without children.

³¹The son of Appaim was Ishi, the son of Ishi was Sheshan, and Sheshan's son was Ahlai.

³²The sons of Jada, the brother of Shammai, were Jether and Jonathan; Jether died without children.

³³The sons of Jonathan were Peleth and Zaza. These were the sons of Jerahmeel.

³⁴Now Sheshan had no sons, only daughters. And Sheshan had an Egyptian servant whose name was Jarha.

³⁵Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant as wife, and she bore him Attai.

³⁶Attai begot Nathan, and Nathan begot Zabad;

³⁷Zabad begot Ephlal, and Ephlal begot Obed;

³⁸Obed begot Jehu, and Jehu begot Azariah;

³⁹Azariah begot Helez, and Helez begot Eleasah;

⁴⁰Eleasah begot Sismai, and Sismai begot Shallum;

⁴¹Shallum begot Jekamiah, and Jekamiah begot Elishama.

⁴²The descendants of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were Mesha, his firstborn, who was the father of Ziph, and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron.

⁴³The sons of Hebron were Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema.

⁴⁴Shema begot Raham the father of Jorkoam, and Rekem begot Shammai.

⁴⁵And the son of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the father of Beth Zur.

⁴⁶Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bore Haran, Moza, and Gazez; and Haran begot Gazez.

⁴⁷And the sons of Jahdai were Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸Maachah, Caleb's concubine, bore Sheber and Tirhanah.

⁴⁹She also bore Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbenah and the father of Gibeon. And the daughter of Caleb was Achsah.

⁵⁰These were the descendants of Caleb: The sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, were Shobal the father of Kirjath Jearim,

⁵¹Salma the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth Gader.

⁵²And Shobal the father of Kirjath Jearim had descendants: Haroeh, and half of the families of Manuhoth.

⁵³The families of Kirjath Jearim were the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites, and the Mishraites. From these came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites.

⁵⁴The sons of Salma were Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth Beth Joab, half of the Manahethites, and the Zorites.

⁵⁵And the families of the scribes who dwelt at Jabez were the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and the Suchathites. These were the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.

3 Now these were the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: The firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second, Daniel, Called by Abigail the Carmelitess;

²the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith;

³the fifth, Shephatiah, by Abital; the sixth, Ithream, by his wife Eglah.

⁴These six were born to him in Hebron. There he reigned seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years.

⁵And these were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon--four by Bathshua the daughter of Ammiel.

⁶Also there were Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet,

⁷Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁸Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet--nine in all.

⁹These were all the sons of David, besides the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister.

¹⁰Solomon's son was Rehoboam; Abijah was his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,

¹¹Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,

¹²Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son,

¹³Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son,

¹⁴Amon his son, and Josiah his son.

¹⁵The sons of Josiah were Johanan the firstborn, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, and the fourth Shallum.

¹⁶The sons of Jehoiakim were Jeconiah his son and Zedekiah his son.

¹⁷And the sons of Jeconiah were Assir, Shealtiel his son,

¹⁸and Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jecamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.

¹⁹The sons of Pedaiah were Zerubbabel and Shimei. The sons of Zerubbabel were Meshullam, Hananiah, Shelomith their sister,

²⁰and Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab-Hesed--five in all.

²¹The sons of Hananiah were Pelatiah and Jeshaiiah, the sons of Rephaiah, the

sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, and the sons of Shechaniah.

²²The son of Shechaniah was Shemaiah. The sons of Shemaiah were Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat--six in all.

²³The sons of Neariah were Elioenai, Hezekiah, and Azrikam--three in all.

²⁴The sons of Elioenai were Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani--seven in all.

4The sons of Judah were Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal.

²And Reaiah the son of Shobal begot Jahath, and Jahath begot Ahumai and Lahad. These were the families of the Zorathites.

³These were the sons of the father of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash; and the name of their sister was Hazelelponi;

⁴and Penuel was the father of Gedor, and Ezer was the father of Hushah. These were the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah the father of Bethlehem.

⁵And Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

⁶Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah.

⁷The sons of Helah were Zereth, Zohar, and Ethnan;

⁸and Koz begot Anub, Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum.

⁹Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

¹⁰And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

¹¹Chelub the brother of Shuhah begot Mehir, who was the father of Eshton.

¹²And Eshton begot Beth-Rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Ir-Nahash. These were the men of Rechah.

¹³The sons of Kenaz were Othniel and Seraiah. The sons of Othniel were Hathath,

¹⁴and Meonothai who begot Ophrah. Seraiah begot Joab the father of Ge Harashim, for they were craftsmen.

¹⁵The sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh were Iru, Elah, and Naam. The son of Elah was Kenaz.

¹⁶The sons of Jehallelel were Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

¹⁷The sons of Ezrah were Jether, Mered, Ephraim, and Jalon. And Mered's wife

bore Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.

¹⁸(His wife Jehudijah bore Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Sochoh, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.) And these were the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took.

¹⁹The sons of Hodiah's wife, the sister of Naham, were the fathers of Keilah the Garmite and of Eshtemoa the Maachathite.

²⁰And the sons of Shimon were Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-Hanan, and Tilon. And the sons of Ishi were Zoheth and Ben-Zoheth.

²¹The sons of Shelah the son of Judah were Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the families of the house of the linen workers of the house of Ashbea;

²²also Jokim, the men of Chozeba, and Joash; Saraph, who ruled in Moab, and Jashubi-Lehem. Now the records are ancient.

²³These were the potters and those who dwell at Netaim and Gederah; there they dwelt with the king for his work.

²⁴The sons of Simeon were Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul,

²⁵Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, and Mishma his son.

²⁶And the sons of Mishma were Hamuel his son, Zacchur his son, and Shimei his son.

²⁷Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brothers did not have many children, nor did any of their families multiply as much as the children of Judah.

²⁸They dwelt at Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual,

²⁹Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,

³⁰Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

³¹Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri, and at Shaaraim. These were their cities until the reign of David.

³²And their villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan--five cities--

³³and all the villages that were around these cities as far as Baal. These were their dwelling places, and they maintained their genealogy:

³⁴Meshobab, Jamlech, and Joshah the son of Amaziah;

³⁵Joel, and Jehu the son of Joshibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel;

³⁶Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, and Benaiah;

³⁷Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah--

³⁸these mentioned by name were leaders in their families, and their father's house increased greatly.

³⁹So they went to the entrance of Gedor, as far as the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.

⁴⁰And they found rich, good pasture, and the land was broad, quiet, and peaceful; for some Hamites formerly lived there.

⁴¹These recorded by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah; and they attacked their tents and the Meunites who were found there, and utterly destroyed them, as it is to this day. So they dwelt in their place, because there was pasture for their flocks there.

⁴²Now some of them, five hundred men of the sons of Simeon, went to Mount Seir, having as their captains Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi.

⁴³And they defeated the rest of the Amalekites who had escaped. They have dwelt there to this day.

5Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel--he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright;

²yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Joseph's--

³the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

⁴The sons of Joel were Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son,

⁵Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son,

⁶and Beerah his son, whom Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria carried into captivity. He was leader of the Reubenites.

⁷And his brethren by their families, when the genealogy of their generations was registered: the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah,

⁸and Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who dwelt in Aroer, as far as Nebo and Baal Meon.

⁹Eastward they settled as far as the entrance of the wilderness this side of the River Euphrates, because their cattle had multiplied in the land of Gilead.

¹⁰Now in the days of Saul they made war with the Hagrites, who fell by their hand; and they dwelt in their tents throughout the entire area east of Gilead.

¹¹And the children of Gad dwelt next to them in the land of Bashan as far as Salcah:

¹²Joel was the chief, Shapham the next, then Jaanai and Shaphat in Bashan,

¹³and their brethren of their father's house: Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jachan, Zia, and Eber--seven in all.

¹⁴These were the children of Abihail the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz;

¹⁵Ahi the son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, was chief of their father's house.

¹⁶And the Gadites dwelt in Gilead, in Bashan and in its villages, and in all the common-lands of Sharon within their borders.

¹⁷All these were registered by genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.

¹⁸The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty valiant men, men able to bear shield and sword, to shoot with the bow, and skillful in war, who went to war.

¹⁹They made war with the Hagrites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab.

²⁰And they were helped against them, and the Hagrites were delivered into their hand, and all who were with them, for they cried out to God in the battle. He heeded their prayer, because they put their trust in Him.

²¹Then they took away their livestock--fifty thousand of their camels, two

hundred and fifty thousand of their sheep, and two thousand of their donkeys--also one hundred thousand of their men;

²²for many fell dead, because the war was God's. And they dwelt in their place until the captivity.

²³So the children of the half-tribe of Manasseh dwelt in the land. Their numbers increased from Bashan to Baal Hermon, that is, to Senir, or Mount Hermon.

²⁴These were the heads of their fathers' houses: Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were mighty men of valor, famous men, and heads of their fathers' houses.

²⁵And they were unfaithful to the God of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them.

²⁶So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, that is, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He carried the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh into captivity. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan to this day.

6 The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

²The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

³The children of Amram were Aaron, Moses, and Miriam. And the sons of

Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁴Eleazar begot Phinehas, and Phinehas begot Abishua;

⁵Abishua begot Bukki, and Bukki begot Uzzi;

⁶Uzzi begot Zerahiah, and Zerahiah begot Meraioth;

⁷Meraioth begot Amariah, and Amariah begot Ahitub;

⁸Ahitub begot Zadok, and Zadok begot Ahimaaz;

⁹Ahimaaz begot Azariah, and Azariah begot Johanan;

¹⁰Johanan begot Azariah (it was he who ministered as priest in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem);

¹¹Azariah begot Amariah, and Amariah begot Ahitub;

¹²Ahitub begot Zadok, and Zadok begot Shallum;

¹³Shallum begot Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begot Azariah;

¹⁴Azariah begot Seraiah, and Seraiah begot Jehozadak.

¹⁵Jehozadak went into captivity when the LORD carried Judah and Jerusalem into captivity by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁶The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁷These are the names of the sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

¹⁹The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. Now these are the families of the Levites according to their fathers:

²⁰Of Gershon were Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son,

²¹Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, and Jeatherai his son.

²²The sons of Kohath were Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son,

²³Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph his son, Assir his son,

²⁴Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son.

²⁵The sons of Elkanah were Amasai and Ahimoth.

²⁶As for Elkanah, the sons of Elkanah were Zophai his son, Nahath his son,

²⁷Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, and Elkanah his son.

²⁸The sons of Samuel were Joel the firstborn, and Abijah the second.

²⁹The sons of Merari were Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,

³⁰Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, and Asaiah his son.

³¹Now these are the men whom David appointed over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after the ark came to rest.

³²They were ministering with music before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they served in their office according to their order.

³³And these are the ones who ministered with their sons: Of the sons of the Kohathites were Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,

³⁴the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,

³⁵the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,

³⁶the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,

³⁷the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,

³⁸the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.

³⁹And his brother Asaph, who stood at his right hand, was Asaph the son of Berachiah, the son of Shimea,

⁴⁰the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchijah,

⁴¹the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,

⁴²the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei,

⁴³the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi.

⁴⁴Their brethren, the sons of Merari, on the left hand, were Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch,

⁴⁵the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah,

⁴⁶the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shamer,

⁴⁷the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.

⁴⁸And their brethren, the Levites, were appointed to every kind of service of the tabernacle of the house of God.

⁴⁹But Aaron and his sons offered sacrifices on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the Most Holy Place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

⁵⁰Now these are the sons of Aaron: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,

⁵¹Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,

⁵²Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,

⁵³Zadok his son, and Ahimaaz his son.

⁵⁴Now these are their dwelling places throughout their settlements in their territory, for they were given by lot to the sons of Aaron, of the family of the Kohathites:

⁵⁵They gave them Hebron in the land of Judah, with its surrounding common-lands.

⁵⁶But the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

⁵⁷And to the sons of Aaron they gave one of the cities of refuge, Hebron; also Libnah with its common-lands, Jattir, Eshtemoa with its common-lands,

⁵⁸Hilen with its common-lands, Debir with its common-lands,

⁵⁹Ashan with its common-lands, and Beth Shemesh with its common-lands.

⁶⁰And from the tribe of Benjamin: Geba with its common-lands, Alemeth with its common-lands, and Anathoth with its common-lands. All their cities among their families were thirteen.

⁶¹To the rest of the family of the tribe of the Kohathites they gave by lot ten cities from half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁶²And to the sons of Gershon, throughout their families, they gave thirteen cities from the tribe of Issachar, from the tribe of Asher, from the tribe of Naphtali, and from the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

⁶³To the sons of Merari, throughout their families, they gave twelve cities from the tribe of Reuben, from the tribe of Gad, and from the tribe of Zebulun.

⁶⁴So the children of Israel gave these cities with their common-lands to the Levites.

⁶⁵And they gave by lot from the tribe of the children of Judah, from the tribe of the children of Simeon, and from the tribe of the children of Benjamin these cities which are called by their names.

⁶⁶Now some of the families of the sons of Kohath were given cities as their territory from the tribe of Ephraim.

⁶⁷And they gave them one of the cities of refuge, Shechem with its common-lands, in the mountains of Ephraim, also Gezer with its common-lands,

⁶⁸Jokmeam with its common-lands, Beth Horon with its common-lands,

⁶⁹Aijalon with its common-lands, and Gath Rimmon with its common-lands.

⁷⁰And from the half-tribe of Manasseh: Aner with its common-lands and Bileam with its common-lands, for the rest of the family of the sons of Kohath.

⁷¹From the family of the half-tribe of Manasseh the sons of Gershon were given Golan in Bashan with its common-lands and Ashtaroth with its common-lands.

⁷²And from the tribe of Issachar: Kedesh with its common-lands, Daberath with its common-lands,

⁷³Ramoth with its common-lands, and Anem with its common-lands.

⁷⁴And from the tribe of Asher: Mashal with its common-lands, Abdon with its common-lands,

⁷⁵Hukok with its common-lands, and Rehob with its common-lands.

⁷⁶And from the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee with its common-lands, Hammon with its common-lands, and Kirjathaim with its common-lands.

⁷⁷From the tribe of Zebulun the rest of the children of Merari were given Rimmon with its common-lands and Tabor with its common-lands.

⁷⁸And on the other side of the Jordan, across from Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, they were given from the tribe of Reuben: Bezer in the wilderness with its common-lands, Jahzah with its common-lands,

⁷⁹Kedemoth with its common-lands, and Mephaath with its common-lands.

⁸⁰And from the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead with its common-lands, Mahanaim with its common-lands,

⁸¹ Heshbon with its common-lands, and Jazer with its common-lands.

7 The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron--four in all.

² The sons of Tola were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house. The sons of Tola were mighty men of valor in their generations; their number in the days of David was twenty-two thousand six hundred.

³ The son of Uzzi was Izrahiah, and the sons of Izrahiah were Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Ishiah. All five of them were chief men.

⁴ And with them, by their generations, according to their fathers' houses, were thirty-six thousand troops ready for war; for they had many wives and sons.

⁵ Now their brethren among all the families of Issachar were mighty men of valor, listed by their genealogies, eighty-seven thousand in all.

⁶ The sons of Benjamin were Bela, Becher, and Jediahel--three in all.

⁷ The sons of Bela were Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri--five in all. They were heads of their fathers' houses, and they were listed by their genealogies, twenty-two thousand and thirty-four mighty men of valor.

⁸ The sons of Becher were Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jerimoth,

Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. All these are the sons of Becher.

⁹ And they were recorded by genealogy according to their generations, heads of their fathers' houses, twenty thousand two hundred mighty men of valor.

¹⁰ The son of Jediahel was Bilhan, and the sons of Bilhan were Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tharshish, and Ahishahar.

¹¹ All these sons of Jediahel were heads of their fathers' houses; there were seventeen thousand two hundred mighty men of valor fit to go out for war and battle.

¹² Shuppim and Huppim were the sons of Ir, and Hushim was the son of Aher.

¹³ The sons of Naphtali were Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shallum, the sons of Bilhah.

¹⁴ The descendants of Manasseh: his Syrian concubine bore him Machir the father of Gilead, the father of Asriel.

¹⁵ Machir took as his wife the sister of Huppim and Shuppim, whose name was Maachah. The name of Gilead's grandson was Zelophehad, but Zelophehad begot only daughters.

¹⁶ (Maachah the wife of Machir bore a son, and she called his name Peresh. The name of his brother was Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷The son of Ulam was Bedan.) These were the descendants of Gilead the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh.

¹⁸His sister Hammoleketh bore Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

¹⁹And the sons of Shemida were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

²⁰The sons of Ephraim were Shuthelah, Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eladah his son, Tahath his son,

²¹Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, and Ezer and Elead. The men of Gath who were born in that land killed them because they came down to take away their cattle.

²²Then Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brethren came to comfort him.

²³And when he went in to his wife, she conceived and bore a son; and he called his name Beriah, because tragedy had come upon his house.

²⁴Now his daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth Horon and Uzzan Sheerah;

²⁵and Rephah was his son, as well as Resheph, and Telah his son, Tahan his son,

²⁶Laadan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,

²⁷Nun his son, and Joshua his son.

²⁸Now their possessions and dwelling places were Bethel and its towns: to the east Naaran, to the west Gezer and its towns, and Shechem and its towns, as far as Ayyah and its towns;

²⁹and by the borders of the children of Manasseh were Beth Shean and its towns, Taanach and its towns, Megiddo and its towns, Dor and its towns. In these dwelt the children of Joseph, the son of Israel.

³⁰The sons of Asher were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah.

³¹The sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel, who was the father of Birzaith.

³²And Heber begot Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and their sister Shua.

³³The sons of Japhlet were Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were the children of Japhlet.

³⁴The sons of Shemer were Ahi, Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram.

³⁵And the sons of his brother Helem were Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

³⁶The sons of Zophah were Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah,

³⁷Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Jithran, and Beera.

³⁸The sons of Jether were Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara.

³⁹The sons of Ulla were Arah, Haniel, and Rizia.

⁴⁰All these were the children of Asher, heads of their fathers' houses, choice men, mighty men of valor, chief leaders. And they were recorded by genealogies among the army fit for battle; their number was twenty-six thousand.

8Now Benjamin begot Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, Aharah the third,

²Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth.

³The sons of Bela were Addar, Gera, Abihud,

⁴Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,

⁵Gera, Shephuphan, and Hiram.

⁶These are the sons of Ehud, who were the heads of the fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Geba, and who forced them to move to Manahath:

⁷Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera who forced them to move. He begot Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸Also Shaharaim had children in the country of Moab, after he had sent away Hushim and Baara his wives.

⁹By Hodesh his wife he begot Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,

¹⁰Jeuz, Sachiah, and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of their fathers' houses.

¹¹And by Hushim he begot Abitub and Elpaal.

¹²The sons of Elpaal were Eber, Misham, and Shemed, who built Ono and Lod with its towns;

¹³and Beriah and Shema, who were heads of their fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Aijalon, who drove out the inhabitants of Gath.

¹⁴Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth,

¹⁵Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,

¹⁶Michael, Ispah, and Joha were the sons of Beriah.

¹⁷Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

¹⁸Ishmerai, Jizliah, and Jobab were the sons of Elpaal.

¹⁹Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi,

²⁰Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel,

²¹Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei.

²²Ishpan, Eber, Eliel,

²³Abdon, Zichri, Hanan,

²⁴Hananiah, Elam, Antothijah,

²⁵Iphdeiah, and Penuel were the sons of Shashak.

²⁶Shamsheraï, Shehariah, Athaliah,

²⁷Jaareshiah, Elijah, and Zichri were the sons of Jeroham.

²⁸These were heads of the fathers' houses by their generations, chief men. These dwelt in Jerusalem.

²⁹Now the father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, dwelt at Gibeon.

³⁰And his firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,

³¹Gedor, Ahio, Zecher,

³²and Mikloth, who begot Shimeah. They also dwelt alongside their relatives in Jerusalem, with their brethren.

³³Ner begot Kish, Kish begot Saul, and Saul begot Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-Baal.

³⁴The son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal, and Merib-Baal begot Micah.

³⁵The sons of Micah were Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz.

³⁶And Ahaz begot Jehoaddah; Jehoaddah begot Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begot Moza.

³⁷Moza begot Binea, Raphah his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son.

³⁸Azel had six sons whose names were these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel.

³⁹And the sons of Eshek his brother were Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second, and Eliphelet the third.

⁴⁰The sons of Ulam were mighty men of valor--archers. They had many sons and grandsons, one hundred and fifty in all. These were all sons of Benjamin.

9 So all Israel was recorded by genealogies, and indeed, they were inscribed in the book of the kings of Israel. But Judah was carried away captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness.

²And the first inhabitants who dwelt in their possessions in their cities were Israelites, priests, Levites, and the Nethinim.

³Now in Jerusalem the children of Judah dwelt, and some of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim and Manasseh:

⁴Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, of the descendants of Perez, the son of Judah.

⁵Of the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn and his sons.

⁶Of the sons of Zerah: Jeuel, and their brethren--six hundred and ninety.

⁷Of the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah;

⁸Ibneiah the son of Jeroham; Elah the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri; Meshullam the son of Shephatiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah;

⁹and their brethren, according to their generations--nine hundred and fifty-six. All these men were heads of a father's house in their fathers' houses.

¹⁰Of the priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, and Jachin;

¹¹Azariah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the officer over the house of God;

¹²Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchijah; Maasai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer;

¹³and their brethren, heads of their fathers' houses--one thousand seven hundred and sixty. They were very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.

¹⁴Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari;

¹⁵Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah the son of Micah, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph;

¹⁶Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun; and Berechiah the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

¹⁷And the gatekeepers were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their brethren. Shallum was the chief.

¹⁸Until then they had been gatekeepers for the camps of the children of Levi at the King's Gate on the east.

¹⁹Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, from his father's house, the Korahites, were in charge of the work of the service, gatekeepers of the tabernacle. Their fathers had been keepers of the entrance to the camp of the LORD.

²⁰And Phinehas the son of Eleazar had been the officer over them in time past; the LORD was with him.

²¹Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was keeper of the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

²²All those chosen as gatekeepers were two hundred and twelve. They were recorded by their genealogy, in their villages. David and Samuel the seer had appointed them to their trusted office.

²³So they and their children were in charge of the gates of the house of the LORD, the house of the tabernacle, by assignment.

²⁴The gatekeepers were assigned to the four directions: the east, west, north, and south.

²⁵And their brethren in their villages had to come with them from time to time for seven days.

²⁶For in this trusted office were four chief gatekeepers; they were Levites. And they had charge over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God.

²⁷And they lodged all around the house of God because they had the responsibility, and they were in charge of opening it every morning.

²⁸Now some of them were in charge of the serving vessels, for they brought them in and took them out by count.

²⁹Some of them were appointed over the furnishings and over all the implements of the sanctuary, and over the fine flour and the wine and the oil and the incense and the spices.

³⁰And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices.

³¹Mattithiah of the Levites, the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the trusted office over the things that were baked in the pans.

³²And some of their brethren of the sons of the Kohathites were in charge of preparing the showbread for every Sabbath.

³³These are the singers, heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites, who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night.

³⁴These heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites were heads throughout their generations. They dwelt at Jerusalem.

³⁵Jeiel the father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, dwelt at Gibeon.

³⁶His firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab,

³⁷Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth.

³⁸And Mikloth begot Shimeam. They also dwelt alongside their relatives in Jerusalem, with their brethren.

³⁹Ner begot Kish, Kish begot Saul, and Saul begot Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-Baal.

⁴⁰The son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal, and Merib-Baal begot Micah.

⁴¹The sons of Micah were Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz.

⁴²And Ahaz begot Jarah; Jarah begot Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begot Moza;

⁴³Moza begot Binea, Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son.

⁴⁴And Azel had six sons whose names were these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan; these were the sons of Azel.

10 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

²Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

³The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was wounded by the archers.

⁴Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.

⁵And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died.

⁶So Saul and his three sons died, and all his house died together.

⁷And when all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that they had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their cities and fled; then the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

⁸So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹And they stripped him and took his head and his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among the people.

¹⁰Then they put his armor in the temple of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

¹¹And when all Jabesh Gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹²all the valiant men arose and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons; and they brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

¹³So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.

¹⁴But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

11 Then all Israel came together to David at Hebron, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.

²Also, in time past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD your God said to you, "You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over My people Israel."

³Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

⁴And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land.

⁵But the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You shall not come in here!" Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).

⁶Now David said, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain." And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief.

⁷Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David.

⁸And he built the city around it, from the Millo to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city.

⁹So David went on and became great, and the LORD of hosts was with him.

¹⁰Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

¹¹And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had: Jashobeam the son of a Hachmonite, chief of the captains; he had lifted up his spear against three hundred, killed by him at one time.

¹²After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men.

¹³He was with David at Pasdammim. Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. So the people fled from the Philistines.

¹⁴But they stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

¹⁵Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

¹⁷And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"

¹⁸So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

¹⁹And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

²⁰Abishai the brother of Joab was chief of another three. He had lifted up his

spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three.

²¹Of the three he was more honored than the other two men. Therefore he became their captain. However he did not attain to the first three.

²²Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

²³And he killed an Egyptian, a man of great height, five cubits tall. In the Egyptian's hand there was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

²⁴These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men.

²⁵Indeed he was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.

²⁶Also the mighty warriors were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁷Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,

²⁸Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite,

²⁹Sibbechai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,

³⁰Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite,

³¹Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, of the sons of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite,

³²Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,

³³Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,

³⁴the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shageh the Hararite,

³⁵Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphal the son of Ur,

³⁶Hepher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,

³⁷Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai,

³⁸Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri,

³⁹Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite (the armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah),

⁴⁰Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

⁴¹Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai,

⁴²Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite (a chief of the Reubenites) and thirty with him,

⁴³Hanan the son of Maachah, Joshaphat the Mithnite,

⁴⁴Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite,

⁴⁵Jediael the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite,

⁴⁶Eliel the Mahavite, Jeribai and Joshaviah the sons of Elnaam, Ithmah the Moabite,

⁴⁷Eliel, Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

12 Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war,

²armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren.

³The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Berachah, and Jehu the Anathothite;

⁴Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite;

⁵Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite;

⁶Elkanah, Jisshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites;

⁷and Joelah and Zebadiah the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

⁸Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:

⁹Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

¹⁰Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

¹¹Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

¹²Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

¹³Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbanai the eleventh.

¹⁴These were from the sons of Gad, captains of the army; the least was over a hundred, and the greatest was over a thousand.

¹⁵These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

¹⁶Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold.

¹⁷And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment."

¹⁸Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said: "We are yours, O David; We are on your side, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to your helpers! For your God helps you." So David received them, and made them captains of the troop.

¹⁹And some from Manasseh defected to David when he was going with the Philistines to battle against Saul; but they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines sent him away by agreement, saying, "He may defect to his master Saul and endanger our heads."

²⁰When he went to Ziklag, those of Manasseh who defected to him were Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of the thousands who were from Manasseh.

²¹And they helped David against the bands of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and they were captains in the army.

²²For at that time they came to David day by day to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God.

²³Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD:

²⁴of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for war;

²⁵of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor fit for war, seven thousand one hundred;

²⁶of the sons of Levi four thousand six hundred;

²⁷Jehoiada, the leader of the Aaronites, and with him three thousand seven hundred;

²⁸Zadok, a young man, a valiant warrior, and from his father's house twenty-two captains;

²⁹of the sons of Benjamin, relatives of Saul, three thousand (until then the greatest part of them had remained loyal to the house of Saul);

³⁰of the sons of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men throughout their father's house;

³¹of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king;

³²of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were

two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

³³of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;

³⁴of Naphtali one thousand captains, and with them thirty-seven thousand with shield and spear;

³⁵of the Danites who could keep battle formation, twenty-eight thousand six hundred;

³⁶of Asher, those who could go out to war, able to keep battle formation, forty thousand;

³⁷of the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, from the other side of the Jordan, one hundred and twenty thousand armed for battle with every kind of weapon of war.

³⁸All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king.

³⁹And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them.

⁴⁰Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen--provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil

and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel.

13 Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader.

²And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us;

³and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul."

⁴Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

⁵So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim.

⁶And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed.

⁷So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

⁸Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with

singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

⁹And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

¹⁰Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.

¹¹And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day.

¹²David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?"

¹³So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

¹⁴The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had.

14Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house.

²So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of His people Israel.

³Then David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David begot more sons and daughters.

⁴And these are the names of his children whom he had in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,

⁶Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁷Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

⁸Now when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went out against them.

⁹Then the Philistines went and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁰And David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" The LORD said to him, "Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand."

¹¹So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. Then David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water." Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim.

¹²And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.

¹³Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley.

¹⁴Therefore David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees.

¹⁵And it shall be, when you hear a sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."

¹⁶So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer.

¹⁷Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

15 David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it.

²Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever."

³And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.

⁴Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites:

⁵of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and one hundred and twenty of his brethren;

⁶of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred and twenty of his brethren;

⁷of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and one hundred and thirty of his brethren;

⁸of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren;

⁹of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren;

¹⁰of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred and twelve of his brethren.

¹¹And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.

¹²He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it.

¹³For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

¹⁴So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁶Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy.

¹⁷So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;

¹⁸and with them their brethren of the second rank: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers;

¹⁹the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound the cymbals of bronze;

²⁰Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoth;

²¹Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith;

²²Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor in charge of the music, because he was skillful;

²³Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark;

²⁴Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and

Obed-Edom and Jehiah, doorkeepers for the ark.

²⁵So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy.

²⁶And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod.

²⁸Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.

²⁹And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.

16 So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.

²And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace

offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

³Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins.

⁴And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel:

⁵Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals;

⁶Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God.

⁷On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD:

⁸Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!

⁹Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

¹⁰Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!

¹¹Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

¹²Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

¹³O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

¹⁴He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

¹⁵Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,

¹⁶The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac,

¹⁷And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel for an everlasting covenant,

¹⁸Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,"

¹⁹When you were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it.

²⁰When they went from one nation to another, And from one kingdom to another people,

²¹He permitted no man to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,

²²Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

²³Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

²⁴Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.

²⁵For the LORD is great and greatly to
be praised; He is also to be feared
above all gods.

²⁶For all the gods of the peoples are
idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

²⁷Honor and majesty are before Him;
Strength and gladness are in His place.

²⁸Give to the LORD, O families of the
peoples, Give to the LORD glory and
strength.

²⁹Give to the LORD the glory due His
name; Bring an offering, and come
before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in
the beauty of holiness!

³⁰Tremble before Him, all the earth. The
world also is firmly established, It shall
not be moved.

³¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the
earth be glad; And let them say among
the nations, "The LORD reigns."

³²Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;
Let the field rejoice, and all that is in it.

³³Then the trees of the woods shall
rejoice before the LORD, For He is
coming to judge the earth.

³⁴Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is
good! For His mercy endures forever.

³⁵And say, "Save us, O God of our
salvation; Gather us together, and
deliver us from the Gentiles, To give

thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in
Your praise."

³⁶Blessed be the LORD God of Israel
From everlasting to everlasting! And all
the people said, "Amen!" and praised
the LORD.

³⁷So he left Asaph and his brothers
there before the ark of the covenant of
the LORD to minister before the ark
regularly, as every day's work required;

³⁸and Obed-Edom with his sixty-eight
brethren, including Obed-Edom the son
of Jeduthun, and Hosah, to be
gatekeepers;

³⁹and Zadok the priest and his brethren
the priests, before the tabernacle of the
LORD at the high place that was at
Gibeon,

⁴⁰to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on
the altar of burnt offering regularly
morning and evening, and to do
according to all that is written in the Law
of the LORD which He commanded
Israel;

⁴¹and with them Heman and Jeduthun
and the rest who were chosen, who
were designated by name, to give
thanks to the LORD, because His mercy
endures forever;

⁴²and with them Heman and Jeduthun,
to sound aloud with trumpets and
cymbals and the musical instruments of
God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were
gatekeepers.

⁴³Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.

17 Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under tent curtains."

²Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."

³But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

⁴"Go and tell My servant David, "Thus says the LORD: "You shall not build Me a house to dwell in.

⁵For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.

⁶Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"

⁷Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.

⁸And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have

made you a name like the name of the great men who are on the earth.

⁹Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

¹⁰since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. Also I will subdue all your enemies. Furthermore I tell you that the LORD will build you a house.

¹¹And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

¹²He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.

¹³I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

¹⁴And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever."

¹⁵According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

¹⁶Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who am I, O LORD God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?

¹⁷And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O God; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

¹⁸What more can David say to You for the honor of Your servant? For You know Your servant.

¹⁹O LORD, for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things.

²⁰O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

²¹And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people--to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt?

²²For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.

²³"And now, O LORD, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, let it be established forever, and do as You have said.

²⁴So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever, saying, "The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God." And let the house of

Your servant David be established before You.

²⁵For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before You.

²⁶And now, LORD, You are God, and have promised this goodness to Your servant.

²⁷Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O LORD, and it shall be blessed forever."

18After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines, subdued them, and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines.

²Then he defeated Moab, and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute.

³And David defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah as far as Hamath, as he went to establish his power by the River Euphrates.

⁴David took from him one thousand chariots, seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Also David hamstringed all the chariot horses, except that he spared enough of them for one hundred chariots.

⁵When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David

killed twenty-two thousand of the Syrians.

⁶Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute. So the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

⁷And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸Also from Tibhath and from Chun, cities of Hadadezer, David brought a large amount of bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze Sea, the pillars, and the articles of bronze.

⁹Now when Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer king of Zobah,

¹⁰he sent Hadoram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Tou); and Hadoram brought with him all kinds of articles of gold, silver, and bronze.

¹¹King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had brought from all these nations--from Edom, from Moab, from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, and from Amalek.

¹²Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah killed eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹³He also put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

¹⁴So David reigned over all Israel, and administered judgment and justice to all his people.

¹⁵Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

¹⁶Zadok the son of Ahitub and Abimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests; Shavsha was the scribe;

¹⁷Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers at the king's side.

19 It happened after this that Nahash the king of the people of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his place.

²Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came to Hanun in the land of the people of Ammon to comfort him.

³And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Did his servants not come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?"

⁴Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved them, and cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.

⁵Then some went and told David about the men; and he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

⁶When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the people of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Syrian Maacah, and from Zobah.

⁷So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, with the king of Maacah and his people, who came and encamped before Medeba. Also the people of Ammon gathered together from their cities, and came to battle.

⁸Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

⁹Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array before the gate of the city, and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field.

¹⁰When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best, and put them in battle array against the Syrians.

¹¹And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his

brother, and they set themselves in battle array against the people of Ammon.

¹²Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you.

¹³Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

¹⁴So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him.

¹⁵When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai his brother, and entered the city. So Joab went to Jerusalem.

¹⁶Now when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought the Syrians who were beyond the River, and Shophach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them.

¹⁷When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan and came upon them, and set up in battle array against them. So when David had set up in battle array against the Syrians, they fought with him.

¹⁸Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven thousand charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians, and killed Shophach the commander of the army.

¹⁹And when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became his servants. So the Syrians were not willing to help the people of Ammon anymore.

20 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle, that Joab led out the armed forces and ravaged the country of the people of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. And Joab defeated Rabbah and overthrew it.

²Then David took their king's crown from his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there were precious stones in it. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.

³And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws, with iron picks, and with axes. So David did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

⁴Now it happened afterward that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines, at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Sippai, who was one of the sons of the giant. And they were subdued.

⁵Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

⁶Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, with twenty-four fingers and toes, six on each hand and six on each foot; and he also was born to the giant.

⁷So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

⁸These were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

21 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

²So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it."

³And Joab answered, "May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"

⁴Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.

⁵Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword.

⁶But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

⁷And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel.

⁸So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

⁹Then the LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹⁰"Go and tell David, saying, "Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.""

¹¹So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: "Choose for yourself,

¹²either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the sword of the LORD--the plague in the land, with the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

¹³And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁴So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.

¹⁵And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁶Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.

¹⁷And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, O LORD my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."

¹⁸Therefore, the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁹So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD.

²⁰Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.

²¹ So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground.

²² Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."

²³ But Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."

²⁴ Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."

²⁵ So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the place.

²⁶ And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering.

²⁷ So the LORD commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath.

²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.

²⁹ For the tabernacle of the LORD and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon.

³⁰ But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

22 Then David said, "This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

² So David commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God.

³ And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure,

⁴ and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

⁵ Now David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it." So David made abundant preparations before his death.

⁶ Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel.

⁷And David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God;

⁸but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.

⁹Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.

¹⁰He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

¹¹Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you.

¹²Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

¹³Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.

¹⁴Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one

hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them.

¹⁵Moreover there are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work.

¹⁶Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit. Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you."

¹⁷David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying,

¹⁸"Is not the LORD your God with you? And has He not given you rest on every side? For He has given the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the LORD and before His people.

¹⁹Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD."

23 So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

²And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites.

³Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty-eight thousand.

⁴Of these, twenty-four thousand were to look after the work of the house of the LORD, six thousand were officers and judges,

⁵four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise."

⁶Also David separated them into divisions among the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

⁷Of the Gershonites: Laadan and Shimei.

⁸The sons of Laadan: the first Jehiel, then Zetham and Joel--three in all.

⁹The sons of Shimei: Shelomith, Haziel, and Haran--three in all. These were the heads of the fathers' houses of Laadan.

¹⁰And the sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah. These were the four sons of Shimei.

¹¹Jahath was the first and Zizah the second. But Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons; therefore they were assigned as one father's house.

¹²The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel--four in all.

¹³The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses; and Aaron was set apart, he and his sons forever, that he should sanctify

the most holy things, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him, and to give the blessing in His name forever.

¹⁴Now the sons of Moses the man of God were reckoned to the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵The sons of Moses were Gershon and Eliezer.

¹⁶Of the sons of Gershon, Shebuel was the first.

¹⁷Of the descendants of Eliezer, Rehabiah was the first. And Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.

¹⁸Of the sons of Izhar, Shelomith was the first.

¹⁹Of the sons of Hebron, Jeriah was the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁰Of the sons of Uzziel, Michah was the first and Jesshiah the second.

²¹The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli were Eleazar and Kish.

²²And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but only daughters; and their brethren, the sons of Kish, took them as wives.

²³The sons of Mushi were Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth--three in all.

²⁴These were the sons of Levi by their fathers' houses--the heads of the fathers' houses as they were counted

individually by the number of their names, who did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and above.

²⁵For David said, "The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem forever";

²⁶and also to the Levites, "They shall no longer carry the tabernacle, or any of the articles for its service."

²⁷For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above;

²⁸because their duty was to help the sons of Aaron in the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers, in the purifying of all holy things and the work of the service of the house of God,

²⁹both with the showbread and the fine flour for the grain offering, with the unleavened cakes and what is baked in the pan, with what is mixed and with all kinds of measures and sizes;

³⁰to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at evening;

³¹and at every presentation of a burnt offering to the LORD on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons and on the set feasts, by number according to the ordinance governing them, regularly before the LORD;

³²and that they should attend to the needs of the tabernacle of meeting, the

needs of the holy place, and the needs of the sons of Aaron their brethren in the work of the house of the LORD.

24Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

²And Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children; therefore Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests.

³Then David with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, divided them according to the schedule of their service.

⁴There were more leaders found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar, and thus they were divided. Among the sons of Eleazar were sixteen heads of their fathers' houses, and eight heads of their fathers' houses among the sons of Ithamar.

⁵Thus they were divided by lot, one group as another, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of the house of God, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar.

⁶And the scribe, Shemaiah the son of Nethanel, one of the Levites, wrote them down before the king, the leaders, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Levites, one father's house taken for Eleazar and one for Ithamar.

⁷Now the first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

⁸the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

⁹the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

¹⁰the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

¹¹the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,

¹²the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,

¹³the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

¹⁴the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,

¹⁵the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzesz,

¹⁶the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezekel,

¹⁷the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul,

¹⁸the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

¹⁹This was the schedule of their service for coming into the house of the LORD according to their ordinance by the hand of Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

²⁰And the rest of the sons of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah.

²¹Concerning Rehabiah, of the sons of Rehabiah, the first was Isshiah.

²²Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath.

²³Of the sons of Hebron, Jeriah was the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁴Of the sons of Uzziel, Michah; of the sons of Michah, Shamir.

²⁵The brother of Michah, Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah.

²⁶The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi; the son of Jaaziah, Beno.

²⁷The sons of Merari by Jaaziah were Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri.

²⁸Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.

²⁹Of Kish: the son of Kish, Jerahmeel.

³⁰Also the sons of Mushi were Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites according to their fathers' houses.

³¹These also cast lots just as their brothers the sons of Aaron did, in the presence of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Levites. The chief fathers did just as their younger brethren.

25 Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was:

²Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king.

³Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the LORD.

⁴Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.

⁵All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to exalt his horn. For God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

⁶All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king.

⁷So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the

songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight.

⁸And they cast lots for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student.

⁹Now the first lot for Asaph came out for Joseph; the second for Gedaliah, him with his brethren and sons, twelve;

¹⁰the third for Zaccur, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹¹the fourth for Jizri, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹²the fifth for Nethaniah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹³the sixth for Bukkiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁴the seventh for Jesharelah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁵the eighth for Jeshaiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁶the ninth for Mattaniah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁷the tenth for Shimei, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁸the eleventh for Azarel, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁹the twelfth for Hashabiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁰the thirteenth for Shubael, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²¹the fourteenth for Mattithiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²²the fifteenth for Jeremoth, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²³the sixteenth for Hananiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁴the seventeenth for Joshbekashah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁵the eighteenth for Hanani, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁶the nineteenth for Mallothi, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁷the twentieth for Eliathah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁸the twenty-first for Hothir, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁹the twenty-second for Giddalti, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

³⁰the twenty-third for Mahazith, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

³¹the twenty-fourth for Romamti-Ezer, his sons and his brethren, twelve.

26 Concerning the divisions of the gatekeepers: of the Korahites, Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph.

²And the sons of Meshelemiah were Zechariah the firstborn, Jediah the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,

³Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Eliehoenai the seventh.

⁴Moreover the sons of Obed-Edom were Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,

⁵Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth; for God blessed him.

⁶Also to Shemaiah his son were sons born who governed their fathers' houses, because they were men of great ability.

⁷The sons of Shemaiah were Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad, whose brothers Elihu and Semachiah were able men.

⁸All these were of the sons of Obed-Edom, they and their sons and their brethren, able men with strength for the work: sixty-two of Obed-Edom.

⁹And Meshelemiah had sons and brethren, eighteen able men.

¹⁰Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons: Shimri the first (for though he was not the firstborn, his father made him the first),

¹¹Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth; all the sons and brethren of Hosah were thirteen.

¹²Among these were the divisions of the gatekeepers, among the chief men, having duties just like their brethren, to serve in the house of the LORD.

¹³And they cast lots for each gate, the small as well as the great, according to their father's house.

¹⁴The lot for the East Gate fell to Shelemiah. Then they cast lots for his son Zechariah, a wise counselor, and his lot came out for the North Gate;

¹⁵to Obed-Edom the South Gate, and to his sons the storehouse.

¹⁶To Shuppim and Hosah the lot came out for the West Gate, with the Shallecheth Gate on the ascending highway--watchman opposite watchman.

¹⁷On the east were six Levites, on the north four each day, on the south four each day, and for the storehouse two by two.

¹⁸As for the Parbar on the west, there were four on the highway and two at the Parbar.

¹⁹These were the divisions of the gatekeepers among the sons of Korah and among the sons of Merari.

²⁰Of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasuries of the house of God and over the treasuries of the dedicated things.

²¹The sons of Laadan, the descendants of the Gershonites of Laadan, heads of their fathers' houses, of Laadan the Gershonite: Jehieli.

²²The sons of Jehieli, Zetham and Joel his brother, were over the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

²³Of the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites:

²⁴Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, was overseer of the treasuries.

²⁵And his brethren by Eliezer were Rehabiah his son, Jeshaiiah his son, Joram his son, Zichri his son, and Shelomith his son.

²⁶This Shelomith and his brethren were over all the treasuries of the dedicated things which King David and the heads of fathers' houses, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the army, had dedicated.

²⁷Some of the spoils won in battles they dedicated to maintain the house of the LORD.

²⁸And all that Samuel the seer, Saul the son of Kish, Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah had dedicated, every dedicated thing, was under the hand of Shelomith and his brethren.

²⁹Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons performed duties as officials and judges over Israel outside Jerusalem.

³⁰Of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brethren, one thousand seven hundred able men, had the oversight of Israel on the west side of the Jordan for all the business of the LORD, and in the service of the king.

³¹Among the Hebronites, Jerijah was head of the Hebronites according to his genealogy of the fathers. In the fortieth year of the reign of David they were sought, and there were found among them capable men at Jazer of Gilead.

³²And his brethren were two thousand seven hundred able men, heads of fathers' houses, whom King David made officials over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, for every matter pertaining to God and the affairs of the king.

27 And the children of Israel, according to their number, the heads of fathers' houses, the captains of thousands and hundreds and their officers, served the king in every matter of the military divisions. These divisions came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division having twenty-four thousand.

²Over the first division for the first month was Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel, and in his division were twenty-four thousand;

³he was of the children of Perez, and the chief of all the captains of the army for the first month.

⁴Over the division of the second month was Dodai an Ahohite, and of his division Mikloth also was the leader; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁵The third captain of the army for the third month was Benaiah, the son of

Jehoiada the priest, who was chief; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁶This was the Benaiah who was mighty among the thirty, and was over the thirty; in his division was Ammizabad his son.

⁷The fourth captain for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁸The fifth captain for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁹The sixth captain for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikesh the Tekoite; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁰The seventh captain for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite, of the children of Ephraim; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹¹The eighth captain for the eighth month was Sibbechai the Hushathite, of the Zarahites; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹²The ninth captain for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anathothite, of the Benjamites; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹³The tenth captain for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zarahites; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁴The eleventh captain for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite, of

the children of Ephraim; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁵The twelfth captain for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁶Furthermore, over the tribes of Israel: the officer over the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri; over the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maachah;

¹⁷over the Levites, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; over the Aaronites, Zadok;

¹⁸over Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers; over Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;

¹⁹over Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; over Naphtali, Jerimoth the son of Azriel;

²⁰over the children of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; over the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiah;

²¹over the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; over Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;

²²over Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.

²³But David did not take the number of those twenty years old and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel like the stars of the heavens.

²⁴Joab the son of Zeruiah began a census, but he did not finish, for wrath came upon Israel because of this census; nor was the number recorded in the account of the chronicles of King David.

²⁵And Azmaveth the son of Adiel was over the king's treasuries; and Jehonathan the son of Uzziah was over the storehouses in the field, in the cities, in the villages, and in the fortresses.

²⁶Ezri the son of Chelub was over those who did the work of the field for tilling the ground.

²⁷And Shimei the Ramathite was over the vineyards, and Zabdi the Shiphmite was over the produce of the vineyards for the supply of wine.

²⁸Baal-Hanan the Gederite was over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the lowlands, and Joash was over the store of oil.

²⁹And Shitrai the Sharonite was over the herds that fed in Sharon, and Shaphat the son of Adlai was over the herds that were in the valleys.

³⁰Obil the Ishmaelite was over the camels, Jehdeiah the Meronothite was over the donkeys,

³¹and Jaziz the Hagrite was over the flocks. All these were the officials over King David's property.

³²Also Jehonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a wise man, and a scribe;

and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons.

³³ Ahithophel was the king's counselor, and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion.

³⁴ After Ahithophel was Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, then Abiathar. And the general of the king's army was Joab.

28 Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials, the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor.

² Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it.

³ But God said to me, "You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood."

⁴ However the LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler. And of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He

was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel.

⁵ And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

⁶ Now He said to me, "It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father.

⁷ Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.'

⁸ Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever.

⁹ "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

¹⁰ Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it."

¹¹ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner

chambers, and the place of the mercy seat;

¹²and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;

¹³also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD.

¹⁴He gave gold by weight for things of gold, for all articles used in every kind of service; also silver for all articles of silver by weight, for all articles used in every kind of service;

¹⁵the weight for the lampstands of gold, and their lamps of gold, by weight for each lampstand and its lamps; for the lampstands of silver by weight, for the lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand.

¹⁶And by weight he gave gold for the tables of the showbread, for each table, and silver for the tables of silver;

¹⁷also pure gold for the forks, the basins, the pitchers of pure gold, and the golden bowls--he gave gold by weight for every bowl; and for the silver bowls, silver by weight for every bowl;

¹⁸and refined gold by weight for the altar of incense, and for the construction of the chariot, that is, the gold cherubim that spread their wings and

overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

¹⁹"All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."

²⁰And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God--my God--will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

²¹Here are the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and every willing craftsman will be with you for all manner of workmanship, for every kind of service; also the leaders and all the people will be completely at your command."

29 Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God.

²Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.

³Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver:

⁴three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses;

⁵the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?"

⁶Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly.

⁷They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

⁸And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.

⁹Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.

¹⁰Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.

¹¹Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.

¹²Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all.

¹³"Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name.

¹⁴But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.

¹⁵For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, As were all our fathers; Our days on earth are as a shadow, And without hope.

¹⁶"O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own.

¹⁷I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.

¹⁸O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You.

¹⁹And give my son Solomon a loyal heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your statutes, to do all these things, and to build the temple for which I have made provision."

²⁰Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king.

²¹And they made sacrifices to the LORD and offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the next day: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams, a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

²²So they ate and drank before the LORD with great gladness on that day. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him before the LORD to be the leader, and Zadok to be priest.

²³Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his

father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

²⁴All the leaders and the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David, submitted themselves to King Solomon.

²⁵So the LORD exalted Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed on him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

²⁶Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

²⁷And the period that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem.

²⁸So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place.

²⁹Now the acts of King David, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,

³⁰with all his reign and his might, and the events that happened to him, to Israel, and to all the kingdoms of the lands.

2nd Chronicles

1 Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly.

2 And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' houses.

3 Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

4 But David had brought up the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to the place David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.

5 Now the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; Solomon and the assembly sought Him there.

6 And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

7 On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

8 And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place.

9 Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.

10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

11 Then God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life--but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king--

12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like."

13 So Solomon came to Jerusalem from the high place that was at Gibeon, from before the tabernacle of meeting, and reigned over Israel.

14 And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

¹⁵Also the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

¹⁶And Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price.

¹⁷They also acquired and imported from Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for one hundred and fifty; thus, through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

2 Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the LORD, and a royal house for himself.

²Solomon selected seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them.

³Then Solomon sent to Hiram king of Tyre, saying: ⁴As you have dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me.

⁴Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel.

⁵And the temple which I build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.

⁶But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? Who am I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him?

⁷Therefore send me at once a man skillful to work in gold and silver, in bronze and iron, in purple and crimson and blue, who has skill to engrave with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

⁸Also send me cedar and cypress and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants have skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and indeed my servants will be with your servants,

⁹to prepare timber for me in abundance, for the temple which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful.

¹⁰And indeed I will give to your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, twenty thousand kors of ground wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

¹¹Then Hiram king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon: ⁴Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them.

¹²Hiram also said: ⁴Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David

a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal house for himself!

¹³And now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram my master craftsman

¹⁴(the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre), skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen and crimson, and to make any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him, with your skillful men and with the skillful men of my lord David your father.

¹⁵Now therefore, the wheat, the barley, the oil, and the wine which my lord has spoken of, let him send to his servants.

¹⁶And we will cut wood from Lebanon, as much as you need; we will bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, and you will carry it up to Jerusalem.

¹⁷Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.

¹⁸And he made seventy thousand of them bearers of burdens, eighty thousand stonecutters in the mountain, and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people work.

3Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

²And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

³This is the foundation which Solomon laid for building the house of God: The length was sixty cubits (by cubits according to the former measure) and the width twenty cubits.

⁴And the vestibule that was in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the height was one hundred and twenty. He overlaid the inside with pure gold.

⁵The larger room he paneled with cypress which he overlaid with fine gold, and he carved palm trees and chainwork on it.

⁶And he decorated the house with precious stones for beauty, and the gold was gold from Parvaim.

⁷He also overlaid the house--the beams and doorposts, its walls and doors--with gold; and he carved cherubim on the walls.

⁸And he made the Most Holy Place. Its length was according to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and its width twenty cubits. He overlaid it with six hundred talents of fine gold.

⁹The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold; and he overlaid the upper area with gold.

¹⁰In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim, fashioned by carving, and overlaid them with gold.

¹¹The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits in overall length: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub;

¹²one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub.

¹³The wings of these cherubim spanned twenty cubits overall. They stood on their feet, and they faced inward.

¹⁴And he made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it.

¹⁵Also he made in front of the temple two pillars thirty-five cubits high, and the capital that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.

¹⁶He made wreaths of chainwork, as in the inner sanctuary, and put them on top of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates, and put them on the wreaths of chainwork.

¹⁷Then he set up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand and the other on the left; he called the name of

the one on the right hand Jachin, and the name of the one on the left Boaz.

4Moreover he made a bronze altar: twenty cubits was its length, twenty cubits its width, and ten cubits its height.

²Then he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

³And under it was the likeness of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The oxen were cast in two rows, when it was cast.

⁴It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward.

⁵It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths.

⁶He also made ten lavers, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash in them; such things as they offered for the burnt offering they would wash in them, but the Sea was for the priests to wash in.

⁷And he made ten lampstands of gold according to their design, and set them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left.

⁸He also made ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left. And he made one hundred bowls of gold.

⁹Furthermore he made the court of the priests, and the great court and doors for the court; and he overlaid these doors with bronze.

¹⁰He set the Sea on the right side, toward the southeast.

¹¹Then Hiram made the pots and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing the work that he was to do for King Solomon for the house of God:

¹²the two pillars and the bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the pillars;

¹³four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on the pillars);

¹⁴he also made carts and the lavers on the carts;

¹⁵one Sea and twelve oxen under it;

¹⁶also the pots, the shovels, the forks--and all their articles Hiram his master craftsman made of burnished bronze for King Solomon for the house of the LORD.

¹⁷In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zeredah.

¹⁸And Solomon had all these articles made in such great abundance that the weight of the bronze was not determined.

¹⁹Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God: the altar of gold and the tables on which was the showbread;

²⁰the lampstands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in the prescribed manner in front of the inner sanctuary,

²¹with the flowers and the lamps and the wick-trimmers of gold, of purest gold;

²²the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold. As for the entry of the sanctuary, its inner doors to the Most Holy Place, and the doors of the main hall of the temple, were gold.

5 So all the work that Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God.

²Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the City of David, which is Zion.

³Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast, which was in the seventh month.

⁴So all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark.

⁵Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

⁶Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude.

⁷Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.

⁸For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.

⁹The poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

¹⁰Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they had come out of Egypt.

¹¹And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions),

¹²and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets--

¹³indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

¹⁴so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

6 Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

²I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever."

³Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

⁴And he said: "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has fulfilled with His hands what He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying,

⁵"Since the day that I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel.

⁶Yet I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.'

⁷Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

⁸But the LORD said to my father David, "Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart.

⁹Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.'

¹⁰So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke, and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

¹¹And there I have put the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD which He made with the children of Israel."

¹²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the

assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands

¹³(for Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven);

¹⁴and he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

¹⁵You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.

¹⁶Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, "You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk in My law as you have walked before Me.'

¹⁷And now, O LORD God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David.

¹⁸"But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

¹⁹Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer

which Your servant is praying before You:

²⁰that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place where You said You would put Your name, that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.

²¹And may You hear the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive.

²²"If anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple,

²³then hear from heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, bringing retribution on the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

²⁴"Or if Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this temple,

²⁵then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to them and their fathers.

²⁶"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your

name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them,

²⁷then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

²⁸"When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is;

²⁹whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows his own burden and his own grief, and spreads out his hands to this temple:

³⁰then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men),

³¹that they may fear You, to walk in Your ways as long as they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

³²"Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for the sake of Your great name and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray in this temple;

³³then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which

the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

³⁴"When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, wherever You send them, and when they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name,

³⁵then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

³⁶"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near;

³⁷yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, "We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness";

³⁸and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name:

³⁹then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive

Your people who have sinned against You.

⁴⁰Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.

⁴¹"Now therefore, Arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, And let Your saints rejoice in goodness.

⁴²"O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed; Remember the mercies of Your servant David."

7 When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

²And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

³When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."

⁴Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.

⁵King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So

the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

⁶And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD, saying, "For His mercy endures forever," whenever David offered praise by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.

⁷Furthermore Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat.

⁸At that time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt.

⁹And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

¹⁰On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel.

¹¹Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the LORD and in his own house.

¹²Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

¹³When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

¹⁴if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

¹⁵Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

¹⁶For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

¹⁷As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments,

¹⁸then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, "You shall not fail to have a man as ruler in Israel."

¹⁹"But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them,

²⁰then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

²¹"And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, "Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?"

²²Then they will answer, "Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them."

8 It came to pass at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the house of the LORD and his own house,

²that the cities which Hiram had given to Solomon, Solomon built them; and he settled the children of Israel there.

³And Solomon went to Hamath Zobah and seized it.

⁴He also built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the storage cities which he built in Hamath.

⁵He built Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horon, fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars,

⁶also Baalath and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the chariot

cities and the cities of the cavalry, and all that Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.

⁷All the people who were left of the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not of Israel--

⁸that is, their descendants who were left in the land after them, whom the children of Israel did not destroy--from these Solomon raised forced labor, as it is to this day.

⁹But Solomon did not make the children of Israel servants for his work. Some were men of war, captains of his officers, captains of his chariots, and his cavalry.

¹⁰And others were chiefs of the officials of King Solomon: two hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people.

¹¹Now Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh up from the City of David to the house he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places to which the ark of the LORD has come are holy."

¹²Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD which he had built before the vestibule,

¹³according to the daily rate, offering according to the commandment of Moses, for the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the three appointed yearly feasts--the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

¹⁴And, according to the order of David his father, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their service, the Levites for their duties (to praise and serve before the priests) as the duty of each day required, and the gatekeepers by their divisions at each gate; for so David the man of God had commanded.

¹⁵They did not depart from the command of the king to the priests and Levites concerning any matter or concerning the treasuries.

¹⁶Now all the work of Solomon was well-ordered from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was completed.

¹⁷Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and Elath on the seacoast, in the land of Edom.

¹⁸And Hiram sent him ships by the hand of his servants, and servants who knew the sea. They went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and fifty talents of gold from there, and brought it to King Solomon.

9 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions, having a very great retinue, camels that bore spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.

²So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult

for Solomon that he could not explain it to her.

³And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

⁴the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

⁵Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

⁶However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard.

⁷Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

⁸Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on His throne to be king for the LORD your God! Because your God has loved Israel, to establish them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness."

⁹And she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great abundance, and precious stones; there never were any spices such as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹⁰Also, the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon, who brought gold from Ophir, brought alnum wood and precious stones.

¹¹And the king made walkways of the alnum wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers; and there were none such as these seen before in the land of Judah.

¹²Now King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, much more than she had brought to the king. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

¹³The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold,

¹⁴besides what the traveling merchants and traders brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

¹⁵And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of hammered gold went into each shield.

¹⁶He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

¹⁸The throne had six steps, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests.

¹⁹Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

²⁰All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.

²¹For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

²²So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²³And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

²⁴Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

²⁵Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.

²⁶So he reigned over all the kings from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.

²⁷The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

²⁸And they brought horses to Solomon from Egypt and from all lands.

²⁹Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

³⁰Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

³¹Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

10 And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

²So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), that Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

³Then they sent for him and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

⁴"Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵So he said to them, "Come back to me after three days." And the people departed.

⁶Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, saying, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

⁷And they spoke to him, saying, "If you are kind to these people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be your servants forever."

⁸But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

⁹And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

¹⁰Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to the people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us'--thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist!'"

¹¹And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your

yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."

¹³Then the king answered them roughly. King Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders,

¹⁴and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

¹⁵So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from God, that the LORD might fulfill His word, which He had spoken by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Every man to your tents, O Israel! Now see to your own house, O David!" So all Israel departed to their tents.

¹⁷But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was in charge of revenue; but the children of Israel stoned him with stones,

and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

11

Now when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled from the house of Judah and Benjamin one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

²But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

³"Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying,

⁴"Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up or fight against your brethren! Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me."

⁵So Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defense in Judah.

⁶And he built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

⁷Beth Zur, Sochoh, Adullam,

⁸Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

⁹Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

¹⁰Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and Benjamin, fortified cities.

¹¹And he fortified the strongholds, and put captains in them, and stores of food, oil, and wine.

¹²Also in every city he put shields and spears, and made them very strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side.

¹³And from all their territories the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel took their stand with him.

¹⁴For the Levites left their common-lands and their possessions and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving as priests to the LORD.

¹⁵Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made.

¹⁶And after the Levites left, those from all the tribes of Israel, such as set their heart to seek the LORD God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers.

¹⁷So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong for three years, because they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.

¹⁸Then Rehoboam took for himself as wife Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David, and of Abihail the daughter of Eliah the son of Jesse.

¹⁹And she bore him children: Jeush, Shamariah, and Zaham.

²⁰After her he took Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom; and she bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.

²¹Now Rehoboam loved Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom more than all his wives and his concubines; for he took eighteen wives and sixty concubines, and begot twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

²²And Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maachah as chief, to be leader among his brothers; for he intended to make him king.

²³He dealt wisely, and dispersed some of his sons throughout all the territories of Judah and Benjamin, to every fortified city; and he gave them provisions in abundance. He also sought many wives for them.

12 Now it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom and had strengthened himself, that he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel along with him.

²And it happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD,

³with twelve hundred chariots, sixty thousand horsemen, and people without number who came with him out of Egypt--the Lubim and the Sukkiim and the Ethiopians.

⁴And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came to Jerusalem.

⁵Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah, who were gathered together in Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, "Thus says the LORD: "You have forsaken Me, and therefore I also have left you in the hand of Shishak."

⁶So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, "The LORD is righteous."

⁷Now when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance. My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

⁸Nevertheless they will be his servants, that they may distinguish My service from the service of the kingdoms of the nations."

⁹So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took everything. He also carried away the gold shields which Solomon had made.

¹⁰Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king's house.

¹¹And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guard would go and bring them out; then they would take them back into the guardroom.

¹²When he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, so as not to destroy him completely; and things also went well in Judah.

¹³Thus King Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. Now Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king; and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess.

¹⁴And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.

¹⁵The acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

¹⁶So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. Then Abijah his son reigned in his place.

13 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah became king over Judah.

²He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

³Abijah set the battle in order with an army of valiant warriors, four hundred thousand choice men. Jeroboam also drew up in battle formation against him with eight hundred thousand choice men, mighty men of valor.

⁴Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, and said, "Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel:

⁵Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?

⁶Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his lord.

⁷Then worthless rogues gathered to him, and strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and inexperienced and could not withstand them.

⁸And now you think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hand of the sons of David; and you are a great multitude, and with you are the gold calves which Jeroboam made for you as gods.

⁹Have you not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests, like the peoples of other lands, so that whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may be a priest of things that are not gods?

¹⁰But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the priests who minister to the LORD are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites attend to their duties.

¹¹And they burn to the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense; they also set the showbread in order on the pure gold table, and the lampstand of gold with its lamps to burn every evening; for we keep the command of the LORD our God, but you have forsaken Him.

¹²Now look, God Himself is with us as our head, and His priests with sounding trumpets to sound the alarm against you. O children of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you shall not prosper!"

¹³But Jeroboam caused an ambush to go around behind them; so they were in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.

¹⁴And when Judah looked around, to their surprise the battle line was at both front and rear; and they cried out to the LORD, and the priests sounded the trumpets.

¹⁵Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶And the children of Israel fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hand.

¹⁷Then Abijah and his people struck them with a great slaughter; so five hundred thousand choice men of Israel fell slain.

¹⁸Thus the children of Israel were subdued at that time; and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD God of their fathers.

¹⁹And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him: Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephraim with its villages.

²⁰So Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the LORD struck him, and he died.

²¹But Abijah grew mighty, married fourteen wives, and begot twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

²²Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, his ways, and his sayings are written in the annals of the prophet Iddo.

14 So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.

²Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God,

³for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images.

⁴He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.

⁵He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.

⁶And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because the LORD had given him rest.

⁷Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us, because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

⁸And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor.

⁹Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.

¹⁰So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

¹¹And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O

LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"

¹²So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

¹³And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the LORD and His army. And they carried away very much spoil.

¹⁴Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.

¹⁵They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

15 Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded.

²And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

³For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law;

⁴but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.

⁵And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands.

⁶So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity.

⁷But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"

⁸And when Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had taken in the mountains of Ephraim; and he restored the altar of the LORD that was before the vestibule of the LORD.

⁹Then he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those who dwelt with them from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon, for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

¹⁰So they gathered together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

¹¹And they offered to the LORD at that time seven hundred bulls and seven thousand sheep from the spoil they had brought.

¹²Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

¹³and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

¹⁴Then they took an oath before the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams' horns.

¹⁵And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.

¹⁶Also he removed Maachah, the mother of Asa the king, from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah; and Asa cut down her obscene image, then crushed and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

¹⁷But the high places were not removed from Israel. Nevertheless the heart of Asa was loyal all his days.

¹⁸He also brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated and that he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

¹⁹And there was no war until the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa.

16 In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he

might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

²Then Asa brought silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying,

³"Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you silver and gold; come, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

⁴So Ben-Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. They attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali.

⁵Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah and ceased his work.

⁶Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them he built Geba and Mizpah.

⁷And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand.

⁸Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied

on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand.

⁹For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

¹⁰Then Asa was angry with the seer, and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time.

¹¹Note that the acts of Asa, first and last, are indeed written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

¹²And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

¹³So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign.

¹⁴They buried him in his own tomb, which he had made for himself in the City of David; and they laid him in the bed which was filled with spices and various ingredients prepared in a mixture of ointments. They made a very great burning for him.

17 Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel.

²And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken.

³Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals,

⁴but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel.

⁵Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance.

⁶And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah.

⁷Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

⁸And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah--the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests.

⁹So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.

¹⁰And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around

Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

¹¹Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver as tribute; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats.

¹²So Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah.

¹³He had much property in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem.

¹⁴These are their numbers, according to their fathers' houses. Of Judah, the captains of thousands: Adnah the captain, and with him three hundred thousand mighty men of valor;

¹⁵and next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and eighty thousand;

¹⁶and next to him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself to the LORD, and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor.

¹⁷Of Benjamin: Eliada a mighty man of valor, and with him two hundred thousand men armed with bow and shield;

¹⁸and next to him was Jehozabad, and with him one hundred and eighty thousand prepared for war.

¹⁹These served the king, besides those the king put in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

18 Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab.

²After some years he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria; and Ahab killed sheep and oxen in abundance for him and the people who were with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramoth Gilead.

³So Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?" And he answered him, "I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war."

⁴Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the LORD today."

⁵Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?" So they said, "Go up, for God will deliver it into the king's hand."

⁶But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?"

⁷So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he never prophesies good concerning me, but

always evil. He is Micaiah the son of Imla." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

⁸Then the king of Israel called one of his officers and said, "Bring Micaiah the son of Imla quickly!"

⁹The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah, clothed in their robes, sat each on his throne; and they sat at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

¹⁰Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he said, "Thus says the LORD: "With these you shall gore the Syrians until they are destroyed."

¹¹And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for the LORD will deliver it into the king's hand."

¹²Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Therefore please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."

¹³And Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, whatever my God says, that I will speak."

¹⁴Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?" And he said, "Go and prosper,

and they shall be delivered into your hand!"

¹⁵So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁶Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, "These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace."

¹⁷And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

¹⁸Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left.

¹⁹And the LORD said, "Who will persuade Ahab king of Israel to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.

²⁰Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, "I will persuade him.' The LORD said to him, "In what way?"

²¹So he said, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, "You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so.'

²²Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

²³Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go from me to speak to you?"

²⁴And Micaiah said, "Indeed you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!"

²⁵Then the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son;

²⁶and say, "Thus says the king: "Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I return in peace."""

²⁷But Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!"

²⁸So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

²⁹And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle.

³⁰Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots who were with him, saying, "Fight with no one

small or great, but only with the king of Israel."

³¹So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "It is the king of Israel!" Therefore they surrounded him to attack; but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him, and God diverted them from him.

³²For so it was, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

³³Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

³⁴The battle increased that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening; and about the time of sunset he died.

19 Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned safely to his house in Jerusalem.

²And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.

³Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the

wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God."

⁴So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the mountains of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD God of their fathers.

⁵Then he set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city,

⁶and said to the judges, "Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment.

⁷Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes."

⁸Moreover in Jerusalem, for the judgment of the LORD and for controversies, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the chief fathers of Israel, when they returned to Jerusalem.

⁹And he commanded them, saying, "Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart:

¹⁰Whatever case comes to you from your brethren who dwell in their cities, whether of bloodshed or offenses against law or commandment, against statutes or ordinances, you shall warn them, lest they trespass against the LORD and wrath come upon you and

your brethren. Do this, and you will not be guilty.

¹¹And take notice: Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters; also the Levites will be officials before you. Behave courageously, and the LORD will be with the good."

20 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

²Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

³And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

⁴So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

⁵Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

⁶and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not

power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

⁷Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

⁸And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

⁹"If disaster comes upon us--sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine--we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

¹⁰And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir--whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them--

¹¹here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

¹²O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

¹³Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.

¹⁴Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son

of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

¹⁵And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: "Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

¹⁶Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

¹⁷You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

¹⁸And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

¹⁹Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

²⁰So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

²¹And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

²²Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

²³For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

²⁵When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

²⁶And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.

²⁷Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

²⁸So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

²⁹And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

³⁰Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

³¹So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

³²And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD.

³³Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

³⁴Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

³⁵After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly.

³⁶And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber.

³⁷But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works." Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

21 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

²He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azaryahu, Michael, and Shephatiah; all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.

³Their father gave them great gifts of silver and gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn.

⁴Now when Jehoram was established over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself and killed all his brothers with the sword, and also others of the princes of Israel.

⁵Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

⁶And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for he had the daughter of Ahab

as a wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

⁷Yet the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

⁸In his days Edom revolted against Judah's authority, and made a king over themselves.

⁹So Jehoram went out with his officers, and all his chariots with him. And he rose by night and attacked the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots.

¹⁰Thus Edom has been in revolt against Judah's authority to this day. At that time Libnah revolted against his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers.

¹¹Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit harlotry, and led Judah astray.

¹²And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, 4 Thus says the LORD God of your father David: 4 Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah,

¹³but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot like the harlotry of the house of Ahab, and also have killed your brothers, those of your father's

household, who were better than yourself,

¹⁴behold, the LORD will strike your people with a serious affliction--your children, your wives, and all your possessions;

¹⁵and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines, until your intestines come out by reason of the sickness, day by day.

¹⁶Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabians who were near the Ethiopians.

¹⁷And they came up into Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions that were found in the king's house, and also his sons and his wives, so that there was not a son left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

¹⁸After all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease.

¹⁹Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning for his fathers.

²⁰He was thirty-two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed. However they buried him in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

22

Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his place, for the raiders who came with the Arabians into the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, reigned.

²Ahaziah was forty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri.

³He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do wickedly.

⁴Therefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD, like the house of Ahab; for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction.

⁵He also followed their advice, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth Gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

⁶Then he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which he had received at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Azariah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

⁷His going to Joram was God's occasion for Ahaziah's downfall; for when he arrived, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.

⁸And it happened, when Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who served Ahaziah, that he killed them.

⁹Then he searched for Ahaziah; and they caught him (he was hiding in Samaria), and brought him to Jehu. When they had killed him, they buried him, "because," they said, "he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So the house of Ahaziah had no one to assume power over the kingdom.

¹⁰Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.

¹¹But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered, and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him.

¹²And he was hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

23In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and made a covenant with the captains of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of

Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri.

²And they went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the chief fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

³Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD has said of the sons of David.

⁴This is what you shall do: One-third of you entering on the Sabbath, of the priests and the Levites, shall be keeping watch over the doors;

⁵one-third shall be at the king's house; and one-third at the Gate of the Foundation. All the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶But let no one come into the house of the LORD except the priests and those of the Levites who serve. They may go in, for they are holy; but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD.

⁷And the Levites shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes into the house, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out."

⁸So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. And each man took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off

duty on the Sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest had not dismissed the divisions.

⁹And Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of God.

¹⁰Then he set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and by the temple, all around the king.

¹¹And they brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the Testimony, and made him king. Then Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, "Long live the king!"

¹²Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD.

¹³When she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, also the singers with musical instruments, and those who led in praise. So Athaliah tore her clothes and said, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁴And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not kill her in the house of the LORD."

¹⁵So they seized her; and she went by way of the entrance of the Horse Gate into the king's house, and they killed her there.

¹⁶Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD's people.

¹⁷And all the people went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

¹⁸Also Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to the hand of the priests, the Levites, whom David had assigned in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was established by David.

¹⁹And he set the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD, so that no one who was in any way unclean should enter.

²⁰Then he took the captains of hundreds, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought the king down from the house of the LORD; and they went through the Upper Gate to the king's house, and set the king on the throne of the kingdom.

²¹So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

24 Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

² Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

³ And Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he had sons and daughters.

⁴ Now it happened after this that Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD.

⁵ Then he gathered the priests and the Levites, and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah, and gather from all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that you do it quickly." However the Levites did not do it quickly.

⁶ So the king called Jehoiada the chief priest, and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD and of the assembly of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?"

⁷ For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also presented all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD to the Baals.

⁸ Then at the king's command they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of the house of the LORD.

⁹ And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God had imposed on Israel in the wilderness.

¹⁰ Then all the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought their contributions, and put them into the chest until all had given.

¹¹ So it was, at that time, when the chest was brought to the king's official by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, that the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it and returned it to its place. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

¹² The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also those who worked in iron and bronze to restore the house of the LORD.

¹³ So the workmen labored, and the work was completed by them; they restored the house of God to its original condition and reinforced it.

¹⁴ When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; they made from it articles for the house of the LORD, articles for serving and offering, spoons and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

¹⁵But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died.

¹⁶And they buried him in the City of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.

¹⁷Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them.

¹⁸Therefore they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass.

¹⁹Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.

²⁰Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God: "Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you."

²¹So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD.

²²Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; and

as he died, he said, "The LORD look on it, and repay!"

²³So it happened in the spring of the year that the army of Syria came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the leaders of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.

²⁴For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the LORD delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

²⁵And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died. And they buried him in the City of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

²⁶These are the ones who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess.

²⁷Now concerning his sons, and the many oracles about him, and the repairing of the house of God, indeed they are written in the annals of the book of the kings. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

25Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem.

His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

²And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.

³Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established for him, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

⁴However he did not execute their children, but did as it is written in the Law in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall die for his own sin."

⁵Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together and set over them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, according to their fathers' houses, throughout all Judah and Benjamin; and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them to be three hundred thousand choice men, able to go to war, who could handle spear and shield.

⁶He also hired one hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for one hundred talents of silver.

⁷But a man of God came to him, saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel—not with any of the children of Ephraim.

⁸But if you go, be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, God shall make you fall

before the enemy; for God has power to help and to overthrow."

⁹Then Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this."

¹⁰So Amaziah discharged the troops that had come to him from Ephraim, to go back home. Therefore their anger was greatly aroused against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

¹¹Then Amaziah strengthened himself, and leading his people, he went to the Valley of Salt and killed ten thousand of the people of Seir.

¹²Also the children of Judah took captive ten thousand alive, brought them to the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, so that they all were dashed in pieces.

¹³But as for the soldiers of the army which Amaziah had discharged, so that they would not go with him to battle, they raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon, killed three thousand in them, and took much spoil.

¹⁴Now it was so, after Amaziah came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods, and bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

¹⁵Therefore the anger of the LORD was aroused against Amaziah, and He sent

him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?"

¹⁶So it was, as he talked with him, that the king said to him, "Have we made you the king's counselor? Cease! Why should you be killed?" Then the prophet ceased, and said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice."

¹⁷Now Amaziah king of Judah asked advice and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face one another in battle."

¹⁸And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as wife'; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle."

¹⁹Indeed you say that you have defeated the Edomites, and your heart is lifted up to boast. Stay at home now; why should you meddle with trouble, that you should fall--you and Judah with you?"

²⁰But Amaziah would not heed, for it came from God, that He might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought the gods of Edom.

²¹So Joash king of Israel went out; and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

²²And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent.

²³Then Joash the king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth Shemesh; and he brought him to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate--four hundred cubits.

²⁴And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of God with Obed-Edom, the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

²⁵Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

²⁶Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from first to last, indeed are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?

²⁷After the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.

²⁸Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the City of Judah.

26 Now all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

²He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

³Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

⁴And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

⁵He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

⁶Now he went out and made war against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities around Ashdod and among the Philistines.

⁷God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites.

⁸Also the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong.

⁹And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall; then he fortified them.

¹⁰Also he built towers in the desert. He dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the lowlands and in the plains; he also had farmers and

vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for he loved the soil.

¹¹Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men who went out to war by companies, according to the number on their roll as prepared by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains.

¹²The total number of chief officers of the mighty men of valor was two thousand six hundred.

¹³And under their authority was an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.

¹⁴Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones.

¹⁵And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong.

¹⁶But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

¹⁷So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD--valiant men.

¹⁸And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God."

¹⁹Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar.

²⁰And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him.

²¹King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

²²Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote.

²³So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the kings, for they said, "He is a leper." Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

27 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok.

²And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done (although he did not enter the temple of the LORD). But still the people acted corruptly.

³He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD, and he built extensively on the wall of Ophel.

⁴Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built fortresses and towers.

⁵He also fought with the king of the Ammonites and defeated them. And the people of Ammon gave him in that year one hundred talents of silver, ten thousand kors of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. The people of Ammon paid this to him in the second and third years also.

⁶So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.

⁷Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars and his ways, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

⁸He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.

⁹So Jotham rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

28 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD, as his father David had done.

²For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals.

³He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

⁴And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵Therefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. They defeated him, and carried away a great multitude of them as captives, and brought them to Damascus. Then he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who defeated him with a great slaughter.

⁶For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed one hundred and twenty thousand in Judah in one day, all valiant men, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.

⁷Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the

officer over the house, and Elkanah who was second to the king.

⁸And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand women, sons, and daughters; and they also took away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.

⁹But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them: "Look, because the LORD God of your fathers was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand; but you have killed them in a rage that reaches up to heaven.

¹⁰And now you propose to force the children of Judah and Jerusalem to be your male and female slaves; but are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?

¹¹Now hear me, therefore, and return the captives, whom you have taken captive from your brethren, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you."

¹²Then some of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war,

¹³and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives here, for we already have offended the LORD. You intend to add to our sins and to our guilt; for our guilt

is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel."

¹⁴So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the leaders and all the assembly.

¹⁵Then the men who were designated by name rose up and took the captives, and from the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them, dressed them and gave them sandals, gave them food and drink, and anointed them; and they let all the feeble ones ride on donkeys. So they brought them to their brethren at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

¹⁶At the same time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria to help him.

¹⁷For again the Edomites had come, attacked Judah, and carried away captives.

¹⁸The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland and of the South of Judah, and had taken Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Sochoh with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages; and they dwelt there.

¹⁹For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD.

²⁰Also Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him.

²¹For Ahaz took part of the treasures from the house of the LORD, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him.

²²Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. This is that King Ahaz.

²³For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel.

²⁴So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

²⁵And in every single city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.

²⁶Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem; but they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

29 Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old, and he

reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah.

²And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

³In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.

⁴Then he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them in the East Square,

⁵and said to them: "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place.

⁶For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the LORD our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned their backs on Him.

⁷They have also shut up the doors of the vestibule, put out the lamps, and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel.

⁸Therefore the wrath of the LORD fell upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He has given them up to trouble, to desolation, and to jeering, as you see with your eyes.

⁹For indeed, because of this our fathers have fallen by the sword; and our sons,

our daughters, and our wives are in captivity.

¹⁰"Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us.

¹¹My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense."

¹²Then these Levites arose: Mahath the son of Amasai and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites; of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah and Eden the son of Joah;

¹³of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeiel; of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah;

¹⁴of the sons of Heman, Jehiel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel.

¹⁵And they gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves, and went according to the commandment of the king, at the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.

¹⁶Then the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and brought out all the debris that they found in the temple of the LORD to the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it out and carried it to the Brook Kidron.

¹⁷Now they began to sanctify on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD. So they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished.

¹⁸Then they went in to King Hezekiah and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offerings with all its articles, and the table of the showbread with all its articles.

¹⁹Moreover all the articles which King Ahaz in his reign had cast aside in his transgression we have prepared and sanctified; and there they are, before the altar of the LORD."

²⁰Then King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD.

²¹And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. Then he commanded the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

²²So they killed the bulls, and the priests received the blood and sprinkled it on the altar. Likewise they killed the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar. They also killed the lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar.

²³Then they brought out the male goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.

²⁴And the priests killed them; and they presented their blood on the altar as a sin offering to make an atonement for all Israel, for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering be made for all Israel.

²⁵And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by His prophets.

²⁶The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷Then Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD also began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel.

²⁸So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

²⁹And when they had finished offering, the king and all who were present with him bowed and worshiped.

³⁰Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.

³¹Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.

³²And the number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

³³The consecrated things were six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep.

³⁴But the priests were too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings; therefore their brethren the Levites helped them until the work was ended and until the other priests had sanctified themselves, for the Levites were more diligent in sanctifying themselves than the priests.

³⁵Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and with the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order.

³⁶Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.

30 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD

at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel.

²For the king and his leaders and all the assembly in Jerusalem had agreed to keep the Passover in the second month.

³For they could not keep it at the regular time, because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem.

⁴And the matter pleased the king and all the assembly.

⁵So they resolved to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem, since they had not done it for a long time in the prescribed manner.

⁶Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: "Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

⁷And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see.

⁸Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which

He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you.

⁹For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him."

¹⁰So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them.

¹¹Nevertheless some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

¹²Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD.

¹³Now many people, a very great assembly, gathered at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month.

¹⁴They arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and they took away all the incense altars and cast them into the Brook Kidron.

¹⁵Then they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought the burnt offerings to the house of the LORD.

¹⁶They stood in their place according to their custom, according to the Law of Moses the man of God; the priests sprinkled the blood received from the hand of the Levites.

¹⁷For there were many in the assembly who had not sanctified themselves; therefore the Levites had charge of the slaughter of the Passover lambs for everyone who was not clean, to sanctify them to the LORD.

¹⁸For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD provide atonement for everyone

¹⁹who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he is not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary."

²⁰And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.

²¹So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing to the LORD, accompanied by loud instruments.

²²And Hezekiah gave encouragement to all the Levites who taught the good knowledge of the LORD; and they ate throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.

²³Then the whole assembly agreed to keep the feast another seven days, and they kept it another seven days with gladness.

²⁴For Hezekiah king of Judah gave to the assembly a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep, and the leaders gave to the assembly a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep; and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

²⁵The whole assembly of Judah rejoiced, also the priests and Levites, all the assembly that came from Israel, the sojourners who came from the land of Israel, and those who dwelt in Judah.

²⁶So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.

²⁷Then the priests, the Levites, arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard; and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.

31 Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke the sacred pillars in pieces, cut down the wooden images, and threw down the high places and the altars--from all Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh--until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned to their own cities, every man to his possession.

²And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites according to their divisions, each man according to

his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and peace offerings, to serve, to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD.

³The king also appointed a portion of his possessions for the burnt offerings: for the morning and evening burnt offerings, the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths and the New Moons and the set feasts, as it is written in the Law of the LORD.

⁴Moreover he commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the LORD.

⁵As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.

⁶And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps.

⁷In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month.

⁸And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and His people Israel.

⁹Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

¹⁰And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, "Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for the LORD has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance."

¹¹Now Hezekiah commanded them to prepare rooms in the house of the LORD, and they prepared them.

¹²Then they faithfully brought in the offerings, the tithes, and the dedicated things; Cononiah the Levite had charge of them, and Shimei his brother was the next.

¹³Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.

¹⁴Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of the East Gate, was over the freewill offerings to God, to distribute the offerings of the LORD and the most holy things.

¹⁵And under him were Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, his faithful assistants in the cities of the priests, to distribute allotments to their brethren by divisions, to the great as well as the small.

¹⁶Besides those males from three years old and up who were written in the genealogy, they distributed to everyone who entered the house of the LORD his

daily portion for the work of his service, by his division,

¹⁷and to the priests who were written in the genealogy according to their father's house, and to the Levites from twenty years old and up according to their work, by their divisions,

¹⁸and to all who were written in the genealogy--their little ones and their wives, their sons and daughters, the whole company of them--for in their faithfulness they sanctified themselves in holiness.

¹⁹Also for the sons of Aaron the priests, who were in the fields of the commonlands of their cities, in every single city, there were men who were designated by name to distribute portions to all the males among the priests and to all who were listed by genealogies among the Levites.

²⁰Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and true before the LORD his God.

²¹And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered.

32After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself.

²And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem,

³he consulted with his leaders and commanders to stop the water from the springs which were outside the city; and they helped him.

⁴Thus many people gathered together who stopped all the springs and the brook that ran through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?"

⁵And he strengthened himself, built up all the wall that was broken, raised it up to the towers, and built another wall outside; also he repaired the Millo in the City of David, and made weapons and shields in abundance.

⁶Then he set military captains over the people, gathered them together to him in the open square of the city gate, and gave them encouragement, saying,

⁷"Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him.

⁸With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

⁹After this Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem (but he and all the forces with him laid siege

against Lachish), to Hezekiah king of Judah, and to all Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying,

¹⁰"Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria: "In what do you trust, that you remain under siege in Jerusalem?"

¹¹Does not Hezekiah persuade you to give yourselves over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, "The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria"?

¹²Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, "You shall worship before one altar and burn incense on it"?

¹³Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand?

¹⁴Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand?

¹⁵Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this, and do not believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?"

¹⁶Furthermore, his servants spoke against the LORD God and against His servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷He also wrote letters to revile the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against Him, saying, "As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand."

¹⁸Then they called out with a loud voice in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten them and trouble them, that they might take the city.

¹⁹And they spoke against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth--the work of men's hands.

²⁰Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven.

²¹Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.

²²Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.

²³And many brought gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations thereafter.

²⁴In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign.

²⁵But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem.

²⁶Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

²⁷Hezekiah had very great riches and honor. And he made himself treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of desirable items;

²⁸storehouses for the harvest of grain, wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of livestock, and folds for flocks.

²⁹Moreover he provided cities for himself, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him very much property.

³⁰This same Hezekiah also stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the water by tunnel to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

³¹However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.

³²Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, indeed they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, and in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

³³So Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper tombs of the sons of David; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem honored him at his death. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

33 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

²But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

³For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

⁴He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever."

⁵And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did

much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

⁷He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

⁸and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers--only if they are careful to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses."

⁹So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

¹⁰And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.

¹¹Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.

¹²Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

¹³and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

¹⁴After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah.

¹⁵He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city.

¹⁶He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁷Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

¹⁸Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel.

¹⁹Also his prayer and how God received his entreaty, and all his sin and trespass, and the sites where he built high places and set up wooden images and carved images, before he was humbled, indeed they are written among the sayings of Hozai.

²⁰So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.

²¹Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

²²But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them.

²³And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

²⁴Then his servants conspired against him, and killed him in his own house.

²⁵But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

34 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

²And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

⁴They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars

which were above them he cut down; and the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces, and made dust of them and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

⁵He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

⁶And so he did in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali and all around, with axes.

⁷When he had broken down the altars and the wooden images, had beaten the carved images into powder, and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

⁸In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

⁹When they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites who kept the doors had gathered from the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, from all the remnant of Israel, from all Judah and Benjamin, and which they had brought back to Jerusalem.

¹⁰Then they put it in the hand of the foremen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they gave it to the workmen who worked in the house

of the LORD, to repair and restore the house.

¹¹They gave it to the craftsmen and builders to buy hewn stone and timber for beams, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.

¹²And the men did the work faithfully. Their overseers were Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to supervise. Others of the Levites, all of whom were skillful with instruments of music,

¹³were over the burden bearers and were overseers of all who did work in any kind of service. And some of the Levites were scribes, officers, and gatekeepers.

¹⁴Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given by Moses.

¹⁵Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.

¹⁶So Shaphan carried the book to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing.

¹⁷And they have gathered the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the

hand of the overseers and the workmen."

¹⁸Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹⁹Thus it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

²⁰Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,

²¹"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book."

²²So Hilkiah and those the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke to her to that effect.

²³Then she answered them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "Tell the man who sent you to Me,

²⁴"Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah,

²⁵because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath will be poured out on this place, and not be quenched.'"

²⁶But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard--

²⁷because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.

²⁸"Surely I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place and its inhabitants.'"" So they brought back word to the king.

²⁹Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

³⁰The king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem--the priests and the Levites, and all the people, great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD.

³¹Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD, and to keep His

commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book.

³²And he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

³³Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not depart from following the LORD God of their fathers.

35Now Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the first month.

²And he set the priests in their duties and encouraged them for the service of the house of the LORD.

³Then he said to the Levites who taught all Israel, who were holy to the LORD: "Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. It shall no longer be a burden on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.

⁴Prepare yourselves according to your fathers' houses, according to your divisions, following the written instruction of David king of Israel and the written instruction of Solomon his son.

⁵And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the fathers' houses of your brethren the lay people, and according to the division of the father's house of the Levites.

⁶So slaughter the Passover offerings, consecrate yourselves, and prepare them for your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses."

⁷Then Josiah gave the lay people lambs and young goats from the flock, all for Passover offerings for all who were present, to the number of thirty thousand, as well as three thousand cattle; these were from the king's possessions.

⁸And his leaders gave willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand six hundred from the flock, and three hundred cattle.

⁹Also Conaniah, his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave to the Levites for Passover offerings five thousand from the flock and five hundred cattle.

¹⁰So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their places, and the Levites in their divisions, according to the king's command.

¹¹And they slaughtered the Passover offerings; and the priests sprinkled the blood with their hands, while the Levites skinned the animals.

¹²Then they removed the burnt offerings that they might give them to the divisions of the fathers' houses of the lay people, to offer to the LORD, as it is written in the Book of Moses. And so they did with the cattle.

¹³Also they roasted the Passover offerings with fire according to the ordinance; but the other holy offerings they boiled in pots, in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them quickly among all the lay people.

¹⁴Then afterward they prepared portions for themselves and for the priests, because the priests, the sons of Aaron, were busy in offering burnt offerings and fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared portions for themselves and for the priests, the sons of Aaron.

¹⁵And the singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their places, according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer. Also the gatekeepers were at each gate; they did not have to leave their position, because their brethren the Levites prepared portions for them.

¹⁶So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, according to the command of King Josiah.

¹⁷And the children of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days.

¹⁸There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel

the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as Josiah kept, with the priests and the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁹In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.

²⁰After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him.

²¹But he sent messengers to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you."

²²Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.

²³And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded."

²⁴His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments.

²⁶Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his goodness, according to what was written in the Law of the LORD,

²⁷and his deeds from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

36 Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem.

²Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

³Now the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

⁴Then the king of Egypt made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother and carried him off to Egypt.

⁵Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

⁶Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon.

⁷Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

⁸Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

⁹Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁰At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned him and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

¹¹Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

¹²He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD.

¹³And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁴Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

¹⁵And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

¹⁶But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

¹⁷Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand.

¹⁸And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon.

¹⁹Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

²⁰And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

²¹to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

²²Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

²³Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!

Ezra

1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.

3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.

4 And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.

5 Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

6 And all those who were around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and

with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered.

7 King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods;

8 and Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

9 This is the number of them: thirty gold platters, one thousand silver platters, twenty-nine knives,

10 thirty gold basins, four hundred and ten silver basins of a similar kind, and one thousand other articles.

11 All the articles of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2 Now these are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city.

2 Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai,

Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

³the people of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

⁴the people of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two;

⁵the people of Arah, seven hundred and seventy-five;

⁶the people of Pahath-Moab, of the people of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve;

⁷the people of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

⁸the people of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five;

⁹the people of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁰the people of Bani, six hundred and forty-two;

¹¹the people of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-three;

¹²the people of Azgad, one thousand two hundred and twenty-two;

¹³the people of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-six;

¹⁴the people of Bigvai, two thousand and fifty-six;

¹⁵the people of Adin, four hundred and fifty-four;

¹⁶the people of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight;

¹⁷the people of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-three;

¹⁸the people of Jorah, one hundred and twelve;

¹⁹the people of Hashum, two hundred and twenty-three;

²⁰the people of Gibbar, ninety-five;

²¹the people of Bethlehem, one hundred and twenty-three;

²²the men of Netophah, fifty-six;

²³the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;

²⁴the people of Azmaveth, forty-two;

²⁵the people of Kirjath Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

²⁶the people of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one;

²⁷the men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

²⁸the men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred and twenty-three;

²⁹the people of Nebo, fifty-two;

³⁰the people of Magbish, one hundred and fifty-six;

³¹the people of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

³²the people of Harim, three hundred and twenty;

³³the people of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five;

³⁴the people of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five;

³⁵the people of Senaah, three thousand six hundred and thirty.

³⁶The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;

³⁷the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty-two;

³⁸the sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven;

³⁹the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen.

⁴⁰The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, seventy-four.

⁴¹The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty-eight.

⁴²The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, and the sons of Shobai, one hundred and thirty-nine in all.

⁴³The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁴the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon,

⁴⁵the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub,

⁴⁶the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmi, the sons of Hanan,

⁴⁷the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah,

⁴⁸the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam,

⁴⁹the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai,

⁵⁰the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephusim,

⁵¹the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,

⁵²the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,

⁵³the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah,

⁵⁴the sons of Nezhiah, and the sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁵The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Peruda,

⁵⁶the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁷the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim, and the sons of Ami.

⁵⁸All the Nethinim and the children of Solomon's servants were three hundred and ninety-two.

⁵⁹And these were the ones who came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; but they could not identify their father's house or their genealogy, whether they were of Israel:

⁶⁰the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, and the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and fifty-two;

⁶¹and of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Koz, and the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.

⁶²These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.

⁶³And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

⁶⁵besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred men and women singers.

⁶⁶Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five,

⁶⁷their camels four hundred and thirty-five, and their donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁶⁸Some of the heads of the fathers' houses, when they came to the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to erect it in its place:

⁶⁹According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly garments.

⁷⁰So the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

3 And when the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.

²Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

³Though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to

the LORD, both the morning and evening burnt offerings.

⁴They also kept the Feast of Tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings in the number required by ordinance for each day.

⁵Afterwards they offered the regular burnt offering, and those for New Moons and for all the appointed feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and those of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to the LORD.

⁶From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, although the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not been laid.

⁷They also gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre to bring cedar logs from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the permission which they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸Now in the second month of the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began work and appointed the Levites from twenty years old and above to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.

⁹Then Jeshua with his sons and brothers, Kadmiel with his sons, and the sons of Judah, arose as one to oversee those working on the house of God: the

sons of Henadad with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

¹⁰When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel.

¹¹And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

¹²But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy,

¹³so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.

4Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the descendants of the captivity were building the temple of the LORD God of Israel,

²they came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers' houses, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do; and we have

sacrificed to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here."

³But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the fathers' houses of Israel said to them, "You may do nothing with us to build a house for our God; but we alone will build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

⁴Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah. They troubled them in building,

⁵and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

⁶In the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷In the days of Artaxerxes also, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabel, and the rest of their companions wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the letter was written in Aramaic script, and translated into the Aramaic language.

⁸Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes in this fashion:

⁹From Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions--representatives of the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the people of Persia and

Erech and Babylon and Shushan, the Dehavites, the Elamites,

¹⁰and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapper took captive and settled in the cities of Samaria and the remainder beyond the River --and so forth.

¹¹(This is a copy of the letter that they sent him) To King Artaxerxes from your servants, the men of the region beyond the River, and so forth:

¹²Let it be known to the king that the Jews who came up from you have come to us at Jerusalem, and are building the rebellious and evil city, and are finishing its walls and repairing the foundations.

¹³Let it now be known to the king that, if this city is built and the walls completed, they will not pay tax, tribute, or custom, and the king's treasury will be diminished.

¹⁴Now because we receive support from the palace, it was not proper for us to see the king's dishonor; therefore we have sent and informed the king,

¹⁵that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. And you will find in the book of the records and know that this city is a rebellious city, harmful to kings and provinces, and that they have incited sedition within the city in former times, for which cause this city was destroyed.

¹⁶We inform the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, the

result will be that you will have no dominion beyond the River.

¹⁷The king sent an answer: To Rehum the commander, to Shimshai the scribe, to the rest of their companions who dwell in Samaria, and to the remainder beyond the River: Peace, and so forth.

¹⁸The letter which you sent to us has been clearly read before me.

¹⁹And I gave the command, and a search has been made, and it was found that this city in former times has revolted against kings, and rebellion and sedition have been fostered in it.

²⁰There have also been mighty kings over Jerusalem, who have ruled over all the region beyond the River; and tax, tribute, and custom were paid to them.

²¹Now give the command to make these men cease, that this city may not be built until the command is given by me.

²²Take heed now that you do not fail to do this. Why should damage increase to the hurt of the kings?

²³Now when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem against the Jews, and by force of arms made them cease.

²⁴Thus the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem ceased, and it was discontinued until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

5Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.

²So Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak rose up and began to build the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them, helping them.

³At the same time Tattenai the governor of the region beyond the River and Shethar-Boznai and their companions came to them and spoke thus to them: "Who has commanded you to build this temple and finish this wall?"

⁴Then, accordingly, we told them the names of the men who were constructing this building.

⁵But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, so that they could not make them cease till a report could go to Darius. Then a written answer was returned concerning this matter.

⁶This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai sent: The governor of the region beyond the River, and Shethar-Boznai, and his companions, the Persians who were in the region beyond the River, to Darius the king.

⁷(They sent a letter to him, in which was written thus) To Darius the king: All peace.

⁸Let it be known to the king that we went into the province of Judea, to the temple

of the great God, which is being built with heavy stones, and timber is being laid in the walls; and this work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands.

⁹Then we asked those elders, and spoke thus to them: "Who commanded you to build this temple and to finish these walls?"

¹⁰We also asked them their names to inform you, that we might write the names of the men who were chief among them.

¹¹And thus they returned us an answer, saying: "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and completed.

¹²But because our fathers provoked the God of heaven to wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and carried the people away to Babylon.

¹³However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, King Cyrus issued a decree to build this house of God.

¹⁴Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple that was in Jerusalem and carried into the temple of Babylon--those King Cyrus took from the temple of Babylon, and they were given to one named Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor.

¹⁵And he said to him, "Take these articles; go, carry them to the temple site that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its former site.'

¹⁶Then the same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem; but from that time even until now it has been under construction, and it is not finished."

¹⁷Now therefore, if it seems good to the king, let a search be made in the king's treasure house, which is there in Babylon, whether it is so that a decree was issued by King Cyrus to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send us his pleasure concerning this matter.

6Then King Darius issued a decree, and a search was made in the archives, where the treasures were stored in Babylon.

²And at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Media, a scroll was found, and in it a record was written thus:

³In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: "Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits,

⁴with three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber. Let the

expenses be paid from the king's treasury.

⁵Also let the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple which is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and taken back to the temple which is in Jerusalem, each to its place; and deposit them in the house of God"--

⁶Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the region beyond the River, and Shethar-Boznai, and your companions the Persians who are beyond the River, keep yourselves far from there.

⁷Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God on its site.

⁸Moreover I issue a decree as to what you shall do for the elders of these Jews, for the building of this house of God: Let the cost be paid at the king's expense from taxes on the region beyond the River; this is to be given immediately to these men, so that they are not hindered.

⁹And whatever they need--young bulls, rams, and lambs for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the request of the priests who are in Jerusalem--let it be given them day by day without fail,

¹⁰that they may offer sacrifices of sweet aroma to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹Also I issue a decree that whoever alters this edict, let a timber be pulled from his house and erected, and let him be hanged on it; and let his house be made a refuse heap because of this.

¹²And may the God who causes His name to dwell there destroy any king or people who put their hand to alter it, or to destroy this house of God which is in Jerusalem. I Darius issue a decree; let it be done diligently.

¹³Then Tattenai, governor of the region beyond the River, Shethar-Boznai, and their companions diligently did according to what King Darius had sent.

¹⁴So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

¹⁵Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

¹⁶Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

¹⁷And they offered sacrifices at the dedication of this house of God, one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁸They assigned the priests to their divisions and the Levites to their divisions, over the service of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses.

¹⁹And the descendants of the captivity kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

²⁰For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves; all of them were ritually clean. And they slaughtered the Passover lambs for all the descendants of the captivity, for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

²¹Then the children of Israel who had returned from the captivity ate together with all who had separated themselves from the filth of the nations of the land in order to seek the LORD God of Israel.

²²And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the LORD made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

7 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

²the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,

³the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,

⁴the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,

⁵the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest--

⁶this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

⁷Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁸And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

⁹On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

¹⁰For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

¹¹This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel:

¹²Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace, and so forth.

¹³I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you.

¹⁴And whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of your God which is in your hand;

¹⁵and whereas you are to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem;

¹⁶and whereas all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests, are to be freely offered for the house of their God in Jerusalem--

¹⁷now therefore, be careful to buy with this money bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem.

¹⁸And whatever seems good to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it according to the will of your God.

¹⁹Also the articles that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem.

²⁰And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, pay for it from the king's treasury.

²¹And I, even I, Artaxerxes the king, issue a decree to all the treasurers who are in the region beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, may require of you, let it be done diligently,

²²up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit.

²³Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven. For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

²⁴Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God.

²⁵And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know them.

²⁶Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.

²⁷Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem,

²⁸and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

8 These are the heads of their fathers' houses, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of King Artaxerxes:

²of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel; of the sons of David, Hattush;

³of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and registered with him were one hundred and fifty males;

⁴of the sons of Pahath-Moab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred males;

⁵of the sons of Shechaniah, Ben-Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males;

⁶of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males;

⁷of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males;

⁸of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him eighty males;

⁹of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males;

¹⁰of the sons of Shelomith, Ben-Josiphiah, and with him one hundred and sixty males;

¹¹of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty-eight males;

¹²of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him one hundred and ten males;

¹³of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names are these--Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah--and with them sixty males;

¹⁴also of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

¹⁵Now I gathered them by the river that flows to Ahava, and we camped there three days. And I looked among the people and the priests, and found none of the sons of Levi there.

¹⁶Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, leaders; also for Joiarib and Elnathan, men of understanding.

¹⁷And I gave them a command for Iddo the chief man at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say to Iddo and his brethren the Nethinim at the place Casiphia--that they should bring us servants for the house of our God.

¹⁸Then, by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli the son of Levi, the son of Israel, namely Sherebiah, with his sons and brothers, eighteen men;

¹⁹and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty men;

²⁰also of the Nethinim, whom David and the leaders had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim. All of them were designated by name.

²¹Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.

²²For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him."

²³So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.

²⁴And I separated twelve of the leaders of the priests--Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them--

²⁵and weighed out to them the silver, the gold, and the articles, the offering for the house of our God which the king and his

counselors and his princes, and all Israel who were present, had offered.

²⁶I weighed into their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, silver articles weighing one hundred talents, one hundred talents of gold,

²⁷twenty gold basins worth a thousand drachmas, and two vessels of fine polished bronze, precious as gold.

²⁸And I said to them, "You are holy to the LORD; the articles are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD God of your fathers.

²⁹Watch and keep them until you weigh them before the leaders of the priests and the Levites and heads of the fathers' houses of Israel in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD."

³⁰So the priests and the Levites received the silver and the gold and the articles by weight, to bring them to Jerusalem to the house of our God.

³¹Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. And the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambush along the road.

³²So we came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days.

³³Now on the fourth day the silver and the gold and the articles were weighed in the house of our God by the hand of

Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui,

³⁴with the number and weight of everything. All the weight was written down at that time.

³⁵The children of those who had been carried away captive, who had come from the captivity, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel: twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats as a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to the LORD.

³⁶And they delivered the king's orders to the king's satraps and the governors in the region beyond the River. So they gave support to the people and the house of God.

9When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

²For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and

rulers has been foremost in this trespass."

³So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished.

⁴Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel assembled to me, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away captive, and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

⁵At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God.

⁶And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens.

⁷Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day.

⁸And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage.

⁹For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He

extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments,

¹¹which You commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, "The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land, with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from one end to another with their impurity.

¹²Now therefore, do not give your daughters as wives for their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons; and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.'

¹³And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our God have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such deliverance as this,

¹⁴should we again break Your commandments, and join in marriage with the people committing these abominations? Would You not be angry with us until You had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant or survivor?

¹⁵O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You,

in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!"

10 Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.

²And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this.

³Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

⁴Arise, for this matter is your responsibility. We also are with you. Be of good courage, and do it."

⁵Then Ezra arose, and made the leaders of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear an oath that they would do according to this word. So they swore an oath.

⁶Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib; and when he came there, he ate no bread and drank no water, for he mourned because of the guilt of those from the captivity.

⁷And they issued a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the descendants of the captivity, that they must gather at Jerusalem,

⁸and that whoever would not come within three days, according to the instructions of the leaders and elders, all his property would be confiscated, and he himself would be separated from the assembly of those from the captivity.

⁹So all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered at Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth of the month; and all the people sat in the open square of the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of heavy rain.

¹⁰Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have transgressed and have taken pagan wives, adding to the guilt of Israel.

¹¹Now therefore, make confession to the LORD God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives."

¹²Then all the assembly answered and said with a loud voice, "Yes! As you have said, so we must do.

¹³But there are many people; it is the season for heavy rain, and we are not able to stand outside. Nor is this the work of one or two days, for there are many of us who have transgressed in this matter.

¹⁴Please, let the leaders of our entire assembly stand; and let all those in our cities who have taken pagan wives come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of their cities, until the fierce wrath of our God is turned away from us in this matter."

¹⁵Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite gave them support.

¹⁶Then the descendants of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain heads of the fathers' households, were set apart by the fathers' households, each of them by name; and they sat down on the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

¹⁷By the first day of the first month they finished questioning all the men who had taken pagan wives.

¹⁸And among the sons of the priests who had taken pagan wives the following were found of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah.

¹⁹And they gave their promise that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they presented a ram of the flock as their trespass offering.

²⁰Also of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah;

²¹of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uziah;

²²of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah.

²³Also of the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (the same is Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

²⁴Also of the singers: Eliashib; and of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri.

²⁵And others of Israel: of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, Jeziah, Malchiah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchijah, and Benaiah;

²⁶of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Eliah;

²⁷of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza;

²⁸of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai;

²⁹of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Ramoth;

³⁰of the sons of Pahath-Moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh;

³¹of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

³²Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah;

³³of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei;

³⁴of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel,

³⁵Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluh,

³⁶Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasai,

³⁸Bani, Binnui, Shimei,

³⁹Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,

⁴⁰Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,

⁴¹Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,

⁴²Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph;

⁴³of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel, and Benaiah.

⁴⁴All these had taken pagan wives, and some of them had wives by whom they had children.

Nehemiah

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel,

2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

3 And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5 And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,

6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

8 Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;

9 but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.'

10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.

11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.

2 And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before.

²Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid,

³and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"

⁴Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

⁶Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

⁷Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,

⁸and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

⁹Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

¹⁰When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

¹¹So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

¹²Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

¹³And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire.

¹⁴Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass.

¹⁵So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.

¹⁶And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

¹⁷Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."

¹⁸And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

¹⁹But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

²⁰So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

3Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel.

²Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³Also the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

⁴And next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok the son of Baana made repairs.

⁵Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.

⁶Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars.

⁷And next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor of the region beyond the River.

⁸Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹And next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

¹⁰Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs in front of his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabniah made repairs.

¹¹Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens.

¹²And next to him was Shallum the son of Hallohesh, leader of half the district of Jerusalem; he and his daughters made repairs.

¹³Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate.

¹⁴Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired the Refuse Gate; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

¹⁵Shallun the son of Col-Hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate; he built it, covered it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David.

¹⁶After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, leader of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs as far as the place in front of the tombs of David, to the man-made pool, and as far as the House of the Mighty.

¹⁷After him the Levites, under Rehum the son of Bani, made repairs. Next to him Hashabiah, leader of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.

¹⁸After him their brethren, under Bavai the son of Henadad, leader of the other half of the district of Keilah, made repairs.

¹⁹And next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the Ascent to the Armory at the buttress.

²⁰After him Baruch the son of Zabbai carefully repaired the other section, from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

²¹After him Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, repaired another section, from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

²²And after him the priests, the men of the plain, made repairs.

²³After him Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs by his house.

²⁴After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress, even as far as the corner.

²⁵Palal the son of Uzai made repairs opposite the buttress, and on the tower which projects from the king's upper house that was by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs.

²⁶Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel made repairs as far as the place in front of the Water Gate toward the east, and on the projecting tower.

²⁷After them the Tekoites repaired another section, next to the great

projecting tower, and as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.

²⁹After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs.

³⁰After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling.

³¹After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of the merchants, in front of the Miphkad Gate, and as far as the upper room at the corner.

³²And between the upper room at the corner, as far as the Sheep Gate, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

4 But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.

²And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from

the heaps of rubbish--stones that are burned?"

³Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."

⁴Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity!

⁵Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.

⁶So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry,

⁸and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

⁹Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

¹⁰Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."

¹¹And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."

¹²So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us."

¹³Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

¹⁴And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

¹⁵And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

¹⁶So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah.

¹⁷Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.

¹⁸Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

¹⁹Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall.

²⁰Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

²¹So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared.

²²At the same time I also said to the people, "Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day."

²³So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.

5And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren.

²For there were those who said, "We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live."

³There were also some who said, "We have mortgaged our lands and

vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine."

⁴There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards."

⁵Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards."

⁶And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words.

⁷After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother." So I called a great assembly against them.

⁸And I said to them, "According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?" Then they were silenced and found nothing to say.

⁹Then I said, "What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?"

¹⁰I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury!

¹¹Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them."

¹²So they said, "We will restore it, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say." Then I called the priests, and required an oath from them that they would do according to this promise.

¹³Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

¹⁴Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions.

¹⁵But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God.

¹⁶Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there for the work.

¹⁷And at my table were one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us.

¹⁸Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people.

¹⁹Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

6 Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),

²that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm.

³So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

⁴But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.

⁵Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand.

⁶In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king.

⁷And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.

⁸Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart."

⁹For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you."

¹¹And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"

¹²Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

¹⁴My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.

¹⁵So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.

¹⁶And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.

¹⁷Also in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came to them.

¹⁸For many in Judah were pledged to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

¹⁹Also they reported his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

7 Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed,

²that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

³And I said to them, "Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand guard, let them shut and bar the doors; and appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, one at his watch station and another in front of his own house."

⁴Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few, and the houses were not rebuilt.

⁵Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first return, and found written in it:

⁶These are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city.

⁷Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

⁸the sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

⁹the sons of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two;

¹⁰the sons of Arah, six hundred and fifty-two;

¹¹the sons of Pahath-Moab, of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and eighteen;

¹²the sons of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

¹³the sons of Zattu, eight hundred and forty-five;

¹⁴the sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁵the sons of Binnui, six hundred and forty-eight;

¹⁶the sons of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-eight;

¹⁷the sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred and twenty-two;

¹⁸the sons of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-seven;

¹⁹the sons of Bigvai, two thousand and sixty-seven;

²⁰the sons of Adin, six hundred and fifty-five;

²¹the sons of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight;

²²the sons of Hashum, three hundred and twenty-eight;

²³the sons of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-four;

²⁴the sons of Hariph, one hundred and twelve;

²⁵the sons of Gibeon, ninety-five;

²⁶the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, one hundred and eighty-eight;

²⁷the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;

²⁸the men of Beth Azmaveth, forty-two;

²⁹the men of Kirjath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

³⁰the men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one;

³¹the men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

³²the men of Bethel and Ai, one hundred and twenty-three;

³³the men of the other Nebo, fifty-two;

³⁴the sons of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

³⁵the sons of Harim, three hundred and twenty;

³⁶the sons of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five;

³⁷the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-one;

³⁸the sons of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.

³⁹The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;

⁴⁰the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty-two;

⁴¹the sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven;

⁴²the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen.

⁴³The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, and of the sons of Hodevah, seventy-four.

⁴⁴The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and forty-eight.

⁴⁵The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, one hundred and thirty-eight.

⁴⁶The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁷the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon,

⁴⁸the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Salmi,

⁴⁹the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,

⁵⁰the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,

⁵¹the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah,

⁵²the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephishesim,

⁵³the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,

⁵⁴the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,

⁵⁵the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah,

⁵⁶the sons of Neziah, and the sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁷The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida,

⁵⁸the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁹the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim, and the sons of Amon.

⁶⁰All the Nethinim, and the sons of Solomon's servants, were three hundred and ninety-two.

⁶¹And these were the ones who came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, but they could not identify their father's house nor their lineage, whether they were of Israel:

⁶²the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and forty-two;

⁶³and of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Koz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.

⁶⁴These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but it was not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.

⁶⁵And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁶Altogether the whole assembly was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

⁶⁷besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred and forty-five men and women singers.

⁶⁸Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five,

⁶⁹their camels four hundred and thirty-five, and donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁷⁰And some of the heads of the fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury one thousand gold drachmas, fifty basins, and five hundred and thirty priestly garments.

⁷¹Some of the heads of the fathers' houses gave to the treasury of the work twenty thousand gold drachmas, and two thousand two hundred silver minas.

⁷²And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand gold drachmas, two thousand silver minas, and sixty-seven priestly garments.

⁷³So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the Nethinim, and all Israel dwelt in their cities. When the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

8 Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.

² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month.

³ Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

⁴ So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah,

Urijah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place.

⁸So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."

¹²And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

¹³Now on the second day the heads of the fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in order to understand the words of the Law.

¹⁴And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month,

¹⁵and that they should announce and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and bring olive branches, branches of oil trees, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written."

¹⁶Then the people went out and brought them and made themselves booths, each one on the roof of his house, or in their courtyards or the courts of the house of God, and in the open square of the Water Gate and in the open square of the Gate of Ephraim.

¹⁷So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had

not done so. And there was very great gladness.

¹⁸Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day there was a sacred assembly, according to the prescribed manner.

9 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.

²Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

³And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

⁴Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

⁵And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: "Stand up and bless the LORD your God Forever and ever! "Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!

⁶You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

⁷"You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham;

⁸You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites-- To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous.

⁹"You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

¹⁰You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants, And against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. So You made a name for Yourself, as it is this day.

¹¹And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters.

¹²Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel.

¹³"You came down also on Mount Sinai,
And spoke with them from heaven, And
gave them just ordinances and true laws,
Good statutes and commandments.

¹⁴You made known to them Your holy
Sabbath, And commanded them
precepts, statutes and laws, By the
hand of Moses Your servant.

¹⁵You gave them bread from heaven for
their hunger, And brought them water
out of the rock for their thirst, And told
them to go in to possess the land Which
You had sworn to give them.

¹⁶"But they and our fathers acted
proudly, Hardened their necks, And did
not heed Your commandments.

¹⁷They refused to obey, And they were
not mindful of Your wonders That You
did among them. But they hardened
their necks, And in their rebellion They
appointed a leader To return to their
bondage. But You are God, Ready to
pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to
anger, Abundant in kindness, And did
not forsake them.

¹⁸"Even when they made a molded calf
for themselves, And said, "This is your
god That brought you up out of Egypt,"
And worked great provocations,

¹⁹Yet in Your manifold mercies You did
not forsake them in the wilderness. The
pillar of the cloud did not depart from
them by day, To lead them on the road;
Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show
them light, And the way they should go.

²⁰You also gave Your good Spirit to
instruct them, And did not withhold Your
manna from their mouth, And gave them
water for their thirst.

²¹Forty years You sustained them in the
wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their
clothes did not wear out And their feet
did not swell.

²²"Moreover You gave them kingdoms
and nations, And divided them into
districts. So they took possession of the
land of Sihon, The land of the king of
Heshbon, And the land of Og king of
Bashan.

²³You also multiplied their children as
the stars of heaven, And brought them
into the land Which You had told their
fathers To go in and possess.

²⁴So the people went in And possessed
the land; You subdued before them the
inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites,
And gave them into their hands, With
their kings And the people of the land,
That they might do with them as they
wished.

²⁵And they took strong cities and a rich
land, And possessed houses full of all
goods, Cisterns already dug, vineyards,
olive groves, And fruit trees in
abundance. So they ate and were filled
and grew fat, And delighted themselves
in Your great goodness.

²⁶"Nevertheless they were disobedient
And rebelled against You, Cast Your law
behind their backs And killed Your
prophets, who testified against them To
turn them to Yourself; And they worked
great provocations.

²⁷Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies.

²⁸"But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies,

²⁹And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, But sinned against Your judgments, "Which if a man does, he shall live by them." And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, And would not hear.

³⁰Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

³¹Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and merciful.

³²"Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps covenant and mercy: Do not let all the trouble seem small before You That has come upon us, Our kings and

our princes, Our priests and our prophets, Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

³³However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.

³⁴Neither our kings nor our princes, Our priests nor our fathers, Have kept Your law, Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, With which You testified against them.

³⁵For they have not served You in their kingdom, Or in the many good things that You gave them, Or in the large and rich land which You set before them; Nor did they turn from their wicked works.

³⁶"Here we are, servants today! And the land that You gave to our fathers, To eat its fruit and its bounty, Here we are, servants in it!

³⁷And it yields much increase to the kings You have set over us, Because of our sins; Also they have dominion over our bodies and our cattle At their pleasure; And we are in great distress.

³⁸"And because of all this, We make a sure covenant and write it; Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it."

10 Now those who placed their seal on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah,

²Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
³Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,
⁴Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
⁵Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
⁶Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
⁷Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
⁸Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. These were the priests.
⁹The Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, and Kadmiel.
¹⁰Their brethren: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
¹¹Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah,
¹²Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
¹³Hodijah, Bani, and Beninu.
¹⁴The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
¹⁵Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
¹⁶Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
¹⁷Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
¹⁸Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai,
¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,

²⁰Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
²¹Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
²²Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
²³Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
²⁴Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
²⁵Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
²⁶Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
²⁷Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.
²⁸Now the rest of the people--the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding--
²⁹these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:
³⁰We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;
³¹if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.

³²Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:

³³for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.

³⁴We cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as it is written in the Law.

³⁵And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD;

³⁶to bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God;

³⁷to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities.

³⁸And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the

tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.

³⁹For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

11

Now the leaders of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths were to dwell in other cities.

²And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

³These are the heads of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem. (But in the cities of Judah everyone dwelt in his own possession in their cities--Israelites, priests, Levites, Nethinim, and descendants of Solomon's servants.)

⁴Also in Jerusalem dwelt some of the children of Judah and of the children of Benjamin. The children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the children of Perez;

⁵and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-Hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni.

⁶All the sons of Perez who dwelt at Jerusalem were four hundred and sixty-eight valiant men.

⁷And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the 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 Jeshaiiah;

⁸and after him Gabbai and Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight.

⁹Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer, and Judah the son of Senuah was second over the city.

¹⁰Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, and Jachin;

¹¹Seraiah the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, was the leader of the house of God.

¹²Their brethren who did the work of the house were eight hundred and twenty-two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,

¹³and his brethren, heads of the fathers' houses, were two hundred and forty-two; and Amashai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,

¹⁴and their brethren, mighty men of valor, were one hundred and twenty-eight. Their overseer was Zabdiel the son of one of the great men.

¹⁵Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;

¹⁶Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the heads of the Levites, had the oversight of the business outside of the house of God;

¹⁷Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, the leader who began the thanksgiving with prayer; Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

¹⁸All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred and eighty-four.

¹⁹Moreover the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren who kept the gates, were one hundred and seventy-two.

²⁰And the rest of Israel, of the priests and Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.

²¹But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel. And Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim.

²²Also the overseer of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha, of the sons of Asaph, the singers in charge of the service of the house of God.

²³For it was the king's command concerning them that a certain portion should be for the singers, a quota day by day.

²⁴Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was the king's deputy in all matters concerning the people.

²⁵And as for the villages with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt in Kirjath Arba and its villages, Dibon and its villages, Jekabzeel and its villages;

²⁶in Jeshua, Moladah, Beth Pelet,

²⁷Hazar Shual, and Beersheba and its villages;

²⁸in Ziklag and Meconah and its villages;

²⁹in En Rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth,

³⁰Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages; in Lachish and its fields; in Azekah and its villages. They dwelt from Beersheba to the Valley of Hinnom.

³¹Also the children of Benjamin from Geba dwelt in Michmash, Aija, and Bethel, and their villages;

³²in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah;

³³in Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim;

³⁴in Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat;

³⁵in Lod, Ono, and the Valley of Craftsmen.

³⁶Some of the Judean divisions of Levites were in Benjamin.

12

Now these are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,

²Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,

³Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

⁴Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,

⁵Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,

⁶Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,

⁷Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah. These were the heads of the priests and their brethren in the days of Jeshua.

⁸Moreover the Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah who led the thanksgiving psalms, he and his brethren.

⁹Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, stood across from them in their duties.

¹⁰Jeshua begot Joiakim, Joiakim begot Eliashib, Eliashib begot Joiada,

¹¹Joiada begot Jonathan, and Jonathan begot Jaddua.

¹²Now in the days of Joiakim, the priests, the heads of the fathers' houses were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

¹³of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;

¹⁴of Melichu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;

¹⁵of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;

¹⁶of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

¹⁷of Abijah, Zichri; the son of Minjamin; of Moadiah, Piltai;

¹⁸of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

¹⁹of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;

²⁰of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;

²¹of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; and of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

²²During the reign of Darius the Persian, a record was also kept of the Levites and priests who had been heads of their fathers' houses in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua.

²³The sons of Levi, the heads of the fathers' houses until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib, were written in the book of the chronicles.

²⁴And the heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers across from them, to praise and give thanks, group alternating with group, according to the command of David the man of God.

²⁵Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were

gatekeepers keeping the watch at the storerooms of the gates.

²⁶These lived in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

²⁷Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.

²⁸And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites,

²⁹from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem.

³⁰Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

³¹So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate.

³²After them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah,

³³and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

³⁴Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,

³⁵and some of the priests' sons with trumpets--Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph,

³⁶and his brethren, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them.

³⁷By the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went up the stairs of the City of David, on the stairway of the wall, beyond the house of David, as far as the Water Gate eastward.

³⁸The other thanksgiving choir went the opposite way, and I was behind them with half of the people on the wall, going past the Tower of the Ovens as far as the Broad Wall,

³⁹and above the Gate of Ephraim, above the Old Gate, above the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped by the Gate of the Prison.

⁴⁰So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me;

⁴¹and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Minjamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

⁴²also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director.

⁴³Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.

⁴⁴And at the same time some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse for the offerings, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions specified by the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who ministered.

⁴⁵Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David and Solomon his son.

⁴⁶For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated holy things for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron.

13 On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God,

²because they had not met the children of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³So it was, when they had heard the Law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.

⁴Now before this, Eliashib the priest, having authority over the storerooms of the house of our God, was allied with Tobiah.

⁵And he had prepared for him a large room, where previously they had stored the grain offerings, the frankincense, the articles, the tithes of grain, the new wine and oil, which were commanded to be given to the Levites and singers and gatekeepers, and the offerings for the priests.

⁶But during all this I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Then after certain days I obtained leave from the king,

⁷and I came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God.

⁸And it grieved me bitterly; therefore I threw all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room.

⁹Then I commanded them to cleanse the rooms; and I brought back into them the articles of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field.

¹¹So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their place.

¹²Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse.

¹³And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouse Shelemiah the priest and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah; and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered faithful, and their task was to distribute to their brethren.

¹⁴Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for its services!

¹⁵In those days I saw people in Judah treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them about the day on which they were selling provisions.

¹⁶Men of Tyre dwelt there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and sold them on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

¹⁷Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing is this that you do, by which you profane the Sabbath day?"

¹⁸Did not your fathers do thus, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

¹⁹So it was, at the gates of Jerusalem, as it began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded the gates to be shut, and charged that they must not be opened till after the Sabbath. Then I posted some of my servants at the gates, so that no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day.

²⁰Now the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice.

²¹Then I warned them, and said to them, "Why do you spend the night around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you!" From that time on they came no more on the Sabbath.

²²And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should go and guard the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy!

²³In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.

²⁴And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.

²⁵So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves.

²⁶Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.

²⁷Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?"

²⁸And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I drove him from me.

²⁹Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

³⁰Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service,

³¹and to bringing the wood offering and the firstfruits at appointed times. Remember me, O my God, for good!

Esther

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia),

²in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the citadel,

³that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants--the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him--

⁴when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all.

⁵And when these days were completed, the king made a feast lasting seven days for all the people who were present in Shushan the citadel, from great to small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

⁶There were white and blue linen curtains fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble.

⁷And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal wine in

abundance, according to the generosity of the king.

⁸In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had ordered all the officers of his household, that they should do according to each man's pleasure.

⁹Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

¹⁰On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

¹¹to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold.

¹²But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.

¹³Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times (for this was the king's manner toward all who knew law and justice,

¹⁴those closest to him being Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who had

access to the king's presence, and who ranked highest in the kingdom):

¹⁵"What shall we do to Queen Vashti, according to law, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus brought to her by the eunuchs?"

¹⁶And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: "Queen Vashti has not only wronged the king, but also all the princes, and all the people who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

¹⁷For the queen's behavior will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes, when they report, "King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.'

¹⁸This very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media will say to all the king's officials that they have heard of the behavior of the queen. Thus there will be excessive contempt and wrath.

¹⁹If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

²⁰When the king's decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honor their husbands, both great and small."

²¹And the reply pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan.

²²Then he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to each province in its own script, and to every people in their own language, that each man should be master in his own house, and speak in the language of his own people.

2After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her.

²Then the king's servants who attended him said: "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king;

³and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them.

⁴Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This thing pleased the king, and he did so.

⁵In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite.

⁶Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of

Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

⁷And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

⁸So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women.

⁹Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

¹⁰Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it.

¹¹And every day Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to learn of Esther's welfare and what was happening to her.

¹²Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with

perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.

¹³Thus prepared, each young woman went to the king, and she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the women's quarters to the king's palace.

¹⁴In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who kept the concubines. She would not go in to the king again unless the king delighted in her and called for her by name.

¹⁵Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.

¹⁶So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

¹⁷The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

¹⁸Then the king made a great feast, the Feast of Esther, for all his officials and servants; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces and gave gifts according to the generosity of a king.

¹⁹When virgins were gathered together a second time, Mordecai sat within the king's gate.

²⁰Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him.

²¹In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

²²So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

²³And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

3After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.

²And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

³Then the king's servants who were within the king's gate said to Mordecai,

"Why do you transgress the king's command?"

⁴Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

⁵When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

⁶But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus--the people of Mordecai.

⁷In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

⁸Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain.

⁹If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

¹¹ And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

¹² Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded--to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring.

¹³ And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

¹⁴ A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

¹⁵ The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

4 When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

² He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

³ And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴ So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them.

⁵ Then Esther called Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this was.

⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was in front of the king's gate.

⁷ And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews.

⁸ He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that

he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people.

⁹So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai:

¹¹"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days."

¹²So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

¹³And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.

¹⁴For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

¹⁵Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai:

¹⁶"Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king,

which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

¹⁷So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

5 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.

²So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

³And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you--up to half the kingdom!"

⁴So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

⁵Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

⁶At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

⁷Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and request is this:

⁸If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

⁹So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.

¹⁰Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

¹¹Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.

¹²Moreover Haman said, "Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king.

¹³Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

¹⁴Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the

morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made.

6 That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

²And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

³Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

⁴So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

⁵The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

⁶So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"

⁷And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,

⁸let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head.

⁹Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

¹⁰Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

¹¹So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

¹²Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

¹³When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail

against him but will surely fall before him."

¹⁴While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

7 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.

²And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

³Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

⁴For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

⁵So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

⁶And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

⁷Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king.

⁸When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

⁹Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"

¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

8 On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.

²So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with

tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.

⁴And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king,

⁵and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

⁶For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?"

⁷Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews.

⁸You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

⁹So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven

provinces in all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

¹⁰And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds.

¹¹By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives--to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions,

¹²on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

¹³A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.

¹⁵So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

¹⁶The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor.

¹⁷And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

9 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them.

²The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people.

³And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.

⁴For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent.

⁵Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did

what they pleased with those who hated them.

⁶And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.

⁷Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

⁸Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

⁹Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha--

¹⁰the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews-- they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹¹On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king.

¹²And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done."

¹³Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

¹⁴So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

¹⁵And the Jews who were in Shushan gathered together again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹⁶The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹⁷This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁸But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of the month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁹Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwall'd towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.

²⁰And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus,

²¹to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar,

²²as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month

which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.

²³So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them,

²⁴because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot), to consume them and destroy them;

²⁵but when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which Haman had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

²⁶So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them,

²⁷the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time,

²⁸that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them

should not perish among their descendants.

²⁹Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim.

³⁰And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,

³¹to confirm these days of Purim at their appointed time, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had prescribed for them, and as they had decreed for themselves and their descendants concerning matters of their fasting and lamenting.

³²So the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

10 And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea.

²Now all the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

³For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the

good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

Job

¹There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

²And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

³Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

⁴And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

⁷And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From

going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

⁸Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

⁹So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

¹⁰Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

¹¹But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

¹²And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

¹³Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house;

¹⁴and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

¹⁵when the Sabeans raided them and took them away--indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

¹⁹and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

²⁰Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

²¹And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

²²In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

2 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

²And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

³Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

⁴So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

⁵But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

⁶And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

⁸And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

¹⁰But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall

we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

¹¹Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him.

¹²And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven.

¹³So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.

3 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

²And Job spoke, and said:

³"May the day perish on which I was born, And the night in which it was said, 'A male child is conceived.'

⁴May that day be darkness; May God above not seek it, Nor the light shine upon it.

⁵May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; May a cloud settle on it; May the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶As for that night, may darkness seize it; May it not rejoice among the days of the

year, May it not come into the number of the months.

⁷Oh, may that night be barren! May no joyful shout come into it!

⁸May those curse it who curse the day, Those who are ready to arouse Leviathan.

⁹May the stars of its morning be dark; May it look for light, but have none, And not see the dawning of the day;

¹⁰Because it did not shut up the doors of my mother's womb, Nor hide sorrow from my eyes.

¹¹"Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?

¹²Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

¹³For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; Then I would have been at rest

¹⁴With kings and counselors of the earth, Who built ruins for themselves,

¹⁵Or with princes who had gold, Who filled their houses with silver;

¹⁶Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, Like infants who never saw light?

¹⁷There the wicked cease from troubling, And there the weary are at rest.

¹⁸There the prisoners rest together;
They do not hear the voice of the
oppressor.

¹⁹The small and great are there, And the
servant is free from his master.

²⁰"Why is light given to him who is in
misery, And life to the bitter of soul,

²¹Who long for death, but it does not
come, And search for it more than
hidden treasures;

²²Who rejoice exceedingly, And are glad
when they can find the grave?

²³Why is light given to a man whose way
is hidden, And whom God has hedged
in?

²⁴For my sighing comes before I eat,
And my groanings pour out like water.

²⁵For the thing I greatly feared has come
upon me, And what I dreaded has
happened to me.

²⁶I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have
no rest, for trouble comes."

4 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered
and said:

²"If one attempts a word with you, will
you become weary? But who can
withhold himself from speaking?

³Surely you have instructed many, And
you have strengthened weak hands.

⁴Your words have upheld him who was
stumbling, And you have strengthened
the feeble knees;

⁵But now it comes upon you, and you
are weary; It touches you, and you are
troubled.

⁶Is not your reverence your confidence?
And the integrity of your ways your
hope?

⁷"Remember now, who ever perished
being innocent? Or where were the
upright ever cut off?

⁸Even as I have seen, Those who plow
iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.

⁹By the blast of God they perish, And by
the breath of His anger they are
consumed.

¹⁰The roaring of the lion, The voice of
the fierce lion, And the teeth of the
young lions are broken.

¹¹The old 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 received a whisper of it.

¹³In disquieting thoughts from the
visions of the night, When deep sleep
falls on men,

¹⁴Fear came upon me, and trembling,
Which made all my bones shake.

¹⁵Then a spirit passed before my face;
The hair on my body stood up.

¹⁶It stood still, But I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; There was silence; Then I heard a voice saying:

¹⁷"Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?

¹⁸If He puts no trust in His servants, If He charges His angels with error,

¹⁹How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before a moth?

²⁰They are broken in pieces from morning till evening; They perish forever, with no one regarding.

²¹Does not their own excellence go away? They die, even without wisdom.'

5"Call out now; Is there anyone who will answer you? And to which of the holy ones will you turn?

²For wrath kills a foolish man, And envy slays a simple one.

³I have seen the foolish taking root, But suddenly I cursed his dwelling place.

⁴His sons are far from safety, They are crushed in the gate, And there is no deliverer.

⁵Because the hungry eat up his harvest, Taking it even from the thorns, And a snare snatches their substance.

⁶For affliction does not come from the dust, Nor does trouble spring from the ground;

⁷Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward.

⁸"But as for me, I would seek God, And to God I would commit my cause--

⁹Who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number.

¹⁰He gives rain on the earth, And sends waters on the fields.

¹¹He sets on high those who are lowly, And those who mourn are lifted to safety.

¹²He frustrates the devices of the crafty, So that their hands cannot carry out their plans.

¹³He catches the wise in their own craftiness, And the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them.

¹⁴They meet with darkness in the daytime, And grope at noontime as in the night.

¹⁵But He saves the needy from the sword, From the mouth of the mighty, And from their hand.

¹⁶So the poor have hope, And injustice shuts her mouth.

¹⁷"Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.

¹⁸For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.

¹⁹He shall deliver you in six troubles, Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you.

²⁰In famine He shall redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword.

²¹You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, And you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes.

²²You shall laugh at destruction and famine, And you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

²³For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field, And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.

²⁴You shall know that your tent is in peace; You shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss.

²⁵You shall also know that your descendants shall be many, And your offspring like the grass of the earth.

²⁶You shall come to the grave at a full age, As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.

²⁷Behold, this we have searched out; It is true. Hear it, and know for yourself."

6 Then Job answered and said:

²"Oh, that my grief were fully weighed, And my calamity laid with it on the scales!

³For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea-- Therefore my words have been rash.

⁴For the arrows of the Almighty are within me; My spirit drinks in their poison; The terrors of God are arrayed against me.

⁵Does the wild donkey bray when it has grass, Or does the ox low over its fodder?

⁶Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

⁷My soul refuses to touch them; They are as loathsome food to me.

⁸"Oh, that I might have my request, That God would grant me the thing that I long for!

⁹That it would please God to crush me, That He would loose His hand and cut me off!

¹⁰Then I would still have comfort; Though in anguish I would exult, He will not spare; For I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.

¹¹"What strength do I have, that I should hope? And what is my end, that I should prolong my life?

¹²Is my strength the strength of stones? Or is my flesh bronze?

¹³Is my help not within me? And is success driven from me?

¹⁴"To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, Even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

¹⁵My brothers have dealt deceitfully like a brook, Like the streams of the brooks that pass away,

¹⁶Which are dark because of the ice, And into which the snow vanishes.

¹⁷When it is warm, they cease to flow; When it is hot, they vanish from their place.

¹⁸The paths of their way turn aside, They go nowhere and perish.

¹⁹The caravans of Tema look, The travelers of Sheba hope for them.

²⁰They are disappointed because they were confident; They come there and are confused.

²¹For now you are nothing, You see terror and are afraid.

²²Did I ever say, "Bring something to me"? Or, "Offer a bribe for me from your wealth"?

²³Or, "Deliver me from the enemy's hand"? Or, "Redeem me from the hand of oppressors"?

²⁴"Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

²⁵How forceful are right words! But what does your arguing prove?

²⁶Do you intend to rebuke my words, And the speeches of a desperate one, which are as wind?

²⁷Yes, you overwhelm the fatherless, And you undermine your friend.

²⁸Now therefore, be pleased to look at me; For I would never lie to your face.

²⁹Yield now, let there be no injustice! Yes, concede, my righteousness still stands!

³⁰Is there injustice on my tongue? Cannot my taste discern the unsavory?

7 "Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man?

²Like a servant who earnestly desires the shade, And like a hired man who eagerly looks for his wages,

³So I have been allotted months of futility, And wearisome nights have been appointed to me.

⁴When I lie down, I say, "When shall I arise, And the night be ended?" For I have had my fill of tossing till dawn.

⁵My flesh is caked with worms and dust, My skin is cracked and breaks out afresh.

⁶"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And are spent without hope.

⁷Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good.

⁸The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; While your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be.

⁹As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up.

¹⁰He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore.

¹¹"Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

¹²Am I a sea, or a sea serpent, That You set a guard over me?

¹³When I say, "My bed will comfort me, My couch will ease my complaint,"

¹⁴Then You scare me with dreams And terrify me with visions,

¹⁵So that my soul chooses strangling And death rather than my body.

¹⁶I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone, For my days are but a breath.

¹⁷"What is man, that You should exalt him, That You should set Your heart on him,

¹⁸That You should visit him every morning, And test him every moment?

¹⁹How long? Will You not look away from me, And let me alone till I swallow my saliva?

²⁰Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?

²¹Why then do You not pardon my transgression, And take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, And You will seek me diligently, But I will no longer be."

8 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

²"How long will you speak these things, And the words of your mouth be like a strong wind?

³Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice?

⁴If your sons have sinned against Him, He has cast them away for their transgression.

⁵If you would earnestly seek God And make your supplication to the Almighty,

⁶If you were pure and upright, Surely now He would awake for you, And prosper your rightful dwelling place.

⁷Though your beginning was small, Yet your latter end would increase abundantly.

⁸"For inquire, please, of the former age, And consider the things discovered by their fathers;

⁹For we were born yesterday, and know nothing, Because our days on earth are a shadow.

¹⁰Will they not teach you and tell you, And utter words from their heart?

¹¹"Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water?

¹²While it is yet green and not cut down, It withers before any other plant.

¹³So are the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,

¹⁴Whose confidence shall be cut off, And whose trust is a spider's web.

¹⁵He leans on his house, but it does not stand. He holds it fast, but it does not endure.

¹⁶He grows green in the sun, And his branches spread out in his garden.

¹⁷His roots wrap around the rock heap, And look for a place in the stones.

¹⁸If he is destroyed from his place, Then it will deny him, saying, "I have not seen you.'

¹⁹"Behold, this is the joy of His way, And out of the earth others will grow.

²⁰Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, Nor will He uphold the evildoers.

²¹He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, And your lips with rejoicing.

²²Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, And the dwelling place of the wicked will come to nothing."

9 Then Job answered and said:

²"Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God?

³If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand.

⁴God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered?

⁵He removes the mountains, and they do not know When He overturns them in His anger;

⁶He shakes the earth out of its place, And its pillars tremble;

⁷He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars;

⁸He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea;

⁹He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south;

¹⁰He does great things past finding out, Yes, wonders without number.

¹¹If He goes by me, I do not see Him; If He moves past, I do not perceive Him;

¹²If He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, "What are You doing?"

¹³God will not withdraw His anger, The allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him.

¹⁴"How then can I answer Him, And choose my words to reason with Him?

¹⁵For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge.

¹⁶If I called and He answered me, I would not believe that He was listening to my voice.

¹⁷For He crushes me with a tempest, And multiplies my wounds without cause.

¹⁸He will not allow me to catch my breath, But fills me with bitterness.

¹⁹If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; And if of justice, who will appoint my day in court?

²⁰Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; Though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse.

²¹"I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; I despise my life.

²²It is all one thing; Therefore I say, "He destroys the blameless and the wicked."

²³If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent.

²⁴The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be?

²⁵"Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good.

²⁶They pass by like swift ships, Like an eagle swooping on its prey.

²⁷If I say, "I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face and wear a smile,"

²⁸I am afraid of all my sufferings; I know that You will not hold me innocent.

²⁹If I am condemned, Why then do I labor in vain?

³⁰If I wash myself with snow water, And cleanse my hands with soap,

³¹Yet You will plunge me into the pit, And my own clothes will abhor me.

³²"For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together.

³³Nor is there any mediator between us,
Who may lay his hand on us both.

³⁴Let Him take His rod away from me,
And do not let dread of Him terrify me.

³⁵Then I would speak and not fear Him,
But it is not so with me.

10"My soul loathes my life; I will give
free course to my complaint, I will speak
in the bitterness of my soul.

²I will say to God, "Do not condemn me;
Show me why You contend with me.

³Does it seem good to You that You
should oppress, That You should
despise the work of Your hands, And
smile on the counsel of the wicked?

⁴Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You
see as man sees?

⁵Are Your days like the days of a mortal
man? Are Your years like the days of a
mighty man,

⁶That You should seek for my iniquity
And search out my sin,

⁷Although You know that I am not
wicked, And there is no one who can
deliver from Your hand?

⁸"Your hands have made me and
fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet
You would destroy me.

⁹Remember, I pray, that You have made
me like clay. And will You turn me into
dust again?

¹⁰Did You not pour me out like milk, And
curdle me like cheese,

¹¹Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit
me together with bones and sinews?

¹²You have granted me life and favor,
And Your care has preserved my spirit.

¹³"And these things You have hidden in
Your heart; I know that this was with
You:

¹⁴If I sin, then You mark me, And will not
acquit me of my iniquity.

¹⁵If I am wicked, woe to me; Even if I am
righteous, I cannot lift up my head. I am
full of disgrace; See my misery!

¹⁶If my head is exalted, You hunt me like
a fierce lion, And again You show
Yourself awesome against me.

¹⁷You renew Your witnesses against me,
And increase Your indignation toward
me; Changes and war are ever with me.

¹⁸"Why then have You brought me out of
the womb? Oh, that I had perished and
no eye had seen me!

¹⁹I would have been as though I had not
been. I would have been carried from
the womb to the grave.

²⁰Are not my days few? Cease! Leave
me alone, that I may take a little comfort,

²¹Before I go to the place from which I shall not return, To the land of darkness and the shadow of death,

²²A land as dark as darkness itself, As the shadow of death, without any order, Where even the light is like darkness."

11 Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

²"Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man full of talk be vindicated?

³Should your empty talk make men hold their peace? And when you mock, should no one rebuke you?

⁴For you have said, "My doctrine is pure, And I am clean in your eyes."

⁵But oh, that God would speak, And open His lips against you,

⁶That He would show you the secrets of wisdom! For they would double your prudence. Know therefore that God exacts from you Less than your iniquity deserves.

⁷"Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?

⁸They are higher than heaven-- what can you do? Deeper than Sheol-- what can you know?

⁹Their measure is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

¹⁰"If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment, Then who can hinder Him?

¹¹For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also. Will He not then consider it?

¹²For an empty-headed man will be wise, When a wild donkey's colt is born a man.

¹³"If you would prepare your heart, And stretch out your hands toward Him;

¹⁴If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

¹⁵Then surely you could lift up your face without spot; Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;

¹⁶Because you would forget your misery, And remember it as waters that have passed away,

¹⁷And your life would be brighter than noonday. Though you were dark, you would be like the morning.

¹⁸And you would be secure, because there is hope; Yes, you would dig around you, and take your rest in safety.

¹⁹You would also lie down, and no one would make you afraid; Yes, many would court your favor.

²⁰But the eyes of the wicked will fail, And they shall not escape, And their hope-- loss of life!"

12

Then Job answered and said:

²"No doubt you are the people, And wisdom will die with you!

³But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not know such things as these?

⁴"I am one mocked by his friends, Who called on God, and He answered him, The just and blameless who is ridiculed.

⁵A lamp is despised in the thought of one who is at ease; It is made ready for those whose feet slip.

⁶The tents of robbers prosper, And those who provoke God are secure-- In what God provides by His hand.

⁷"But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

⁸Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you.

⁹Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,

¹⁰In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?

¹¹Does not the ear test words And the mouth taste its food?

¹²Wisdom is with aged men, And with length of days, understanding.

¹³"With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding.

¹⁴If He breaks a thing down, it cannot be rebuilt; If He imprisons a man, there can be no release.

¹⁵If He withholds the waters, they dry up; If He sends them out, they overwhelm the earth.

¹⁶With Him are strength and prudence. The deceived and the deceiver are His.

¹⁷He leads counselors away plundered, And makes fools of the judges.

¹⁸He loosens the bonds of kings, And binds their waist with a belt.

¹⁹He leads princes away plundered, And overthrows the mighty.

²⁰He deprives the trusted ones of speech, And takes away the discernment of the elders.

²¹He pours contempt on princes, And disarms the mighty.

²²He uncovers deep things out of darkness, And brings the shadow of death to light.

²³He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them.

²⁴He takes away the understanding of
the chiefs of the people of the earth,
And makes them wander in a pathless
wilderness.

²⁵They grope in the dark without light,
And He makes them stagger like a
drunken man.

13"Behold, my eye has seen all this,
My ear has heard and understood it.

²What you know, I also know; I am not
inferior to you.

³But I would speak to the Almighty, And
I desire to reason with God.

⁴But you forgers of lies, You are all
worthless physicians.

⁵Oh, that you would be silent, And it
would be your wisdom!

⁶Now hear my reasoning, And heed the
pleadings of my lips.

⁷Will you speak wickedly for God, And
talk deceitfully for Him?

⁸Will you show partiality for Him? Will
you contend for God?

⁹Will it be well when He searches you
out? Or can you mock Him as one
mocks a man?

¹⁰He will surely rebuke you If you
secretly show partiality.

¹¹Will not His excellence make you
afraid, And the dread of Him fall upon
you?

¹²Your platitudes are proverbs of ashes,
Your defenses are defenses of clay.

¹³"Hold your peace with me, and let me
speak, Then let come on me what may!

¹⁴Why do I take my flesh in my teeth,
And put my life in my hands?

¹⁵Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.
Even so, I will defend my own ways
before Him.

¹⁶He also shall be my salvation, For a
hypocrite could not come before Him.

¹⁷Listen carefully to my speech, And to
my declaration with your ears.

¹⁸See now, I have prepared my case, I
know that I shall be vindicated.

¹⁹Who is he who will contend with me? If
now I hold my tongue, I perish.

²⁰"Only two things do not do to me, Then
I will not hide myself from You:

²¹Withdraw Your hand far from me, And
let not the dread of You make me afraid.

²²Then call, and I will answer; Or let me
speak, then You respond to me.

²³How many are my iniquities and sins?
Make me know my transgression and
my sin.

²⁴Why do You hide Your face, And regard me as Your enemy?

²⁵Will You frighten a leaf driven to and fro? And will You pursue dry stubble?

²⁶For You write bitter things against me, And make me inherit the iniquities of my youth.

²⁷You put my feet in the stocks, And watch closely all my paths. You set a limit for the soles of my feet.

²⁸"Man decays like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten.

14"Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.

²He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

³And do You open Your eyes on such a one, And bring me to judgment with Yourself?

⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!

⁵Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

⁶Look away from him that he may rest, Till like a hired man he finishes his day.

⁷"For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease.

⁸Though its root may grow old in the earth, And its stump may die in the ground,

⁹Yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant.

¹⁰But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breathes his last And where is he?

¹¹As water disappears from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dries up,

¹²So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep.

¹³"Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

¹⁴If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.

¹⁵You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands.

¹⁶For now You number my steps, But do not watch over my sin.

¹⁷My transgression is sealed up in a bag, And You cover my iniquity.

¹⁸"But as a mountain falls and crumbles away, And as a rock is moved from its place;

¹⁹As water wears away stones, And as torrents wash away the soil of the earth; So You destroy the hope of man.

²⁰You prevail forever against him, and he passes on; You change his countenance and send him away.

²¹His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; They are brought low, and he does not perceive it.

²²But his flesh will be in pain over it, And his soul will mourn over it."

15 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

²"Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, And fill himself with the east wind?

³Should he reason with unprofitable talk, Or by speeches with which he can do no good?

⁴Yes, you cast off fear, And restrain prayer before God.

⁵For your iniquity teaches your mouth, And you choose the tongue of the crafty.

⁶Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; Yes, your own lips testify against you.

⁷"Are you the first man who was born? Or were you made before the hills?

⁸Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you limit wisdom to yourself?

⁹What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not in us?

¹⁰Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, Much older than your father.

¹¹Are the consolations of God too small for you, And the word spoken gently with you?

¹²Why does your heart carry you away, And what do your eyes wink at,

¹³That you turn your spirit against God, And let such words go out of your mouth?

¹⁴"What is man, that he could be pure? And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous?

¹⁵If God puts no trust in His saints, And the heavens are not pure in His sight,

¹⁶How much less man, who is abominable and filthy, Who drinks iniquity like water!

¹⁷"I will tell you, hear me; What I have seen I will declare,

¹⁸What wise men have told, Not hiding anything received from their fathers,

¹⁹To whom alone the land was given,
And no alien passed among them:

²⁰The wicked man writhes with pain all
his days, And the number of years is
hidden from the oppressor.

²¹Dreadful sounds are in his ears; In
prosperity the destroyer comes upon
him.

²²He does not believe that he will return
from darkness, For a sword is waiting
for him.

²³He wanders about for bread, saying,
"Where is it?" He knows that a day of
darkness is ready at his hand.

²⁴Trouble and anguish make him afraid;
They overpower him, like a king ready
for battle.

²⁵For he stretches out his hand against
God, And acts defiantly against the
Almighty,

²⁶Running stubbornly against Him With
his strong, embossed shield.

²⁷"Though he has covered his face with
his fatness, And made his waist heavy
with fat,

²⁸He dwells in desolate cities, In houses
which no one inhabits, Which are
destined to become ruins.

²⁹He will not be rich, Nor will his wealth
continue, Nor will his possessions
overspread the earth.

³⁰He will not depart from darkness; The
flame will dry out his branches, And by
the breath of His mouth he will go away.

³¹Let him not trust in futile things,
deceiving himself, For futility will be his
reward.

³²It will be accomplished before his time,
And his branch will not be green.

³³He will shake off his unripe grape like
a vine, And cast off his blossom like an
olive tree.

³⁴For the company of hypocrites will be
barren, And fire will consume the tents
of bribery.

³⁵They conceive trouble and bring forth
futility; Their womb prepares deceit."

16

Then Job answered and said:

²"I have heard many such things;
Miserable comforters are you all!

³Shall words of wind have an end? Or
what provokes you that you answer?

⁴I also could speak as you do, If your
soul were in my soul's place. I could
heap up words against you, And shake
my head at you;

⁵But I would strengthen you with my
mouth, And the comfort of my lips would
relieve your grief.

⁶"Though I speak, my grief is not relieved; And if I remain silent, how am I eased?

⁷But now He has worn me out; You have made desolate all my company.

⁸You have shriveled me up, And it is a witness against me; My leanness rises up against me And bears witness to my face.

⁹He tears me in His wrath, and hates me; He gnashes at me with His teeth; My adversary sharpens His gaze on me.

¹⁰They gape at me with their mouth, They strike me reproachfully on the cheek, They gather together against me.

¹¹God has delivered me to the ungodly, And turned me over to the hands of the wicked.

¹²I was at ease, but He has shattered me; He also has taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces; He has set me up for His target,

¹³His archers surround me. He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall on the ground.

¹⁴He breaks me with wound upon wound; He runs at me like a warrior.

¹⁵"I have sewn sackcloth over my skin, And laid my head in the dust.

¹⁶My face is flushed from weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;

¹⁷Although no violence is in my hands, And my prayer is pure.

¹⁸"O earth, do not cover my blood, And let my cry have no resting place!

¹⁹Surely even now my witness is in heaven, And my evidence is on high.

²⁰My friends scorn me; My eyes pour out tears to God.

²¹Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, As a man pleads for his neighbor!

²²For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return.

17"My spirit is broken, My days are extinguished, The grave is ready for me.

²Are not mockers with me? And does not my eye dwell on their provocation?

³"Now put down a pledge for me with Yourself. Who is he who will shake hands with me?

⁴For You have hidden their heart from understanding; Therefore You will not exalt them.

⁵He who speaks flattery to his friends, Even the eyes of his children will fail.

⁶"But He has made me a byword of the people, And I have become one in whose face men spit.

⁷My eye has also grown dim because of sorrow, And all my members are like shadows.

⁸Upright men are astonished at this, And the innocent stirs himself up against the hypocrite.

⁹Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.

¹⁰"But please, come back again, all of you, For I shall not find one wise man among you.

¹¹My days are past, My purposes are broken off, Even the thoughts of my heart.

¹²They change the night into day; "The light is near," they say, in the face of darkness.

¹³If I wait for the grave as my house, If I make my bed in the darkness,

¹⁴If I say to corruption, "You are my father," And to the worm, "You are my mother and my sister,"

¹⁵Where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it?

¹⁶Will they go down to the gates of Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the dust?"

18 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

²"How long till you put an end to words? Gain understanding, and afterward we will speak.

³Why are we counted as beasts, And regarded as stupid in your sight?

⁴You who tear yourself in anger, Shall the earth be forsaken for you? Or shall the rock be removed from its place?

⁵"The light of the wicked indeed goes out, And the flame of his fire does not shine.

⁶The light is dark in his tent, And his lamp beside him is put out.

⁷The steps of his strength are shortened, And his own counsel casts him down.

⁸For he is cast into a net by his own feet, And he walks into a snare.

⁹The net takes him by the heel, And a snare lays hold of him.

¹⁰A noose is hidden for him on the ground, And a trap for him in the road.

¹¹Terrors frighten him on every side, And drive him to his feet.

¹²His strength is starved, And destruction is ready at his side.

¹³It devours patches of his skin; The firstborn of death devours his limbs.

¹⁴He is uprooted from the shelter of his tent, And they parade him before the king of terrors.

¹⁵They dwell in his tent who are none of his; Brimstone is scattered on his dwelling.

¹⁶His roots are dried out below, And his branch withers above.

¹⁷The memory of him perishes from the earth, And he has no name among the renowned.

¹⁸He is driven from light into darkness, And chased out of the world.

¹⁹He has neither son nor posterity among his people, Nor any remaining in his dwellings.

²⁰Those in the west are astonished at his day, As those in the east are frightened.

²¹Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, And this is the place of him who does not know God."

19 Then Job answered and said:

²"How long will you torment my soul, And break me in pieces with words?

³These ten times you have reproached me; You are not ashamed that you have wronged me.

⁴And if indeed I have erred, My error remains with me.

⁵If indeed you exalt yourselves against me, And plead my disgrace against me,

⁶Know then that God has wronged me, And has surrounded me with His net.

⁷"If I cry out concerning wrong, I am not heard. If I cry aloud, there is no justice.

⁸He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; And He has set darkness in my paths.

⁹He has stripped me of my glory, And taken the crown from my head.

¹⁰He breaks me down on every side, And I am gone; My hope He has uprooted like a tree.

¹¹He has also kindled His wrath against me, And He counts me as one of His enemies.

¹²His troops come together And build up their road against me; They encamp all around my tent.

¹³"He has removed my brothers far from me, And my acquaintances are completely estranged from me.

¹⁴My relatives have failed, And my close friends have forgotten me.

¹⁵Those who dwell in my house, and my maidservants, Count me as a stranger; I am an alien in their sight.

¹⁶I call my servant, but he gives no answer; I beg him with my mouth.

¹⁷My breath is offensive to my wife, And I am repulsive to the children of my own body.

¹⁸Even young children despise me; I arise, and they speak against me.

¹⁹All my close friends abhor me, And those whom I love have turned against me.

²⁰My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh, And I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.

²¹"Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, For the hand of God has struck me!

²²Why do you persecute me as God does, And are not satisfied with my flesh?

²³"Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever!

²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;

²⁶And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

²⁷Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

²⁸If you should say, "How shall we persecute him?"-- Since the root of the matter is found in me,

²⁹Be afraid of the sword for yourselves; For wrath brings the punishment of the sword, That you may know there is a judgment."

20 Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

²"Therefore my anxious thoughts make me answer, Because of the turmoil within me.

³I have heard the rebuke that reproaches me, And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

⁴"Do you not know this of old, Since man was placed on earth,

⁵That the triumphing of the wicked is short, And the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment?

⁶Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, And his head reaches to the clouds,

⁷Yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; Those who have seen him will say, "Where is he?"

⁸He will fly away like a dream, and not be found; Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night.

⁹The eye that saw him will see him no more, Nor will his place behold him anymore.

¹⁰His children will seek the favor of the poor, And his hands will restore his wealth.

¹¹His bones are full of his youthful vigor, But it will lie down with him in the dust.

¹²"Though evil is sweet in his mouth,
And he hides it under his tongue,

¹³Though he spares it and does not
forsake it, But still keeps it in his mouth,

¹⁴Yet his food in his stomach turns sour;
It becomes cobra venom within him.

¹⁵He swallows down riches And vomits
them up again; God casts them out of
his belly.

¹⁶He will suck the poison of cobras; The
viper's tongue will slay him.

¹⁷He will not see the streams, The rivers
flowing with honey and cream.

¹⁸He will restore that for which he
labored, And will not swallow it down;
From the proceeds of business He will
get no enjoyment.

¹⁹For he has oppressed and forsaken
the poor, He has violently seized a
house which he did not build.

²⁰"Because he knows no quietness in
his heart, He will not save anything he
desires.

²¹Nothing is left for him to eat; Therefore
his well-being will not last.

²²In his self-sufficiency he will be in
distress; Every hand of misery will come
against him.

²³When he is about to fill his stomach,
God will cast on him the fury of His
wrath, And will rain it on him while he is
eating.

²⁴He will flee from the iron weapon; A
bronze bow will pierce him through.

²⁵It is drawn, and comes out of the body;
Yes, the glittering point comes out of his
gall. Terrors come upon him;

²⁶Total darkness is reserved for his
treasures. An unfanned fire will
consume him; It shall go ill with him who
is left in his tent.

²⁷The heavens will reveal his iniquity,
And the earth will rise up against him.

²⁸The increase of his house will depart,
And his goods will flow away in the day
of His wrath.

²⁹This is the portion from God for a
wicked man, The heritage appointed to
him by God."

21

Then Job answered and said:

²"Listen carefully to my speech, And let
this be your consolation.

³Bear with me that I may speak, And
after I have spoken, keep mocking.

⁴"As for me, is my complaint against
man? And if it were, why should I not be
impatient?

⁵Look at me and be astonished; Put
your hand over your mouth.

⁶Even when I remember I am terrified,
And trembling takes hold of my flesh.

⁷Why do the wicked live and become old,
Yes, become mighty in power?

⁸Their descendants are established with
them in their sight, And their offspring
before their eyes.

⁹Their houses are safe from fear,
Neither is the rod of God upon them.

¹⁰Their bull breeds without failure; Their
cow calves without miscarriage.

¹¹They send forth their little ones like a
flock, And their children dance.

¹²They sing to the tambourine and harp,
And rejoice to the sound of the flute.

¹³They spend their days in wealth, And
in a moment go down to the grave.

¹⁴Yet they say to God, "Depart from us,
For we do not desire the knowledge of
Your ways.

¹⁵Who is the Almighty, that we should
serve Him? And what profit do we have
if we pray to Him?"

¹⁶Indeed their prosperity is not in their
hand; The counsel of the wicked is far
from me.

¹⁷"How often is the lamp of the wicked
put out? How often does their
destruction come upon them, The
sorrows God distributes in His anger?

¹⁸They are like straw before the wind,
And like chaff that a storm carries away.

¹⁹They say, "God lays up one's iniquity
for his children"; Let Him recompense
him, that he may know it.

²⁰Let his eyes see his destruction, And
let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

²¹For what does he care about his
household after him, When the number
of his months is cut in half?

²²"Can anyone teach God knowledge,
Since He judges those on high?

²³One dies in his full strength, Being
wholly at ease and secure;

²⁴His pails are full of milk, And the
marrow of his bones is moist.

²⁵Another man dies in the bitterness of
his soul, Never having eaten with
pleasure.

²⁶They lie down alike in the dust, And
worms cover them.

²⁷"Look, I know your thoughts, And the
schemes with which you would wrong
me.

²⁸For you say, "Where is the house of
the prince? And where is the tent, The
dwelling place of the wicked?"

²⁹Have you not asked those who travel
the road? And do you not know their
signs?

³⁰For the wicked are reserved for the
day of doom; They shall be brought out
on the day of wrath.

³¹Who condemns his way to his face?
And who repays him for what he has
done?

³²Yet he shall be brought to the grave,
And a vigil kept over the tomb.

³³The clods of the valley shall be sweet
to him; Everyone shall follow him, As
countless have gone before him.

³⁴How then can you comfort me with
empty words, Since falsehood remains
in your answers?"

22 Then Eliphaz the Temanite
answered and said:

²"Can a man be profitable to God,
Though he who is wise may be
profitable to himself?

³Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that
you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him
that you make your ways blameless?

⁴"Is it because of your fear of Him that
He corrects you, And enters into
judgment with you?

⁵Is not your wickedness great, And your
iniquity without end?

⁶For you have taken pledges from your
brother for no reason, And stripped the
naked of their clothing.

⁷You have not given the weary water to
drink, And you have withheld bread from
the hungry.

⁸But the mighty man possessed the land,
And the honorable man dwelt in it.

⁹You have sent widows away empty,
And the strength of the fatherless was
crushed.

¹⁰Therefore snares are all around you,
And sudden fear troubles you,

¹¹Or darkness so that you cannot see;
And an abundance of water covers you.

¹²"Is not God in the height of heaven?
And see the highest stars, how lofty they
are!

¹³And you say, "What does God know?
Can He judge through the deep
darkness?

¹⁴Thick clouds cover Him, so that He
cannot see, And He walks above the
circle of heaven.'

¹⁵Will you keep to the old way Which
wicked men have trod,

¹⁶Who were cut down before their time,
Whose foundations were swept away by
a flood?

¹⁷They said to God, "Depart from us!
What can the Almighty do to them?"

¹⁸Yet He filled their houses with good
things; But the counsel of the wicked is
far from me.

¹⁹"The righteous see it and are glad,
And the innocent laugh at them:

²⁰"Surely our adversaries are cut down,
And the fire consumes their remnant.'

²¹"Now acquaint yourself with Him, and
be at peace; Thereby good will come to
you.

²²Receive, please, instruction from His
mouth, And lay up His words in your
heart.

²³If you return to the Almighty, you will
be built up; You will remove iniquity far
from your tents.

²⁴Then you will lay your gold in the dust,
And the gold of Ophir among the stones
of the brooks.

²⁵Yes, the Almighty will be your gold
And your precious silver;

²⁶For then you will have your delight in
the Almighty, And lift up your face to
God.

²⁷You will make your prayer to Him, He
will hear you, And you will pay your
vows.

²⁸You will also declare a thing, And it will
be established for you; So light will
shine on your ways.

²⁹When they cast you down, and you
say, "Exaltation will come!" Then He will
save the humble person.

³⁰He will even deliver one who is not
innocent; Yes, he will be delivered by
the purity of your hands."

23 Then Job answered and said:

²"Even today my complaint is bitter; My
hand is listless because of my groaning.

³Oh, that I knew where I might find Him,
That I might come to His seat!

⁴I would present my case before Him,
And fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵I would know the words which He
would answer me, And understand what
He would say to me.

⁶Would He contend with me in His great
power? No! But He would take note of
me.

⁷There the upright could reason with
Him, And I would be delivered forever
from my Judge.

⁸"Look, I go forward, but He is not there,
And backward, but I cannot perceive
Him;

⁹When He works on the left hand, I
cannot behold Him; When He turns to
the right hand, I cannot see Him.

¹⁰But He knows the way that I take;
When He has tested me, I shall come
forth as gold.

¹¹My foot has held fast to His steps; I
have kept His way and not turned aside.

¹²I have not departed from the
commandment of His lips; I have

treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.

¹³"But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does.

¹⁴For He performs what is appointed for me, And many such things are with Him.

¹⁵Therefore I am terrified at His presence; When I consider this, I am afraid of Him.

¹⁶For God made my heart weak, And the Almighty terrifies me;

¹⁷Because I was not cut off from the presence of darkness, And He did not hide deep darkness from my face.

24"Since times are not hidden from the Almighty, Why do those who know Him see not His days?

²"Some remove landmarks; They seize flocks violently and feed on them;

³They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; They take the widow's ox as a pledge.

⁴They push the needy off the road; All the poor of the land are forced to hide.

⁵Indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert, They go out to their work, searching for food. The wilderness yields food for them and for their children.

⁶They gather their fodder in the field And glean in the vineyard of the wicked.

⁷They spend the night naked, without clothing, And have no covering in the cold.

⁸They are wet with the showers of the mountains, And huddle around the rock for want of shelter.

⁹"Some snatch the fatherless from the breast, And take a pledge from the poor.

¹⁰They cause the poor to go naked, without clothing; And they take away the sheaves from the hungry.

¹¹They press out oil within their walls, And tread winepresses, yet suffer thirst.

¹²The dying groan in the city, And the souls of the wounded cry out; Yet God does not charge them with wrong.

¹³"There are those who rebel against the light; They do not know its ways Nor abide in its paths.

¹⁴The murderer rises with the light; He kills the poor and needy; And in the night he is like a thief.

¹⁵The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, Saying, "No eye will see me"; And he disguises his face.

¹⁶In the dark they break into houses Which they marked for themselves in the daytime; They do not know the light.

¹⁷For the morning is the same to them as the shadow of death; If someone

recognizes them, They are in the terrors of the shadow of death.

¹⁸"They should be swift on the face of the waters, Their portion should be cursed in the earth, So that no one would turn into the way of their vineyards.

¹⁹As drought and heat consume the snow waters, So the grave consumes those who have sinned.

²⁰The womb should forget him, The worm should feed sweetly on him; He should be remembered no more, And wickedness should be broken like a tree.

²¹For he preys on the barren who do not bear, And does no good for the widow.

²²"But God draws the mighty away with His power; He rises up, but no man is sure of life.

²³He gives them security, and they rely on it; Yet His eyes are on their ways.

²⁴They are exalted for a little while, Then they are gone. They are brought low; They are taken out of the way like all others; They dry out like the heads of grain.

²⁵"Now if it is not so, who will prove me a liar, And make my speech worth nothing?"

25 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

²"Dominion and fear belong to Him; He makes peace in His high places.

³Is there any number to His armies? Upon whom does His light not rise?

⁴How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a woman?

⁵If even the moon does not shine, And the stars are not pure in His sight,

⁶How much less man, who is a maggot, And a son of man, who is a worm?"

26 But Job answered and said:

²"How have you helped him who is without power? How have you saved the arm that has no strength?

³How have you counseled one who has no wisdom? And how have you declared sound advice to many?

⁴To whom have you uttered words? And whose spirit came from you?

⁵"The dead tremble, Those under the waters and those inhabiting them.

⁶Sheol is naked before Him, And Destruction has no covering.

⁷He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

⁸He binds up the water in His thick clouds, Yet the clouds are not broken under it.

⁹He covers the face of His throne, And spreads His cloud over it.

¹⁰He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, At the boundary of light and darkness.

¹¹The pillars of heaven tremble, And are astonished at His rebuke.

¹²He stirs up the sea with His power, And by His understanding He breaks up the storm.

¹³By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

¹⁴Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

27 Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said:

²"As God lives, who has taken away my justice, And the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter,

³As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils,

⁴My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.

⁵Far be it from me That I should say you are right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

⁶My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.

⁷"May my enemy be like the wicked, And he who rises up against me like the unrighteous.

⁸For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much, If God takes away his life?

⁹Will God hear his cry When trouble comes upon him?

¹⁰Will he delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call on God?

¹¹"I will teach you about the hand of God; What is with the Almighty I will not conceal.

¹²Surely all of you have seen it; Why then do you behave with complete nonsense?

¹³"This is the portion of a wicked man with God, And the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty:

¹⁴If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword; And his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

¹⁵Those who survive him shall be buried in death, And their widows shall not weep,

¹⁶Though he heaps up silver like dust, And piles up clothing like clay--

¹⁷He may pile it up, but the just will wear it, And the innocent will divide the silver.

¹⁸He builds his house like a moth, Like a booth which a watchman makes.

¹⁹The rich man will lie down, But not be gathered up; He opens his eyes, And he is no more.

²⁰Terrors overtake him like a flood; A tempest steals him away in the night.

²¹The east wind carries him away, and he is gone; It sweeps him out of his place.

²²It hurls against him and does not spare; He flees desperately from its power.

²³Men shall clap their hands at him, And shall hiss him out of his place.

28"Surely there is a mine for silver, And a place where gold is refined.

²Iron is taken from the earth, And copper is smelted from ore.

³Man puts an end to darkness, And searches every recess For ore in the darkness and the shadow of death.

⁴He breaks open a shaft away from people; In places forgotten by feet They hang far away from men; They swing to and fro.

⁵As for the earth, from it comes bread, But underneath it is turned up as by fire;

⁶Its stones are the source of sapphires, And it contains gold dust.

⁷That path no bird knows, Nor has the falcon's eye seen it.

⁸The proud lions have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it.

⁹He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the roots.

¹⁰He cuts out channels in the rocks, And his eye sees every precious thing.

¹¹He dams up the streams from trickling; What is hidden he brings forth to light.

¹²"But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?

¹³Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living.

¹⁴The deep says, "It is not in me"; And the sea says, "It is not with me.'

¹⁵It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor can silver be weighed for its price.

¹⁶It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire.

¹⁷Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold.

¹⁸No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For the price of wisdom is above rubies.

¹⁹The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

²⁰"From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?

²¹It is hidden from the eyes of all living,
And concealed from the birds of the air.

²²Destruction and Death say, "We have heard a report about it with our ears.'

²³God understands its way, And He knows its place.

²⁴For He looks to the ends of the earth,
And sees under the whole heavens,

²⁵To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure.

²⁶When He made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt,

²⁷Then He saw wisdom and declared it;
He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.

²⁸And to man He said, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding."

29 Job further continued his discourse, and said:

²"Oh, that I were as in months past, As in the days when God watched over me;

³When His lamp shone upon my head,
And when by His light I walked through darkness;

⁴Just as I was in the days of my prime,
When the friendly counsel of God was over my tent;

⁵When the Almighty was yet with me,
When my children were around me;

⁶When my steps were bathed with cream,
And the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!

⁷"When I went out to the gate by the city,
When I took my seat in the open square,

⁸The young men saw me and hid, And the aged arose and stood;

⁹The princes refrained from talking, And put their hand on their mouth;

¹⁰The voice of nobles was hushed, And their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth.

¹¹When the ear heard, then it blessed me, And when the eye saw, then it approved me;

¹²Because I delivered the poor who cried out, The fatherless and the one who had no helper.

¹³The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, And I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

¹⁴I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.

¹⁵I was eyes to the blind, And I was feet to the lame.

¹⁶I was a father to the poor, And I searched out the case that I did not know.

¹⁷I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth.

¹⁸"Then I said, "I shall die in my nest, And multiply my days as the sand.

¹⁹My root is spread out to the waters, And the dew lies all night on my branch.

²⁰My glory is fresh within me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.'

²¹"Men listened to me and waited, And kept silence for my counsel.

²²After my words they did not speak again, And my speech settled on them as dew.

²³They waited for me as for the rain, And they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain.

²⁴If I mocked at them, they did not believe it, And the light of my countenance they did not cast down.

²⁵I chose the way for them, and sat as chief; So I dwelt as a king in the army, As one who comforts mourners.

30"But now they mock at me, men younger than I, Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.

²Indeed, what profit is the strength of their hands to me? Their vigor has perished.

³They are gaunt from want and famine, Fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and waste,

⁴Who pluck mallow by the bushes, And broom tree roots for their food.

⁵They were driven out from among men, They shouted at them as at a thief.

⁶They had to live in the clefts of the valleys, In caves of the earth and the rocks.

⁷Among the bushes they brayed, Under the nettles they nestled.

⁸They were sons of fools, Yes, sons of vile men; They were scourged from the land.

⁹"And now I am their taunting song; Yes, I am their byword.

¹⁰They abhor me, they keep far from me; They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

¹¹Because He has loosed my bowstring and afflicted me, They have cast off restraint before me.

¹²At my right hand the rabble arises; They push away my feet, And they raise against me their ways of destruction.

¹³They break up my path, They promote my calamity; They have no helper.

¹⁴They come as broad breakers; Under the ruinous storm they roll along.

¹⁵Terrors are turned upon me; They pursue my honor as the wind, And my prosperity has passed like a cloud.

¹⁶"And now my soul is poured out because of my plight; The days of affliction take hold of me.

¹⁷My bones are pierced in me at night, And my gnawing pains take no rest.

¹⁸By great force my garment is disfigured; It binds me about as the collar of my coat.

¹⁹He has cast me into the mire, And I have become like dust and ashes.

²⁰"I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You regard me.

²¹But You have become cruel to me; With the strength of Your hand You oppose me.

²²You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride on it; You spoil my success.

²³For I know that You will bring me to death, And to the house appointed for all living.

²⁴"Surely He would not stretch out His hand against a heap of ruins, If they cry out when He destroys it.

²⁵Have I not wept for him who was in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?

²⁶But when I looked for good, evil came to me; And when I waited for light, then came darkness.

²⁷My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; Days of affliction confront me.

²⁸I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help.

²⁹I am a brother of jackals, And a companion of ostriches.

³⁰My skin grows black and falls from me; My bones burn with fever.

³¹My harp is turned to mourning, And my flute to the voice of those who weep.

31 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?

²For what is the allotment of God from above, And the inheritance of the Almighty from on high?

³Is it not destruction for the wicked, And disaster for the workers of iniquity?

⁴Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?

⁵"If I have walked with falsehood, Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

⁶Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity.

⁷If my step has turned from the way, Or
my heart walked after my eyes, Or if any
spot adheres to my hands,

⁸Then let me sow, and another eat; Yes,
let my harvest be rooted out.

⁹"If my heart has been enticed by a
woman, Or if I have lurked at my
neighbor's door,

¹⁰Then let my wife grind for another, And
let others bow down over her.

¹¹For that would be wickedness; Yes, it
would be iniquity deserving of judgment.

¹²For that would be a fire that consumes
to destruction, And would root out all my
increase.

¹³"If I have despised the cause of my
male or female servant When they
complained against me,

¹⁴What then shall I do when God rises
up? When He punishes, how shall I
answer Him?

¹⁵Did not He who made me in the womb
make them? Did not the same One
fashion us in the womb?

¹⁶"If I have kept the poor from their
desire, Or caused the eyes of the widow
to fail,

¹⁷Or eaten my morsel by myself, So that
the fatherless could not eat of it

¹⁸(But from my youth I reared him as a
father, And from my mother's womb I
guided the widow);

¹⁹If I have seen anyone perish for lack of
clothing, Or any poor man without
covering;

²⁰If his heart has not blessed me, And if
he was not warmed with the fleece of
my sheep;

²¹If I have raised my hand against the
fatherless, When I saw I had help in the
gate;

²²Then let my arm fall from my shoulder,
Let my arm be torn from the socket.

²³For destruction from God is a terror to
me, And because of His magnificence I
cannot endure.

²⁴"If I have made gold my hope, Or said
to fine gold, "You are my confidence";

²⁵If I have rejoiced because my wealth
was great, And because my hand had
gained much;

²⁶If I have observed the sun when it
shines, Or the moon moving in
brightness,

²⁷So that my heart has been secretly
enticed, And my mouth has kissed my
hand;

²⁸This also would be an iniquity
deserving of judgment, For I would have
denied God who is above.

²⁹"If I have rejoiced at the destruction of
him who hated me, Or lifted myself up
when evil found him

³⁰(Indeed I have not allowed my mouth to sin By asking for a curse on his soul);

³¹If the men of my tent have not said, "Who is there that has not been satisfied with his meat?"

³²(But no sojourner had to lodge in the street, For I have opened my doors to the traveler);

³³If I have covered my transgressions as Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom,

³⁴Because I feared the great multitude, And dreaded the contempt of families, So that I kept silence And did not go out of the door--

³⁵Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my mark. Oh, that the Almighty would answer me, That my Prosecutor had written a book!

³⁶Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, And bind it on me like a crown;

³⁷I would declare to Him the number of my steps; Like a prince I would approach Him.

³⁸"If my land cries out against me, And its furrows weep together;

³⁹If I have eaten its fruit without money, Or caused its owners to lose their lives;

⁴⁰Then let thistles grow instead of wheat, And weeds instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

32 So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

²Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God.

³Also against his three friends his wrath was aroused, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

⁴Now because they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to speak to Job.

⁵When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused.

⁶So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are very old; Therefore I was afraid, And dared not declare my opinion to you.

⁷I said, "Age should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.'

⁸But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

⁹Great men are not always wise, Nor do the aged always understand justice.

¹⁰"Therefore I say, "Listen to me, I also will declare my opinion.'

¹¹Indeed I waited for your words, I listened to your reasonings, while you searched out what to say.

¹²I paid close attention to you; And surely not one of you convinced Job, Or answered his words--

¹³Lest you say, "We have found wisdom"; God will vanquish him, not man.

¹⁴Now he has not directed his words against me; So I will not answer him with your words.

¹⁵"They are dismayed and answer no more; Words escape them.

¹⁶And I have waited, because they did not speak, Because they stood still and answered no more.

¹⁷I also will answer my part, I too will declare my opinion.

¹⁸For I am full of words; The spirit within me compels me.

¹⁹Indeed my belly is like wine that has no vent; It is ready to burst like new wineskins.

²⁰I will speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer.

²¹Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; Nor let me flatter any man.

²²For I do not know how to flatter, Else my Maker would soon take me away.

33"But please, Job, hear my speech, And listen to all my words.

²Now, I open my mouth; My tongue speaks in my mouth.

³My words come from my upright heart; My lips utter pure knowledge.

⁴The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

⁵If you can answer me, Set your words in order before me; Take your stand.

⁶Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay.

⁷Surely no fear of me will terrify you, Nor will my hand be heavy on you.

⁸"Surely you have spoken in my hearing, And I have heard the sound of your words, saying,

⁹"I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent, and there is no iniquity in me.

¹⁰Yet He finds occasions against me, He counts me as His enemy;

¹¹He puts my feet in the stocks, He watches all my paths.'

¹²"Look, in this you are not righteous. I will answer you, For God is greater than man.

¹³Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words.

¹⁴For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it.

¹⁵In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds,

¹⁶Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction.

¹⁷In order to turn man from his deed, And conceal pride from man,

¹⁸He keeps back his soul from the Pit, And his life from perishing by the sword.

¹⁹"Man is also chastened with pain on his bed, And with strong pain in many of his bones,

²⁰So that his life abhors bread, And his soul succulent food.

²¹His flesh wastes away from sight, And his bones stick out which once were not seen.

²²Yes, his soul draws near the Pit, And his life to the executioners.

²³"If there is a messenger for him, A mediator, one among a thousand, To show man His uprightness,

²⁴Then He is gracious to him, and says, "Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom";

²⁵His flesh shall be young like a child's, He shall return to the days of his youth.

²⁶He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, He shall see His face with joy, For He restores to man His righteousness.

²⁷Then he looks at men and says, "I have sinned, and perverted what was right, And it did not profit me."

²⁸He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, And his life shall see the light.

²⁹"Behold, God works all these things, Twice, in fact, three times with a man,

³⁰To bring back his soul from the Pit, That he may be enlightened with the light of life.

³¹"Give ear, Job, listen to me; Hold your peace, and I will speak.

³²If you have anything to say, answer me; Speak, for I desire to justify you.

³³If not, listen to me; Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom."

34Elihu further answered and said:

²"Hear my words, you wise men; Give ear to me, you who have knowledge.

³For the ear tests words As the palate tastes food.

⁴Let us choose justice for ourselves; Let us know among ourselves what is good.

⁵"For Job has said, "I am righteous, But God has taken away my justice;

⁶Should I lie concerning my right? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.'

⁷What man is like Job, Who drinks scorn like water,

⁸Who goes in company with the workers of iniquity, And walks with wicked men?

⁹For he has said, "It profits a man nothing That he should delight in God.'

¹⁰"Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to commit iniquity.

¹¹For He repays man according to his work, And makes man to find a reward according to his way.

¹²Surely God will never do wickedly, Nor will the Almighty pervert justice.

¹³Who gave Him charge over the earth? Or who appointed Him over the whole world?

¹⁴If He should set His heart on it, If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath,

¹⁵All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.

¹⁶"If you have understanding, hear this; Listen to the sound of my words:

¹⁷Should one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn Him who is most just?

¹⁸Is it fitting to say to a king, "You are worthless," And to nobles, "You are wicked"?

¹⁹Yet He is not partial to princes, Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they are all the work of His hands.

²⁰In a moment they die, in the middle of the night; The people are shaken and pass away; The mighty are taken away without a hand.

²¹"For His eyes are on the ways of man, And He sees all his steps.

²²There is no darkness nor shadow of death Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

²³For He need not further consider a man, That he should go before God in judgment.

²⁴He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, And sets others in their place.

²⁵Therefore He knows their works; He overthrows them in the night, And they are crushed.

²⁶He strikes them as wicked men In the open sight of others,

²⁷Because they turned back from Him,
And would not consider any of His ways,

²⁸So that they caused the cry of the poor
to come to Him; For He hears the cry of
the afflicted.

²⁹When He gives quietness, who then
can make trouble? And when He hides
His face, who then can see Him,
Whether it is against a nation or a man
alone?--

³⁰That the hypocrite should not reign,
Lest the people be ensnared.

³¹"For has anyone said to God, "I have
borne chastening; I will offend no more;

³²Teach me what I do not see; If I have
done iniquity, I will do no more'?

³³Should He repay it according to your
terms, Just because you disavow it?
You must choose, and not I; Therefore
speak what you know.

³⁴"Men of understanding say to me,
Wise men who listen to me:

³⁵"Job speaks without knowledge, His
words are without wisdom.'

³⁶Oh, that Job were tried to the utmost,
Because his answers are like those of
wicked men!

³⁷For he adds rebellion to his sin; He
claps his hands among us, And
multiplies his words against God."

35Moreover Elihu answered and
said:

²"Do you think this is right? Do you say,
"My righteousness is more than God's'?

³For you say, "What advantage will it be
to You? What profit shall I have, more
than if I had sinned?"

⁴"I will answer you, And your
companions with you.

⁵Look to the heavens and see; And
behold the clouds-- They are higher
than you.

⁶If you sin, what do you accomplish
against Him? Or, if your transgressions
are multiplied, what do you do to Him?

⁷If you are righteous, what do you give
Him? Or what does He receive from
your hand?

⁸Your wickedness affects a man such as
you, And your righteousness a son of
man.

⁹"Because of the multitude of
oppressions they cry out; They cry out
for help because of the arm of the
mighty.

¹⁰But no one says, "Where is God my
Maker, Who gives songs in the night,

¹¹Who teaches us more than the beasts
of the earth, And makes us wiser than
the birds of heaven?"

¹²There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men.

¹³Surely God will not listen to empty talk, Nor will the Almighty regard it.

¹⁴Although you say you do not see Him, Yet justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him.

¹⁵And now, because He has not punished in His anger, Nor taken much notice of folly,

¹⁶Therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; He multiplies words without knowledge."

36 Elihu also proceeded and said:

²"Bear with me a little, and I will show you That there are yet words to speak on God's behalf.

³I will fetch my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

⁴For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

⁵"Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding.

⁶He does not preserve the life of the wicked, But gives justice to the oppressed.

⁷He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; But they are on the throne

with kings, For He has seated them forever, And they are exalted.

⁸And if they are bound in fetters, Held in the cords of affliction,

⁹Then He tells them their work and their transgressions-- That they have acted defiantly.

¹⁰He also opens their ear to instruction, And commands that they turn from iniquity.

¹¹If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures.

¹²But if they do not obey, They shall perish by the sword, And they shall die without knowledge.

¹³"But the hypocrites in heart store up wrath; They do not cry for help when He binds them.

¹⁴They die in youth, And their life ends among the perverted persons.

¹⁵He delivers the poor in their affliction, And opens their ears in oppression.

¹⁶"Indeed He would have brought you out of dire distress, Into a broad place where there is no restraint; And what is set on your table would be full of richness.

¹⁷But you are filled with the judgment due the wicked; Judgment and justice take hold of you.

¹⁸Because there is wrath, beware lest He take you away with one blow; For a large ransom would not help you avoid it.

¹⁹Will your riches, Or all the mighty forces, Keep you from distress?

²⁰Do not desire the night, When people are cut off in their place.

²¹Take heed, do not turn to iniquity, For you have chosen this rather than affliction.

²²"Behold, God is exalted by His power; Who teaches like Him?

²³Who has assigned Him His way, Or who has said, "You have done wrong'?

²⁴"Remember to magnify His work, Of which men have sung.

²⁵Everyone has seen it; Man looks on it from afar.

²⁶"Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; Nor can the number of His years be discovered.

²⁷For He draws up drops of water, Which distill as rain from the mist,

²⁸Which the clouds drop down And pour abundantly on man.

²⁹Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, The thunder from His canopy?

³⁰Look, He scatters His light upon it, And covers the depths of the sea.

³¹For by these He judges the peoples; He gives food in abundance.

³²He covers His hands with lightning, And commands it to strike.

³³His thunder declares it, The cattle also, concerning the rising storm.

37 "At this also my heart trembles, And leaps from its place.

²Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, And the rumbling that comes from His mouth.

³He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His lightning to the ends of the earth.

⁴After it a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, And He does not restrain them when His voice is heard.

⁵God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend.

⁶For He says to the snow, "Fall on the earth"; Likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength.

⁷He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work.

⁸The beasts go into dens, And remain in their lairs.

⁹From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, And cold from the scattering winds of the north.

¹⁰By the breath of God ice is given, And the broad waters are frozen.

¹¹Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds.

¹²And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, That they may do whatever He commands them On the face of the whole earth.

¹³He causes it to come, Whether for correction, Or for His land, Or for mercy.

¹⁴"Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

¹⁵Do you know when God dispatches them, And causes the light of His cloud to shine?

¹⁶Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?

¹⁷Why are your garments hot, When He quiets the earth by the south wind?

¹⁸With Him, have you spread out the skies, Strong as a cast metal mirror?

¹⁹"Teach us what we should say to Him, For we can prepare nothing because of the darkness.

²⁰Should He be told that I wish to speak? If a man were to speak, surely he would be swallowed up.

²¹Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, When the wind has passed and cleared them.

²²He comes from the north as golden splendor; With God is awesome majesty.

²³As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, In judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress.

²⁴Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart."

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

²"Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?

³Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸"Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb;

⁹When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band;

¹⁰When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors;

¹¹When I said, "This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!"

¹²"Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment.

¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken.

¹⁶"Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths?

¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

¹⁸Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

¹⁹"Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

²⁰That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home?

²¹Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great?

²²"Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail,

²³Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?

²⁴By what way is light diffused, Or the east wind scattered over the earth?

²⁵"Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, Or a path for the thunderbolt,

²⁶To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A wilderness in which there is no man;

²⁷To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass?

²⁸Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

²⁹From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?

³⁰The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the deep is frozen.

³¹"Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion?

³²Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

³³Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?

³⁴"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you?

³⁵Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, "Here we are!"?

³⁶Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

³⁷Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,

³⁸When the dust hardens in clumps, And the clods cling together?

³⁹"Can you hunt the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰When they crouch in their dens, Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?

⁴¹Who provides food for the raven, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food?

39"Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or can you mark when the deer gives birth?

²Can you number the months that they fulfill? Or do you know the time when they bear young?

³They bow down, They bring forth their young, They deliver their offspring.

⁴Their young ones are healthy, They grow strong with grain; They depart and do not return to them.

⁵"Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager,

⁶Whose home I have made the wilderness, And the barren land his dwelling?

⁷He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver.

⁸The range of the mountains is his pasture, And he searches after every green thing.

⁹"Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he be led by your manger?

¹⁰Can you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you?

¹¹Will you trust him because his strength is great? Or will you leave your labor to him?

¹²Will you trust him to bring home your grain, And gather it to your threshing floor?

¹³"The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's?

¹⁴For she leaves her eggs on the ground, And warms them in the dust;

¹⁵She forgets that a foot may crush them, Or that a wild beast may break them.

¹⁶She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; Her labor is in vain, without concern,

¹⁷Because God deprived her of wisdom, And did not endow her with understanding.

¹⁸When she lifts herself on high, She scorns the horse and its rider.

¹⁹"Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?

²⁰Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror.

²¹He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; He gallops into the clash of arms.

²²He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; Nor does he turn back from the sword.

²³The quiver rattles against him, The glittering spear and javelin.

²⁴He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; Nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded.

²⁵At the blast of the trumpet he says, "Aha!" He smells the battle from afar, The thunder of captains and shouting.

²⁶"Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, And spread its wings toward the south?

²⁷Does the eagle mount up at your command, And make its nest on high?

²⁸On the rock it dwells and resides, On the crag of the rock and the stronghold.

²⁹From there it spies out the prey; Its eyes observe from afar.

³⁰Its young ones suck up blood; And where the slain are, there it is."

40Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said:

²"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

³Then Job answered the LORD and said:

⁴"Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

⁵Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

⁶Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

⁷"Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

⁸"Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

⁹Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

¹⁰Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, And array yourself with glory and beauty.

¹¹Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him.

¹²Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their place.

¹³Hide them in the dust together, Bind their faces in hidden darkness.

¹⁴Then I will also confess to you That your own right hand can save you.

¹⁵"Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox.

¹⁶See now, his strength is in his hips, And his power is in his stomach muscles.

¹⁷He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.

¹⁸His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron.

¹⁹He is the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword.

²⁰Surely the mountains yield food for him, And all the beasts of the field play there.

²¹He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh.

²²The lotus trees cover him with their shade; The willows by the brook surround him.

²³Indeed the river may rage, Yet he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth,

²⁴Though he takes it in his eyes, Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

41 "Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, Or snare his tongue with a line which you lower?

²Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook?

³Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you?

⁴Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever?

⁵Will you play with him as with a bird, Or will you leash him for your maidens?

⁶Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants?

⁷Can you fill his skin with harpoons, Or his head with fishing spears?

⁸Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle-- Never do it again!

⁹Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false; Shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him?

¹⁰No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me?

¹¹Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

¹²"I will not conceal his limbs, His mighty power, or his graceful proportions.

¹³Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle?

¹⁴Who can open the doors of his face, With his terrible teeth all around?

¹⁵His rows of scales are his pride, Shut up tightly as with a seal;

¹⁶One is so near another That no air can come between them;

¹⁷They are joined one to another, They stick together and cannot be parted.

¹⁸His sneezings flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

¹⁹Out of his mouth go burning lights; Sparks of fire shoot out.

²⁰Smoke goes out of his nostrils, As from a boiling pot and burning rushes.

²¹His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes out of his mouth.

²²Strength dwells in his neck, And sorrow dances before him.

²³The folds of his flesh are joined together; They are firm on him and cannot be moved.

²⁴His heart is as hard as stone, Even as hard as the lower millstone.

²⁵When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; Because of his crashings they are beside themselves.

²⁶Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; Nor does spear, dart, or javelin.

²⁷He regards iron as straw, And bronze as rotten wood.

²⁸The arrow cannot make him flee; Slingstones become like stubble to him.

²⁹Darts are regarded as straw; He laughs at the threat of javelins.

³⁰His undersides are like sharp potsherds; He spreads pointed marks in the mire.

³¹He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment.

³²He leaves a shining wake behind him; One would think the deep had white hair.

³³On earth there is nothing like him, Which is made without fear.

³⁴He beholds every high thing; He is king over all the children of pride."

42 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

²"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

³You asked, "Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

⁴Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, "I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'

⁵"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.

⁶Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."

⁷And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.

⁸Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite

went and did as the LORD commanded them; for the LORD had accepted Job.

¹⁰And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹¹Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

¹²Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch.

¹⁵In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.

¹⁷So Job died, old and full of days.

Psalms

PSALM 1

¹Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

³He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

⁴The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

PSALM 2

¹Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

²The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

³"Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.

⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

⁶"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

⁷"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

⁸Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

¹⁰Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

¹²Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

PSALM 3

¹LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me.

²Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God."Selah

³But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

⁴I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill.Selah

⁵I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me.

⁶I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around.

⁷Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.

⁸Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people.Selah

PSALM 4

¹Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

²How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness And seek falsehood?Selah

³But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

⁴Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.Selah

⁵Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And put your trust in the LORD.

⁶There are many who say, "Who will show us any good?" LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased.

⁸I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

PSALM 5

¹Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation.

²Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray.

³My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.

⁴For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.

⁵The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.

⁶You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

⁷But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

⁸Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face.

⁹For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You.

¹¹But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

¹²For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

PSALM 6

¹O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.

²Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

³My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O LORD--how long?

⁴Return, O LORD, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!

⁵For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks?

⁶I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears.

⁷My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of all my enemies.

⁸Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.

⁹The LORD has heard my supplication; The LORD will receive my prayer.

¹⁰Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly.

PSALM 7

¹O LORD my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me,

²Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

³O LORD my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands,

⁴If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause,

⁵Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust.Selah

⁶Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded!

⁷So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high.

⁸The LORD shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me.

⁹Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.

¹⁰My defense is of God, Who saves the upright in heart.

¹¹God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.

¹²If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready.

¹³He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.

¹⁴Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood.

¹⁵He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made.

¹⁶His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.

¹⁷I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

PSALM 8

¹O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

²Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

⁴What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

⁵For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

⁷All sheep and oxen-- Even the beasts of the field,

⁸The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

⁹O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

PSALM 9

¹I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

²I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

³When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence.

⁴For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness.

⁵You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

⁶O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished.

⁷But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment.

⁸He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

⁹The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble.

¹⁰And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

¹¹Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.

¹²When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.

¹³Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death,

¹⁴That I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation.

¹⁵The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.

¹⁶The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.

¹⁷The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.

¹⁸For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever.

¹⁹Arise, O LORD, Do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in Your sight.

²⁰Put them in fear, O LORD, That the nations may know themselves to be but men.Selah

PSALM 10

¹Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?

²The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

³For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD.

⁴The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

⁵His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; As for all his enemies, he sneers at them.

⁶He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity."

⁷His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity.

⁸He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.

⁹He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; He lies in wait to catch the poor; He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.

¹⁰So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength.

¹¹He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see."

¹²Arise, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble.

¹³Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account."

¹⁴But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless.

¹⁵Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; Seek out his wickedness until You find none.

¹⁶The LORD is King forever and ever; The nations have perished out of His land.

¹⁷LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear,

¹⁸To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

PSALM 11

¹In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"?

²For look! The wicked bend their bow,
They make ready their arrow on the
string, That they may shoot secretly at
the upright in heart.

³If the foundations are destroyed, What
can the righteous do?

⁴The LORD is in His holy temple, The
LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes
behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

⁵The LORD tests the righteous, But the
wicked and the one who loves violence
His soul hates.

⁶Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire
and brimstone and a burning wind Shall
be the portion of their cup.

⁷For the LORD is righteous, He loves
righteousness; His countenance
beholds the upright.

PSALM 12

¹Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases!
For the faithful disappear from among
the sons of men.

²They speak idly everyone with his
neighbor; With flattering lips and a
double heart they speak.

³May the LORD cut off all flattering lips,
And the tongue that speaks proud things,

⁴Who have said, "With our tongue we
will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is
lord over us?"

⁵"For the oppression of the poor, for the
sighing of the needy, Now I will arise,"
says the LORD; "I will set him in the
safety for which he yearns."

⁶The words of the LORD are pure words,
Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times.

⁷You shall keep them, O LORD, You
shall preserve them from this generation
forever.

⁸The wicked prowl on every side, When
vileness is exalted among the sons of
men.

PSALM 13

¹How long, O LORD? Will You forget me
forever? How long will You hide Your
face from me?

²How long shall I take counsel in my
soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily?
How long will my enemy be exalted over
me?

³Consider and hear me, O LORD my
God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the
sleep of death;

⁴Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed
against him"; Lest those who trouble me
rejoice when I am moved.

⁵But I have trusted in Your mercy; My
heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

⁶I will sing to the LORD, Because He
has dealt bountifully with me.

PSALM 14

¹The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

²The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

³They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.

⁴Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD?

⁵There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous.

⁶You shame the counsel of the poor, But the LORD is his refuge.

⁷Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

PSALM 15

¹LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

²He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;

³He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

⁴In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

⁵He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

PSALM 16

¹Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

²O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You."

³As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

⁴Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips.

⁵O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.

⁶The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.

⁷I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall
not be moved.

⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my
glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in
hope.

¹⁰For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see
corruption.

¹¹You will show me the path of life; In
Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your
right hand are pleasures forevermore.

PSALM 17

¹Hear a just cause, O LORD, Attend to
my cry; Give ear to my prayer which is
not from deceitful lips.

²Let my vindication come from Your
presence; Let Your eyes look on the
things that are upright.

³You have tested my heart; You have
visited me in the night; You have tried
me and have found nothing; I have
purposed that my mouth shall not
transgress.

⁴Concerning the works of men, By the
word of Your lips, I have kept away from
the paths of the destroyer.

⁵Uphold my steps in Your paths, That
my footsteps may not slip.

⁶I have called upon You, for You will
hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me,
and hear my speech.

⁷Show Your marvelous lovingkindness
by Your right hand, O You who save
those who trust in You From those who
rise up against them.

⁸Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
Hide me under the shadow of Your
wings,

⁹From the wicked who oppress me,
From my deadly enemies who surround
me.

¹⁰They have closed up their fat hearts;
With their mouths they speak proudly.

¹¹They have now surrounded us in our
steps; They have set their eyes,
crouching down to the earth,

¹²As a lion is eager to tear his prey, And
like a young lion lurking in secret places.

¹³Arise, O LORD, Confront him, cast him
down; Deliver my life from the wicked
with Your sword,

¹⁴With Your hand from men, O LORD,
From men of the world who have their
portion in this life, And whose belly You
fill with Your hidden treasure. They are
satisfied with children, And leave the
rest of their possession for their babes.

¹⁵As for me, I will see Your face in
righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I
awake in Your likeness.

PSALM 18

¹I will love You, O LORD, my strength.

²The LORD is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer; My God, my strength,
in whom I will trust; My shield and the
horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy
to be praised; So shall I be saved from
my enemies.

⁴The pangs of death surrounded me,
And the floods of ungodliness made me
afraid.

⁵The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me.

⁶In my distress I called upon the LORD,
And cried out to my God; He heard my
voice from His temple, And my cry came
before Him, even to His ears.

⁷Then the earth shook and trembled;
The foundations of the hills also quaked
and were shaken, Because He was
angry.

⁸Smoke went up from His nostrils, And
devouring fire from His mouth; Coals
were kindled by it.

⁹He bowed the heavens also, and came
down With darkness under His feet.

¹⁰And He rode upon a cherub, and flew;
He flew upon the wings of the wind.

¹¹He made darkness His secret place;
His canopy around Him was dark waters
And thick clouds of the skies.

¹²From the brightness before Him, His
thick clouds passed with hailstones and
coals of fire.

¹³The LORD thundered from heaven,
And the Most High uttered His voice,
Hailstones and coals of fire.

¹⁴He sent out His arrows and scattered
the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and
He vanquished them.

¹⁵Then the channels of the sea were
seen, The foundations of the world were
uncovered At Your rebuke, O LORD, At
the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

¹⁶He sent from above, He took me; He
drew me out of many waters.

¹⁷He delivered me from my strong
enemy, From those who hated me, For
they were too strong for me.

¹⁸They confronted me in the day of my
calamity, But the LORD was my support.

¹⁹He also brought me out into a broad
place; He delivered me because He
delighted in me.

²⁰The LORD rewarded me according to
my righteousness; According to the
cleanness of my hands He has
recompensed me.

²¹For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
And have not wickedly departed from
my God.

²²For all His judgments were before me,
And I did not put away His statutes from
me.

²³I was also blameless before Him, And
I kept myself from my iniquity.

²⁴Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

²⁵With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;

²⁶With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

²⁷For You will save the humble people, But will bring down haughty looks.

²⁸For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

²⁹For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.

³⁰As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

³¹For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?

³²It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.

³³He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places.

³⁴He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁵You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.

³⁶You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip.

³⁷I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.

³⁸I have wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet.

³⁹For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

⁴⁰You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me.

⁴¹They cried out, but there was none to save; Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

⁴²Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the streets.

⁴³You have delivered me from the strivings of the people; You have made me the head of the nations; A people I have not known shall serve me.

⁴⁴As soon as they hear of me they obey me; The foreigners submit to me.

⁴⁵The foreigners fade away, And come frightened from their hideouts.

⁴⁶The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

⁴⁷It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;

⁴⁸He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man.

⁴⁹Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name.

⁵⁰Great deliverance He gives to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore.

PSALM 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

²Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

³There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.

⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

⁵Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

⁶Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

¹³Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

PSALM 20

¹May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

²May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion;

³May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah

⁴May He grant you according to your heart's desire, And fulfill all your purpose.

⁵We will rejoice in your salvation, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

⁶Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand.

⁷Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

⁸They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.

⁹Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

PSALM 21

¹The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

²You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah

³For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

⁴He asked life from You, and You gave it to him-- Length of days forever and ever.

⁵His glory is great in Your salvation; Honor and majesty You have placed upon him.

⁶For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence.

⁷For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.

⁸Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You.

⁹You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And the fire shall devour them.

¹⁰Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men.

¹¹For they intended evil against You; They devised a plot which they are not able to perform.

¹²Therefore You will make them turn their back; You will make ready Your arrows on Your string toward their faces.

¹³Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.

PSALM 22

¹My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

²O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.

³But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

⁴Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.

⁵They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

⁶But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

⁷All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

⁸"He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

⁹But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.

¹⁰I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God.

¹¹Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.

¹³They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

¹⁷I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

¹⁸They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

²⁰Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog.

²¹Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me.

²²I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

²³You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.

²⁵My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.

²⁸For the kingdom is the LORD's, And He rules over the nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive.

³⁰A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,

³¹They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

³He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

PSALM 24

¹The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

²For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

³Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?

⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

⁵He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

⁶This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face.Selah

⁷Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

⁸Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

⁹Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah

PSALM 25

¹To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me.

³Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

⁴Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.

⁵Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

⁶Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

⁹The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

¹¹For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

¹²Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.

¹³He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth.

¹⁴The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted.

¹⁷The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses!

¹⁸Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins.

¹⁹Consider my enemies, for they are many; And they hate me with cruel hatred.

²⁰Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You.

²¹Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

²²Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!

PSALM 26

¹Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip.

²Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

³For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.

⁴I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites.

⁵I have hated the assembly of evildoers, And will not sit with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence; So I will go about Your altar, O LORD,

⁷That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all Your wondrous works.

⁸LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.

⁹Do not gather my soul with sinners, Nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

¹⁰In whose hands is a sinister scheme, And whose right hand is full of bribes.

¹¹But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me.

¹²My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the LORD.

PSALM 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

²When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

³Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.

⁴One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

⁵For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

⁸When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

⁹Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.

¹¹Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.

¹²Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.

¹³I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

¹⁴Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

PSALM 28

¹To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

²Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to You, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

³Do not take me away with the wicked And with the workers of iniquity, Who

speaking peace to their neighbors, But evil is in their hearts.

⁴Give them according to their deeds, And according to the wickedness of their endeavors; Give them according to the work of their hands; Render to them what they deserve.

⁵Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, Nor the operation of His hands, He shall destroy them And not build them up.

⁶Blessed be the LORD, Because He has heard the voice of my supplications!

⁷The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

⁸The LORD is their strength, And He is the saving refuge of His anointed.

⁹Save Your people, And bless Your inheritance; Shepherd them also, And bear them up forever.

PSALM 29

¹Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.

²Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever.

¹¹The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

PSALM 30

¹I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me.

²O LORD my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me.

³O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

⁴Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

⁵For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

⁶Now in my prosperity I said, "I shall never be moved."

⁷LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled.

⁸I cried out to You, O LORD; And to the LORD I made supplication:

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth?

¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my helper!"

¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

¹²To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

PSALM 31

¹In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness.

²Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me.

³For You are my rock and my fortress;
Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead
me and guide me.

⁴Pull me out of the net which they have
secretly laid for me, For You are my
strength.

⁵Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You
have redeemed me, O LORD God of
truth.

⁶I have hated those who regard useless
idols; But I trust in the LORD.

⁷I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy,
For You have considered my trouble;
You have known my soul in adversities,

⁸And have not shut me up into the hand
of the enemy; You have set my feet in a
wide place.

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am
in trouble; My eye wastes away with
grief, Yes, my soul and my body!

¹⁰For my life is spent with grief, And my
years with sighing; My strength fails
because of my iniquity, And my bones
waste away.

¹¹I am a reproach among all my
enemies, But especially among my
neighbors, And am repulsive to my
acquaintances; Those who see me
outside flee from me.

¹²I am forgotten like a dead man, out of
mind; I am like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the slander of many; Fear is
on every side; While they take counsel

together against me, They scheme to
take away my life.

¹⁴But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God."

¹⁵My times are in Your hand; Deliver me
from the hand of my enemies, And from
those who persecute me.

¹⁶Make Your face shine upon Your
servant; Save me for Your mercies' sake.

¹⁷Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD,
for I have called upon You; Let the
wicked be ashamed; Let them be silent
in the grave.

¹⁸Let the lying lips be put to silence,
Which speak insolent things proudly and
contemptuously against the righteous.

¹⁹Oh, how great is Your goodness,
Which You have laid up for those who
fear You, Which You have prepared for
those who trust in You In the presence
of the sons of men!

²⁰You shall hide them in the secret place
of Your presence From the plots of man;
You shall keep them secretly in a
pavilion From the strife of tongues.

²¹Blessed be the LORD, For He has
shown me His marvelous kindness in a
strong city!

²²For I said in my haste, "I am cut off
from before Your eyes"; Nevertheless
You heard the voice of my supplications
When I cried out to You.

²³Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints!
For the LORD preserves the faithful,
And fully repays the proud person.

²⁴Be of good courage, And He shall
strengthen your heart, All you who hope
in the LORD.

PSALM 32

¹Blessed is he whose transgression is
forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

²Blessed is the man to whom the LORD
does not impute iniquity, And in whose
spirit there is no deceit.

³When I kept silent, my bones grew old
Through my groaning all the day long.

⁴For day and night Your hand was
heavy upon me; My vitality was turned
into the drought of summer.Selah

⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, And my
iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will
confess my transgressions to the
LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of
my sin.Selah

⁶For this cause everyone who is godly
shall pray to You In a time when You
may be found; Surely in a flood of great
waters They shall not come near him.

⁷You are my hiding place; You shall
preserve me from trouble; You shall
surround me with songs of
deliverance.Selah

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the
way you should go; I will guide you with
My eye.

⁹Do not be like the horse or like the mule,
Which have no understanding, Which
must be harnessed with bit and bridle,
Else they will not come near you.

¹⁰Many sorrows shall be to the wicked;
But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy
shall surround him.

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you
righteous; And shout for joy, all you
upright in heart!

PSALM 33

¹Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!
For praise from the upright is beautiful.

²Praise the LORD with the harp; Make
melody to Him with an instrument of ten
strings.

³Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully
with a shout of joy.

⁴For the word of the LORD is right, And
all His work is done in truth.

⁵He loves righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of the goodness of the
LORD.

⁶By the word of the LORD the heavens
were made, And all the host of them by
the breath of His mouth.

⁷He gathers the waters of the sea
together as a heap; He lays up the deep
in storehouses.

⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

⁹For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

¹⁰The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.

¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

¹³The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.

¹⁴From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth;

¹⁵He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

¹⁶No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.

¹⁷A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.

¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy,

¹⁹To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

²¹For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name.

²²Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.

PSALM 34

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

²My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

³Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.

⁵They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed.

⁶This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

⁸Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

⁹Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.

¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.

¹¹Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹²Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

²⁰He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

²¹Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.

²²The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

PSALM 35

¹Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me.

²Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help.

³Also draw out the spear, And stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."

⁴Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life; Let those be turned back and brought to confusion Who plot my hurt.

⁵Let them be like chaff before the wind, And let the angel of the LORD chase them.

⁶Let their way be dark and slippery, And let the angel of the LORD pursue them.

⁷For without cause they have hidden their net for me in a pit, Which they have dug without cause for my life.

⁸Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly, And let his net that he has hidden catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall.

⁹And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation.

¹⁰All my bones shall say, "LORD, who is like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?"

¹¹Fierce witnesses rise up; They ask me things that I do not know.

¹²They reward me evil for good, To the sorrow of my soul.

¹³But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart.

¹⁴I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother.

¹⁵But in my adversity they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know it; They tore at me and did not cease;

¹⁶With ungodly mockers at feasts They gnashed at me with their teeth.

¹⁷Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue me from their destructions, My precious life from the lions.

¹⁸I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.

¹⁹Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause.

²⁰For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against the quiet ones in the land.

²¹They also opened their mouth wide against me, And said, "Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it."

²²This You have seen, O LORD; Do not keep silence. O Lord, do not be far from me.

²³Stir up Yourself, and awake to my vindication, To my cause, my God and my Lord.

²⁴Vindicate me, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness; And let them not rejoice over me.

²⁵Let them not say in their hearts, "Ah, so we would have it!" Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."

²⁶Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who rejoice at my hurt; Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor Who exalt themselves against me.

²⁷Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."

²⁸And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness And of Your praise all the day long.

PSALM 36

¹An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes.

²For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity and when he hates.

³The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.

⁴He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way that is not good; He does not abhor evil.

⁵Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast.

⁷How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.

⁸They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.

⁹For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

¹⁰Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

¹¹Let not the foot of pride come against me, And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.

¹²There the workers of iniquity have fallen; They have been cast down and are not able to rise.

PSALM 37

¹Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

²For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.

³Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

⁵Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

⁶He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

⁷Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

⁸Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret--it only causes harm.

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.

¹⁰For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more.

¹¹But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

¹²The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth.

¹³The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.

¹⁴The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct.

¹⁵Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.

¹⁶A little that a righteous man has Is better than the riches of many wicked.

¹⁷For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.

¹⁸The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.

¹⁹They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

²⁰But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.

²¹The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives.

²²For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.

²³The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

²⁴Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

²⁵I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

²⁶He is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants are blessed.

²⁷Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore.

²⁸For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.

²⁹The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever.

³⁰The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, And his tongue talks of justice.

³¹The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide.

³²The wicked watches the righteous, And seeks to slay him.

³³The LORD will not leave him in his hand, Nor condemn him when he is judged.

³⁴Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

³⁵I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree.

³⁶Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.

³⁷Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.

³⁸But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.

³⁹But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.

⁴⁰And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.

PSALM 38

¹O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure!

²For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down.

³There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin.

⁴For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

⁵My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness.

⁶I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

⁷For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh.

⁸I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.

⁹Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You.

¹⁰My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.

¹¹My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off.

¹²Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long.

¹³But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; And I am like a mute who does not open his mouth.

¹⁴Thus I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response.

¹⁵For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God.

¹⁶For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me."

¹⁷For I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me.

¹⁸For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin.

¹⁹But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.

²⁰Those also who render evil for good, They are my adversaries, because I follow what is good.

²¹Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me!

²²Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

PSALM 39

¹I said, "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."

²I was mute with silence, I held my peace even from good; And my sorrow was stirred up.

³My heart was hot within me; While I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue:

⁴"LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am.

⁵Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor.Selah

⁶Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them.

⁷"And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

⁸Deliver me from all my transgressions; Do not make me the reproach of the foolish.

⁹I was mute, I did not open my mouth, Because it was You who did it.

¹⁰Remove Your plague from me; I am consumed by the blow of Your hand.

¹¹When with rebukes You correct man for iniquity, You make his beauty melt away like a moth; Surely every man is vapor.Selah

¹²"Hear my prayer, O LORD, And give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a stranger with You, A sojourner, as all my fathers were.

¹³Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength, Before I go away and am no more."

PSALM 40

¹I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.

²He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.

³He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.

⁴Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

⁵Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.

⁶Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.

⁷Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

⁹I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know.

¹⁰I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.

¹¹Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.

¹²For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me.

¹³Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me!

¹⁴Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who seek to destroy my life; Let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor Who wish me evil.

¹⁵Let them be confounded because of their shame, Who say to me, "Aha, aha!"

¹⁶Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!"

¹⁷But I am poor and needy; Yet the LORD thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.

PSALM 41

¹Blessed is he who considers the poor; The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

²The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, And he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.

³The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.

⁴I said, "LORD, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

⁵My enemies speak evil of me: "When will he die, and his name perish?"

⁶And if he comes to see me, he speaks lies; His heart gathers iniquity to itself; When he goes out, he tells it.

⁷All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt.

⁸"An evil disease," they say, "clings to him. And now that he lies down, he will rise up no more."

⁹Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

¹⁰But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up, That I may repay them.

¹¹By this I know that You are well pleased with me, Because my enemy does not triumph over me.

¹²As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, And set me before Your face forever.

¹³Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

¹As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.

²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

³My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?"

⁴When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.

⁶O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar.

⁷Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

⁸The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me-- A prayer to the God of my life.

⁹I will say to God my Rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

PSALM 42

¹⁰As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

¹¹Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

PSALM 43

¹Vindicate me, O God, And plead my cause against an ungodly nation; Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

²For You are the God of my strength; Why do You cast me off? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

³Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.

⁴Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.

⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

PSALM 44

¹We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old:

²You drove out the nations with Your hand, But them You planted; You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out.

³For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.

⁴You are my King, O God; Command victories for Jacob.

⁵Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.

⁶For I will not trust in my bow, Nor shall my sword save me.

⁷But You have saved us from our enemies, And have put to shame those who hated us.

⁸In God we boast all day long, And praise Your name forever.Selah

⁹But You have cast us off and put us to shame, And You do not go out with our armies.

¹⁰You make us turn back from the enemy, And those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves.

¹¹You have given us up like sheep intended for food, And have scattered us among the nations.

¹²You sell Your people for next to nothing, And are not enriched by selling them.

¹³You make us a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and a derision to those all around us.

¹⁴You make us a byword among the nations, A shaking of the head among the peoples.

¹⁵My dishonor is continually before me, And the shame of my face has covered me,

¹⁶Because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles, Because of the enemy and the avenger.

¹⁷All this has come upon us; But we have not forgotten You, Nor have we dealt falsely with Your covenant.

¹⁸Our heart has not turned back, Nor have our steps departed from Your way;

¹⁹But You have severely broken us in the place of jackals, And covered us with the shadow of death.

²⁰If we had forgotten the name of our God, Or stretched out our hands to a foreign god,

²¹Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

²²Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

²³Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do not cast us off forever.

²⁴Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression?

²⁵For our soul is bowed down to the dust; Our body clings to the ground.

²⁶Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.

PSALM 45

¹My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

²You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever.

³Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty.

⁴And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.

⁵Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; The peoples fall under You.

⁶Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

⁷You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

⁸All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad.

⁹Kings' daughters are among Your honorable women; At Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir.

¹⁰Listen, O daughter, Consider and incline your ear; Forget your own people also, and your father's house;

¹¹So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.

¹²And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; The rich among the people will seek your favor.

¹³The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold.

¹⁴She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

¹⁵With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; They shall enter the King's palace.

¹⁶Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons, Whom You shall make princes in all the earth.

¹⁷I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.

PSALM 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling.Selah

⁴There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.Selah

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.

¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.Selah

PSALM 47

¹Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

²For the LORD Most High is awesome;
He is a great King over all the earth.

³He will subdue the peoples under us,
And the nations under our feet.

⁴He will choose our inheritance for us,
The excellence of Jacob whom He
loves.Selah

⁵God has gone up with a shout, The
LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing
praises to our King, sing praises!

⁷For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with understanding.

⁸God reigns over the nations; God sits
on His holy throne.

⁹The princes of the people have
gathered together, The people of the
God of Abraham. For the shields of the
earth belong to God; He is greatly
exalted.

PSALM 48

¹Great is the LORD, and greatly to be
praised In the city of our God, In His
holy mountain.

²Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the
whole earth, Is Mount Zion on the sides
of the north, The city of the great King.

³God is in her palaces; He is known as
her refuge.

⁴For behold, the kings assembled, They
passed by together.

⁵They saw it, and so they marveled;
They were troubled, they hastened
away.

⁶Fear took hold of them there, And pain,
as of a woman in birth pangs,

⁷As when You break the ships of
Tarshish With an east wind.

⁸As we have heard, So we have seen In
the city of the LORD of hosts, In the city
of our God: God will establish it
forever.Selah

⁹We have thought, O God, on Your
lovingkindness, In the midst of Your
temple.

¹⁰According to Your name, O God, So is
Your praise to the ends of the earth;
Your right hand is full of righteousness.

¹¹Let Mount Zion rejoice, Let the
daughters of Judah be glad, Because of
Your judgments.

¹²Walk about Zion, And go all around
her. Count her towers;

¹³Mark well her bulwarks; Consider her
palaces; That you may tell it to the
generation following.

¹⁴For this is God, Our God forever and
ever; He will be our guide Even to death.

PSALM 49

¹Hear this, all peoples; Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

²Both low and high, Rich and poor together.

³My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.

⁴I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will disclose my dark saying on the harp.

⁵Why should I fear in the days of evil, When the iniquity at my heels surrounds me?

⁶Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches,

⁷None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him--

⁸For the redemption of their souls is costly, And it shall cease forever--

⁹That he should continue to live eternally, And not see the Pit.

¹⁰For he sees wise men die; Likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, And leave their wealth to others.

¹¹Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, Their dwelling places to all generations; They call their lands after their own names.

¹²Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; He is like the beasts that perish.

¹³This is the way of those who are foolish, And of their posterity who approve their sayings.Selah

¹⁴Like sheep they are laid in the grave; Death shall feed on them; The upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; And their beauty shall be consumed in the grave, far from their dwelling.

¹⁵But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me.Selah

¹⁶Do not be afraid when one becomes rich, When the glory of his house is increased;

¹⁷For when he dies he shall carry nothing away; His glory shall not descend after him.

¹⁸Though while he lives he blesses himself (For men will praise you when you do well for yourself),

¹⁹He shall go to the generation of his fathers; They shall never see light.

²⁰A man who is in honor, yet does not understand, Is like the beasts that perish.

PSALM 50

¹The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth From the rising of the sun to its going down.

²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God will shine forth.

³Our God shall come, and shall not keep
silent; A fire shall devour before Him,
And it shall be very tempestuous all
around Him.

⁴He shall call to the heavens from above,
And to the earth, that He may judge His
people:

⁵"Gather My saints together to Me,
Those who have made a covenant with
Me by sacrifice."

⁶Let the heavens declare His
righteousness, For God Himself is
Judge. Selah

⁷"Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O
Israel, and I will testify against you; I am
God, your God!

⁸I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices
Or your burnt offerings, Which are
continually before Me.

⁹I will not take a bull from your house,
Nor goats out of your folds.

¹⁰For every beast of the forest is Mine,
And the cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹I know all the birds of the mountains,
And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.

¹²"If I were hungry, I would not tell you;
For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.

¹³Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the
blood of goats?

¹⁴Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay
your vows to the Most High.

¹⁵Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I
will deliver you, and you shall glorify
Me."

¹⁶But to the wicked God says: "What
right have you to declare My statutes,
Or take My covenant in your mouth,

¹⁷Seeing you hate instruction And cast
My words behind you?

¹⁸When you saw a thief, you consented
with him, And have been a partaker with
adulterers.

¹⁹You give your mouth to evil, And your
tongue frames deceit.

²⁰You sit and speak against your
brother; You slander your own mother's
son.

²¹These things you have done, and I
kept silent; You thought that I was
altogether like you; But I will rebuke you,
And set them in order before your eyes.

²²"Now consider this, you who forget
God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there
be none to deliver:

²³Whoever offers praise glorifies Me;
And to him who orders his conduct
aright I will show the salvation of God."

PSALM 51

¹Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;

According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

³For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.

⁴Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

⁶Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

¹⁶For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.

¹⁸Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

PSALM 52

¹Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually.

²Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

³You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah

⁴You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue.

⁵God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah

⁶The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying,

⁷"Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness."

⁸But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.

⁹I will praise You forever, Because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.

PSALM 53

¹The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good.

²God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

³Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.

⁴Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as

they eat bread, And do not call upon God?

⁵There they are in great fear Where no fear was, For God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you; You have put them to shame, Because God has despised them.

⁶Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When God brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

PSALM 54

¹Save me, O God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your strength.

²Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, And oppressors have sought after my life; They have not set God before them. Selah

⁴Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life.

⁵He will repay my enemies for their evil. Cut them off in Your truth.

⁶I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷For He has delivered me out of all trouble; And my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies.

PSALM 55

¹Give ear to my prayer, O God, And do not hide Yourself from my supplication.

²Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily,

³Because of the voice of the enemy, Because of the oppression of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me, And in wrath they hate me.

⁴My heart is severely pained within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

⁵Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, And horror has overwhelmed me.

⁶So I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.

⁷Indeed, I would wander far off, And remain in the wilderness.Selah

⁸I would hasten my escape From the windy storm and tempest."

⁹Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues, For I have seen violence and strife in the city.

¹⁰Day and night they go around it on its walls; Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it.

¹¹Destruction is in its midst; Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets.

¹²For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one

who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him.

¹³But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance.

¹⁴We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.

¹⁵Let death seize them; Let them go down alive into hell, For wickedness is in their dwellings and among them.

¹⁶As for me, I will call upon God, And the LORD shall save me.

¹⁷Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.

¹⁸He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me.

¹⁹God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides from of old.Selah Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God.

²⁰He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; He has broken his covenant.

²¹The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.

²²Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

²³But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; But I will trust in You.

PSALM 56

¹Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me.

²My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High.

³Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

⁴In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

⁵All day they twist my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶They gather together, They hide, they mark my steps, When they lie in wait for my life.

⁷Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God!

⁸You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

⁹When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me.

¹⁰In God (I will praise His word), In the LORD (I will praise His word),

¹¹In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

¹²Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You,

¹³For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living?

PSALM 57

¹Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by.

²I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me.

³He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.

⁴My soul is among lions; I lie among the sons of men Who are set on fire, Whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue a sharp sword.

⁵Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth.

⁶They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah

⁷My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.

⁸Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp!
I will awaken the dawn.

⁹I will praise You, O Lord, among the
peoples; I will sing to You among the
nations.

¹⁰For Your mercy reaches unto the
heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds.

¹¹Be exalted, O God, above the
heavens; Let Your glory be above all the
earth.

PSALM 58

¹Do you indeed speak righteousness,
you silent ones? Do you judge uprightly,
you sons of men?

²No, in heart you work wickedness; You
weigh out the violence of your hands in
the earth.

³The wicked are estranged from the
womb; They go astray as soon as they
are born, speaking lies.

⁴Their poison is like the poison of a
serpent; They are like the deaf cobra
that stops its ear,

⁵Which will not heed the voice of
charmners, Charming ever so skillfully.

⁶Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!
Break out the fangs of the young lions,
O LORD!

⁷Let them flow away as waters which
run continually; When he bends his bow,
Let his arrows be as if cut in pieces.

⁸Let them be like a snail which melts
away as it goes, Like a stillborn child of
a woman, that they may not see the sun.

⁹Before your pots can feel the burning
thorns, He shall take them away as with
a whirlwind, As in His living and burning
wrath.

¹⁰The righteous shall rejoice when he
sees the vengeance; He shall wash his
feet in the blood of the wicked,

¹¹So that men will say, "Surely there is a
reward for the righteous; Surely He is
God who judges in the earth."

PSALM 59

¹Deliver me from my enemies, O my
God; Defend me from those who rise up
against me.

²Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,
And save me from bloodthirsty men.

³For look, they lie in wait for my life; The
mighty gather against me, Not for my
transgression nor for my sin, O LORD.

⁴They run and prepare themselves
through no fault of mine. Awake to help
me, and behold!

⁵You therefore, O LORD God of hosts,
the God of Israel, Awake to punish all
the nations; Do not be merciful to any
wicked transgressors.Selah

⁶At evening they return, They growl like
a dog, And go all around the city.

PSALM 60

⁷Indeed, they belch with their mouth;
Swords are in their lips; For they say,
"Who hears?"

⁸But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them;
You shall have all the nations in derision.

⁹I will wait for You, O You his Strength;
For God is my defense.

¹⁰My God of mercy shall come to meet
me; God shall let me see my desire on
my enemies.

¹¹Do not slay them, lest my people
forget; Scatter them by Your power, And
bring them down, O Lord our shield.

¹²For the sin of their mouth and the
words of their lips, Let them even be
taken in their pride, And for the cursing
and lying which they speak.

¹³Consume them in wrath, consume
them, That they may not be; And let
them know that God rules in Jacob To
the ends of the earth.Selah

¹⁴And at evening they return, They growl
like a dog, And go all around the city.

¹⁵They wander up and down for food,
And howl if they are not satisfied.

¹⁶But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will
sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning;
For You have been my defense And
refuge in the day of my trouble.

¹⁷To You, O my Strength, I will sing
praises; For God is my defense, My God
of mercy.

¹O God, You have cast us off; You have
broken us down; You have been
displeased; Oh, restore us again!

²You have made the earth tremble; You
have broken it; Heal its breaches, for it
is shaking.

³You have shown Your people hard
things; You have made us drink the
wine of confusion.

⁴You have given a banner to those who
fear You, That it may be displayed
because of the truth.Selah

⁵That Your beloved may be delivered,
Save with Your right hand, and hear me.

⁶God has spoken in His holiness: "I will
rejoice; I will divide Shechem And
measure out the Valley of Succoth.

⁷Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;
Ephraim also is the helmet for My head;
Judah is My lawgiver.

⁸Moab is My washpot; Over Edom I will
cast My shoe; Philistia, shout in triumph
because of Me."

⁹Who will bring me to the strong city?
Who will lead me to Edom?

¹⁰Is it not You, O God, who cast us off?
And You, O God, who did not go out
with our armies?

¹¹Give us help from trouble, For the help
of man is useless.

¹²Through God we will do valiantly, For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.

PSALM 61

¹Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer.

²From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

³For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

⁴I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings.Selah

⁵For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.

⁶You will prolong the king's life, His years as many generations.

⁷He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him!

⁸So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may daily perform my vows.

PSALM 62

¹Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation.

²He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

³How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence.

⁴They only consult to cast him down from his high position; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly.Selah

⁵My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.

⁶He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

⁷In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

⁸Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.Selah

⁹Surely men of low degree are a vapor, Men of high degree are a lie; If they are weighed on the scales, They are altogether lighter than vapor.

¹⁰Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them.

¹¹God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.

¹²Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; For You render to each one according to his work.

PSALM 63

¹O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

²So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.

³Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.

⁴Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

⁵My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

⁶When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

⁷Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

⁹But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

¹⁰They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals.

¹¹But the king shall rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

PSALM 64

¹Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation; Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

²Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity,

³Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows--bitter words,

⁴That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.

⁵They encourage themselves in an evil matter; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, "Who will see them?"

⁶They devise iniquities: "We have perfected a shrewd scheme." Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep.

⁷But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; Suddenly they shall be wounded.

⁸So He will make them stumble over their own tongue; All who see them shall flee away.

⁹All men shall fear, And shall declare the work of God; For they shall wisely consider His doing.

¹⁰The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.

PSALM 65

¹Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion;
And to You the vow shall be performed.

²O You who hear prayer, To You all
flesh will come.

³Iniquities prevail against me; As for our
transgressions, You will provide
atonement for them.

⁴Blessed is the man You choose, And
cause to approach You, That he may
dwell in Your courts. We shall be
satisfied with the goodness of Your
house, Of Your holy temple.

⁵By awesome deeds in righteousness
You will answer us, O God of our
salvation, You who are the confidence
of all the ends of the earth, And of the
far-off seas;

⁶Who established the mountains by His
strength, Being clothed with power;

⁷You who still the noise of the seas, The
noise of their waves, And the tumult of
the peoples.

⁸They also who dwell in the farthest
parts are afraid of Your signs; You make
the outgoings of the morning and
evening rejoice.

⁹You visit the earth and water it, You
greatly enrich it; The river of God is full
of water; You provide their grain, For so
You have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its ridges abundantly, You
settle its furrows; You make it soft with
showers, You bless its growth.

¹¹You crown the year with Your
goodness, And Your paths drip with
abundance.

¹²They drop on the pastures of the
wilderness, And the little hills rejoice on
every side.

¹³The pastures are clothed with flocks;
The valleys also are covered with grain;
They shout for joy, they also sing.

PSALM 66

¹Make a joyful shout to God, all the
earth!

²Sing out the honor of His name; Make
His praise glorious.

³Say to God, "How awesome are Your
works! Through the greatness of Your
power Your enemies shall submit
themselves to You.

⁴All the earth shall worship You And sing
praises to You; They shall sing praises
to Your name."Selah

⁵Come and see the works of God; He is
awesome in His doing toward the sons
of men.

⁶He turned the sea into dry land; They
went through the river on foot. There we
will rejoice in Him.

⁷He rules by His power forever; His eyes
observe the nations; Do not let the
rebellious exalt themselves.Selah

⁸Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard,

⁹Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved.

¹⁰For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.

¹¹You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.

¹²You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.

¹³I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows,

¹⁴Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats.Selah

¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.

¹⁷I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.

¹⁸If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

¹⁹But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

PSALM 67

¹God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us,Selah

²That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

³Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

⁴Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth.Selah

⁵Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You.

⁶Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us.

⁷God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

PSALM 68

¹Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

²As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name YAH, And rejoice before Him.

⁵A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

⁶God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

⁷O God, when You went out before Your people, When You marched through the wilderness, Selah

⁸The earth shook; The heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God; Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹You, O God, sent a plentiful rain, Whereby You confirmed Your inheritance, When it was weary.

¹⁰Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor.

¹¹The Lord gave the word; Great was the company of those who proclaimed it:

¹²"Kings of armies flee, they flee, And she who remains at home divides the spoil.

¹³Though you lie down among the sheepfolds, You will be like the wings of

a dove covered with silver, And her feathers with yellow gold."

¹⁴When the Almighty scattered kings in it, It was white as snow in Zalmon.

¹⁵A mountain of God is the mountain of Bashan; A mountain of many peaks is the mountain of Bashan.

¹⁶Why do you fume with envy, you mountains of many peaks? This is the mountain which God desires to dwell in; Yes, the LORD will dwell in it forever.

¹⁷The chariots of God are twenty thousand, Even thousands of thousands; The Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.

¹⁸You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the LORD God might dwell there.

¹⁹Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah

²⁰Our God is the God of salvation; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.

²¹But God will wound the head of His enemies, The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in his trespasses.

²²The Lord said, "I will bring back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the depths of the sea,

²³That your foot may crush them in blood, And the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from your enemies."

²⁴They have seen Your procession, O God, The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.

²⁵The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; Among them were the maidens playing timbrels.

²⁶Bless God in the congregations, The Lord, from the fountain of Israel.

²⁷There is little Benjamin, their leader, The princes of Judah and their company, The princes of Zebulun and the princes of Naphtali.

²⁸Your God has commanded your strength; Strengthen, O God, what You have done for us.

²⁹Because of Your temple at Jerusalem, Kings will bring presents to You.

³⁰Rebuke the beasts of the reeds, The herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples, Till everyone submits himself with pieces of silver. Scatter the peoples who delight in war.

³¹Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.

³²Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; Oh, sing praises to the Lord, Selah

³³To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens, which were of old! Indeed, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice.

³⁴Ascribe strength to God; His excellence is over Israel, And His strength is in the clouds.

³⁵O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!

PSALM 69

¹Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.

²I sink in deep mire, Where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, Where the floods overflow me.

³I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

⁴Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.

⁵O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.

⁶Let not those who wait for You, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed because of me; Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.

⁷Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face.

⁸I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children;

⁹Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

¹⁰When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, That became my reproach.

¹¹I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them.

¹²Those who sit in the gate speak against me, And I am the song of the drunkards.

¹³But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.

¹⁴Deliver me out of the mire, And let me not sink; Let me be delivered from those who hate me, And out of the deep waters.

¹⁵Let not the floodwater overflow me, Nor let the deep swallow me up; And let not the pit shut its mouth on me.

¹⁶Hear me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness is good; Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.

¹⁷And do not hide Your face from Your servant, For I am in trouble; Hear me speedily.

¹⁸Draw near to my soul, and redeem it; Deliver me because of my enemies.

¹⁹You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; My adversaries are all before You.

²⁰Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none.

²¹They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

²²Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap.

²³Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually.

²⁴Pour out Your indignation upon them, And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them.

²⁵Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents.

²⁶For they persecute the ones You have struck, And talk of the grief of those You have wounded.

²⁷Add iniquity to their iniquity, And let them not come into Your righteousness.

²⁸Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous.

²⁹But I am poor and sorrowful; Let Your salvation, O God, set me up on high.

³⁰I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

³¹This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bull, Which has horns and hooves.

³²The humble shall see this and be glad; And you who seek God, your hearts shall live.

³³For the LORD hears the poor, And does not despise His prisoners.

³⁴Let heaven and earth praise Him, The seas and everything that moves in them.

³⁵For God will save Zion And build the cities of Judah, That they may dwell there and possess it.

³⁶Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit it, And those who love His name shall dwell in it.

PSALM 70

¹Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O LORD!

²Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life; Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt.

³Let them be turned back because of their shame, Who say, "Aha, aha!"

⁴Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"

⁵But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.

PSALM 71

¹In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be put to shame.

²Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape; Incline Your ear to me, and save me.

³Be my strong refuge, To which I may resort continually; You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress.

⁴Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

⁵For You are my hope, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth.

⁶By You I have been upheld from birth; You are He who took me out of my mother's womb. My praise shall be continually of You.

⁷I have become as a wonder to many, But You are my strong refuge.

⁸Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day.

⁹Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

¹⁰For my enemies speak against me;
And those who lie in wait for my life take
counsel together,

¹¹Saying, "God has forsaken him;
Pursue and take him, for there is none
to deliver him."

¹²O God, do not be far from me; O my
God, make haste to help me!

¹³Let them be confounded and
consumed Who are adversaries of my
life; Let them be covered with reproach
and dishonor Who seek my hurt.

¹⁴But I will hope continually, And will
praise You yet more and more.

¹⁵My mouth shall tell of Your
righteousness And Your salvation all the
day, For I do not know their limits.

¹⁶I will go in the strength of the Lord
GOD; I will make mention of Your
righteousness, of Yours only.

¹⁷O God, You have taught me from my
youth; And to this day I declare Your
wondrous works.

¹⁸Now also when I am old and
grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to this
generation, Your power to everyone
who is to come.

¹⁹Also Your righteousness, O God, is
very high, You who have done great
things; O God, who is like You?

²⁰You, who have shown me great and
severe troubles, Shall revive me again,

And bring me up again from the depths
of the earth.

²¹You shall increase my greatness, And
comfort me on every side.

²²Also with the lute I will praise You--
And Your faithfulness, O my God! To
You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One
of Israel.

²³My lips shall greatly rejoice when I
sing to You, And my soul, which You
have redeemed.

²⁴My tongue also shall talk of Your
righteousness all the day long; For they
are confounded, For they are brought to
shame Who seek my hurt.

PSALM 72

¹Give the king Your judgments, O God,
And Your righteousness to the king's
Son.

²He will judge Your people with
righteousness, And Your poor with
justice.

³The mountains will bring peace to the
people, And the little hills, by
righteousness.

⁴He will bring justice to the poor of the
people; He will save the children of the
needy, And will break in pieces the
oppressor.

⁵They shall fear You As long as the sun
and moon endure, Throughout all
generations.

⁶He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, Like showers that water the earth.

⁷In His days the righteous shall flourish, And abundance of peace, Until the moon is no more.

⁸He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

⁹Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, And His enemies will lick the dust.

¹⁰The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts.

¹¹Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him.

¹²For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and him who has no helper.

¹³He will spare the poor and needy, And will save the souls of the needy.

¹⁴He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; And precious shall be their blood in His sight.

¹⁵And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; Prayer also will be made for Him continually, And daily He shall be praised.

¹⁶There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, On the top of the mountains; Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And

those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.

¹⁷His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed.

¹⁸Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things!

¹⁹And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

²⁰The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

PSALM 73

¹Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.

²But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.

³For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm.

⁵They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men.

⁶Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment.

⁷Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.

⁸They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily.

⁹They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.

¹⁰Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them.

¹¹And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"

¹²Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.

¹³Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence.

¹⁴For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.

¹⁵If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.

¹⁶When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me--

¹⁷Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

¹⁸Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

¹⁹Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

²⁰As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

²¹Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind.

²²I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.

²³Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.

²⁴You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

²⁶My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

²⁷For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.

²⁸But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, That I may declare all Your works.

PSALM 74

¹O God, why have You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

²Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, which You have

redeemed-- This Mount Zion where You have dwelt.

³Lift up Your feet to the perpetual desolations. The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary.

⁴Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; They set up their banners for signs.

⁵They seem like men who lift up Axes among the thick trees.

⁶And now they break down its carved work, all at once, With axes and hammers.

⁷They have set fire to Your sanctuary; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name to the ground.

⁸They said in their hearts, "Let us destroy them altogether." They have burned up all the meeting places of God in the land.

⁹We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet; Nor is there any among us who knows how long.

¹⁰O God, how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?

¹¹Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? Take it out of Your bosom and destroy them.

¹²For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth.

¹³You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.

¹⁴You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

¹⁵You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers.

¹⁶The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.

¹⁷You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

¹⁸Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O LORD, And that a foolish people has blasphemed Your name.

¹⁹Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget the life of Your poor forever.

²⁰Have respect to the covenant; For the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty.

²¹Oh, do not let the oppressed return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise Your name.

²²Arise, O God, plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily.

²³Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; The tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually.

PSALM 75

¹We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.

²"When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly.

³The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly.Selah

⁴"I said to the boastful, "Do not deal boastfully,' And to the wicked, "Do not lift up the horn.

⁵Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck."

⁶For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south.

⁷But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

⁸For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down.

⁹But I will declare forever, I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰"All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted."

PSALM 76

¹In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

²In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion.

³There He broke the arrows of the bow, The shield and sword of battle.Selah

⁴You are more glorious and excellent Than the mountains of prey.

⁵The stouthearted were plundered; They have sunk into their sleep; And none of the mighty men have found the use of their hands.

⁶At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, Both the chariot and horse were cast into a dead sleep.

⁷You, Yourself, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence When once You are angry?

⁸You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared and was still,

⁹When God arose to judgment, To deliver all the oppressed of the earth.Selah

¹⁰Surely the wrath of man shall praise You; With the remainder of wrath You shall gird Yourself.

¹¹Make vows to the LORD your God, and pay them; Let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared.

¹²He shall cut off the spirit of princes; He is awesome to the kings of the earth.

PSALM 77

¹I cried out to God with my voice-- To God with my voice; And He gave ear to me.

²In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; My soul refused to be comforted.

³I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed.Selah

⁴You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

⁵I have considered the days of old, The years of ancient times.

⁶I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search.

⁷Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more?

⁸Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore?

⁹Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies?Selah

¹⁰And I said, "This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High."

¹¹I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

¹²I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.

¹³Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?

¹⁴You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples.

¹⁵You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, The sons of Jacob and Joseph.Selah

¹⁶The waters saw You, O God; The waters saw You, they were afraid; The depths also trembled.

¹⁷The clouds poured out water; The skies sent out a sound; Your arrows also flashed about.

¹⁸The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; The lightnings lit up the world; The earth trembled and shook.

¹⁹Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters, And Your footsteps were not known.

²⁰You led Your people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

PSALM 78

¹Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,

³Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

⁴We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

⁵For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children;

⁶That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children,

⁷That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;

⁸And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

⁹The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle.

¹⁰They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law,

¹¹And forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them.

¹²Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

¹³He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap.

¹⁴In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire.

¹⁵He split the rocks in the wilderness, And gave them drink in abundance like the depths.

¹⁶He also brought streams out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers.

¹⁷But they sinned even more against Him By rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness.

¹⁸And they tested God in their heart By asking for the food of their fancy.

¹⁹Yes, they spoke against God: They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness?

²⁰Behold, He struck the rock, So that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?

²¹Therefore the LORD heard this and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also came up against Israel,

²²Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.

²³Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven.

²⁵Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.

²⁶He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; And by His power He brought in the south wind.

²⁷He also rained meat on them like the dust, Feathered fowl like the sand of the seas;

²⁸And He let them fall in the midst of their camp, All around their dwellings.

²⁹So they ate and were well filled, For He gave them their own desire.

³⁰They were not deprived of their craving; But while their food was still in their mouths,

³¹The wrath of God came against them, And slew the stoutest of them, And struck down the choice men of Israel.

³²In spite of this they still sinned, And did not believe in His wondrous works.

³³Therefore their days He consumed in futility, And their years in fear.

³⁴When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God.

³⁵Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.

³⁶Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue;

³⁷For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

³⁸But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath;

³⁹For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again.

⁴⁰How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!

⁴¹Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.

⁴²They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,

⁴³When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan;

⁴⁴Turned their rivers into blood, And their streams, that they could not drink.

⁴⁵He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, And frogs, which destroyed them.

⁴⁶He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust.

⁴⁷He destroyed their vines with hail, And their sycamore trees with frost.

⁴⁸He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning.

⁴⁹He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, By sending angels of destruction among them.

⁵⁰He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave their life over to the plague,

⁵¹And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt, The first of their strength in the tents of Ham.

⁵²But He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;

⁵³And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

⁵⁴And He brought them to His holy border, This mountain which His right hand had acquired.

⁵⁵He also drove out the nations before them, Allotted them an inheritance by survey, And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.

⁵⁶Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, And did not keep His testimonies,

⁵⁷But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; They were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

⁵⁸For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.

⁵⁹When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel,

⁶⁰So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men,

⁶¹And delivered His strength into captivity, And His glory into the enemy's hand.

⁶²He also gave His people over to the sword, And was furious with His inheritance.

⁶³The fire consumed their young men, And their maidens were not given in marriage.

⁶⁴Their priests fell by the sword, And their widows made no lamentation.

⁶⁵Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, Like a mighty man who shouts because of wine.

⁶⁶And He beat back His enemies; He put them to a perpetual reproach.

⁶⁷Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,

⁶⁸But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.

⁶⁹And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has established forever.

⁷⁰He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds;

⁷¹From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance.

⁷²So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

PSALM 79

¹O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled; They have laid Jerusalem in heaps.

²The dead bodies of Your servants They have given as food for the birds of the heavens, The flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth.

³Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, And there was no one to bury them.

⁴We have become a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and derision to those who are around us.

⁵How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire?

⁶Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You, And on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.

⁷For they have devoured Jacob, And laid waste his dwelling place.

⁸Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, For we have been brought very low.

⁹Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!

¹⁰Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let there be known among the nations in our sight The avenging of the blood of Your servants which has been shed.

¹¹Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; According to the greatness of Your power Preserve those who are appointed to die;

¹²And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom Their reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.

¹³So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, Will give You thanks forever; We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

PSALM 80

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!

²Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, Stir up Your strength, And come and save us!

³Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

⁴O LORD God of hosts, How long will You be angry Against the prayer of Your people?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, And given them tears to drink in great measure.

⁶You have made us a strife to our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it.

⁹You prepared room for it, And caused it to take deep root, And it filled the land.

¹⁰The hills were covered with its shadow, And the mighty cedars with its boughs.

¹¹She sent out her boughs to the Sea, And her branches to the River.

¹²Why have You broken down her hedges, So that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit?

¹³The boar out of the woods uproots it, And the wild beast of the field devours it.

¹⁴Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from heaven and see, And visit this vine

¹⁵And the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, And the branch that You made strong for Yourself.

¹⁶It is burned with fire, it is cut down; They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.

¹⁷Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself.

¹⁸Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

PSALM 81

¹Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.

²Raise a song and strike the timbrel, The pleasant harp with the lute.

³Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, At the full moon, on our solemn feast day.

⁴For this is a statute for Israel, A law of the God of Jacob.

⁵This He established in Joseph as a testimony, When He went throughout the land of Egypt, Where I heard a language I did not understand.

⁶"I removed his shoulder from the burden; His hands were freed from the baskets.

⁷You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place

of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah.Selah

⁸"Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me!

⁹There shall be no foreign god among you; Nor shall you worship any foreign god.

¹⁰I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

¹¹"But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me.

¹²So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels.

¹³"Oh, that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!

¹⁴I would soon subdue their enemies, And turn My hand against their adversaries.

¹⁵The haters of the LORD would pretend submission to Him, But their fate would endure forever.

¹⁶He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat; And with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you."

PSALM 82

¹God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.

²How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked?Selah

³Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

⁴Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.

⁵They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable.

⁶I said, "You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High.

⁷But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes."

⁸Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.

PSALM 83

¹Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God!

²For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head.

³They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.

⁴They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."

⁵For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You:

⁶The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;

⁷Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

⁸Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.Selah

⁹Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera, As with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,

¹⁰Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on the earth.

¹¹Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

¹²Who said, "Let us take for ourselves The pastures of God for a possession."

¹³O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like the chaff before the wind!

¹⁴As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame sets the mountains on fire,

¹⁵So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm.

¹⁶Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O LORD.

¹⁷Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,

¹⁸That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.

PSALM 84

¹How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home, And the swallow a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young-- Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and my God.

⁴Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You.Selah

⁵Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

⁶As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob!Selah

⁹O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a

doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
The LORD will give grace and glory; No
good thing will He withhold From those
who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts, Blessed is the man
who trusts in You!

PSALM 85

¹LORD, You have been favorable to
Your land; You have brought back the
captivity of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of Your
people; You have covered all their
sin. Selah

³You have taken away all Your wrath;
You have turned from the fierceness of
Your anger.

⁴Restore us, O God of our salvation,
And cause Your anger toward us to
cease.

⁵Will You be angry with us forever? Will
You prolong Your anger to all
generations?

⁶Will You not revive us again, That Your
people may rejoice in You?

⁷Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant
us Your salvation.

⁸I will hear what God the LORD will
speak, For He will speak peace To His

people and to His saints; But let them
not turn back to folly.

⁹Surely His salvation is near to those
who fear Him, That glory may dwell in
our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed.

¹¹Truth shall spring out of the earth, And
righteousness shall look down from
heaven.

¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good;
And our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before Him, And
shall make His footsteps our pathway.

PSALM 86

¹Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me;
For I am poor and needy.

²Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are
my God; Save Your servant who trusts
in You!

³Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to
You all day long.

⁴Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to
You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

⁵For You, Lord, are good, and ready to
forgive, And abundant in mercy to all
those who call upon You.

⁶Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; And
attend to the voice of my supplications.

⁷In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me.

⁸Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works.

⁹All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name.

¹⁰For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

¹¹Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

¹²I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore.

¹³For great is Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

¹⁴O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent men have sought my life, And have not set You before them.

¹⁵But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

¹⁶Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant.

¹⁷Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be

ashamed, Because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

PSALM 87

¹His foundation is in the holy mountains.

²The LORD loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

³Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!Selah

⁴"I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia: "This one was born there."

⁵And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her."

⁶The LORD will record, When He registers the peoples: "This one was born there."Selah

⁷Both the singers and the players on instruments say, "All my springs are in you."

PSALM 88

¹O LORD, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You.

²Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry.

³For my soul is full of troubles, And my life draws near to the grave.

⁴I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength,

⁵Adrift among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand.

⁶You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths.

⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves.Selah

⁸You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out;

⁹My eye wastes away because of affliction. LORD, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You.

¹⁰Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You?Selah

¹¹Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

¹²Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

¹³But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

¹⁴LORD, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?

¹⁵I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught.

¹⁶Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off.

¹⁷They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether.

¹⁸Loved one and friend You have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness.

PSALM 89

¹I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

²For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens."

³"I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:

⁴"Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations."Selah

⁵And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

⁶For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among

the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD?

⁷God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.

⁸O LORD God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

⁹You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.

¹⁰You have broken Rahab in pieces, as one who is slain; You have scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm.

¹¹The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them.

¹²The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Your name.

¹³You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand.

¹⁴Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

¹⁵Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.

¹⁶In Your name they rejoice all day long, And in Your righteousness they are exalted.

¹⁷For You are the glory of their strength, And in Your favor our horn is exalted.

¹⁸For our shield belongs to the LORD, And our king to the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁹Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one, And said: "I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him,

²¹With whom My hand shall be established; Also My arm shall strengthen him.

²²The enemy shall not outwit him, Nor the son of wickedness afflict him.

²³I will beat down his foes before his face, And plague those who hate him.

²⁴"But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him, And in My name his horn shall be exalted.

²⁵Also I will set his hand over the sea, And his right hand over the rivers.

²⁶He shall cry to Me, "You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation."

²⁷Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.

²⁸My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him.

²⁹His seed also I will make to endure forever, And his throne as the days of heaven.

³⁰"If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments,

³¹If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments,

³²Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes.

³³Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.

³⁴My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

³⁵Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David:

³⁶His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;

³⁷It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky."Selah

³⁸But You have cast off and abhorred, You have been furious with Your anointed.

³⁹You have renounced the covenant of Your servant; You have profaned his crown by casting it to the ground.

⁴⁰You have broken down all his hedges; You have brought his strongholds to ruin.

⁴¹All who pass by the way plunder him; He is a reproach to his neighbors.

⁴²You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries; You have made all his enemies rejoice.

⁴³You have also turned back the edge of his sword, And have not sustained him in the battle.

⁴⁴You have made his glory cease, And cast his throne down to the ground.

⁴⁵The days of his youth You have shortened; You have covered him with shame.Selah

⁴⁶How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire?

⁴⁷Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men?

⁴⁸What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?Selah

⁴⁹Lord, where are Your former lovingkindnesses, Which You swore to David in Your truth?

⁵⁰Remember, Lord, the reproach of Your servants-- How I bear in my bosom the reproach of all the many peoples,

⁵¹With which Your enemies have reproached, O LORD, With which they have reproached the footsteps of Your anointed.

⁵²Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen.

PSALM 90

¹Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

³You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men."

⁴For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night.

⁵You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

⁶In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.

⁷For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified.

⁸You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

⁹For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.

¹⁰The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

¹¹Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

¹²So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

¹³Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.

¹⁴Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

¹⁵Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, The years in which we have seen evil.

¹⁶Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children.

¹⁷And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

PSALM 91

¹He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

²I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

³Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence.

⁴He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take

refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

⁵You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

⁶Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

⁷A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.

⁸Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

⁹Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

¹⁰No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

¹¹For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

¹²In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

¹³You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

¹⁴"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

¹⁵He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

PSALM 92

¹It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

²To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,

³On an instrument of ten strings, On the lute, And on the harp, With harmonious sound.

⁴For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

⁵O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep.

⁶A senseless man does not know, Nor does a fool understand this.

⁷When the wicked spring up like grass, And when all the workers of iniquity flourish, It is that they may be destroyed forever.

⁸But You, LORD, are on high forevermore.

⁹For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, For behold, Your enemies shall perish; All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

¹⁰But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.

¹¹My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; My ears hear my desire on the wicked Who rise up against me.

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

¹⁵To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

PSALM 93

¹The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.

²Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

³The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves.

⁴The LORD on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea.

⁵Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.

PSALM 94

¹O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs-- O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!

²Rise up, O Judge of the earth; Render punishment to the proud.

³LORD, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph?

⁴They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves.

⁵They break in pieces Your people, O LORD, And afflict Your heritage.

⁶They slay the widow and the stranger, And murder the fatherless.

⁷Yet they say, "The LORD does not see, Nor does the God of Jacob understand."

⁸Understand, you senseless among the people; And you fools, when will you be wise?

⁹He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?

¹⁰He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge?

¹¹The LORD knows the thoughts of man,
That they are futile.

¹²Blessed is the man whom You instruct,
O LORD, And teach out of Your law,

¹³That You may give him rest from the
days of adversity, Until the pit is dug for
the wicked.

¹⁴For the LORD will not cast off His
people, Nor will He forsake His
inheritance.

¹⁵But judgment will return to
righteousness, And all the upright in
heart will follow it.

¹⁶Who will rise up for me against the
evildoers? Who will stand up for me
against the workers of iniquity?

¹⁷Unless the LORD had been my help,
My soul would soon have settled in
silence.

¹⁸If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O
LORD, will hold me up.

¹⁹In the multitude of my anxieties within
me, Your comforts delight my soul.

²⁰Shall the throne of iniquity, which
devises evil by law, Have fellowship with
You?

²¹They gather together against the life of
the righteous, And condemn innocent
blood.

²²But the LORD has been my defense,
And my God the rock of my refuge.

²³He has brought on them their own
iniquity, And shall cut them off in their
own wickedness; The LORD our God
shall cut them off.

PSALM 95

¹Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let
us shout joyfully to the Rock of our
salvation.

²Let us come before His presence with
thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to
Him with psalms.

³For the LORD is the great God, And the
great King above all gods.

⁴In His hand are the deep places of the
earth; The heights of the hills are His
also.

⁵The sea is His, for He made it; And His
hands formed the dry land.

⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow
down; Let us kneel before the LORD our
Maker.

⁷For He is our God, And we are the
people of His pasture, And the sheep of
His hand. Today, if you will hear His
voice:

⁸"Do not harden your hearts, as in the
rebellion, As in the day of trial in the
wilderness,

⁹When your fathers tested Me; They
tried Me, though they saw My work.

¹⁰For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, "It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways."

¹¹So I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter My rest."

PSALM 96

¹Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

³Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

⁴For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

⁶Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

⁷Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts.

⁹Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

¹²Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD.

¹³For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

PSALM 97

¹The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad!

²Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

³A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about.

⁴His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

⁶The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory.

⁷Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods.

⁸Zion hears and is glad, And the daughters of Judah rejoice Because of Your judgments, O LORD.

⁹For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

¹¹Light is sown for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart.

¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

PSALM 98

¹Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

²The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm,

⁶With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it;

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,

⁹For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.

PSALM 99

¹The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved!

²The LORD is great in Zion, And He is high above all the peoples.

³Let them praise Your great and awesome name-- He is holy.

⁴The King's strength also loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool-- He is holy.

⁶Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them.

⁷He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar;
They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them.

⁸You answered them, O LORD our God;
You were to them God-Who-Forgives,
Though You took vengeance on their deeds.

⁹Exalt the LORD our God, And worship
at His holy hill; For the LORD our God is holy.

PSALM 100

¹Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all
you lands!

²Serve the LORD with gladness; Come
before His presence with singing.

³Know that the LORD, He is God; It is
He who has made us, and not we
ourselves; We are His people and the
sheep of His pasture.

⁴Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise. Be
thankful to Him, and bless His name.

⁵For the LORD is good; His mercy is
everlasting, And His truth endures to all
generations.

PSALM 101

¹I will sing of mercy and justice; To You,
O LORD, I will sing praises.

²I will behave wisely in a perfect way.
Oh, when will You come to me? I will

walk within my house with a perfect
heart.

³I will set nothing wicked before my
eyes; I hate the work of those who fall
away; It shall not cling to me.

⁴A perverse heart shall depart from me; I
will not know wickedness.

⁵Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor,
Him I will destroy; The one who has a
haughty look and a proud heart, Him I
will not endure.

⁶My eyes shall be on the faithful of the
land, That they may dwell with me; He
who walks in a perfect way, He shall
serve me.

⁷He who works deceit shall not dwell
within my house; He who tells lies shall
not continue in my presence.

⁸Early I will destroy all the wicked of the
land, That I may cut off all the evildoers
from the city of the LORD.

PSALM 102

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD, And let my
cry come to You.

²Do not hide Your face from me in the
day of my trouble; Incline Your ear to
me; In the day that I call, answer me
speedily.

³For my days are consumed like smoke,
And my bones are burned like a hearth.

⁴My heart is stricken and withered like grass, So that I forget to eat my bread.

⁵Because of the sound of my groaning My bones cling to my skin.

⁶I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert.

⁷I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.

⁸My enemies reproach me all day long; Those who deride me swear an oath against me.

⁹For I have eaten ashes like bread, And mingled my drink with weeping,

¹⁰Because of Your indignation and Your wrath; For You have lifted me up and cast me away.

¹¹My days are like a shadow that lengthens, And I wither away like grass.

¹²But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations.

¹³You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come.

¹⁴For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust.

¹⁵So the nations shall fear the name of the LORD, And all the kings of the earth Your glory.

¹⁶For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.

¹⁷He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer.

¹⁸This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

¹⁹For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the LORD viewed the earth,

²⁰To hear the groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death,

²¹To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem,

²²When the peoples are gathered together, And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

²³He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days.

²⁴I said, "O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations.

²⁵Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

²⁶They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed.

²⁷But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.

²⁸The children of Your servants will continue, And their descendants will be established before You."

PSALM 103

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

³Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

⁴Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

⁵Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

⁹He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

¹²As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.

¹⁴For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

¹⁶For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more.

¹⁷But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

¹⁹The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.

²⁰Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.

²¹Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

²²Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

PSALM 104

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty,

²Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

³He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind,

⁴Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

⁵You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever,

⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains.

⁷At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.

⁸They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them.

⁹You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, That they may not return to cover the earth.

¹⁰He sends the springs into the valleys; They flow among the hills.

¹¹They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹²By them the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches.

¹³He waters the hills from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

¹⁴He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth,

¹⁵And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart.

¹⁶The trees of the LORD are full of sap, The cedars of Lebanon which He planted,

¹⁷Where the birds make their nests; The stork has her home in the fir trees.

¹⁸The high hills are for the wild goats; The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.

¹⁹He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down.

²⁰You make darkness, and it is night, In which all the beasts of the forest creep about.

²¹The young lions roar after their prey, And seek their food from God.

²²When the sun rises, they gather together And lie down in their dens.

²³Man goes out to his work And to his labor until the evening.

²⁴O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions--

²⁵This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great.

²⁶There the ships sail about; There is that Leviathan Which You have made to play there.

²⁷These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season.

²⁸What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good.

²⁹You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever; May the LORD rejoice in His works.

³²He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

³⁴May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.

³⁵May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

PSALM 105

¹Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!

²Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

³Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!

⁴Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

⁵Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

⁶O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

⁷He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

⁸He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,

⁹The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac,

¹⁰And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹¹Saying, "To you I will give the land of
Canaan As the allotment of your
inheritance,"

¹²When they were few in number,
Indeed very few, and strangers in it.

¹³When they went from one nation to
another, From one kingdom to another
people,

¹⁴He permitted no one to do them
wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their
sakes,

¹⁵Saying, "Do not touch My anointed
ones, And do My prophets no harm."

¹⁶Moreover He called for a famine in the
land; He destroyed all the provision of
bread.

¹⁷He sent a man before them-- Joseph--
who was sold as a slave.

¹⁸They hurt his feet with fetters, He was
laid in irons.

¹⁹Until the time that his word came to
pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

²⁰The king sent and released him, The
ruler of the people let him go free.

²¹He made him lord of his house, And
ruler of all his possessions,

²²To bind his princes at his pleasure,
And teach his elders wisdom.

²³Israel also came into Egypt, And
Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.

²⁴He increased His people greatly, And
made them stronger than their enemies.

²⁵He turned their heart to hate His
people, To deal craftily with His servants.

²⁶He sent Moses His servant, And Aaron
whom He had chosen.

²⁷They performed His signs among them,
And wonders in the land of Ham.

²⁸He sent darkness, and made it dark;
And they did not rebel against His word.

²⁹He turned their waters into blood, And
killed their fish.

³⁰Their land abounded with frogs, Even
in the chambers of their kings.

³¹He spoke, and there came swarms of
flies, And lice in all their territory.

³²He gave them hail for rain, And
flaming fire in their land.

³³He struck their vines also, and their fig
trees, And splintered the trees of their
territory.

³⁴He spoke, and locusts came, Young
locusts without number,

³⁵And ate up all the vegetation in their
land, And devoured the fruit of their
ground.

³⁶He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land, The first of all their strength.

³⁷He also brought them out with silver and gold, And there was none feeble among His tribes.

³⁸Egypt was glad when they departed, For the fear of them had fallen upon them.

³⁹He spread a cloud for a covering, And fire to give light in the night.

⁴⁰The people asked, and He brought quail, And satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

⁴¹He opened the rock, and water gushed out; It ran in the dry places like a river.

⁴²For He remembered His holy promise, And Abraham His servant.

⁴³He brought out His people with joy, His chosen ones with gladness.

⁴⁴He gave them the lands of the Gentiles, And they inherited the labor of the nations,

⁴⁵That they might observe His statutes And keep His laws. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 106

¹Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

²Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise?

³Blessed are those who keep justice, And he who does righteousness at all times!

⁴Remember me, O LORD, with the favor You have toward Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation,

⁵That I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, That I may glory with Your inheritance.

⁶We have sinned with our fathers, We have committed iniquity, We have done wickedly.

⁷Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, But rebelled by the sea--the Red Sea.

⁸Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, That He might make His mighty power known.

⁹He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness.

¹⁰He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

¹¹The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left.

¹²Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.

¹³They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel,

¹⁴But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert.

¹⁵And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.

¹⁶When they envied Moses in the camp, And Aaron the saint of the LORD,

¹⁷The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan, And covered the faction of Abiram.

¹⁸A fire was kindled in their company; The flame burned up the wicked.

¹⁹They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image.

²⁰Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass.

²¹They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt,

²²Wondrous works in the land of Ham, Awesome things by the Red Sea.

²³Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, To turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.

²⁴Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe His word,

²⁵But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the LORD.

²⁶Therefore He raised His hand in an oath against them, To overthrow them in the wilderness,

²⁷To overthrow their descendants among the nations, And to scatter them in the lands.

²⁸They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, And ate sacrifices made to the dead.

²⁹Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, And the plague broke out among them.

³⁰Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, And the plague was stopped.

³¹And that was accounted to him for righteousness To all generations forevermore.

³²They angered Him also at the waters of strife, So that it went ill with Moses on account of them;

³³Because they rebelled against His Spirit, So that he spoke rashly with his lips.

³⁴They did not destroy the peoples, Concerning whom the LORD had commanded them,

³⁵But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works;

³⁶They served their idols, Which became a snare to them.

³⁷They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons,

³⁸And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood.

³⁹Thus they were defiled by their own works, And played the harlot by their own deeds.

⁴⁰Therefore the wrath of the LORD was kindled against His people, So that He abhorred His own inheritance.

⁴¹And He gave them into the hand of the Gentiles, And those who hated them ruled over them.

⁴²Their enemies also oppressed them, And they were brought into subjection under their hand.

⁴³Many times He delivered them; But they rebelled in their counsel, And were brought low for their iniquity.

⁴⁴Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, When He heard their cry;

⁴⁵And for their sake He remembered His covenant, And relented according to the multitude of His mercies.

⁴⁶He also made them to be pitied By all those who carried them away captive.

⁴⁷Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise.

⁴⁸Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let

all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

PSALM 107

¹Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

³And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south.

⁴They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; They found no city to dwell in.

⁵Hungry and thirsty, Their soul fainted in them.

⁶Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He delivered them out of their distresses.

⁷And He led them forth by the right way, That they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

⁸Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

⁹For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.

¹⁰Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons--

¹¹Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High,

¹²Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and there was none to help.

¹³Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.

¹⁴He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces.

¹⁵Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

¹⁶For He has broken the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron in two.

¹⁷Fools, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

¹⁸Their soul abhorred all manner of food, And they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.

²⁰He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

²¹Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

²²Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.

²³Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters,

²⁴They see the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep.

²⁵For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

²⁶They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

²⁷They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end.

²⁸Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses.

²⁹He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.

³⁰Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven.

³¹Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

³²Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, And praise Him in the company of the elders.

³³He turns rivers into a wilderness, And the watersprings into dry ground;

³⁴A fruitful land into barrenness, For the wickedness of those who dwell in it.

³⁵He turns a wilderness into pools of water, And dry land into watersprings.

³⁶There He makes the hungry dwell, That they may establish a city for a dwelling place,

³⁷And sow fields and plant vineyards, That they may yield a fruitful harvest.

³⁸He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly; And He does not let their cattle decrease.

³⁹When they are diminished and brought low Through oppression, affliction and sorrow,

⁴⁰He pours contempt on princes, And causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no way;

⁴¹Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, And makes their families like a flock.

⁴²The righteous see it and rejoice, And all iniquity stops its mouth.

⁴³Whoever is wise will observe these things, And they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.

PSALM 108

¹O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.

²Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn.

³I will praise You, O LORD, among the peoples, And I will sing praises to You among the nations.

⁴For Your mercy is great above the heavens, And Your truth reaches to the clouds.

⁵Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, And Your glory above all the earth;

⁶That Your beloved may be delivered, Save with Your right hand, and hear me.

⁷God has spoken in His holiness: "I will rejoice; I will divide Shechem And measure out the Valley of Succoth.

⁸Gilead is Mine; Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet for My head; Judah is My lawgiver.

⁹Moab is My washpot; Over Edom I will cast My shoe; Over Philistia I will triumph."

¹⁰Who will bring me into the strong city? Who will lead me to Edom?

¹¹Is it not You, O God, who cast us off? And You, O God, who did not go out with our armies?

¹²Give us help from trouble, For the help of man is useless.

¹³Through God we will do valiantly, For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.

PSALM 109

¹Do not keep silent, O God of my praise!

²For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful Have opened against me; They have spoken against me with a lying tongue.

³They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, And fought against me without a cause.

⁴In return for my love they are my accusers, But I give myself to prayer.

⁵Thus they have rewarded me evil for good, And hatred for my love.

⁶Set a wicked man over him, And let an accuser stand at his right hand.

⁷When he is judged, let him be found guilty, And let his prayer become sin.

⁸Let his days be few, And let another take his office.

⁹Let his children be fatherless, And his wife a widow.

¹⁰Let his children continually be vagabonds, and beg; Let them seek their bread also from their desolate places.

¹¹Let the creditor seize all that he has, And let strangers plunder his labor.

¹²Let there be none to extend mercy to him, Nor let there be any to favor his fatherless children.

¹³Let his posterity be cut off, And in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

¹⁴Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD, And let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.

¹⁵Let them be continually before the LORD, That He may cut off the memory of them from the earth;

¹⁶Because he did not remember to show mercy, But persecuted the poor and needy man, That he might even slay the broken in heart.

¹⁷As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; As he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him.

¹⁸As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, So let it enter his body like water, And like oil into his bones.

¹⁹Let it be to him like the garment which covers him, And for a belt with which he girds himself continually.

²⁰Let this be the LORD's reward to my accusers, And to those who speak evil against my person.

²¹But You, O GOD the Lord, Deal with me for Your name's sake; Because Your mercy is good, deliver me.

²²For I am poor and needy, And my heart is wounded within me.

²³I am gone like a shadow when it lengthens; I am shaken off like a locust.

²⁴My knees are weak through fasting,
And my flesh is feeble from lack of
fatness.

²⁵I also have become a reproach to
them; When they look at me, they shake
their heads.

²⁶Help me, O LORD my God! Oh, save
me according to Your mercy,

²⁷That they may know that this is Your
hand-- That You, LORD, have done it!

²⁸Let them curse, but You bless; When
they arise, let them be ashamed, But let
Your servant rejoice.

²⁹Let my accusers be clothed with
shame, And let them cover themselves
with their own disgrace as with a mantle.

³⁰I will greatly praise the LORD with my
mouth; Yes, I will praise Him among the
multitude.

³¹For He shall stand at the right hand of
the poor, To save him from those who
condemn him.

PSALM 110

¹The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My
right hand, Till I make Your enemies
Your footstool."

²The LORD shall send the rod of Your
strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of
Your enemies!

³Your people shall be volunteers In the
day of Your power; In the beauties of

holiness, from the womb of the morning,
You have the dew of Your youth.

⁴The LORD has sworn And will not
relent, "You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek."

⁵The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall
execute kings in the day of His wrath.

⁶He shall judge among the nations, He
shall fill the places with dead bodies, He
shall execute the heads of many
countries.

⁷He shall drink of the brook by the
wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the
head.

PSALM 111

¹Praise the LORD! I will praise the
LORD with my whole heart, In the
assembly of the upright and in the
congregation.

²The works of the LORD are great,
Studied by all who have pleasure in
them.

³His work is honorable and glorious, And
His righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has made His wonderful works to
be remembered; The LORD is gracious
and full of compassion.

⁵He has given food to those who fear
Him; He will ever be mindful of His
covenant.

⁶He has declared to His people the power of His works, In giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷The works of His hands are verity and justice; All His precepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever, And are done in truth and uprightness.

⁹He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

PSALM 112

¹Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments.

²His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.

⁴Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

⁵A good man deals graciously and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion.

⁶Surely he will never be shaken; The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

⁷He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸His heart is established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.

⁹He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted with honor.

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be grieved; He will gnash his teeth and melt away; The desire of the wicked shall perish.

PSALM 113

¹Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD!

²Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forevermore!

³From the rising of the sun to its going down The LORD's name is to be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high,

⁶Who humbles Himself to behold The things that are in the heavens and in the earth?

⁷He raises the poor out of the dust, And lifts the needy out of the ash heap,

⁸That He may seat him with princes-- With the princes of His people.

⁹He grants the barren woman a home, Like a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 114

¹When Israel went out of Egypt, The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

²Judah became His sanctuary, And Israel His dominion.

³The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back.

⁴The mountains skipped like rams, The little hills like lambs.

⁵What ails you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?

⁶O mountains, that you skipped like rams? O little hills, like lambs?

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸Who turned the rock into a pool of water, The flint into a fountain of waters.

PSALM 115

¹Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

²Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?"

³But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

⁴Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

⁵They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

⁶They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;

⁷They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.

⁸Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

⁹O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

¹⁰O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

¹¹You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

¹²The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.

¹³He will bless those who fear the LORD,
Both small and great.

¹⁴May the LORD give you increase more
and more, You and your children.

¹⁵May you be blessed by the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.

¹⁶The heaven, even the heavens, are
the LORD's; But the earth He has given
to the children of men.

¹⁷The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor
any who go down into silence.

¹⁸But we will bless the LORD From this
time forth and forevermore. Praise the
LORD!

PSALM 116

¹I love the LORD, because He has
heard My voice and my supplications.

²Because He has inclined His ear to me,
Therefore I will call upon Him as long as
I live.

³The pains of death surrounded me, And
the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I
found trouble and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the
LORD: "O LORD, I implore You, deliver
my soul!"

⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
Yes, our God is merciful.

⁶The LORD preserves the simple; I was
brought low, and He saved me.

⁷Return to your rest, O my soul, For the
LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸For You have delivered my soul from
death, My eyes from tears, And my feet
from falling.

⁹I will walk before the LORD In the land
of the living.

¹⁰I believed, therefore I spoke, "I am
greatly afflicted."

¹¹I said in my haste, "All men are liars."

¹²What shall I render to the LORD For
all His benefits toward me?

¹³I will take up the cup of salvation, And
call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in
the presence of all His people.

¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD Is
the death of His saints.

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am Your servant; I am
Your servant, the son of Your
maidservant; You have loosed my
bonds.

¹⁷I will offer to You the sacrifice of
thanksgiving, And will call upon the
name of the LORD.

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in
the presence of all His people,

¹⁹In the courts of the LORD's house, In
the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise
the LORD!

PSALM 117

¹Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles!
Laud Him, all you peoples!

²For His merciful kindness is great
toward us, And the truth of the LORD
endures forever. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 118

¹Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is
good! For His mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures
forever."

³Let the house of Aaron now say, "His
mercy endures forever."

⁴Let those who fear the LORD now say,
"His mercy endures forever."

⁵I called on the LORD in distress; The
LORD answered me and set me in a
broad place.

⁶The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?

⁷The LORD is for me among those who
help me; Therefore I shall see my desire
on those who hate me.

⁸It is better to trust in the LORD Than to
put confidence in man.

⁹It is better to trust in the LORD Than to
put confidence in princes.

¹⁰All nations surrounded me, But in the
name of the LORD I will destroy them.

¹¹They surrounded me, Yes, they
surrounded me; But in the name of the
LORD I will destroy them.

¹²They surrounded me like bees; They
were quenched like a fire of thorns; For
in the name of the LORD I will destroy
them.

¹³You pushed me violently, that I might
fall, But the LORD helped me.

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation.

¹⁵The voice of rejoicing and salvation Is
in the tents of the righteous; The right
hand of the LORD does valiantly.

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted;
The right hand of the LORD does
valiantly.

¹⁷I shall not die, but live, And declare the
works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD has chastened me severely,
But He has not given me over to death.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of
righteousness; I will go through them,
And I will praise the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD, Through
which the righteous shall enter.

²¹I will praise You, For You have
answered me, And have become my
salvation.

²²The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You.

²⁹Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

PSALM 119

¹Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD!

²Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!

³They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways.

⁴You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently.

⁵Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes!

⁶Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments.

⁷I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments.

⁸I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

⁹How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

¹⁰With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

¹¹Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

¹²Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.

¹³With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.

¹⁴I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.

¹⁵I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.

¹⁶I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

¹⁷Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word.

¹⁸Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

¹⁹I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me.

²⁰My soul breaks with longing For Your judgments at all times.

²¹You rebuke the proud--the cursed, Who stray from Your commandments.

²²Remove from me reproach and contempt, For I have kept Your testimonies.

²³Princes also sit and speak against me, But Your servant meditates on Your statutes.

²⁴Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors.

²⁵My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.

²⁶I have declared my ways, and You answered me; Teach me Your statutes.

²⁷Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.

²⁸My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word.

²⁹Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously.

³⁰I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me.

³¹I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame!

³²I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart.

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.

³⁶Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.

³⁷Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.

³⁸Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing You.

³⁹Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your judgments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.

⁴¹Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD-- Your salvation according to Your word.

⁴²So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.

⁴³And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances.

⁴⁴ So shall I keep Your law continually,
Forever and ever.

⁴⁵ And I will walk at liberty, For I seek
Your precepts.

⁴⁶ I will speak of Your testimonies also
before kings, And will not be ashamed.

⁴⁷ And I will delight myself in Your
commandments, Which I love.

⁴⁸ My hands also I will lift up to Your
commandments, Which I love, And I will
meditate on Your statutes.

⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant,
Upon which You have caused me to
hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my affliction, For
Your word has given me life.

⁵¹ The proud have me in great derision,
Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.

⁵² I remembered Your judgments of old,
O LORD, And have comforted myself.

⁵³ Indignation has taken hold of me
Because of the wicked, who forsake
Your law.

⁵⁴ Your statutes have been my songs In
the house of my pilgrimage.

⁵⁵ I remember Your name in the night, O
LORD, And I keep Your law.

⁵⁶ This has become mine, Because I kept
Your precepts.

⁵⁷ You are my portion, O LORD; I have
said that I would keep Your words.

⁵⁸ I entreated Your favor with my whole
heart; Be merciful to me according to
Your word.

⁵⁹ I thought about my ways, And turned
my feet to Your testimonies.

⁶⁰ I made haste, and did not delay To
keep Your commandments.

⁶¹ The cords of the wicked have bound
me, But I have not forgotten Your law.

⁶² At midnight I will rise to give thanks to
You, Because of Your righteous
judgments.

⁶³ I am a companion of all who fear You,
And of those who keep Your precepts.

⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of Your
mercy; Teach me Your statutes.

⁶⁵ You have dealt well with Your servant,
O LORD, according to Your word.

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and
knowledge, For I believe Your
commandments.

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray,
But now I keep Your word.

⁶⁸ You are good, and do good; Teach me
Your statutes.

⁶⁹ The proud have forged a lie against
me, But I will keep Your precepts with
my whole heart.

⁷⁰Their heart is as fat as grease, But I delight in Your law.

⁷¹It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

⁷²The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

⁷³Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.

⁷⁴Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.

⁷⁵I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

⁷⁶Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to Your word to Your servant.

⁷⁷Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; For Your law is my delight.

⁷⁸Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; But I will meditate on Your precepts.

⁷⁹Let those who fear You turn to me, Those who know Your testimonies.

⁸⁰Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.

⁸¹My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

⁸²My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?"

⁸³For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, Yet I do not forget Your statutes.

⁸⁴How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?

⁸⁵The proud have dug pits for me, Which is not according to Your law.

⁸⁶All Your commandments are faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!

⁸⁷They almost made an end of me on earth, But I did not forsake Your precepts.

⁸⁸Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

⁸⁹Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

⁹⁰Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.

⁹¹They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants.

⁹²Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.

⁹³I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.

⁹⁴I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.

⁹⁵The wicked wait for me to destroy me, But I will consider Your testimonies.

⁹⁶I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

⁹⁷Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.

⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

¹⁰¹I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word.

¹⁰²I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me.

¹⁰³How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶I have sworn and confirmed That I will keep Your righteous judgments.

¹⁰⁷I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.

¹⁰⁸Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, And teach me Your judgments.

¹⁰⁹My life is continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Your law.

¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts.

¹¹¹Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they are the rejoicing of my heart.

¹¹²I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end.

¹¹³I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law.

¹¹⁴You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

¹¹⁵Depart from me, you evildoers, For I will keep the commandments of my God!

¹¹⁶Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

¹¹⁷Hold me up, and I shall be safe, And I shall observe Your statutes continually.

¹¹⁸You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, For their deceit is falsehood.

¹¹⁹You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; Therefore I love Your testimonies.

¹²⁰My flesh trembles for fear of You, And I am afraid of Your judgments.

¹²¹I have done justice and righteousness; Do not leave me to my oppressors.

¹²²Be surety for Your servant for good; Do not let the proud oppress me.

¹²³My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation And Your righteous word.

¹²⁴Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, And teach me Your statutes.

¹²⁵I am Your servant; Give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.

¹²⁶It is time for You to act, O LORD, For they have regarded Your law as void.

¹²⁷Therefore I love Your commandments More than gold, yes, than fine gold!

¹²⁸Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.

¹²⁹Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

¹³¹I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.

¹³²Look upon me and be merciful to me, As Your custom is toward those who love Your name.

¹³³Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts.

¹³⁵Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes.

¹³⁶Rivers of water run down from my eyes, Because men do not keep Your law.

¹³⁷Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments.

¹³⁸Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.

¹³⁹My zeal has consumed me, Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.

¹⁴⁰Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.

¹⁴¹I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts.

¹⁴²Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

¹⁴³Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights.

¹⁴⁴The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.

¹⁴⁵I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.

¹⁴⁶I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.

¹⁴⁷I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word.

¹⁴⁸My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.

¹⁴⁹Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to Your justice.

¹⁵⁰They draw near who follow after wickedness; They are far from Your law.

¹⁵¹You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.

¹⁵²Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.

¹⁵³Consider my affliction and deliver me, For I do not forget Your law.

¹⁵⁴Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.

¹⁵⁵Salvation is far from the wicked, For they do not seek Your statutes.

¹⁵⁶Great are Your tender mercies, O LORD; Revive me according to Your judgments.

¹⁵⁷Many are my persecutors and my enemies, Yet I do not turn from Your testimonies.

¹⁵⁸I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, Because they do not keep Your word.

¹⁵⁹Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness.

¹⁶⁰The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

¹⁶¹Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word.

¹⁶²I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.

¹⁶³I hate and abhor lying, But I love Your law.

¹⁶⁴Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments.

¹⁶⁵Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.

¹⁶⁶LORD, I hope for Your salvation, And I do Your commandments.

¹⁶⁷My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly.

¹⁶⁸I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You.

¹⁶⁹Let my cry come before You, O LORD; Give me understanding according to Your word.

¹⁷⁰Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word.

¹⁷¹My lips shall utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes.

¹⁷²My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.

¹⁷³Let Your hand become my help, For I have chosen Your precepts.

¹⁷⁴I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight.

¹⁷⁵Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; And let Your judgments help me.

¹⁷⁶I have gone astray like a lost sheep; Seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments.

PSALM 120

¹In my distress I cried to the LORD, And He heard me.

²Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips And from a deceitful tongue.

³What shall be given to you, Or what shall be done to you, You false tongue?

⁴Sharp arrows of the warrior, With coals of the broom tree!

⁵Woe is me, that I dwell in Meshech, That I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

⁶My soul has dwelt too long With one who hates peace.

⁷I am for peace; But when I speak, they are for war.

PSALM 121

¹I will lift up my eyes to the hills-- From whence comes my help?

²My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

³He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.

⁸The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

PSALM 122

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

²Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

³Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together,

⁴Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."

⁸For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.

PSALM 123

¹Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens.

²Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.

³Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us! For we are exceedingly filled with contempt.

⁴Our soul is exceedingly filled With the scorn of those who are at ease, With the contempt of the proud.

PSALM 124

¹"If it had not been the LORD who was on our side," Let Israel now say--

²"If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us,

³Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us;

⁴Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul;

⁵Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul."

⁶Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

⁷Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

PSALM 125

¹Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

²As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.

³For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest On the land allotted to the righteous, Lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.

⁴Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, And to those who are upright in their hearts.

⁵As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, The LORD shall lead them away With the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!

PSALM 126

¹When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad.

⁴Bring back our captivity, O LORD, As the streams in the South.

⁵Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.

⁶He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

PSALM 127

¹Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

²It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.

³Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

⁵Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

PSALM 128

¹Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.

²When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

³Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.

⁴Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the LORD.

⁵The LORD bless you out of Zion, And
may you see the good of Jerusalem All
the days of your life.

⁶Yes, may you see your children's
children. Peace be upon Israel!

PSALM 129

¹"Many a time they have afflicted me
from my youth," Let Israel now say--

²"Many a time they have afflicted me
from my youth; Yet they have not
prevailed against me.

³The plowers plowed on my back; They
made their furrows long."

⁴The LORD is righteous; He has cut in
pieces the cords of the wicked.

⁵Let all those who hate Zion Be put to
shame and turned back.

⁶Let them be as the grass on the
housetops, Which withers before it
grows up,

⁷With which the reaper does not fill his
hand, Nor he who binds sheaves, his
arms.

⁸Neither let those who pass by them say,
"The blessing of the LORD be upon you;
We bless you in the name of the LORD!"

PSALM 130

¹Out of the depths I have cried to You, O
LORD;

²Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be
attentive To the voice of my
supplications.

³If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O
Lord, who could stand?

⁴But there is forgiveness with You, That
You may be feared.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And
in His word I do hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord More than
those who watch for the morning-- Yes,
more than those who watch for the
morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with
the LORD there is mercy, And with Him
is abundant redemption.

⁸And He shall redeem Israel From all his
iniquities.

PSALM 131

¹LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my
eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself
with great matters, Nor with things too
profound for me.

²Surely I have calmed and quieted my
soul, Like a weaned child with his
mother; Like a weaned child is my soul
within me.

³O Israel, hope in the LORD From this
time forth and forever.

PSALM 132

¹LORD, remember David And all his afflictions;

²How he swore to the LORD, And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³"Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of my bed;

⁴I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids,

⁵Until I find a place for the LORD, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

⁶Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; We found it in the fields of the woods.

⁷Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool.

⁸Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength.

⁹Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy.

¹⁰For Your servant David's sake, Do not turn away the face of Your Anointed.

¹¹The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.

¹²If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I shall teach

them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore."

¹³For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place:

¹⁴"This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

¹⁵I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

¹⁶I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

¹⁷There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed.

¹⁸His enemies I will clothe with shame, But upon Himself His crown shall flourish."

PSALM 133

¹Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

²It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

³It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing-- Life forevermore.

PSALM 134

¹Behold, bless the LORD, All you servants of the LORD, Who by night stand in the house of the LORD!

²Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.

³The LORD who made heaven and earth Bless you from Zion!

PSALM 135

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD!

²You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God,

³Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.

⁴For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

⁵For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods.

⁶Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

⁷He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures.

⁸He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt, Both of man and beast.

⁹He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, Upon Pharaoh and all his servants.

¹⁰He defeated many nations And slew mighty kings--

¹¹Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, And all the kingdoms of Canaan--

¹²And gave their land as a heritage, A heritage to Israel His people.

¹³Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your fame, O LORD, throughout all generations.

¹⁴For the LORD will judge His people, And He will have compassion on His servants.

¹⁵The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

¹⁶They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

¹⁷They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths.

¹⁸Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

¹⁹Bless the LORD, O house of Israel! Bless the LORD, O house of Aaron!

²⁰Bless the LORD, O house of Levi! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!

²¹Blessed be the LORD out of Zion,
Who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the
LORD!

PSALM 136

¹Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is
good! For His mercy endures forever.

²Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For
His mercy endures forever.

³Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For
His mercy endures forever:

⁴To Him who alone does great wonders,
For His mercy endures forever;

⁵To Him who by wisdom made the
heavens, For His mercy endures
forever;

⁶To Him who laid out the earth above
the waters, For His mercy endures
forever;

⁷To Him who made great lights, For His
mercy endures forever--

⁸The sun to rule by day, For His mercy
endures forever;

⁹The moon and stars to rule by night,
For His mercy endures forever.

¹⁰To Him who struck Egypt in their
firstborn, For His mercy endures forever;

¹¹And brought out Israel from among
them, For His mercy endures forever;

¹²With a strong hand, and with an
outstretched arm, For His mercy
endures forever;

¹³To Him who divided the Red Sea in
two, For His mercy endures forever;

¹⁴And made Israel pass through the
midst of it, For His mercy endures
forever;

¹⁵But overthrew Pharaoh and his army
in the Red Sea, For His mercy endures
forever;

¹⁶To Him who led His people through
the wilderness, For His mercy endures
forever;

¹⁷To Him who struck down great kings,
For His mercy endures forever;

¹⁸And slew famous kings, For His mercy
endures forever--

¹⁹Sihon king of the Amorites, For His
mercy endures forever;

²⁰And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy
endures forever--

²¹And gave their land as a heritage, For
His mercy endures forever;

²²A heritage to Israel His servant, For
His mercy endures forever.

²³Who remembered us in our lowly state,
For His mercy endures forever;

²⁴And rescued us from our enemies, For
His mercy endures forever;

²⁵Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.

²⁶Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.

PSALM 137

¹By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion.

²We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it.

³For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

⁴How shall we sing the LORD's song In a foreign land?

⁵If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill!

⁶If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth-- If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.

⁷Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom The day of Jerusalem, Who said, "Raze it, raze it, To its very foundation!"

⁸O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, Happy the one who repays you as you have served us!

⁹Happy the one who takes and dashes Your little ones against the rock!

PSALM 138

¹I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You.

²I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

³In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul.

⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, When they hear the words of Your mouth.

⁵Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, For great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.

⁸The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

PSALM 139

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

⁹If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the

day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

¹⁹Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

²⁰For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain.

²¹Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

²²I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

PSALM 140

¹Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; Preserve me from violent men,

²Who plan evil things in their hearts; They continually gather together for war.

³They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; The poison of asps is under their lips.Selah

⁴Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; Preserve me from violent men, Who have purposed to make my steps stumble.

⁵The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords; They have spread a net by the wayside; They have set traps for me.Selah

⁶I said to the LORD: "You are my God; Hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD.

⁷O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle.

⁸Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; Do not further his wicked scheme, Lest they be exalted.Selah

⁹"As for the head of those who surround me, Let the evil of their lips cover them;

¹⁰Let burning coals fall upon them; Let them be cast into the fire, Into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

¹¹Let not a slanderer be established in the earth; Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow him."

¹²I know that the LORD will maintain The cause of the afflicted, And justice for the poor.

¹³Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.

PSALM 141

¹LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You.

²Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

³Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

⁴Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies.

⁵Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it. For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

⁶Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff, And they hear my words, for they are sweet.

⁷Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, As when one plows and breaks up the earth.

⁸But my eyes are upon You, O GOD the Lord; In You I take refuge; Do not leave my soul destitute.

⁹Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, And from the traps of the workers of iniquity.

¹⁰Let the wicked fall into their own nets, While I escape safely.

PSALM 142

¹I cry out to the LORD with my voice; With my voice to the LORD I make my supplication.

²I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

³When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk They have secretly set a snare for me.

⁴Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul.

⁵I cried out to You, O LORD: I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.

⁶Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I.

⁷Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name; The righteous shall surround me, For You shall deal bountifully with me."

PSALM 143

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness.

²Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous.

³For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead.

⁴Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.

⁵I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.

⁶I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Selah

⁷Answer me speedily, O LORD; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

⁸Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.

⁹Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; In You I take shelter.

¹⁰Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

¹¹Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

¹²In Your mercy cut off my enemies, And destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.

PSALM 144

¹Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle--

²My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.

³LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?

⁴Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

⁵Bow down Your heavens, O LORD, and come down; Touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

⁶Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them.

⁷Stretch out Your hand from above; Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, From the hand of foreigners,

⁸Whose mouth speaks lying words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

⁹I will sing a new song to You, O God; On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,

¹⁰The One who gives salvation to kings, Who delivers David His servant From the deadly sword.

¹¹Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, Whose mouth speaks lying words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood--

¹²That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; That our daughters may be as pillars, Sculptured in palace style;

¹³That our barns may be full, Supplying all kinds of produce; That our sheep may bring forth thousands And ten thousands in our fields;

¹⁴That our oxen may be well laden; That there be no breaking in or going out; That there be no outcry in our streets.

¹⁵Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

PSALM 145

¹I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

²Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.

⁵I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.

⁶Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness.

⁷They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.

⁹The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

¹⁰All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You.

¹¹They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power,

¹²To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

¹⁴The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season.

¹⁶You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.

¹⁸The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

¹⁹He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

²⁰The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.

²¹My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

PSALM 146

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.

⁴His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish.

⁵Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶Who made heaven and earth, The sea,
and all that is in them; Who keeps truth
forever,

⁷Who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry. The
LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
The LORD raises those who are bowed
down; The LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
He relieves the fatherless and widow;
But the way of the wicked He turns
upside down.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever-- Your
God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise
the LORD!

PSALM 147

¹Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing
praises to our God; For it is pleasant,
and praise is beautiful.

²The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He
gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted And binds
up their wounds.

⁴He counts the number of the stars; He
calls them all by name.

⁵Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;
His understanding is infinite.

⁶The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts
the wicked down to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
Sing praises on the harp to our God,

⁸Who covers the heavens with clouds,
Who prepares rain for the earth, Who
makes grass to grow on the mountains.

⁹He gives to the beast its food, And to
the young ravens that cry.

¹⁰He does not delight in the strength of
the horse; He takes no pleasure in the
legs of a man.

¹¹The LORD takes pleasure in those
who fear Him, In those who hope in His
mercy.

¹²Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise
your God, O Zion!

¹³For He has strengthened the bars of
your gates; He has blessed your
children within you.

¹⁴He makes peace in your borders, And
fills you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵He sends out His command to the
earth; His word runs very swiftly.

¹⁶He gives snow like wool; He scatters
the frost like ashes;

¹⁷He casts out His hail like morsels;
Who can stand before His cold?

¹⁸He sends out His word and melts
them; He causes His wind to blow, and
the waters flow.

¹⁹He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel.

²⁰He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 148

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!

²Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!

³Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!

⁴Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

⁶He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, You great sea creatures and all the depths;

⁸Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

⁹Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars;

¹⁰Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and flying fowl;

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth;

¹²Both young men and maidens; Old men and children.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.

¹⁴And He has exalted the horn of His people, The praise of all His saints-- Of the children of Israel, A people near to Him. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 149

¹Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints.

²Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

³Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.

⁴For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.

⁵Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.

⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

⁷To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples;

⁸To bind their kings with chains, And
their nobles with fetters of iron;

⁹To execute on them the written
judgment-- This honor have all His
saints. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 150

¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in His
sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty
firmament!

²Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise
Him according to His excellent
greatness!

³Praise Him with the sound of the
trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and
harp!

⁴Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;
Praise Him with stringed instruments
and flutes!

⁵Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise
Him with clashing cymbals!

⁶Let everything that has breath praise
the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Proverbs

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

²To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding,

³To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;

⁴To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion--

⁵A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

⁶To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

⁸My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;

⁹For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

¹⁰My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.

¹¹If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause;

¹²Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit;

¹³We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil;

¹⁴Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse"--

¹⁵My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path;

¹⁶For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.

¹⁷Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird;

¹⁸But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives.

¹⁹So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.

²⁰Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares.

²¹She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words:

²²"How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.

²³Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

²⁴Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,

²⁵Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,

²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,

²⁷When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

²⁸"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

²⁹Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD,

³⁰They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke.

³¹Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

³²For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them;

³³But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil."

2 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

²So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;

³Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,

⁴If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;

⁵Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

⁶For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

⁷He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;

⁸He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.

⁹Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.

¹⁰When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,

¹¹Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you,

¹²To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things,

¹³From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness;

¹⁴Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked;

¹⁵Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths;

¹⁶To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words,

¹⁷Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.

¹⁸For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead;

¹⁹None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life--

²⁰So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness.

²¹For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it;

²²But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

3 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;

²For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.

³Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,

⁴And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

⁸It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

⁹Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

¹¹My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;

¹²For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

¹³Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;

¹⁴For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.

¹⁵She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

¹⁶Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor.

¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace.

¹⁸She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.

¹⁹The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens;

²⁰By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.

²¹My son, let them not depart from your eyes-- Keep sound wisdom and discretion;

²²So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck.

²³Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble.

²⁴When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

²⁵Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;

²⁶For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

²⁷Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so.

²⁸Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you.

²⁹Do not devise evil against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety's sake.

³⁰Do not strive with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm.

³¹Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways;

³²For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright.

³³The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just.

³⁴Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.

³⁵The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

4Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;

²For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law.

³When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,

⁴He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

⁵Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

⁶Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you.

⁷Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

⁸Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.

⁹She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."

¹⁰Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

¹¹I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.

¹²When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble.

¹³Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.

¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

¹⁵Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

¹⁶For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.

¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.

¹⁸But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

¹⁹The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

²⁰My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;

²²For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

²³Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

²⁴Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.

²⁵Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.

²⁶Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.

²⁷Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

5 My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding,

² That you may preserve discretion, And
your lips may keep knowledge.

³ For the lips of an immoral woman drip
honey, And her mouth is smoother than
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
lay hold of hell.

⁶ Lest you ponder her path of life-- Her
ways are unstable; You do not know
them.

⁷ Therefore hear me now, my children,
And do not depart from the words of my
mouth.

⁸ Remove your way far from her, And do
not go near the door of her house,

⁹ Lest you give your honor to others, And
your years to the cruel one;

¹⁰ Lest aliens be filled with your wealth,
And your labors go to the house of a
foreigner;

¹¹ And you mourn at last, When your
flesh and your body are consumed,

¹² And say: "How I have hated instruction,
And my heart despised correction!"

¹³ I have not obeyed the voice of my
teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those
who instructed me!

¹⁴ I was on the verge of total ruin, In the
midst of the assembly and
congregation."

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern, And
running water from your own well.

¹⁶ Should your fountains be dispersed
abroad, Streams of water in the streets?

¹⁷ Let them be only your own, And not for
strangers with you.

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, And
rejoice with the wife of your youth.

¹⁹ As a loving deer and a graceful doe,
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
And always be enraptured with her love.

²⁰ For why should you, my son, be
enraptured by an immoral woman, And
be embraced in the arms of a
seductress?

²¹ For the ways of man are before the
eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all
his paths.

²² His own iniquities entrap the wicked
man, And he is caught in the cords of
his sin.

²³ He shall die for lack of instruction, And
in the greatness of his folly he shall go
astray.

6 My son, if you become surety for your friend, If you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger,

² You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth.

³ So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend.

⁴ Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids.

⁵ Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,

⁷ Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler,

⁸ Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest.

⁹ How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep--

¹¹ So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

¹² A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth;

¹³ He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers;

¹⁴ Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord.

¹⁵ Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

¹⁶ These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,

¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

²⁰ My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother.

²¹ Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck.

²² When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you.

²³ For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,

²⁴ To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress.

²⁵Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.

²⁶For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

²⁷Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned?

²⁸Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?

²⁹So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

³⁰People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving.

³¹Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house.

³²Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.

³³Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.

³⁴For jealousy is a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

³⁵He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

7 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.

²Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye.

³Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your nearest kin,

⁵That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words.

⁶For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice,

⁷And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, A young man devoid of understanding,

⁸Passing along the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house

⁹In the twilight, in the evening, In the black and dark night.

¹⁰And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

¹¹She was loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home.

¹²At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner.

¹³So she caught him and kissed him;
With an impudent face she said to him:

¹⁴"I have peace offerings with me; Today
I have paid my vows.

¹⁵So I came out to meet you, Diligently
to seek your face, And I have found you.

¹⁶I have spread my bed with tapestry,
Colored coverings of Egyptian linen.

¹⁷I have perfumed my bed With myrrh,
aloes, and cinnamon.

¹⁸Come, let us take our fill of love until
morning; Let us delight ourselves with
love.

¹⁹For my husband is not at home; He
has gone on a long journey;

²⁰He has taken a bag of money with him,
And will come home on the appointed
day."

²¹With her enticing speech she caused
him to yield, With her flattering lips she
seduced him.

²²Immediately he went after her, as an
ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to
the correction of the stocks,

²³Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird
hastens to the snare, He did not know it
would cost his life.

²⁴Now therefore, listen to me, my
children; Pay attention to the words of
my mouth:

²⁵Do not let your heart turn aside to her
ways, Do not stray into her paths;

²⁶For she has cast down many wounded,
And all who were slain by her were
strong men.

²⁷Her house is the way to hell,
Descending to the chambers of death.

8 Does not wisdom cry out, And
understanding lift up her voice?

²She takes her stand on the top of the
high hill, Beside the way, where the
paths meet.

³She cries out by the gates, at the entry
of the city, At the entrance of the doors:

⁴"To you, O men, I call, And my voice is
to the sons of men.

⁵O you simple ones, understand
prudence, And you fools, be of an
understanding heart.

⁶Listen, for I will speak of excellent
things, And from the opening of my lips
will come right things;

⁷For my mouth will speak truth;
Wickedness is an abomination to my
lips.

⁸All the words of my mouth are with
righteousness; Nothing crooked or
perverse is in them.

⁹They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.

¹⁰Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold;

¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

¹²"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

¹³The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

¹⁴Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength.

¹⁵By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.

¹⁶By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth.

¹⁷I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

¹⁸Riches and honor are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness.

¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver.

²⁰I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice,

²¹That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.

²²"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

²³I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.

²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water.

²⁵Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth;

²⁶While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world.

²⁷When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep,

²⁸When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,

²⁹When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

³¹Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men.

³²"Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways.

³³Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it.

³⁴Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.

³⁵For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD;

³⁶But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

9 Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

²She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table.

³She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city,

⁴"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,

⁵"Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding.

⁷"He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.

⁸Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

¹⁰"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

¹¹For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

¹²If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone."

¹³A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing.

¹⁴For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city,

¹⁵To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way:

¹⁶"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here"; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,

¹⁷"Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

¹⁸But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.

10 The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

²Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death.

³The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked.

⁴He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

⁵He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

⁶Blessings are on the head of the righteous, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

⁷The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.

⁸The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall.

⁹He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

¹⁰He who winks with the eye causes trouble, But a prating fool will fall.

¹¹The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

¹²Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

¹³Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

¹⁴Wise people store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

¹⁵The rich man's wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty.

¹⁶The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin.

¹⁷He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.

¹⁸Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.

¹⁹In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

²⁰The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little.

²¹The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom.

²²The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.

²³To do evil is like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom.

²⁴The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted.

²⁵When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

²⁶As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy man to those who send him.

²⁷The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

²⁸The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.

²⁹The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

³⁰The righteous will never be removed, But the wicked will not inhabit the earth.

³¹The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out.

³²The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

11 Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.

²When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

³The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

⁴Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

⁵The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

⁶The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.

⁷When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes.

⁸The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead.

⁹The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

¹⁰When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.

¹¹By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

¹²He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding holds his peace.

¹³A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

¹⁴Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

¹⁵He who is surety for a stranger will suffer, But one who hates being surety is secure.

¹⁶A gracious woman retains honor, But ruthless men retain riches.

¹⁷The merciful man does good for his own soul, But he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.

¹⁸The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.

¹⁹As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.

²⁰Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in their ways are His delight.

²¹Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; But the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.

²²As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.

²³The desire of the righteous is only good, But the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

²⁴There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.

²⁵The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

²⁶The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

²⁷He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil.

²⁸He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage.

²⁹He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

³⁰The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.

³¹If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner.

12 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.

²A good man obtains favor from the LORD, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.

³A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.

⁴An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

⁵The thoughts of the righteous are right,
But the counsels of the wicked are
deceitful.

⁶The words of the wicked are, "Lie in
wait for blood," But the mouth of the
upright will deliver them.

⁷The wicked are overthrown and are no
more, But the house of the righteous will
stand.

⁸A man will be commended according to
his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse
heart will be despised.

⁹Better is the one who is slighted but
has a servant, Than he who honors
himself but lacks bread.

¹⁰A righteous man regards the life of his
animal, But the tender mercies of the
wicked are cruel.

¹¹He who tills his land will be satisfied
with bread, But he who follows frivolity is
devoid of understanding.

¹²The wicked covet the catch of evil men,
But the root of the righteous yields fruit.

¹³The wicked is ensnared by the
transgression of his lips, But the
righteous will come through trouble.

¹⁴A man will be satisfied with good by
the fruit of his mouth, And the
recompense of a man's hands will be
rendered to him.

¹⁵The way of a fool is right in his own
eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

¹⁶A fool's wrath is known at once, But a
prudent man covers shame.

¹⁷He who speaks truth declares
righteousness, But a false witness,
deceit.

¹⁸There is one who speaks like the
piercings of a sword, But the tongue of
the wise promotes health.

¹⁹The truthful lip shall be established
forever, But a lying tongue is but for a
moment.

²⁰Deceit is in the heart of those who
devise evil, But counselors of peace
have joy.

²¹No grave trouble will overtake the
righteous, But the wicked shall be filled
with evil.

²²Lying lips are an abomination to the
LORD, But those who deal truthfully are
His delight.

²³A prudent man conceals knowledge,
But the heart of fools proclaims
foolishness.

²⁴The hand of the diligent will rule, But
the lazy man will be put to forced labor.

²⁵Anxiety in the heart of man causes
depression, But a good word makes it
glad.

²⁶The righteous should choose his
friends carefully, For the way of the
wicked leads them astray.

²⁷The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession.

²⁸In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death.

13 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

²A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.

³He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

⁴The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

⁵A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.

⁶Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner.

⁷There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.

⁸The ransom of a man's life is his riches, But the poor does not hear rebuke.

⁹The light of the righteous rejoices, But the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

¹⁰By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.

¹¹Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase.

¹²Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

¹³He who despises the word will be destroyed, But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.

¹⁴The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

¹⁵Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.

¹⁶Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.

¹⁷A wicked messenger falls into trouble, But a faithful ambassador brings health.

¹⁸Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

¹⁹A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.

²⁰He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

²¹Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.

²²A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

²³Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, And for lack of justice there is waste.

²⁴He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

²⁵The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, But the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.

14The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

²He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, But he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.

³In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them.

⁴Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of an ox.

⁵A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.

⁶A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, But knowledge is easy to him who understands.

⁷Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.

⁸The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, But the folly of fools is deceit.

⁹Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is favor.

¹⁰The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy.

¹¹The house of the wicked will be overthrown, But the tent of the upright will flourish.

¹²There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

¹³Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth may be grief.

¹⁴The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied from above.

¹⁵The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.

¹⁶A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident.

¹⁷A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated.

¹⁸The simple inherit folly, But the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

¹⁹The evil will bow before the good, And the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

²⁰The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, But the rich has many friends.

²¹He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

²²Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.

²³In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

²⁴The crown of the wise is their riches, But the foolishness of fools is folly.

²⁵A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful witness speaks lies.

²⁶In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

²⁷The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

²⁸In a multitude of people is a king's honor, But in the lack of people is the downfall of a prince.

²⁹He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.

³⁰A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.

³¹He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

³²The wicked is banished in his wickedness, But the righteous has a refuge in his death.

³³Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, But what is in the heart of fools is made known.

³⁴Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.

³⁵The king's favor is toward a wise servant, But his wrath is against him who causes shame.

15 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

²The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

³The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

⁴A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

⁵A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent.

⁶In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, But in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.

⁷The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool does not do so.

⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

⁹The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves him who follows righteousness.

¹⁰Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, And he who hates correction will die.

¹¹Hell and Destruction are before the LORD; So how much more the hearts of the sons of men.

¹²A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.

¹³A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

¹⁴The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

¹⁵All the days of the afflicted are evil, But he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

¹⁶Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble.

¹⁷Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, Than a fatted calf with hatred.

¹⁸A wrathful man stirs up strife, But he who is slow to anger allays contention.

¹⁹The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, But the way of the upright is a highway.

²⁰A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother.

²¹Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly.

²²Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

²³A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

²⁴The way of life winds upward for the wise, That he may turn away from hell below.

²⁵The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.

²⁶The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, But the words of the pure are pleasant.

²⁷He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.

²⁸The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

²⁹The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

³⁰The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,
And a good report makes the bones
healthy.

³¹The ear that hears the rebukes of life
Will abide among the wise.

³²He who disdains instruction despises
his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke
gets understanding.

³³The fear of the LORD is the instruction
of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

16The preparations of the heart
belong to man, But the answer of the
tongue is from the LORD.

²All the ways of a man are pure in his
own eyes, But the LORD weighs the
spirits.

³Commit your works to the LORD, And
your thoughts will be established.

⁴The LORD has made all for Himself,
Yes, even the wicked for the day of
doom.

⁵Everyone proud in heart is an
abomination to the LORD; Though they
join forces, none will go unpunished.

⁶In mercy and truth Atonement is
provided for iniquity; And by the fear of
the LORD one departs from evil.

⁷When a man's ways please the LORD,
He makes even his enemies to be at
peace with him.

⁸Better is a little with righteousness,
Than vast revenues without justice.

⁹A man's heart plans his way, But the
LORD directs his steps.

¹⁰Divination is on the lips of the king; His
mouth must not transgress in judgment.

¹¹Honest weights and scales are the
LORD's; All the weights in the bag are
His work.

¹²It is an abomination for kings to
commit wickedness, For a throne is
established by righteousness.

¹³Righteous lips are the delight of kings,
And they love him who speaks what is
right.

¹⁴As messengers of death is the king's
wrath, But a wise man will appease it.

¹⁵In the light of the king's face is life, And
his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain.

¹⁶How much better to get wisdom than
gold! And to get understanding is to be
chosen rather than silver.

¹⁷The highway of the upright is to depart
from evil; He who keeps his way
preserves his soul.

¹⁸Pride goes before destruction, And a
haughty spirit before a fall.

¹⁹Better to be of a humble spirit with the
lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the
proud.

²⁰He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

²¹The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.

²²Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly.

²³The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips.

²⁴Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

²⁵There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

²⁶The person who labors, labors for himself, For his hungry mouth drives him on.

²⁷An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire.

²⁸A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

²⁹A violent man entices his neighbor, And leads him in a way that is not good.

³⁰He winks his eye to devise perverse things; He purses his lips and brings about evil.

³¹The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness.

³²He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

³³The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

17 Better is a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting with strife.

²A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, And will share an inheritance among the brothers.

³The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.

⁴An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

⁵He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

⁶Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father.

⁷Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, Much less lying lips to a prince.

⁸A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; Wherever he turns, he prospers.

⁹He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

¹⁰ Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.

¹¹ An evil man seeks only rebellion; Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

¹² Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his folly.

¹³ Whoever rewards evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house.

¹⁴ The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

¹⁵ He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.

¹⁶ Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, Since he has no heart for it?

¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

¹⁸ A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, And becomes surety for his friend.

¹⁹ He who loves transgression loves strife, And he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.

²⁰ He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

²¹ He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy.

²² A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.

²³ A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back To pervert the ways of justice.

²⁴ Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him.

²⁶ Also, to punish the righteous is not good, Nor to strike princes for their uprightness.

²⁷ He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

²⁸ Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

18 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

² A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

³ When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; And with dishonor comes reproach.

⁴ The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.

⁵It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

⁶A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows.

⁷A fool's mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul.

⁸The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.

⁹He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

¹⁰The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

¹¹The rich man's wealth is his strong city, And like a high wall in his own esteem.

¹²Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility.

¹³He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.

¹⁴The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a broken spirit?

¹⁵The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

¹⁶A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.

¹⁷The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

¹⁸Casting lots causes contentions to cease, And keeps the mighty apart.

¹⁹A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.

²⁰A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

²¹Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

²²He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.

²³The poor man uses entreaties, But the rich answers roughly.

²⁴A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

19 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

²Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, And he sins who hastens with his feet.

³The foolishness of a man twists his way, And his heart frets against the LORD.

⁴Wealth makes many friends, But the poor is separated from his friend.

⁵A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies will not escape.

⁶Many entreat the favor of the nobility, And every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.

⁷All the brothers of the poor hate him; How much more do his friends go far from him! He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.

⁸He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good.

⁹A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies shall perish.

¹⁰Luxury is not fitting for a fool, Much less for a servant to rule over princes.

¹¹The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.

¹²The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, But his favor is like dew on the grass.

¹³A foolish son is the ruin of his father, And the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.

¹⁴Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

¹⁵Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.

¹⁶He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, But he who is careless of his ways will die.

¹⁷He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.

¹⁸Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

¹⁹A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

²⁰Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.

²¹There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel--that will stand.

²²What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar.

²³The fear of the LORD leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.

²⁴A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

²⁵Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; Rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.

²⁶He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

²⁷Cease listening to instruction, my son,
And you will stray from the words of
knowledge.

²⁸A disreputable witness scorns justice,
And the mouth of the wicked devours
iniquity.

²⁹Judgments are prepared for scoffers,
And beatings for the backs of fools.

20Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is
a brawler, And whoever is led astray by
it is not wise.

²The wrath of a king is like the roaring of
a lion; Whoever provokes him to anger
sins against his own life.

³It is honorable for a man to stop striving,
Since any fool can start a quarrel.

⁴The lazy man will not plow because of
winter; He will beg during harvest and
have nothing.

⁵Counsel in the heart of man is like deep
water, But a man of understanding will
draw it out.

⁶Most men will proclaim each his own
goodness, But who can find a faithful
man?

⁷The righteous man walks in his
integrity; His children are blessed after
him.

⁸A king who sits on the throne of
judgment Scatters all evil with his eyes.

⁹Who can say, "I have made my heart
clean, I am pure from my sin"?

¹⁰Diverse weights and diverse measures,
They are both alike, an abomination to
the LORD.

¹¹Even a child is known by his deeds,
Whether what he does is pure and right.

¹²The hearing ear and the seeing eye,
The LORD has made them both.

¹³Do not love sleep, lest you come to
poverty; Open your eyes, and you will
be satisfied with bread.

¹⁴"It is good for nothing," cries the buyer;
But when he has gone his way, then he
boasts.

¹⁵There is gold and a multitude of rubies,
But the lips of knowledge are a precious
jewel.

¹⁶Take the garment of one who is surety
for a stranger, And hold it as a pledge
when it is for a seductress.

¹⁷Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a
man, But afterward his mouth will be
filled with gravel.

¹⁸Plans are established by counsel; By
wise counsel wage war.

¹⁹He who goes about as a talebearer
reveals secrets; Therefore do not
associate with one who flatters with his
lips.

²⁰Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness.

²¹An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning Will not be blessed at the end.

²²Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

²³Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, And dishonest scales are not good.

²⁴A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?

²⁵It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows.

²⁶A wise king sifts out the wicked, And brings the threshing wheel over them.

²⁷The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.

²⁸Mercy and truth preserve the king, And by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.

²⁹The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head.

³⁰Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, As do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

21 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

²Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

³To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

⁴A haughty look, a proud heart, And the plowing of the wicked are sin.

⁵The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

⁶Getting treasures by a lying tongue Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.

⁷The violence of the wicked will destroy them, Because they refuse to do justice.

⁸The way of a guilty man is perverse; But as for the pure, his work is right.

⁹Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

¹⁰The soul of the wicked desires evil; His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

¹¹When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

¹²The righteous God wisely considers
the house of the wicked, Overthrowing
the wicked for their wickedness.

¹³Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of
the poor Will also cry himself and not be
heard.

¹⁴A gift in secret pacifies anger, And a
bribe behind the back, strong wrath.

¹⁵It is a joy for the just to do justice, But
destruction will come to the workers of
iniquity.

¹⁶A man who wanders from the way of
understanding Will rest in the assembly
of the dead.

¹⁷He who loves pleasure will be a poor
man; He who loves wine and oil will not
be rich.

¹⁸The wicked shall be a ransom for the
righteous, And the unfaithful for the
upright.

¹⁹Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than
with a contentious and angry woman.

²⁰There is desirable treasure, And oil in
the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish
man squanders it.

²¹He who follows righteousness and
mercy Finds life, righteousness and
honor.

²²A wise man scales the city of the
mighty, And brings down the trusted
stronghold.

²³Whoever guards his mouth and tongue
Keeps his soul from troubles.

²⁴A proud and haughty man--"Scoffer" is
his name; He acts with arrogant pride.

²⁵The desire of the lazy man kills him,
For his hands refuse to labor.

²⁶He covets greedily all day long, But
the righteous gives and does not spare.

²⁷The sacrifice of the wicked is an
abomination; How much more when he
brings it with wicked intent!

²⁸A false witness shall perish, But the
man who hears him will speak endlessly.

²⁹A wicked man hardens his face, But as
for the upright, he establishes his way.

³⁰There is no wisdom or understanding
Or counsel against the LORD.

³¹The horse is prepared for the day of
battle, But deliverance is of the LORD.

22 A good name is to be chosen
rather than great riches, Loving favor
rather than silver and gold.

²The rich and the poor have this in
common, The LORD is the maker of
them all.

³A prudent man foresees evil and hides
himself, But the simple pass on and are
punished.

⁴By humility and the fear of the LORD
Are riches and honor and life.

⁵Thorns and snares are in the way of the
perverse; He who guards his soul will be
far from them.

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart
from it.

⁷The rich rules over the poor, And the
borrower is servant to the lender.

⁸He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow,
And the rod of his anger will fail.

⁹He who has a generous eye will be
blessed, For he gives of his bread to the
poor.

¹⁰Cast out the scoffer, and contention
will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will
cease.

¹¹He who loves purity of heart And has
grace on his lips, The king will be his
friend.

¹²The eyes of the LORD preserve
knowledge, But He overthrows the
words of the faithless.

¹³The lazy man says, "There is a lion
outside! I shall be slain in the streets!"

¹⁴The mouth of an immoral woman is a
deep pit; He who is abhorred by the
LORD will fall there.

¹⁵Foolishness is bound up in the heart of
a child; The rod of correction will drive it
far from him.

¹⁶He who oppresses the poor to
increase his riches, And he who gives to
the rich, will surely come to poverty.

¹⁷Incline your ear and hear the words of
the wise, And apply your heart to my
knowledge;

¹⁸For it is a pleasant thing if you keep
them within you; Let them all be fixed
upon your lips,

¹⁹So that your trust may be in the LORD;
I have instructed you today, even you.

²⁰Have I not written to you excellent
things Of counsels and knowledge,

²¹That I may make you know the
certainty of the words of truth, That you
may answer words of truth To those
who send to you?

²²Do not rob the poor because he is
poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the
gate;

²³For the LORD will plead their cause,
And plunder the soul of those who
plunder them.

²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man,
And with a furious man do not go,

²⁵Lest you learn his ways And set a
snare for your soul.

²⁶Do not be one of those who shakes
hands in a pledge, One of those who is
surety for debts;

²⁷If you have nothing with which to pay,
Why should he take away your bed from
under you?

²⁸Do not remove the ancient landmark
Which your fathers have set.

²⁹Do you see a man who excels in his
work? He will stand before kings; He will
not stand before unknown men.

23 When you sit down to eat with a
ruler, Consider carefully what is before
you;

²And put a knife to your throat If you are
a man given to appetite.

³Do not desire his delicacies, For they
are deceptive food.

⁴Do not overwork to be rich; Because of
your own understanding, cease!

⁵Will you set your eyes on that which is
not? For riches certainly make
themselves wings; They fly away like an
eagle toward heaven.

⁶Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor
desire his delicacies;

⁷For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.
"Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his
heart is not with you.

⁸The morsel you have eaten, you will
vomit up, And waste your pleasant
words.

⁹Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,
For he will despise the wisdom of your
words.

¹⁰Do not remove the ancient landmark,
Nor enter the fields of the fatherless;

¹¹For their Redeemer is mighty; He will
plead their cause against you.

¹²Apply your heart to instruction, And
your ears to words of knowledge.

¹³Do not withhold correction from a child,
For if you beat him with a rod, he will not
die.

¹⁴You shall beat him with a rod, And
deliver his soul from hell.

¹⁵My son, if your heart is wise, My heart
will rejoice--indeed, I myself;

¹⁶Yes, my inmost being will rejoice
When your lips speak right things.

¹⁷Do not let your heart envy sinners, But
be zealous for the fear of the LORD all
the day;

¹⁸For surely there is a hereafter, And
your hope will not be cut off.

¹⁹Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide
your heart in the way.

²⁰Do not mix with winebibbers, Or with
gluttonous eaters of meat;

²¹For the drunkard and the glutton will
come to poverty, And drowsiness will
clothe a man with rags.

²²Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when
she is old.

²³Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also
wisdom and instruction and
understanding.

²⁴The father of the righteous will greatly
rejoice, And he who begets a wise child
will delight in him.

²⁵Let your father and your mother be
glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.

²⁶My son, give me your heart, And let
your eyes observe my ways.

²⁷For a harlot is a deep pit, And a
seductress is a narrow well.

²⁸She also lies in wait as for a victim,
And increases the unfaithful among men.

²⁹Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who
has contentions? Who has complaints?
Who has wounds without cause? Who
has redness of eyes?

³⁰Those who linger long at the wine,
Those who go in search of mixed wine.

³¹Do not look on the wine when it is red,
When it sparkles in the cup, When it
swirls around smoothly;

³²At the last it bites like a serpent, And
stings like a viper.

³³Your eyes will see strange things, And
your heart will utter perverse things.

³⁴Yes, you will be like one who lies down
in the midst of the sea, Or like one who
lies at the top of the mast, saying:

³⁵"They have struck me, but I was not
hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not
feel it. When shall I awake, that I may
seek another drink?

24 Do not be envious of evil men,
Nor desire to be with them;

²For their heart devises violence, And
their lips talk of troublemaking.

³Through wisdom a house is built, And
by understanding it is established;

⁴By knowledge the rooms are filled With
all precious and pleasant riches.

⁵A wise man is strong, Yes, a man of
knowledge increases strength;

⁶For by wise counsel you will wage your
own war, And in a multitude of
counselors there is safety.

⁷Wisdom is too lofty for a fool; He does
not open his mouth in the gate.

⁸He who plots to do evil Will be called a
schemer.

⁹The devising of foolishness is sin, And
the scoffer is an abomination to men.

¹⁰If you faint in the day of adversity,
Your strength is small.

¹¹ Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.

¹² If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

¹³ My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste;

¹⁴ So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.

¹⁵ Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place;

¹⁶ For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

¹⁷ Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;

¹⁸ Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.

¹⁹ Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked;

²⁰ For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.

²¹ My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change;

²² For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring?

²³ These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment.

²⁴ He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him.

²⁵ But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them.

²⁶ He who gives a right answer kisses the lips.

²⁷ Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

²⁸ Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, For would you deceive with your lips?

²⁹ Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

³⁰ I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;

³¹ And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down.

³²When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:

³³A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest;

³⁴So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

25 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied:

²It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

³As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable.

⁴Take away the dross from silver, And it will go to the silversmith for jewelry.

⁵Take away the wicked from before the king, And his throne will be established in righteousness.

⁶Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great;

⁷For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.

⁸Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame?

⁹Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another;

¹⁰Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined.

¹¹A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

¹²Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

¹³Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters.

¹⁴Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain.

¹⁵By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

¹⁶Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit.

¹⁷Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, Lest he become weary of you and hate you.

¹⁸A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.

¹⁹Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.

²⁰Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, And like vinegar on soda, Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

²¹If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;

²²For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

²³The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.

²⁴It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

²⁵As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country.

²⁶A righteous man who falters before the wicked Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.

²⁷It is not good to eat much honey; So to seek one's own glory is not glory.

²⁸Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.

26As snow in summer and rain in harvest, So honor is not fitting for a fool.

²Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight.

³A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back.

⁴Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.

⁵Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.

⁶He who sends a message by the hand of a fool Cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

⁷Like the legs of the lame that hang limp Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

⁸Like one who binds a stone in a sling Is he who gives honor to a fool.

⁹Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

¹⁰The great God who formed everything Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.

¹¹As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

¹²Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

¹³The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!"

¹⁴As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed.

¹⁵The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.

¹⁶The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.

¹⁷He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own Is like one who takes a dog by the ears.

¹⁸Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death,

¹⁹Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, "I was only joking!"

²⁰Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

²¹As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

²²The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.

²³Fervent lips with a wicked heart Are like earthenware covered with silver dross.

²⁴He who hates, disguises it with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself;

²⁵When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart;

²⁶Though his hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

²⁷Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

²⁸A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

27 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

²Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

³A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, But a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them.

⁴Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, But who is able to stand before jealousy?

⁵Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.

⁶Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

⁷A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, But to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

⁸Like a bird that wanders from its nest Is a man who wanders from his place.

⁹Ointment and perfume delight the heart,
And the sweetness of a man's friend
gives delight by hearty counsel.

¹⁰Do not forsake your own friend or your
father's friend, Nor go to your brother's
house in the day of your calamity; Better
is a neighbor nearby than a brother far
away.

¹¹My son, be wise, and make my heart
glad, That I may answer him who
reproaches me.

¹²A prudent man foresees evil and hides
himself; The simple pass on and are
punished.

¹³Take the garment of him who is surety
for a stranger, And hold it in pledge
when he is surety for a seductress.

¹⁴He who blesses his friend with a loud
voice, rising early in the morning, It will
be counted a curse to him.

¹⁵A continual dripping on a very rainy
day And a contentious woman are alike;

¹⁶Whoever restrains her restrains the
wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.

¹⁷As iron sharpens iron, So a man
sharpens the countenance of his friend.

¹⁸Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its
fruit; So he who waits on his master will
be honored.

¹⁹As in water face reflects face, So a
man's heart reveals the man.

²⁰Hell and Destruction are never full; So
the eyes of man are never satisfied.

²¹The refining pot is for silver and the
furnace for gold, And a man is valued by
what others say of him.

²²Though you grind a fool in a mortar
with a pestle along with crushed grain,
Yet his foolishness will not depart from
him.

²³Be diligent to know the state of your
flocks, And attend to your herds;

²⁴For riches are not forever, Nor does a
crown endure to all generations.

²⁵When the hay is removed, and the
tender grass shows itself, And the herbs
of the mountains are gathered in,

²⁶The lambs will provide your clothing,
And the goats the price of a field;

²⁷You shall have enough goats' milk for
your food, For the food of your
household, And the nourishment of your
maidservants.

28The wicked flee when no one
pursues, But the righteous are bold as a
lion.

²Because of the transgression of a land,
many are its princes; But by a man of
understanding and knowledge Right will
be prolonged.

³A poor man who oppresses the poor Is
like a driving rain which leaves no food.

⁴Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them.

⁵Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the LORD understand all.

⁶Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

⁷Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, But a companion of gluttons shames his father.

⁸One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion Gathers it for him who will pity the poor.

⁹One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

¹⁰Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, He himself will fall into his own pit; But the blameless will inherit good.

¹¹The rich man is wise in his own eyes, But the poor who has understanding searches him out.

¹²When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.

¹³He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

¹⁴Happy is the man who is always reverent, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

¹⁵Like a roaring lion and a charging bear Is a wicked ruler over poor people.

¹⁶A ruler who lacks understanding is a great oppressor, But he who hates covetousness will prolong his days.

¹⁷A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit; Let no one help him.

¹⁸Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved, But he who is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.

¹⁹He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

²⁰A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

²¹To show partiality is not good, Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.

²²A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

²³He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue.

²⁴Whoever robs his father or his mother, And says, "It is no transgression," The same is companion to a destroyer.

²⁵He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.

²⁶He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

²⁷He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

²⁸When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; But when they perish, the righteous increase.

29 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

²When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

³Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, But a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.

⁴The king establishes the land by justice, But he who receives bribes overthrows it.

⁵A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.

⁶By transgression an evil man is snared, But the righteous sings and rejoices.

⁷The righteous considers the cause of the poor, But the wicked does not understand such knowledge.

⁸Scoffers set a city aflame, But wise men turn away wrath.

⁹If a wise man contends with a foolish man, Whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace.

¹⁰The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, But the upright seek his well-being.

¹¹A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back.

¹²If a ruler pays attention to lies, All his servants become wicked.

¹³The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

¹⁴The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.

¹⁵The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

¹⁶When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall.

¹⁷Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

¹⁸Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

¹⁹A servant will not be corrected by mere words; For though he understands, he will not respond.

²⁰Do you see a man hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

²¹He who pampers his servant from
childhood Will have him as a son in the
end.

²²An angry man stirs up strife, And a
furious man abounds in transgression.

²³A man's pride will bring him low, But
the humble in spirit will retain honor.

²⁴Whoever is a partner with a thief hates
his own life; He swears to tell the truth,
but reveals nothing.

²⁵The fear of man brings a snare, But
whoever trusts in the LORD shall be
safe.

²⁶Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice
for man comes from the LORD.

²⁷An unjust man is an abomination to
the righteous, And he who is upright in
the way is an abomination to the wicked.

30 The words of Agur the son of
Jakeh, his utterance. This man declared
to Ithiel--to Ithiel and Ucal:

²Surely I am more stupid than any man,
And do not have the understanding of a
man.

³I neither learned wisdom Nor have
knowledge of the Holy One.

⁴Who has ascended into heaven, or
descended? Who has gathered the wind
in His fists? Who has bound the waters
in a garment? Who has established all
the ends of the earth? What is His name,
and what is His Son's name, If you
know?

⁵Every word of God is pure; He is a
shield to those who put their trust in Him.

⁶Do not add to His words, Lest He
rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

⁷Two things I request of You (Deprive
me not before I die):

⁸Remove falsehood and lies far from
me; Give me neither poverty nor riches--
Feed me with the food allotted to me;

⁹Lest I be full and deny You, And say,
"Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor
and steal, And profane the name of my
God.

¹⁰Do not malign a servant to his master,
Lest he curse you, and you be found
guilty.

¹¹There is a generation that curses its
father, And does not bless its mother.

¹²There is a generation that is pure in its
own eyes, Yet is not washed from its
filthiness.

¹³There is a generation-- oh, how lofty
are their eyes! And their eyelids are
lifted up.

¹⁴There is a generation whose teeth are
like swords, And whose fangs are like

knives, To devour the poor from off the earth, And the needy from among men.

¹⁵The leech has two daughters-- Give and Give! There are three things that are never satisfied, Four never say, "Enough!":

¹⁶The grave, The barren womb, The earth that is not satisfied with water-- And the fire never says, "Enough!"

¹⁷The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

¹⁸There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Yes, four which I do not understand:

¹⁹The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a virgin.

²⁰This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wickedness."

²¹For three things the earth is perturbed, Yes, for four it cannot bear up:

²²For a servant when he reigns, A fool when he is filled with food,

²³A hateful woman when she is married, And a maidservant who succeeds her mistress.

²⁴There are four things which are little on the earth, But they are exceedingly wise:

²⁵The ants are a people not strong, Yet they prepare their food in the summer;

²⁶The rock badgers are a feeble folk, Yet they make their homes in the crags;

²⁷The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;

²⁸The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, And it is in kings' palaces.

²⁹There are three things which are majestic in pace, Yes, four which are stately in walk:

³⁰A lion, which is mighty among beasts And does not turn away from any;

³¹A greyhound, A male goat also, And a king whose troops are with him.

³²If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, Or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth.

³³For as the churning of milk produces butter, And wringing the nose produces blood, So the forcing of wrath produces strife.

31 The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:

²What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?

³Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

⁴It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink;

⁵Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.

⁶Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.

⁷Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.

⁸Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die.

⁹Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

¹⁰Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

¹¹The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.

¹²She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

¹³She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.

¹⁴She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.

¹⁵She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants.

¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.

¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night.

¹⁹She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle.

²⁰She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

²¹She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.

²²She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

²³Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.

²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants.

²⁵Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.

²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.

²⁷She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:

²⁹"Many daughters have done well, But
you excel them all."

³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is
passing, But a woman who fears the
LORD, she shall be praised.

³¹Give her of the fruit of her hands, And
let her own works praise her in the gates.