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HOS - - TaNaKH - A New Translation of THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (NJPS corrections 2021)

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Hosea

1

**1**The word of God that came to Hosea son of Beeri, in the reigns of Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah, and in the reign of King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel.

**2**When God first spoke to Hosea, God said to Hosea, “Go, get yourself a wife of whoredom and children of whoredom; for the land will stray[[1]](#footnote-1)a from following God.”[[2]](#footnote-2)b **3**So he went and married Gomer daughter of Diblaim. She conceived and bore him a son, **4**and God instructed him, “Name him Jezreel; for, I will soon punish the House of Jehu[[3]](#footnote-3)c for the bloody deeds at Jezreel[[4]](#footnote-4)d and put an end to the monarchy of the House of Israel. **5**In that day, I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

**6**She conceived again and bore a daughter; and he was told, “Name her Lo-ruhamah;[[5]](#footnote-5)e for I will no longer accept the House of Israel or pardon them.[[6]](#footnote-6)f **7**(But I will accept the House of Judah. And I will give them victory through the Eternal their God; I will not give them victory with bow and sword and battle, by horses and riders.)”

**8**After weaning Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. **9**Then [God] said, “Name him Lo-ammi;[[7]](#footnote-7)g for you[[8]](#footnote-8)h are not My people, and I will not be your [God].”[[9]](#footnote-9)i

2

**1**[[10]](#footnote-10)jThe number of the people of Israel shall be like that of the sands of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted; and instead of being told, “You are Not-My-People,”[[11]](#footnote-11)k they shall be called Children-of-the-Living-God. **2**The people of Judah and the people of Israel shall assemble together and appoint one head over them; and they shall rise from the ground[[12]](#footnote-12)l—for marvelous shall be the day of Jezreel![[13]](#footnote-13)m

**3**Oh, call[[14]](#footnote-14)n your brothers “My People,”

And your sisters “Lovingly Accepted!”

**4**[[15]](#footnote-15)oRemonstrate your mother, remonstrate her—

For she is not My wife

And I am not her husband[[16]](#footnote-16)°—

And let her put away her harlotry from her face

And her adultery from between her breasts.

**5**Else will I strip her naked

And leave her as on the day she was born:

And I will make her like a wilderness,

Render her like desert land,

And let her die of thirst.

**6**I will also disown her children;

For they are now a harlot's brood,

**7**In that their mother has played the harlot,

She that conceived them has acted shamelessly—

Because she thought,

“I will go after my lovers,

Who supply my bread and my water,

My wool and my linen,

My oil and my drink.”

**8**Assuredly,

I will hedge up her[[17]](#footnote-17)p roads with thorns

And raise walls against her,

And she shall not find her paths.

**9**Pursue her lovers as she will,

She shall not overtake them;

And seek them as she may,

She shall never find them.

Then she will say,

“I will go and return

To my first husband,

For then I fared better than now.”

**10**And she did not consider this:

It was I who bestowed on her

The new grain and wine and oil;

I who lavished silver on her

And gold—which they used for Baal.

**11**Assuredly,

I will take back My new grain in its time

And My new wine in its season,

And I will snatch away My wool and My linen

That serve to cover her nakedness.

**12**Now will I uncover her shame

In the very sight of her lovers,

And not one of them shall save her from Me.

**13**And I will end all her rejoicing:

Her festivals, new moons, and sabbaths—

All her festive seasons.

**14**I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,

Which she thinks are a fee

She received from her lovers;

I will turn them into brushwood,

And beasts of the field shall devour them.

**15**Thus will I punish her

For the days of the Baalim,

On which she brought them offerings;

When, decked with earrings and jewels,

She would go after her lovers,

Forgetting Me

—declares God.

**16**Assuredly,

I will speak coaxingly to her

And lead her through the wilderness[[18]](#footnote-18)q

And speak to her tenderly.

**17**I will give her her vineyards from there,

And the Valley of Achor[[19]](#footnote-19)r as a plowland of hope.[[20]](#footnote-20)s

There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,

When she came up from the land of Egypt.

**18**And in that day

—declares God—

You will call [Me] Ishi,[[21]](#footnote-21)t

And no more will you call Me Baali.[[22]](#footnote-22)u

**19**For I will remove the names of the Baalim from her mouth,

And they shall nevermore be mentioned by name.

**20**In that day, I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; I will also banish[[23]](#footnote-23)v bow, sword, and war from the land. Thus I will let them lie down in safety.

**21**And I will espouse you forever:

I will espouse you with righteousness and justice,

And with goodness and mercy,

**22**And I will espouse you with faithfulness;[[24]](#footnote-24)w

Then you shall be devoted to God.

**23**In that day,

I will respond

—declares God—

I will respond to the sky,

And it shall respond to the earth;

**24**And the earth shall respond

With new grain and wine and oil,

And they shall respond to Jezreel.[[25]](#footnote-25)x

**25**I will sow her in the land as My own;

And take Lo-ruhamah back in favor;

And I will say to Lo-ammi, “You are My people,”

And he will respond, “[You are] my God.”

3

**1**God said to me further, “Go, befriend a woman who, while befriended[[26]](#footnote-26)y by a companion, consorts with others, just as God befriends the Israelites,[[27]](#footnote-27)z but they turn to other gods and love the cups of the grape.”[[28]](#footnote-28)a

**2**Then I hired her for fifteen [shekels of] silver, a ḥomer of barley, and a lethech of barley;[[29]](#footnote-29)b **3**and I stipulated with her, “In return,[[30]](#footnote-30)c you are to go a long time without either fornicating or marrying; even I [shall not cohabit] with you.”

**4**For the Israelites shall go a long time without king and without officials, without sacrifice[[31]](#footnote-31)d and without cult pillars, and without ephod and teraphim. **5**Afterward, the Israelites will turn back and will seek the Eternal their God and David their king—and they will thrill over God and over God's bounty in the days to come.

4

**1**Hear the word of God,

O people of Israel!

For God has a case

Against the inhabitants of this land,

Because there is no honesty and no goodness

And no devotion to God in the land.

**2**[False] swearing, dishonesty, and murder,

And theft and adultery are rife;

Crime follows upon crime!

**3**For that, the earth is withered:

Everything that dwells on it languishes—

Beasts of the field and birds of the sky—

Even the fish of the sea perish.

**4**“Absolutely no one shall rebuke; none shall protest!”

For this your people has a grievance against [you], O priest![[32]](#footnote-32)e

**5**So you shall stumble by day,

And by night a prophet[[33]](#footnote-33)f shall stumble as well,

And I will destroy your kindred.[[34]](#footnote-34)g

**6**My people is destroyed for the lack of devotion!

Because you have rejected devotion,

I reject you as My priest;

Because you have spurned the teaching of your God,

I, in turn, will spurn your children.

**7**The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me:

I will change their dignity to dishonor.

**8**They feed on My people's sin offerings,

And so they desire its iniquity.

**9**Therefore, the people shall fare like the priests:

I will punish it for its conduct,

I will requite it for its deeds.

**10**Truly, they shall eat, but not be sated;

They shall swill,[[35]](#footnote-35)h but not be satisfied,

Because they have forsaken God

To practice[[36]](#footnote-36)i **11**lechery.

Wine[[37]](#footnote-37)j and new wine destroy

The mind of **12**My people:

It consults its stick,[[38]](#footnote-38)k

Its rod[[39]](#footnote-39)l directs it!

A lecherous impulse has made them go wrong,

And they have strayed[[40]](#footnote-40)m from submission to their God.

**13**They sacrifice on the mountaintops

And offer on the hills,

Under oaks, poplars, and terebinths

Whose shade is so pleasant.

That is why their[[41]](#footnote-41)n daughters fornicate

And their daughters-in-law commit adultery!

**14**I will not punish their daughters for fornicating

Nor their daughters-in-law for committing adultery;

For they themselves turn aside[[42]](#footnote-42)o with whores

And sacrifice with prostitutes,

And a people that is without sense[[43]](#footnote-43)p must stumble.

**15**If you are a lecher, Israel—

Let not Judah incur guilt—

Do not come to Gilgal,[[44]](#footnote-44)q

Do not make pilgrimages to Beth-aven,[[45]](#footnote-45)r

And do not swear by God![[46]](#footnote-46)s

**16**Ah, Israel has balked

Like a stubborn cow;

Therefore,

God will graze him

On the range, like a sheep.[[47]](#footnote-47)t

**17**[[48]](#footnote-48)uEphraim is addicted to images—

Let him be.

**18**They drink to excess—

Their liquor turns against them.

They “love” beyond measure—

Disgrace is the “gift”

**19**Which the wind is bringing;[[49]](#footnote-49)v

They shall garner shame from their sacrifices.

5

**1**Hear this, O priests,

Attend, O House[[50]](#footnote-50)w of Israel,

And give ear, O royal house;

For right conduct is your responsibility!

But you have been a snare to Mizpah[[51]](#footnote-51)°

And a net spread out over Tabor;

**2**[[52]](#footnote-52)xFor when trappers dug deep pitfalls,

I was the only reprover of them all.

**3**Yes, I have watched Ephraim,

Israel has not escaped my notice:

Behold, you have fornicated, O Ephraim;

Israel has defiled himself!

**4**Their habits do not let them

Turn back to their God;

Because of the lecherous impulse within them,

They pay no heed to God.

**5**Israel's pride shall be humbled before his very eyes,

As Israel and Ephraim fall because of their sin

(And Judah falls with them).

**6**Then they will go with their sheep and cattle

To seek God—whom they will not find.[[53]](#footnote-53)y

They have been cast off:[[54]](#footnote-54)z

**7**[Because] they have broken faith with God,

Because they have[[55]](#footnote-55)a begotten

Alien children.

Therefore, the new moon

Shall devour their portion.[[56]](#footnote-56)b

**8**Sound a ram's horn in Gibeah,

A trumpet in Ramah;

Give the alarm in Beth-aven;[[57]](#footnote-57)c

After you,[[58]](#footnote-58)d Benjamin!

**9**Ephraim is stricken with horror

On a day of chastisement.

Against the tribes[[59]](#footnote-59)e of Israel

I proclaim certainties:

**10**The officers of Judah have acted

Like shifters of field boundaries;

On them I will pour out

My wrath like water.

**11**Ephraim is defrauded,

Robbed of redress,

Because he has witlessly

Gone after futility.[[60]](#footnote-60)f

**12**For it is I who am like rot to Ephraim,

Like decay to the House of Judah;[[61]](#footnote-61)g

**13**Yet when Ephraim became aware of his sickness,

Judah[[62]](#footnote-62)h of his sores,

Ephraim repaired to Assyria—

He sent envoys to a patron[[63]](#footnote-63)i king!

He will never be able to cure you,

Will not heal you of your sores.

**14**No, I will be like a lion to Ephraim,

Like a great beast to the House of Judah;[[64]](#footnote-64)j

I, I will attack and stride away,

Carrying the prey that no one can rescue;

**15**And I will return to My abode—

Till they realize their guilt.

In their distress, they will seek Me

And beg for My favor.

6

**1**[[65]](#footnote-65)k“Come, let us turn back to God:

The One who attacked, and so can heal us;

Who wounded, and so can bind us up.

**2**In two days [God] will make us whole again,

And on the third day raise us up;

God's favor will make us whole.

**3**Let us pursue devotion to God,

And we shall become devout.

As sure as daybreak is God's appearance,

Which will come to us like rain,

Like latter rain that refreshes[[66]](#footnote-66)l the earth.”

**4**What can I do for you, Ephraim,

What can I do for you, Judah,[[67]](#footnote-67)m

When your goodness is like morning clouds,

Like dew so early gone?

**5**That is why I have hewn down the prophets,[[68]](#footnote-68)n

Have slain them with the words of My mouth:

And the day that dawned [brought on] your punishment.[[69]](#footnote-69)o

**6**For I desire goodness, not sacrifice;

Devotion to God, rather than burnt offerings.

**7**[[70]](#footnote-70)pBut they, as human beings [are wont to do], have transgressed the Covenant.[[71]](#footnote-71)°

This is where they have been false to Me:

**8**Gilead is a city of evildoers,

Tracked up with blood.

**9**The gang of priests is

Like the ambuscade of bandits

Who murder on the road to Shechem,

For they have encouraged[[72]](#footnote-72)q depravity.

**10**In the House of Israel[[73]](#footnote-73)r I have seen

A horrible thing;

Ephraim has fornicated there,

Israel has defiled himself.

**11**(Even Judah has reaped a harvest of you!)[[74]](#footnote-74)s

When I would restore My people's fortunes,

7

No space between chapters here.

**1**When I would heal Israel,

The guilt of Ephraim reveals itself

And the wickedness of Samaria.

For they have acted treacherously,

With thieves breaking in

And bands raiding outside.

**2**And they do not consider

That I remembered all their wickedness.

Why, their misdeeds have been all around them,[[75]](#footnote-75)t

They have been ever before Me.

**3**[[76]](#footnote-76)uIn malice they make a king merry,

And officials in treachery.

**4**They commit adultery,[[77]](#footnote-77)v all of them,

Like an oven fired by a baker,

Who desists from stoking only

From the kneading of the dough to its leavening.

**5**The day they made our king sick

[And] officials with the poison of wine,

He gave his hand to traitors.[[78]](#footnote-78)w

**6**For they approach their ambush

With their hearts like an oven:[[79]](#footnote-79)x

Through the night

Their baker[[80]](#footnote-80)y has slept;

In the morning, it flares up

Like a blazing fire.

**7**They all get heated like an oven

And devour their rulers—

None of them calls to Me.

All their kings have fallen [by their hand].

**8**[[81]](#footnote-81)zEphraim is among the peoples;

He is rotting away.

Ephraim is like a cake—

Incapable of turning.

**9**Strangers have consumed his strength,

But he has taken no notice;

Also, mold[[82]](#footnote-82)a is scattered over him,

But he has taken no notice.

**10**Though Israel's pride has been humbled

Before his very eyes,

They have not turned back

To their God the Eternal One—

Whom they have not sought

In spite of everything.

**11**Instead, Ephraim has acted

Like a silly dove with no mind:

They have appealed to Egypt!

They have gone to Assyria!

**12**When they go, I will spread

My net over them,

I will bring them down

Like birds of the sky;

I will chastise them

When I hear their bargaining.[[83]](#footnote-83)b

**13**Woe to them

For straying from Me;

Destruction to them

For rebelling against Me!

For I was their Redeemer;

Yet they have plotted treason against Me.

**14**[[84]](#footnote-84)cBut they did not cry out to Me sincerely

As they lay wailing.[[85]](#footnote-85)d

They debauch[[86]](#footnote-86)e over new grain and new wine,

They are faithless[[87]](#footnote-87)f to Me.

**15**I braced, I strengthened their arms,

And they plot evil against Me!

**16**They come back;

They have been of no use,[[88]](#footnote-88)g

Like a slack bow.

Their officers shall fall by the sword,

Because of the stammering[[89]](#footnote-89)h of their tongues.

Such shall be [the results of] their jabbering[[90]](#footnote-90)i

In the land of Egypt.

8

**1**[Put] a ram's horn to your mouth—

Like an eagle[[91]](#footnote-91)j over the House of God;[[92]](#footnote-92)k

Because they have transgressed My covenant

And been faithless to My teaching.

**2**Israel cries out to Me,

“O my God, we are devoted to You.”[[93]](#footnote-93)l

**3**Israel rejects what is good;

An enemy shall pursue him.[[94]](#footnote-94)m

**4**They have made kings,

But not with My sanction;

They have made officers,

But not of My choice.

Of their silver and gold

They have made themselves images,

To their own undoing.

**5**I reject[[95]](#footnote-95)n your calf, Samaria!

I am furious with them!

Will they never be capable of purity?

**6**For it was Israel's doing;[[96]](#footnote-96)o

It was only made by a joiner,

It is not a god.

No, the calf of Samaria shall be

Reduced to splinters!

**7**They sow wind,

And they shall reap whirlwind—

Standing stalks devoid of ears

And yielding no flour.

If they do yield any,

Strangers shall devour it.

**8**Israel is bewildered;[[97]](#footnote-97)p

They have now become among the nations

Like an unwanted vessel,

**9**[Like] a lonely wild ass.

For they have gone up to Assyria,

Ephraim has[[98]](#footnote-98)q courted friendship.

**10**And while they are courting among the nations,

There I will hold them fast;[[99]](#footnote-99)r

And they shall begin to diminish in number

From the burden of king [and] officers.[[100]](#footnote-100)s

**11**For Ephraim has multiplied altars—for guilt;

His altars have redounded to his guilt:

**12**The many teachings I wrote for him

Have been treated as something alien.

**13**When they present sacrifices to Me,[[101]](#footnote-101)t

It is but flesh for them to eat:

God has not accepted them.

Behold, their iniquities will be remembered,

Their sins will be punished:

Back to Egypt with them!

**14**Israel has ignored his Maker

And built temples

(And Judah has fortified many cities).

So I will set fire to his cities,

And it shall consume their fortresses.

9

**1**Rejoice not, O Israel,

As other peoples exult;

For you have strayed

Away from your God:

You have loved a harlot's fee

By every threshing floor of new grain.

**2**Threshing floor and winepress

Shall not join them,

And the new wine shall betray her.[[102]](#footnote-102)u

**3**They shall not be able to remain

In the land of God.

But Ephraim shall return to Egypt

And shall eat unclean food in Assyria.[[103]](#footnote-103)v

**4**It shall be for them like the food of mourners,

All who partake of which are defiled.

They will offer no libations of wine to God,

And no sacrifices of theirs will please;

But their food will be only for their hunger,

It shall not come into the House of God.

**5**What will you do about feast days,

About the festivals of God?

**6**Behold, they have gone from destruction[[104]](#footnote-104)w

[With] the silver they treasure.

Egypt shall hold them fast,[[105]](#footnote-105)x

Moph[[106]](#footnote-106)y shall receive them in burial.

Weeds are their heirs;

Prickly shrubs occupy their [old] homes.

**7**The days of punishment have come

For your heavy guilt;

The days of requital have come—

Let Israel know it!

The prophet was distraught,

The inspired man driven mad

By constant harassment.

**8**Ephraim watches for my God.

As for the prophet,[[107]](#footnote-107)z

Fowlers' snares are on all his paths,

Harassment in the House of his God.

**9**They have been as grievously corrupt

As in the days of Gibeah;[[108]](#footnote-108)a

[God] will remember their iniquity,

And will punish their sins.

**10**I found Israel [as pleasing]

As grapes in the wilderness;

Your ancestors seemed to Me

Like the first fig to ripen on a fig tree.[[109]](#footnote-109)b

But when they came to Baal-peor,

They turned aside to shamefulness;[[110]](#footnote-110)c

Then they became as detested

As they had been loved.[[111]](#footnote-111)d

**11**From birth, from the womb, from conception

Ephraim's glory shall be

Like birds that fly away.[[112]](#footnote-112)e

**12**Even if they rear their infants,

I will bereave them of everyone.

Woe to them indeed

When I turn away from them![[113]](#footnote-113)f

**13**It shall go with Ephraim

As I have seen it go with Tyre,

Which was planted in a meadow;[[114]](#footnote-114)g

Ephraim too must bring out

His children to slayers.

**14**Give them, O Eternal One—give them what?

Give them a womb that miscarries,

And shriveled breasts!

**15**All their misfortune [began] at Gilgal,

For there I disowned them.[[115]](#footnote-115)h

For their evil deeds

I will drive them out of My House.

I will accept them no more;

All their officials are[[116]](#footnote-116)i disloyal.

**16**Ephraim[[117]](#footnote-117)j is stricken,

Their stock is withered;

They can produce no fruit.

Even if they do bear children,

I will slay their cherished offspring.

**17**My God rejects them

Because they have not obeyed,

And they shall go wandering

Among the nations.

10

**1**Israel is a ravaged vine

And its fruit is like it.

When his fruit was plentiful,

He made altars aplenty;

When his land was bountiful,

Cult pillars abounded.

**2**Now that his boughs[[118]](#footnote-118)k are broken up,

He feels his guilt;

He himself pulls apart his altars,

Smashes his pillars.

**3**Truly, now they say,

“We have no king;

For, since we do not fear God,

What can a king do to us?”

**4**So they conclude agreements and make covenants

With false oaths,

And justice degenerates into poison weeds,

Breaking out[[119]](#footnote-119)l on the furrows of the fields.

**5**The inhabitants of Samaria fear

For the calf of Beth-aven;[[120]](#footnote-120)m

Indeed, its people and priestlings,

Whose joy it once was,[[121]](#footnote-121)n

Mourn over it for the glory

That is departed from it.

**6**It too shall be brought to Assyria

As tribute to a patron[[122]](#footnote-122)o king;

Ephraim shall be chagrined,

Israel shall be dismayed

Because of his plans.[[123]](#footnote-123)p

**7**Samaria's monarchy[[124]](#footnote-124)q is vanishing

Like foam upon water,

**8**Ruined shall be the shrines of [Beth-]aven,[[125]](#footnote-125)r

That sin of Israel.

Thorns and thistles

Shall grow on their altars.

They shall call to the mountains, “Bury us!”

To the hills, “Fall on us!”

**9**You have sinned more, O Israel,

Than in the days of Gibeah.[[126]](#footnote-126)s

There they stand [as] at Gibeah!

Shall they not be overtaken

By a war upon scoundrels

**10**As peoples gather against them?[[127]](#footnote-127)t

When I chose [them], I broke them in,

Harnessing them for two furrows.

**11**Ephraim became a trained heifer,

But preferred to thresh;

I placed a yoke

Upon her sleek neck.[[128]](#footnote-128)u

I will make Ephraim do advance plowing;[[129]](#footnote-129)v

Judah[[130]](#footnote-130)w shall do [main] plowing!

Jacob shall do final plowing!

**12**“Sow righteousness for yourselves;

Reap the fruits of[[131]](#footnote-131)x goodness;

Break for yourselves betimes fresh ground

Of seeking God,

So that you may obtain a teacher[[132]](#footnote-132)y of righteousness.”

**13**You have plowed wickedness,

You have reaped iniquity—

[And] you shall eat the fruits of treachery—

Because you relied on your way,[[133]](#footnote-133)z

On your host of warriors.

**14**But the din of war shall arise in your own people,

And all your fortresses shall be ravaged

As Beth-arbel was ravaged by Shalman[[134]](#footnote-134)a

On a day of battle,

When mothers and babes were dashed to death together.

**15**This is what Bethel has done to you[[135]](#footnote-135)b

For your horrible wickedness:

At dawn[[136]](#footnote-136)c shall Israel's monarchy

Utterly perish.

11

**1**I fell in love with Israel

When he was still a child;

And I have called [him] My son

Ever since Egypt.

**2**[[137]](#footnote-137)dThus were they called,

But they went their own way;

They sacrifice to Baalim[[138]](#footnote-138)e

And offer to carved images.

**3**I have pampered Ephraim,

Taking them in My[[139]](#footnote-139)f arms;[[140]](#footnote-140)°

But they have ignored

My healing care.

**4**I drew them with human ties,[[141]](#footnote-141)°

With cords of love;

But I seemed to them as one

Who imposed a yoke on their jaws,

Though I was offering them food.[[142]](#footnote-142)°

**5**No!

They return to the land of Egypt,

And Assyria is their king.

Because they refuse to repent,

**6**A sword shall descend upon their towns[[143]](#footnote-143)g

And consume their limbs

And devour [them] because of their designs.[[144]](#footnote-144)h

**7**For My people persists

In its defection from Me;

When it is summoned upward,

It does not rise at all.[[145]](#footnote-145)i

**8**How can I give you up, O Ephraim?

How surrender you, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah,

Render you like Zeboiim?[[146]](#footnote-146)j

I have had a change of heart,

All My tenderness is stirred.

**9**I will not act on My wrath,

Will not turn to destroy Ephraim.

For I am God—not human—

The Holy One in your midst:

I will not come in fury.[[147]](#footnote-147)k

**10**God will roar like a lion—

Whom they shall march behind;

With that roar, God's children shall come

Fluttering out of the west.

**11**They shall flutter from Egypt like sparrows,

From the land of Assyria like doves;

And I will settle them in their homes

—declares God.

12

**1**Ephraim surrounds Me with deceit,

The House of Israel with guile.[[148]](#footnote-148)l

(But Judah stands firm with God

And is faithful to the Holy One.)[[149]](#footnote-149)m

**2**Ephraim tends the wind

And pursues the gale;

He is forever adding

Illusion to calamity.[[150]](#footnote-150)n

Now they make a covenant with Assyria,

Now oil is carried to Egypt.[[151]](#footnote-151)o

**3**God once indicted Judah,[[152]](#footnote-152)p

And punished Jacob for his conduct,

Requited him for his deeds.

**4**In the womb he tried to supplant his brother;

Grown to manhood, he strove with a divine being,[[153]](#footnote-153)q

**5**He strove with an angel and prevailed—

The other had to weep and implore him.

At Bethel [Jacob] would meet him,

There to commune with him.[[154]](#footnote-154)r

**6**Yet the Eternal, the God of Hosts,

Must be invoked as “God.”[[155]](#footnote-155)s

**7**You must return to your God!

Practice goodness and justice,

And constantly trust in your God.

**8**A trader who uses false balances,

Who loves to overreach,

**9**Ephraim thinks,

“Ah, I have become rich;

I have gotten power!

All my gains do not amount

To an offense which is real guilt.”[[156]](#footnote-156)t

**10**I the Eternal have been your God

Ever since the land of Egypt.

I will let you dwell in your tents[[157]](#footnote-157)u again

As in the days of old,[[158]](#footnote-158)v

**11**When I spoke to the prophets;

For I granted many visions,

And spoke parables through the prophets.

**12**As for Gilead, it is worthless;

And to no purpose[[159]](#footnote-159)w have they

Been sacrificing oxen in Gilgal:

The altars of these are also

Like stone heaps upon a plowed field.[[160]](#footnote-160)x

**13**Then Jacob had to flee[[161]](#footnote-161)y to the land of Aram;

There Israel served for a wife,

For a wife he had to guard [sheep].

**14**But when God

Brought Israel up from Egypt,

It was through a prophet;[[162]](#footnote-162)z

Through a prophet[[163]](#footnote-163)a they were guarded.

**15**[[164]](#footnote-164)bEphraim gave bitter offense,

And his Lord cast his crimes upon him

And requited him for his mockery.

13

**1**When Ephraim spoke piety,

He was exalted in Israel;

But he incurred guilt through Baal,[[165]](#footnote-165)c

And so he died.

**2**And now they go on sinning;

They have made them molten images,

Idols, by their skill, from their silver,

Wholly the work of artisans.

Yet for these they appoint people to sacrifice;[[166]](#footnote-166)d

They are wont to kiss calves!

**3**Assuredly,

They shall be like morning clouds,

Like dew so early gone;

Like chaff whirled away from the threshing floor.

And like smoke from a lattice.

**4**Only I the Eternal One have been your God

Ever since the land of Egypt;

You have never known a [true] God but Me,

You have never had a helper other than Me.

**5**I looked after you in the desert,

In a thirsty land.

**6**When they grazed, they were sated;

When they were sated, they grew haughty;

And so they forgot Me.

**7**So I am become like a lion to them,

Like a leopard I lurk on the way;

**8**Like a bear robbed of her young I attack them

And rip open the casing of their hearts;

I will devour them there like a lion,[[167]](#footnote-167)e

The beasts of the field shall mangle them.

**9**[[168]](#footnote-168)fYou are undone, O Israel!

You had no help but Me.

**10**Where now is your king?

Let him save you!

Where are the chieftains in all your towns

From whom you demanded:

“Give me a king and officers”?

**11**I give you kings in My ire,

And take them away in My wrath.

**12**Ephraim's guilt is bound up,

His sin is stored away.[[169]](#footnote-169)g

**13**Pangs of childbirth assail him,

And the babe is not wise—

For this is no time to survive

At the birthstool of babes.[[170]](#footnote-170)h

**14**[[171]](#footnote-171)iFrom Sheol itself I will save them,

Redeem them from very Death.

Where, O Death, are your plagues?

Your pestilence where, O Sheol?

Revenge shall be far from My thoughts.[[172]](#footnote-172)j

**15**For though he flourish among reeds,

A blast, a wind of God,

Shall come blowing up from the wilderness;

His fountain shall be parched,

His spring dried up.

That [wind] shall plunder treasures,

Every lovely object.

14

No space between chapters.

**1**Samaria must bear her guilt,

For she has defied her God.

They shall fall by the sword,

Their infants shall be dashed to death,

And their women with child ripped open.

**2**Return, O Israel, to the Eternal your God,

For you have fallen because of your sin.

**3**Take words with you

And return to God.

Say:

“Forgive all guilt

And accept what is good;

Instead of bulls we will pay

[The offering of] our lips.[[173]](#footnote-173)k

**4**Assyria shall not save us,

No more will we ride on steeds;[[174]](#footnote-174)l

Nor ever again will we call

Our handiwork our god,

Since in You alone orphans find pity!”[[175]](#footnote-175)°

**5**I will heal their affliction,[[176]](#footnote-176)m

Generously will I take them back in love;

For My anger has turned away from them.[[177]](#footnote-177)n

**6**I will be to Israel like dew;

He shall blossom like the lily,

He shall strike root like a Lebanon tree.[[178]](#footnote-178)o

**7**His boughs shall spread out far,

His beauty shall be like the olive tree's,

His fragrance like that of Lebanon.

**8**They who sit in his shade shall be revived:

They shall bring to life new grain,

They shall blossom like the vine;

His scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.[[179]](#footnote-179)p

**9**Ephraim [shall say]:

“What more have I to do with idols?

When I respond and look to [God],

I become like a verdant cypress.”

Your fruit is provided by Me.[[180]](#footnote-180)q

**10**The wise will consider these words,

The prudent will take note of them.

For the paths of God are smooth;

The righteous can walk on them,

While sinners stumble on them.

JOL - - TaNaKH - A New Translation of THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (NJPS corrections 2020)

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Joel

1

**1**The word of God that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

**2**Listen to this, O elders,

Give ear, all inhabitants of the land.

Has the like of this happened in your days

Or in the days of your ancestors?

**3**Tell your children about it,

And let your children tell theirs,

And their children the next generation!

**4**What the cutter has left, the locust has devoured;

What the locust has left, the grub has devoured;

And what the grub has left, the hopper has devoured.[[181]](#footnote-181)r

**5**Wake up, you drunkards, and weep,

Wail, all you swillers of wine—

For the new wine that is denied you![[182]](#footnote-182)s

**6**For a nation has invaded my land,

Vast beyond counting,

With teeth like the teeth of a lion,

With the fangs of a lion's breed.

**7**They have laid my vines waste

And splintered my fig trees:

They have stripped off their bark and thrown [it] away;

Their runners have turned white.

**8**Lament—like a maiden girt with sackcloth

For the husband of her youth!

**9**Offering and libation have ceased

From the House of God;

The priests must mourn

Who minister to God.

**10**The country is ravaged,

The ground must mourn;

For the new grain is ravaged,

The new wine is dried up,

The new oil has failed.

**11**Farmers are dismayed

And vine dressers wail

Over wheat and barley;

For the crops of the field are lost.

**12**The vine has dried up,

The fig tree withers,

Pomegranate, palm, and apple—

All the trees of the field are sear.

And joy has dried up

Among the people.

**13**Gird yourselves and lament, O priests,

Wail, O ministers of the altar;

Come, spend the night in sackcloth,

O ministers of my God.

For offering and libation are withheld

From the House of your God.

**14**Solemnize a fast,

Proclaim an assembly;

Gather the elders—all the inhabitants of the land—

In the House of the Eternal your God,

And cry out to God.

**15**Alas for the day!

For the day of God is near;

It shall come like havoc from Shaddai.[[183]](#footnote-183)t

**16**For food is cut off

Before our very eyes,

And joy and gladness

From the House of our God.

**17**The seeds have shriveled

Under their clods.[[184]](#footnote-184)u

The granaries are desolate,

Barns are in ruins,

For the new grain has failed.

**18**How the animals groan!

The herds of cattle are bewildered

Because they have no pasture,

And the flocks of sheep are dazed.[[185]](#footnote-185)v

**19**To You, O Eternal One, I call.

For fire has consumed

The pastures in the wilderness,

And flame[[186]](#footnote-186)w has devoured

All the trees of the countryside.

**20**The very beasts of the field

Cry out to You;

For the watercourses are dried up,

And fire has consumed

The pastures in the wilderness.

2

**1**Blow a horn in Zion,

Sound an alarm on My holy mount!

Let all dwellers on earth tremble,

For the day of God has come!

It is close—

**2**A day of darkness and gloom,

A day of densest cloud

Spread like soot over the hills.

A vast, enormous horde—

Nothing like it has ever happened,

And it shall never happen again

Through the years and ages.

**3**Their vanguard is a consuming fire,

Their rear guard a devouring flame.

Before them the land was like the Garden of Eden,

Behind them, a desolate waste:

Nothing has escaped them.

**4**They have the appearance of horses,

They gallop just like steeds.

**5**With a clatter as of chariots

They bound on the hilltops,

With a noise like a blazing fire

Consuming straw;

Like an enormous horde

Arrayed for battle.

**6**Peoples tremble before them,

All faces turn ashen.[[187]](#footnote-187)x

**7**They rush like warriors,

They scale a wall like fighters.

And each keeps to his own track.

Their paths never cross;[[188]](#footnote-188)y

**8**Not a single one jostles another,

Each keeps to his own course.

And should they fall through a loophole,

They do not get hurt.[[189]](#footnote-189)z

**9**They rush up the wall,

They dash about in the city;

They climb into the houses,

They enter like thieves

By way of the windows.

**10**Before them earth trembles,

Heaven shakes,

Sun and moon are darkened,

And stars withdraw their brightness.

**11**And God roars aloud

At the head of the divine army;

For vast indeed is this host,

Numberless are those that do God's bidding.

For great is the day of God,

Most terrible—who can endure it?

**12**“Yet even now”—says God—

“Turn back to Me with all your hearts,

And with fasting, weeping, and lamenting.”

**13**Rend your hearts

Rather than your garments,

And turn back to the Eternal your God.

For [God] is gracious and compassionate,

Slow to anger, abounding in kindness,

And renouncing punishment.

**14**Who knows but [God] may turn and relent,

And leave a blessing behind

For meal offering and drink offering

To the Eternal your God?[[190]](#footnote-190)a

**15**Blow a horn in Zion,

Solemnize a fast,

Proclaim an assembly!

**16**Gather the people,

Bid the congregation purify themselves.[[191]](#footnote-191)b

Bring together the old,

Gather the babes

And the sucklings at the breast;

Let the bridegroom come out of his chamber,

The bride from her canopied couch.

**17**Between the portico and the altar,

Let the priests, God's ministers, weep

And say:

“Oh, spare Your people, Eternal One!

Let not Your possession become a mockery,

To be taunted by nations!

Let not the peoples say,

‘Where is their God?’”

**18**Then God was roused

On behalf of this land

And had compassion

Upon this people.

**19**In response to this covenanted people

God declared:

“I will grant you the new grain,

The new wine, and the new oil,

And you shall have them in abundance.

Nevermore will I let you be

A mockery among the nations.

**20**I will drive the northerner[[192]](#footnote-192)c far from you,

I will thrust it into a parched and desolate land—

Its van to the Eastern Sea[[193]](#footnote-193)d

And its rear to the Western Sea;[[194]](#footnote-194)e

And the stench of it shall go up,

And the foul smell rise.”

For [God] shall work great deeds.

**21**Fear not, O soil, rejoice and be glad;

For God has wrought great deeds.

**22**Fear not, O beasts of the field,

For the pastures in the wilderness

Are clothed with grass.

The trees have borne their fruit;

Fig tree and vine

Have yielded their strength.

**23**O children of Zion, be glad,

Rejoice in the Eternal your God.

For you have been given the early rain out of kindness,

Now the rain falls [as] formerly—

The early rain and the late—

**24**And threshing floors shall be piled with grain,

And vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

**25**“I will repay you for the years[[195]](#footnote-195)f

Consumed by swarms and hoppers,

By grubs and locusts,

The great army I let loose against you.

**26**And you shall eat your fill

And praise the name of the Eternal your God

Who dealt so wondrously with you—

My people shall be shamed no more.

**27**And you shall know

That I am in the midst of Israel:

That I the Eternal One am your God

And there is no other.

And My people shall be shamed no more.”

3

**1**After that,

I will pour out My spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and daughters shall prophesy;

Your elders shall dream dreams,

And your youths shall see visions.

**2**I will even pour out My spirit

Upon male and female slaves in those days.

**3**Before the great and terrible day of God comes,[[196]](#footnote-196)g

I will set portents in the sky and on earth:

Blood and fire and pillars of smoke;

**4**The sun shall turn into darkness

And the moon into blood.

**5**But everyone who invokes the name of God shall escape; for there shall be a remnant on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as God promised. Anyone who invokes God will be among the survivors.[[197]](#footnote-197)h

4

**1**For lo! in those days

And in that time,

When I restore the fortunes

Of Judah and Jerusalem,

**2**I will gather all the nations

And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.[[198]](#footnote-198)i

There I will contend with them

Over My very own people, Israel,

Which they scattered among the nations.

For they divided My land among themselves

**3**And cast lots over My people;

And they bartered a boy for a whore,

And sold a girl for wine, which they drank.

**4**What is this you are doing to Me, O Tyre, Sidon, and all the districts of Philistia? Are you requiting Me for something I have done, or are you doing something for My benefit? Quick as a flash, I will pay you back; **5**for you have taken My gold and My silver, and have carried off My precious treasures to your palaces; **6**and you have sold the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem to the Ionians, so that you have removed them far away from their homeland. **7**Behold, I will rouse them to leave the place you have sold them to, and I will pay you back: **8**I will deliver your sons and daughters into the hands of the people of Judah, and they will sell them into captivity to a distant nation—for God has spoken.

**9**Proclaim this among the nations:

Prepare for battle!

Arouse the warriors,

Let all the fighters come and draw near!

**10**Beat your plowshares[[199]](#footnote-199)j into swords,

And your pruning hooks into spears.

Let even the weakling say, “I am strong.”

**11**Rouse yourselves[[200]](#footnote-200)k and come,

All you nations;

Come together

From round about.

There bring down[[201]](#footnote-201)l

Your warriors, O Eternal One!

**12**Let the nations rouse themselves and march up

To the Valley of Jehoshaphat;[[202]](#footnote-202)m

For there I will sit in judgment

Over all the nations round about.

**13**Swing the sickle,

For the crop is ripe;

Come and tread,

For the winepress is full,

The vats are overflowing!

For great is their wickedness.

**14**Multitudes upon multitudes

In the Valley of Decision!

For the day of God is at hand

In the Valley of Decision.

**15**Sun and moon are darkened,

And stars withdraw their brightness.

**16**And God will roar from Zion,

And shout aloud from Jerusalem,

So that heaven and earth tremble.

But God will be a shelter to this covenanted people,

A refuge to the children of Israel.

**17**And you shall know that I the Eternal your God

Dwell in Zion, My holy mount.

And Jerusalem shall be holy;

Nevermore shall strangers pass through it.

**18**And in that day,

The mountains shall drip with wine,

The hills shall flow with milk,

And all the watercourses of Judah shall flow with water;

A spring shall issue from the House of God

And shall water the Wadi of the Acacias.

**19**Egypt shall be a desolation,

And Edom a desolate waste,

Because of the outrage to the people of Judah,

In whose land they shed the blood of the innocent.

**20**But Judah shall be inhabited forever,

And Jerusalem throughout the ages.

**21**Thus I will treat as innocent their blood

Which I have not treated as innocent;[[203]](#footnote-203)n

And God shall dwell in Zion.

AMO - - TaNaKH - A New Translation of THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (NJPS corrections 2020)

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Amos

1

**1**The words of Amos, a sheep breeder from Tekoa, who prophesied concerning Israel in the reigns of Kings Uzziah of Judah and Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel, two years before the earthquake.[[204]](#footnote-204)o

**2**He proclaimed:

God roars from Zion,

Shouts aloud from Jerusalem;

And the pastures of the shepherds shall languish,

And the summit of Carmel shall wither.

**3**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of Damascus,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[205]](#footnote-205)p

Because they threshed Gilead

With threshing boards of iron.

**4**I will send down fire[[206]](#footnote-206)q upon the palace of Hazael,

And it shall devour the fortresses of Ben-hadad.[[207]](#footnote-207)r

**5**I will break the gate bars of Damascus,

And wipe out the inhabitants from the Vale of Aven

And the sceptered ruler of Beth-eden;

And the people of Aram shall be exiled to Kir

—said God.

**6**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of Gaza,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[208]](#footnote-208)°

Because they exiled[[209]](#footnote-209)s an entire population,

Which they delivered to Edom.[[210]](#footnote-210)t

**7**I will send down fire upon the wall of Gaza,

And it shall devour its fortresses;

**8**And I will wipe out the inhabitants of Ashdod

And the sceptered ruler of Ashkelon;

And I will turn My hand against Ekron,

And the Philistines shall perish with no remnant

—said the Sovereign God.

**9**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of Tyre,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[211]](#footnote-211)°

Because they handed over

An entire population to Edom,[[212]](#footnote-212)u

Ignoring the covenant of brotherhood.[[213]](#footnote-213)v

**10**I will send down fire upon the wall of Tyre,

And it shall devour its fortresses.

**11**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of Edom,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[214]](#footnote-214)°

Because he pursued his brother with the sword[[215]](#footnote-215)°

And repressed all pity,[[216]](#footnote-216)°

Because his anger raged unceasing

And his fury stormed[[217]](#footnote-217)w unchecked.

**12**I will send down fire upon Teman,

And it shall devour the fortresses of Bozrah.

**13**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of the Ammonites,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[218]](#footnote-218)°

Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead

In order to enlarge their own territory.

**14**I will set fire to the wall of Rabbah,

And it shall devour its fortresses,

Amid shouting on a day of battle,

On a day of violent tempest.

**15**Their king and his officers shall go

Into exile together

—said God.

2

**1**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of Moab,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[219]](#footnote-219)°

Because he burned the bones

Of the king of Edom to lime.

**2**I will send down fire upon Moab,

And it shall devour the fortresses of Kerioth.

And Moab shall die in tumult,

Amid shouting and the blare of horns;

**3**I will wipe out the ruler from within her

And slay all her officials along with him

—said God.

**4**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of Judah,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[220]](#footnote-220)°

Because they have spurned the Teaching of God

And have not observed divine laws;

They are beguiled by the delusions

After which their ancestors walked.

**5**I will send down fire upon Judah,

And it shall devour the fortresses of Jerusalem.

**6**Thus said God:

For three transgressions of Israel,

For four, I will not revoke the decree:[[221]](#footnote-221)°

Because they have sold for silver

Those whose cause was just,

And the needy for a pair of sandals.

**7**[Ah,] you who trample the heads of the poor

Into the dust of the ground,

And make the humble walk a twisted course![[222]](#footnote-222)x

Father and son go to the same woman,

And thereby profane My holy name.

**8**They recline by every altar

On garments taken in pledge,

And drink in the House of their God

Wine bought with fines they imposed.

**9**Yet I

Destroyed the Amorite before them,

Whose stature was like the cedar's

And who was stout as the oak,

Destroying his boughs above

And his trunk below!

**10**And I

Brought you up from the land of Egypt

And led you through the wilderness forty years,

To possess the land of the Amorite!

**11**And I raised up prophets from among your sons

And nazirites from among your young men.

Is that not so, O people of Israel?

—says God.

**12**But you made the nazirites drink wine

And ordered the prophets not to prophesy.

**13**[[223]](#footnote-223)yAh, I will slow your movements

As a wagon is slowed

When it is full of cut grain.

**14**Flight shall fail the swift,

The strong shall find no strength,

And the warrior shall not save his life.

**15**The archer shall not hold his ground,

And the fleet-footed shall not escape,

Nor the horseman save his life.

**16**Even the most stouthearted warrior

Shall run away unarmed[[224]](#footnote-224)z that day

—declares God.

3

**1**Hear this word, O people of Israel,

That God has spoken concerning you,

Concerning the whole family that I brought up from the land of Egypt:

**2**You alone have I singled out

Of all the families of the earth—

That is why I will call you to account

For all your iniquities.

**3**Can two walk together

Without having met?

**4**Does a lion roar in the forest

When it has no prey?

Does a great beast let out a cry from its den

Without having made a capture?

**5**Does a bird drop on the ground—in a trap—

With no snare there?

Does a trap spring up from the ground

Unless it has caught something?

**6**When a ram's horn is sounded in a town,

Do the people not take alarm?

Can misfortune come to a town

If God has not caused it?

**7**Indeed, my Sovereign God does nothing

Without having revealed the purpose

To God's servants the prophets.

**8**A lion has roared,

Who can but fear?

My Sovereign God has spoken,

Who can but prophesy?

**9**Proclaim in the fortresses of Ashdod[[225]](#footnote-225)a

And in the fortresses of the land of Egypt!

Say:

Gather on the hill[[226]](#footnote-226)b of Samaria

And witness the great outrages within her

And the oppression in her midst.

**10**They are incapable of doing right

—declares God;

They store up lawlessness and rapine

In their fortresses.

**11**Assuredly,

Thus said the Sovereign God:

An enemy, all about the land!

He shall strip you of your splendor,

And your fortresses shall be plundered.

**12**Thus said God:

As a shepherd rescues from the lion's jaws

Two shank bones or the tip of an ear,[[227]](#footnote-227)°

So shall the Israelites escape

Who dwell in Samaria—

With the leg[[228]](#footnote-228)c of a bed or the head[[229]](#footnote-229)d of a couch.

**13**Hear [this], and warn the House of Jacob

—says the Sovereign God, the God of Hosts—

**14**That when I punish Israel for its transgressions,

I will wreak judgment on the altar[[230]](#footnote-230)e of Bethel,

And the horns of the altar shall be cut off

And shall fall to the ground.

**15**I will wreck the winter palace

Together with the summer palace;

The ivory palaces shall be demolished,

And the great houses shall be destroyed

—declares God.

4

**1**Hear this word, you cows of Bashan

On the hill of Samaria—

Who defraud the poor,

Who rob the needy;

Who say to your[[231]](#footnote-231)f husbands,

“Bring, and let's carouse!”

**2**My Sovereign God swears irrevocably:[[232]](#footnote-232)°

Behold, days are coming upon you

When you will be carried off in baskets,

And, to the last one, in fish baskets,

**3**And taken out [of the city]—

Each one through a breach straight ahead—

And flung on the refuse heap[[233]](#footnote-233)g

—declares God.

**4**Come to Bethel and transgress;

To Gilgal, and transgress even more:

Present your sacrifices the next morning

And your tithes on the third day;

**5**And burn a thank offering of leavened bread;[[234]](#footnote-234)h

And proclaim freewill offerings loudly.

For you love that sort of thing, O Israelites

—declares the Sovereign God.

**6**I, on My part, have given you

Cleanness of teeth in all your towns,

And lack of food in all your settlements.

Yet you did not turn back to Me

—declares God.

**7**I therefore withheld the rain from you

Three months before harvesttime:

I would make it rain on one town

And not on another;

One field would be rained upon

While another on which it did not rain

Would wither.

**8**So two or three towns would wander

To a single town to drink water,

But their thirst would not be slaked.

Yet you did not turn back to Me

—declares God.

**9**I scourged you with blight and mildew;

Repeatedly[[235]](#footnote-235)i your gardens and vineyards,

Your fig trees and olive trees

Were devoured by locusts.

Yet you did not turn back to Me

—declares God.

**10**I sent against you pestilence

In the manner of Egypt;[[236]](#footnote-236)j

I slew your young men with the sword,

Together with your captured horses,

And I made the stench of your armies

Rise in your very nostrils.

Yet you did not turn back to Me

—declares God.

**11**I have wrought destruction among you

As when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah;

You have become like a brand plucked from burning.

Yet you have not turned back to Me

—declares God.

**12**Assuredly,

Because I am doing that to you,[[237]](#footnote-237)k

Even so will I act toward you, O Israel—

Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!

**13**Behold the One who formed the mountains,

And created the wind,

And whose wishes[[238]](#footnote-238)l have been made known to mortals,

Who turns blackness[[239]](#footnote-239)m into daybreak,

And treads upon the high places of the earth—

Whose name is the Eternal, the God of Hosts.

5

**1**Hear this word which I intone

As a dirge over you, O House of Israel:

**2**Fallen, not to rise again,

Is Maiden Israel;

Abandoned on her soil

With none to lift her up.

**3**For thus said the Sovereign God

About the House of Israel:

The town that marches out a thousand strong

Shall have a hundred left,

And the one that marches out a hundred strong

Shall have but ten left.

**4**Thus said God

To the House of Israel:

Seek Me, and you will live.

**5**Do not seek Bethel,

Nor go to Gilgal,

Nor cross over[[240]](#footnote-240)n to Beer-sheba;

For Gilgal shall go into exile,

And Bethel shall become a delusion.

**6**Seek God, and you will live.

Otherwise, [God] will rush like fire upon[[241]](#footnote-241)o the House of Joseph

And consume Bethel[[242]](#footnote-242)p with none to quench it.

**7**[Ah,] you who turn justice into wormwood

And hurl righteousness to the ground!

[Seek God,]

**8**Who made the Pleiades and Orion,

Who turns deep darkness into dawn

And darkens day into night,

Who summons the waters of the sea

And pours them out upon the earth—

Whose name is God!

**9**[[243]](#footnote-243)qIt is [God] who hurls destruction upon strongholds,

So that ruin comes upon fortresses!

**10**They hate the arbiter in the gate,

And detest the one whose plea is just.

**11**Assuredly,

Because you impose a tax[[244]](#footnote-244)r on the poor

And exact from them a levy of grain,

You have built houses of hewn stone,

But you shall not live in them;

You have planted delightful vineyards,

But shall not drink their wine.

**12**For I have noted how many are your crimes,

And how countless your sins—

You enemies of the righteous,

You takers of bribes,

You who subvert in the gate

The cause of the needy!

**13**Assuredly,

At such a time the prudent keep silent,[[245]](#footnote-245)°

For it is an evil time.

**14**Seek good and not evil,

That you may live,

And that the Eternal, the God of Hosts,

May truly be with you,

As you think.

**15**Hate evil and love good,

And establish justice in the gate;

Perhaps the Eternal, the God of Hosts,

Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

**16**Assuredly,

Thus said God,

The Sovereign, the God of Hosts:

In every square there shall be lamenting,

In every street cries of “Ah, woe!”

And the farm hand shall be

Called to mourn,

And those skilled in wailing

To lament;

**17**For there shall be lamenting

In every vineyard, too,

When I pass through your midst

—said God.

**18**Ah, you who wish

For the day of God!

Why should you want

The day of God?

It shall be darkness, not light!

**19**—As if someone were to run from a lion

And get attacked by a bear;

Or, upon making it indoors,

Were to lean their hand on the wall

And get bitten by a snake!

**20**Surely the day of God shall be

Not light, but darkness,

Blackest night without a glimmer.

**21**I loathe, I spurn your festivals,

I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies.

**22**If you offer Me burnt offerings—or your meal offerings—

I will not accept them;

I will pay no heed

To your gifts of fatlings.

**23**Spare Me the sound of your hymns,

And let Me not hear the music of your lutes.

**24**But let justice well up like water,

Righteousness like an unfailing stream.

**25**Did you offer sacrifice and oblation to Me

Those forty years in the wilderness,

O House of Israel?

**26**[[246]](#footnote-246)sAnd you shall carry off your “king”—

Sikkuth and Kiyyun,[[247]](#footnote-247)t

The images you have made for yourselves

Of your astral deity—

**27**As I drive you into exile beyond Damascus

—Said God, whose name is God of Hosts.[[248]](#footnote-248)u

6

**1**Ah, you who are at ease in Zion[[249]](#footnote-249)v

And confident on the hill of Samaria,

You notables of the leading nation

On whom the House of Israel pin their hopes:[[250]](#footnote-250)w

**2**Cross over to Calneh and see,

Go from there to Great Hamath,

And go down to Gath of the Philistines:

Are [you] better than those kingdoms,

Or is their territory larger than yours?[[251]](#footnote-251)x

**3**[[252]](#footnote-252)y Yet you ward off [the thought of] a day of woe

And convene a session of lawlessness.

**4**They lie on ivory beds,

Lolling on their couches,

Feasting on lambs from the flock

And on calves from the stalls.

**5**They hum snatches of song

To the tune of the lute—

They account themselves musicians[[253]](#footnote-253)z like David.

**6**They drink [straight] from the wine bowls

And anoint themselves with the choicest oils—

But they are not concerned about the ruin of Joseph.

**7**Assuredly, right soon

They shall head the column of exiles;

They shall loll no more at festive meals.

**8**The Sovereign God wholeheartedly swears:

I loathe the Pride of Jacob,[[254]](#footnote-254)a

And I detest his fortresses.

I will declare forfeit city and inhabitants alike

—declares the Eternal, the God of Hosts.

**9**If ten people are left in one house, they shall die. **10**And if someone's kinsman—who is to burn incense for one of the deceased[[255]](#footnote-255)°—comes to carry the remains out of the house,[[256]](#footnote-256)b and he calls to the one at the rear of the house, “Are there any alive besides you?” the answer will be, “No, none.” And he will say, “Hush!”—so that no one may utter the name of God.

**11**For God will command,

And the great house shall be smashed to bits,

And the little house to splinters.

**12**Can horses gallop on a rock?

Can it be plowed with oxen?[[257]](#footnote-257)c

Yet you have turned justice into poison weed

And the fruit of righteousness to wormwood.

**13**[Ah,] those who are so happy about Lo-dabar,

Who exult, “By our might

We have captured Karnaim”![[258]](#footnote-258)d

**14**But I, O House of Israel,

Will raise up a nation against you

—declares the Eternal, the God of Hosts—

Who will harass you from Lebo-Hamath

To the Wadi Arabah.

7

**1**This is what my Sovereign God showed me: [A plague of] locusts was created at the time when the late-sown crops were beginning to sprout—the late-sown crops after the king's reaping.[[259]](#footnote-259)e **2**When it had finished devouring the herbage in the land, I said, “O my Sovereign, Eternal One, pray forgive. How will Jacob survive? He is so small.” **3**God relented concerning this. “It shall not come to pass,” said God.

**4**This is what my Sovereign God showed me: Lo, my Sovereign God was summoning to contend by[[260]](#footnote-260)f fire which consumed the Great Deep and was consuming the fields. **5**I said, “Oh, my Sovereign, Eternal One, refrain! How will Jacob survive? He is so small.” **6**God relented concerning this. “That shall not come to pass, either,” said my Sovereign God.

**7**This is what I was shown: [God] was standing on a wall checked with a plumb line[[261]](#footnote-261)g while holding a plumb line.[[262]](#footnote-262)h **8**And God asked me, “What do you see, Amos?” “A plumb line,”[[263]](#footnote-263)i I replied. And my Sovereign declared, “I am going to apply a plumb line[[264]](#footnote-264)j to My people Israel; I will pardon them no more. **9**The shrines of Isaac shall be laid waste, and the sanctuaries of Israel reduced to ruins; and I will turn upon the House of Jeroboam with the sword.”

**10**Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent this message to King Jeroboam of Israel: “Amos is conspiring against you within the House of Israel. The country cannot endure the things he is saying. **11**For Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall be exiled from its soil.’”

**12**Amaziah also said to Amos, “Seer, off with you to the land of Judah! Earn your living[[265]](#footnote-265)k there, and do your prophesying there. **13**But don't ever prophesy again at Bethel; for it is a king's sanctuary and a royal palace.” **14**Amos answered Amaziah: “I am not a prophet,[[266]](#footnote-266)l and I am not a prophet's disciple. I am a cattle breeder[[267]](#footnote-267)m and a tender of sycamore figs. **15**But God took me away from following the flock, and God said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.’ **16**And so, hear the word of God. You say I must not prophesy about the House of Israel or preach about the House of Isaac; **17**but this, I swear, is what God said: Your wife shall play the harlot[[268]](#footnote-268)n in the town, your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line. And you yourself shall die on unclean soil;[[269]](#footnote-269)o for Israel shall be exiled from its soil.”

8

**1**This is what my Sovereign God showed me: There was a basket of figs.[[270]](#footnote-270)p **2**I was asked, “What do you see, Amos?” “A basket of figs,” I replied. And God said to me: “The hour of doom[[271]](#footnote-271)q has come for My people Israel; I will not pardon them again. **3**And the singing women of the palace shall howl on that day—declares the Sovereign God:

So many corpses

Left lying everywhere!

Hush!”

**4**Listen to this, you who devour the needy, annihilating the poor of the land,[[272]](#footnote-272)r **5**saying, “If only the new moon were over, so that we could sell grain; the sabbath, so that we could offer wheat for sale, using an ephah that is too small, and a shekel that is too big,[[273]](#footnote-273)s tilting a dishonest scale, **6**and selling grain refuse as grain! We will buy the poor for silver, the needy for a pair of sandals.” **7**God swears by[[274]](#footnote-274)t the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget any of their doings.”

**8**Shall not the earth shake for this

And all that dwell on it mourn?

Shall it not all rise like the Nile

And surge and subside like the Nile of Egypt?

**9**And in that day

—declares the Sovereign God—

I will make the sun set at noon,

I will darken the earth on a sunny day.

**10**I will turn your festivals into mourning

And all your songs into dirges;

I will put sackcloth on all loins

And tonsures on every head.

I will make the earth[[275]](#footnote-275)u mourn as for an only child,

All[[276]](#footnote-276)v of it as on a bitter day.

**11**A time is coming—declares the Sovereign God—when I will send a famine upon the land: not a hunger for bread or a thirst for water, but for hearing the words of God. **12**People shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east to seek the word of God, but they shall not find it.

**13**In that day, the beautiful maidens and the young men shall faint with thirst—

**14**Those who swear by the guilt of Samaria,

Saying, “As your god lives, Dan,”[[277]](#footnote-277)w

And “As the way to Beer-sheba lives”[[278]](#footnote-278)x—

They shall fall to rise no more.

9

**1**I observed my Sovereign standing by the altar and saying: Strike the capitals so that the thresholds quake, and make an end of the first of them all.[[279]](#footnote-279)y And I will slay the last of them with the sword; not one of them shall escape, and not one of them shall survive.

**2**If they burrow down to Sheol,

From there My hand shall take them;

And if they ascend to heaven,

From there I will bring them down.

**3**If they hide on the top of Carmel,

There I will search them out and seize them;

And if they conceal themselves from My sight

At the bottom of the sea,

There I will command

The serpent to bite them.

**4**And if they go into captivity

Before their enemies,

There I will command

The sword to slay them.

I will fix My eye on them for evil

And not for good.

**5**It is the Sovereign God of Hosts—

At whose touch the earth trembles

And all who dwell on it mourn,

And all of it swells like the Nile

And subsides like the Nile of Egypt;

**6**Who built the chambers in heaven

And founded the vault on the earth,

Who summons the waters of the sea

And pours them over the land—

Whose name is God.

**7**To Me, O Israelites, you are

Just like the Cushites

—declares God.

True, I brought Israel up

From the land of Egypt,

But also the Philistines from Caphtor

And the Arameans from Kir.

**8**Behold, my Sovereign God is keeping an eye

On the sinful kingdom:

I will wipe it off

The face of the earth!

But, I will not wholly wipe out

The House of Jacob

—declares God.

**9**For I will give the order

And shake the House of Israel—

Through all the nations—

As one shakes [sand] in a sieve,[[280]](#footnote-280)z

And not a pebble falls to the ground.

**10**All the sinners of My people

Shall perish by the sword,

Who boast,

“Never shall the evil

Overtake us or come near us.”

**11**In that day,

I will set up again the fallen booth of David:

I will mend its breaches and set up its ruins anew.

I will build it firm as in the days of old,

**12**So that they shall possess the rest of Edom

And all the nations once attached to My name[[281]](#footnote-281)a —declares God who will bring this to pass.

**13**A time is coming

—declares God—

When the plower shall meet the reaper,[[282]](#footnote-282)b

And the treader of grapes

The one who holds the [bag of] seed;

When the mountains shall drip wine

And all the hills shall wave [with grain].

**14**I will restore My people Israel.

They shall rebuild ruined cities and inhabit them;

They shall plant vineyards and drink their wine;

They shall till gardens and eat their fruits.

**15**And I will plant them upon their soil,

Nevermore to be uprooted

From the soil I have given them

—said the Eternal your God.

OBA - - TaNaKH - A New Translation of THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (NJPS corrections 2020)

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Obadiah

1

**1**The prophecy of Obadiah.

We have received tidings from God,

And an envoy has been sent out among the nations:

“Up! Let us rise up against her for battle.”

Thus said the Sovereign God concerning Edom:

**2**I will make you least among nations,

You shall be most despised.

**3**Your arrogant heart has seduced you,

You who dwell in clefts of the rock,

In your lofty abode.

You think in your heart,

“Who can pull me down to earth?”

**4**Should you nest as high as the eagle,

Should your eyrie be lodged ’mong the stars,

Even from there I will pull you down

—declares God.

**5**If thieves were to come to you,

Marauders by night,

They would steal no more than they needed.

If vintagers came to you,

They would surely leave some gleanings.

How utterly you are destroyed!

**6**How thoroughly rifled is Esau,[[283]](#footnote-283)°

How ransacked his hoards!

**7**All your allies turned you back

At the frontier;

Your own confederates

Have duped and overcome you;

[Those who ate] your bread

Have planted snares under you.

He is bereft of understanding.

**8**In that day

—declares God—

I will make the wise vanish from Edom,

Understanding from Esau's mount.

**9**Your warriors shall lose heart, O Teman,

And no one on Esau's mount

Shall survive the slaughter.

**10**For the outrage to your brother Jacob,

Disgrace shall engulf you,

And you shall perish forever.

**11**On that day when you stood aloof,

When aliens carried off his goods,

When foreigners entered his gates

And cast lots for Jerusalem,

You were as one of them.

**12**How could you[[284]](#footnote-284)c gaze with glee

On your brother that day,

On his day of calamity!

How could you gloat

Over the people of Judah

On that day of ruin!

How could you loudly jeer

On a day of anguish!

**13**How could you enter the gate of My people

On its day of disaster,

Gaze in glee with the others

On its misfortune

On its day of disaster,

And lay hands on its wealth

On its day of disaster!

**14**How could you stand at the passes[[285]](#footnote-285)d

To cut down its fugitives!

How could you betray those who fled

On that day of anguish!

**15**As you did, so shall it be done to you;

Your conduct shall be requited.

Yea, against all nations

The day of God is at hand.

**16**That same cup that you[[286]](#footnote-286)e drank on My Holy Mount

Shall all nations drink evermore,[[287]](#footnote-287)f

Drink till their speech grows thick,

And they become as though they had never been.

**17**But on Zion's mount a remnant shall survive,

And it shall be holy.[[288]](#footnote-288)g

The House of Jacob shall dispossess

Those who dispossessed them.

**18**The House of Jacob shall be fire,

And the House of Joseph flame,

And the House of Esau shall be straw;

They shall burn it and devour it,

And no survivor shall be left of the House of Esau

—for God has spoken.

**19**[[289]](#footnote-289)hThus they shall possess the Negeb and Mount Esau as well, the Shephelah and Philistia. They shall possess the Ephraimite country and the district of Samaria,[[290]](#footnote-290)i and Benjamin[[291]](#footnote-291)j along with Gilead. **20**And that exiled force of Israelites [shall possess] what belongs to the Phoenicians as far as Zarephath,[[292]](#footnote-292)k while the Jerusalemite exile community of Sepharad[[293]](#footnote-293)l shall possess the towns of the Negeb. **21**For liberators shall march up[[294]](#footnote-294)m on Mount Zion to wreak judgment on Mount Esau; and dominion shall be God's.

JON - - TaNaKH - A New Translation of THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (NJPS corrections 2020)

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Jonah

1

**1**The word of God came to Jonah[[295]](#footnote-295)n son of Amittai: **2**Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim judgment upon it; for their wickedness has come before Me.

**3**Jonah, however, started out to flee to Tarshish from God's service. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went aboard to sail with the others to Tarshish, away from the service of God.

**4**But God cast a mighty wind upon the sea, and such a great tempest came upon the sea that the ship was in danger of breaking up. **5**In their fright, the sailors cried out, each to his own god; and they flung the ship's cargo overboard to make it lighter for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the vessel where he lay down and fell asleep. **6**The captain went over to him and cried out, “How can you be sleeping so soundly! Up, call upon your god! Perhaps the god will be kind to us and we will not perish.”

**7**Those aboard said to one another, [[296]](#footnote-296)°“Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this misfortune has come upon us.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. **8**They said to him, “Tell us, you who have brought this misfortune upon us, what is your business? Where have you come from? What is your country, and of what people are you?” **9**“I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the Eternal, the God of Heaven, who made both sea and land.” **10**The men were greatly terrified, and they asked him, “What have you done?” And when the men learned that he was fleeing from the service of God—for so he told them— **11**they said to him, “What must we do to you to make the sea calm around us?” For the sea was growing more and more stormy. **12**He answered, “Heave me overboard, and the sea will calm down for you; for I know that this terrible storm came upon you on my account.” **13**Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to regain the shore, but they could not, for the sea was growing more and more stormy about them. **14**Then they cried out to God: “Oh, please, Eternal One, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not hold us guilty of killing an innocent person! For You, O Eternal One, by Your will, have brought this about.” **15**And they heaved Jonah overboard, and the sea stopped raging.

**16**The men feared God greatly; they offered a sacrifice to God and they made vows.

2

**1**God provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah; and Jonah remained in the fish's belly three days and three nights. **2**Jonah prayed to the Eternal his God from the belly of the fish. **3**He said:

In my trouble I called to God,

Who answered me;

From the belly of Sheol I cried out,

And You heard my voice.

**4**You cast me into the depths,

Into the heart of the sea,

The floods engulfed me;

All Your breakers and billows

Swept over me.

**5**I thought I was driven away

Out of Your sight:

Would I ever gaze again

Upon Your holy Temple?

**6**The waters closed in over me,

The deep engulfed me.

Weeds twined around my head.

**7**I sank to the base of the mountains;

The bars of the earth closed upon me forever.

Yet You brought my life up from the pit,

O Eternal One my God!

**8**When my life was ebbing away,

I called God to mind;

And my prayer came before You,

Into Your holy Temple.

**9**They who cling to empty folly

Forsake their own welfare,[[297]](#footnote-297)o

**10**But I, with loud thanksgiving,

Will sacrifice to You;

What I have vowed I will perform.

Deliverance is God's!

**11**God commanded the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon dry land.

3

**1**The word of God came to Jonah a second time: **2**“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it what I tell you.” **3**Jonah went at once to Nineveh in accordance with God's command.

Nineveh was an enormously large city[[298]](#footnote-298)p a three days' walk across. **4**Jonah started out and made his way into the city the distance of one day's walk, and proclaimed: “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

**5**The people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast, and great and small alike put on sackcloth. **6**When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes. **7**And he had the word cried through Nineveh: “By decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal—of flock or herd—shall taste anything! They shall not graze, and they shall not drink water! **8**They shall be covered with sackcloth—human and animal—and shall cry mightily to God. Let everyone turn back from their own evil ways and from the injustice of which they are guilty. **9**Who knows but that God may turn and relent? [God] may turn back from wrathfulness, so that we do not perish.”

**10**God saw what they did, how they were turning back from their evil ways. And God renounced the punishment that had been planned for them, and did not carry it out.

4

**1**This displeased Jonah greatly, and he was grieved. **2**He prayed to God, saying, “O Eternal One! Isn't this just what I said when I was still in my own country? That is why I fled beforehand to Tarshish. For I know that You are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in kindness, renouncing punishment. **3**Please, Eternal One, take my life, for I would rather die than live.” **4**God replied, “Are you that deeply grieved?”

**5**Now Jonah had left the city and found a place east of the city. He made a booth there and sat under it in the shade, until he should see what happened to the city. **6**The Eternal God provided a ricinus plant,[[299]](#footnote-299)q which grew up over Jonah, to provide shade for his head and save him from discomfort. Jonah was very happy about the plant. **7**But the next day at dawn God provided a worm, which attacked the plant so that it withered. **8**And when the sun rose, God provided a sultry[[300]](#footnote-300)r east wind; the sun beat down on Jonah's head, and he became faint. He begged for death, saying, “I would rather die than live.” **9**Then God said to Jonah, “Are you so deeply grieved about the plant?” “Yes,” he replied, “so deeply that I want to die.”

**10**Then God said: “You cared about the plant, which you did not work for and which you did not grow, which appeared overnight and perished overnight. **11**And should not I care about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not yet know their right hand from their left, and many animals as well!”[[301]](#footnote-301)s

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Micah

1

**1**The word of God that came to Micah the Morashtite, who prophesied concerning Samaria and Jerusalem in the reigns of Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah.

**2**Listen, all you peoples,

Give heed, O earth, and all it holds;

And let the Sovereign God be your accuser—

The Sovereign from the holy abode.

**3**For lo! God

Is coming forth from the heavenly dwelling-place[[302]](#footnote-302)°—

To come down and stride

Upon the heights of the earth.

**4**The mountains shall melt underfoot

And the valleys burst open—

Like wax before fire,

Like water cascading down a slope.

**5**All this is for the transgression of Jacob,

And for the sins of the House of Israel.

What is the transgression of Jacob

But Samaria,

And what the shrines[[303]](#footnote-303)t of Judah

But Jerusalem?

**6**So I will turn Samaria

Into a ruin in open country,

Into ground for planting vineyards;

For I will tumble her stones into the valley

And lay her foundations bare.

**7**All her sculptured images shall be smashed,

And all her harlot's wealth be burned,[[304]](#footnote-304)°

And I will make a waste heap of all her idols,

For they were amassed from fees for harlotry,

And they shall become harlots' fees again.

**8**Because of this I will lament and wail;

I will go stripped and naked!

I will lament as sadly as the jackals,

As mournfully as the ostriches.

**9**For the nation's[[305]](#footnote-305)u wound is incurable,

It has reached Judah,

It has spread to the gate of my people,

To Jerusalem.

**10**[[306]](#footnote-306)vTell it not in Gath,

Refrain from weeping;[[307]](#footnote-307)w

In Beth-leaphrah,

Strew dust[[308]](#footnote-308)x over your [head].

**11**Pass on, inhabitants of Shaphir!

Did not the inhabitants of Zaanan

Have to go forth naked in shame?

There is lamentation in Beth-ezel—

It will withdraw its support from you.

**12**Though the inhabitants of Maroth

Hoped for good,

Yet disaster from God descended

Upon the gate of Jerusalem.

**13**Hitch the steeds to the chariot,

Inhabitant of Lachish!

It is the beginning

Of Fair Zion's guilt;

Israel's transgressions

Can be traced to you!

**14**Truly, you must give a farewell gift

To Moresheth-gath.

The houses of Achzib are[[309]](#footnote-309)y

To the kings of Israel

Like a spring that fails.

**15**A dispossessor will I bring to you

Who dwell in Mareshah;

At Adullam the glory

Of Israel shall set.

**16**Shear off your hair and make yourself bald[[310]](#footnote-310)z

For the children you once delighted in;

Make yourself as bald as a vulture,

For they have been banished from you.

2

**1**Ah, those who plan iniquity

And design evil on their beds;

When morning dawns, they do it,

For they have the power.

**2**They covet fields, and seize them;

Houses, and take them away.

They defraud men of their homes,

And people of their land.

**3**Assuredly, thus said God: I am planning such a misfortune against this clan that you will not be able to free your necks from it. You will not be able to walk erect; it will be such a time of disaster.

**4**In that day,

One shall recite a poem about you,

And utter a bitter lament,

And shall say:

“My people's portion changes hands;

How it slips away from me!

Our field is allotted to a rebel.[[311]](#footnote-311)a

We are utterly ravaged.”[[312]](#footnote-312)b

**5**Truly, none of you

Shall cast a lot cord[[313]](#footnote-313)c

In the assembly of God!

**6**“Stop preaching!” they preach.

“That's no way to preach;

Shame shall not overtake [us].

**7**Is the House of Jacob condemned?[[314]](#footnote-314)d

Is God's patience short?

Has such been the practice?”

To be sure, My words are friendly

To those who walk in rectitude;

**8**But an enemy arises against[[315]](#footnote-315)e My people.

You strip the mantle with the cloak[[316]](#footnote-316)f

Off such as pass unsuspecting,

Who are turned away from war.[[317]](#footnote-317)g

**9**You drive the women of My people away

From their pleasant homes;

You deprive their infants

Of My glory forever.

**10**Up and depart!

This is no resting place

Because of [your] defilement.

Terrible destruction shall befall.[[318]](#footnote-318)h

**11**If someone were to go about uttering

Windy, baseless falsehoods:

“I'll preach to you in favor of wine and liquor”—

That would be a preacher [acceptable] to this people.

**12**[[319]](#footnote-319)iI will assemble Jacob, all of you;

I will bring together the remnant of Israel;

I will make them all like sheep of Bozrah,[[320]](#footnote-320)j

Like a flock inside its pen[[321]](#footnote-321)k—

They will be noisy with people.

**13**One who makes a breach

Goes before them;

They enlarge it to a gate

And leave by it.

Their king marches before them,

The Lord at their head.

3

**1**I said:

Listen, you rulers of Jacob,

You chiefs of the House of Israel!

For you ought to know what is right,

**2**[[322]](#footnote-322)lBut you hate good and love evil.

**3**You have devoured My people's flesh;

You have flayed the skin off them,

And their flesh off their bones.

And after tearing their skins off them,

And their flesh off their bones,[[323]](#footnote-323)m

And breaking their bones to bits,

You have cut it up as into[[324]](#footnote-324)n a pot,

Like meat in a caldron.

**4**Someday they shall cry out to God,

But they will not be answered;

At that time the divine face will be hidden,

In accordance with the wrongs they have done.

**5**Thus said God to the prophets

Who lead My people astray,

Who cry “Peace!”

When they have something to chew,

But launch a war on those

Who fail to fill their mouths:

**6**Assuredly,

It shall be night for you

So that you cannot prophesy,

And it shall be dark for you

So that you cannot divine;

The sun shall set on the prophets,

And the day shall be darkened for them.

**7**The seers shall be shamed

And the diviners confounded;

They shall cover their upper lips,[[325]](#footnote-325)o

Because no response comes from God.

**8**But I,

I am filled with strength by the spirit of God,

And with judgment and courage,

To declare to Jacob his transgressions

And to Israel his sin.

**9**Hear this, you rulers of the House of Jacob,

You chiefs of the House of Israel,

Who detest justice

And make crooked all that is straight,

**10**Who build Zion with crime,

Jerusalem with iniquity!

**11**Her rulers judge for gifts,

Her priests give rulings for a fee,

And her prophets divine for pay;

Yet they rely upon God, saying,

“God is in our midst;

No calamity shall overtake us.”

**12**Assuredly, because of you

Zion shall be plowed as a field,

Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins

And the Temple Mount a shrine in the woods.

4

**1**[[326]](#footnote-326)pIn the days to come,

The Mount of God's House shall stand

Firm above the mountains;

And it shall tower above the hills.

The peoples shall gaze on it with joy,

**2**And the many nations shall go and shall say:

“Come,

Let us go up to the Mount of God,

To the House of the God of Jacob;

That we may be instructed in God's ways,

And that we may walk in godly paths.”

For instruction shall come forth[[327]](#footnote-327)q from Zion,

The word of God from Jerusalem.

**3**Thus [God] will judge among the many peoples,

And arbitrate for the multitude of nations,

However distant;

And they shall beat their swords into plowshares[[328]](#footnote-328)r

And their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not take up

Sword against nation;

They shall never again know[[329]](#footnote-329)s war;

**4**But every one shall sit[[330]](#footnote-330)°

Under their own vine and their own fig tree

With no one to disturb them.

For it was God of Hosts who spoke.

**5**Though all the peoples walk

Each in the names of its gods,

We will walk

In the name of the Eternal our God

Forever and ever.

**6**In that day

—declares God—

I will assemble the lame [sheep]

And will gather the outcast

And those I have treated harshly;

**7**And I will turn the lame into a remnant

And the expelled[[331]](#footnote-331)t into a populous nation.

And God will reign over them on Mount Zion

Now and for evermore.

**8**And you, O Migdal-eder,[[332]](#footnote-332)u

Outpost of Fair Zion,

It shall come to you:[[333]](#footnote-333)v

The former monarchy shall return—

The kingship of Fair Jerusalem.[[334]](#footnote-334)w

**9**Now why do you utter such cries?

Is there no king in you,

Have your advisors perished,

That you have been seized by writhing

Like a woman in travail?

**10**Writhe and scream,[[335]](#footnote-335)x Fair Zion,

Like a woman in travail!

For now you must leave the city

And dwell in the country—

And you will reach Babylon.

There you shall be saved,

There God will redeem you

From the hands of your foes.

**11**Indeed, many nations

Have assembled against you

Who think, “Let our eye

Obscenely gaze[[336]](#footnote-336)y on Zion.”

**12**But they do not know

The design of God,

They do not divine the intent:

They have been gathered

Like cut grain to the threshing floor.

**13**Up and thresh, Fair Zion!

For I will give you horns of iron

And provide you with hoofs of bronze,

And you will crush the many peoples.

You[[337]](#footnote-337)z will devote their riches to God,

Their wealth to the Sovereign of all the earth.

**14**Now you gash yourself in grief.[[338]](#footnote-338)a

They have laid siege to us;

They strike the ruler of Israel

On the cheek with a staff.

5

**1**And you, O Bethlehem of Ephrath,[[339]](#footnote-339)b

Least among the clans of Judah,

From you one shall come forth

To rule Israel for Me—

One whose origin is from of old,

From ancient times.

**2**[[340]](#footnote-340)cTruly, [God] will leave them [helpless]

Until she who is to bear has borne;[[341]](#footnote-341)d

Then the rest of his kindred

Shall return to the children of Israel.

**3**He shall stand and shepherd

By the might of God,

By the power of the name

Of the Eternal his God,

And they shall dwell [secure].

For lo, he shall wax great

To the ends of the earth;

**4**And that shall afford safety.

Should Assyria invade our land

And tread upon our fortresses,[[342]](#footnote-342)e

We will set up over that nation[[343]](#footnote-343)f seven shepherds,

Eight princes of other nations,[[344]](#footnote-344)°

**5**Who will shepherd Assyria's land with swords,

The land of Nimrod in its gates.[[345]](#footnote-345)g

Thus he will deliver [us]

From Assyria, should it invade our land,

And should it trample our country.

**6**The remnant of Jacob shall be,

In the midst of the many peoples,

Like dew from God,

Like droplets on grass—

Which do not look to anybody

Nor place their hope in mortals.

**7**The remnant of Jacob

Shall be among the nations,

In the midst of the many peoples,

Like a lion among beasts of the wild,

Like a fierce lion among flocks of sheep,

Which tramples wherever it goes

And rends, with none to deliver.

**8**Your hand shall prevail over your foes,

And all your enemies shall be cut down!

**9**In that day

—declares God—

I will destroy the horses in your midst

And wreck your chariots.

**10**I will destroy the cities of your land

And demolish all your fortresses.

**11**I will destroy the sorcery you practice,

And you shall have no more soothsayers.

**12**I will destroy your idols

And the sacred pillars in your midst;

And no more shall you bow down

To the work of your hands.

**13**I will tear down the sacred posts in your midst

And destroy your cities.[[346]](#footnote-346)h

**14**In anger and wrath

Will I wreak retribution

On the nations[[347]](#footnote-347)i that have not obeyed.

6

**1**Hear what God is saying:

Come, present [My] case before the mountains,

And let the hills hear you pleading.

**2**Hear, you mountains, the case of God—

You firm[[348]](#footnote-348)j foundations of the earth!

For God has a case against this covenanted people—

A suit against Israel.

**3**“My people!

What wrong have I done you?

What hardship have I caused you?

Testify against Me.

**4**In fact,

I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

I redeemed you from the house of bondage,

And I sent before you

Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

**5**“My people,

Remember what Balak king of Moab

Plotted against you,

And how Balaam son of Beor

Responded to him.

[Recall your passage]

From Shittim to Gilgal[[349]](#footnote-349)k—

And you will recognize

The gracious acts of God.”

**6**With what shall I approach God,

Do homage to God on high?

Shall I approach with burnt offerings,

With calves a year old?

**7**Would God be pleased with thousands of rams,

With myriads of streams of oil?

Shall I give my first-born for my transgression,

The fruit of my body for my sins?

**8**“You have been told, O mortal, what is good,

And what God requires of you:

Only to do justice

And to love goodness,

And to walk modestly with your God;[[350]](#footnote-350)l

**9**Then will your name achieve wisdom.”[[351]](#footnote-351)m

Hark! God

Summons the city:[[352]](#footnote-352)°

Hear, O scepter;

For who can direct her **10**but you?[[353]](#footnote-353)n

Will I overlook,[[354]](#footnote-354)o in houses of the wicked,

The granaries of wickedness

And the accursed short ephah?[[355]](#footnote-355)p

**11**Shall they[[356]](#footnote-356)q be acquitted despite wicked balances

And a bag of fraudulent weights?—

**12**[[357]](#footnote-357)rWhose wealthy are full of lawlessness,

And whose inhabitants speak treachery,

With tongues of deceit in their mouths.

**13**I, in turn, have beaten you sore,

Have stunned [you] for your sins:

**14**You have been eating without getting your fill,

And there is a gnawing at your vitals;

You have been conceiving without bearing young,[[358]](#footnote-358)s

And what you bore I would deliver to the sword.

**15**You have been sowing, but have nothing to reap;

You have trod olives, but have no oil for rubbing,

And grapes[[359]](#footnote-359)t but have no wine to drink.

**16**Yet you have kept[[360]](#footnote-360)u the laws of Omri,

And all the practices of the House of Ahab,

And have followed what they devised.

Therefore I will make you an object of horror

And the city's[[361]](#footnote-361)v inhabitants an object of hissing;[[362]](#footnote-362)w

And you shall bear the mockery of peoples.[[363]](#footnote-363)x

7

**1**Woe is me![[364]](#footnote-364)y

I am become like leavings of a fig harvest,

Like gleanings when the vintage is over,

There is not a cluster to eat,

Not a ripe fig I could desire.

**2**The pious are vanished from the land,

None upright are left among its people;

All lie in wait to commit crimes,

Every last one traps the other in a net.

**3**[[365]](#footnote-365)zThey are eager to do evil:

The magistrate makes demands,

And the judge [judges] for a fee;

The rich one makes a crooked plea,

And they grant it.

**4**The best of them is like a prickly shrub;

The [most] upright, worse than a barrier of thorns.

On the day you waited for,[[366]](#footnote-366)a your doom has come—

Now their confusion shall come to pass.

**5**Trust no friend,

Rely on no intimate;

Be guarded in speech

With her who lies in your bosom.

**6**For son spurns father,

Daughter rises up against mother,

Daughter-in-law against mother-in-law—

A man's own household

Are his enemies.

**7**Yet I will look to God,

I will wait for the God who saves me,

My God will hear me.

**8**Do not rejoice over me,

O my enemy![[367]](#footnote-367)b

Though I have fallen, I rise again;

Though I sit in darkness, God is my light.

**9**I must bear the anger of God—

Against whom I have sinned,

Until my cause is championed

And my claim upheld.

I will be brought out into the light;

I will enjoy divine vindication.

**10**When my enemy[[368]](#footnote-368)c sees it,

She shall be covered with shame,

She who taunts me with “Where is this God of yours,

the Eternal One?”

My eyes shall behold her [downfall];

Lo, she shall be for trampling

Like mud in the streets.

**11**A day for mending your walls[[369]](#footnote-369)d—

That is a far-off day.

**12**This is rather a day when to you

[Tramplers] will come streaming

From Assyria and the towns of Egypt—

From [every land from] Egypt to the Euphrates,

From sea to sea and from mountain to mountain—

**13**And your[[370]](#footnote-370)e land shall become a desolation—

Because of those who dwell in it—

As the fruit of their misdeeds.

**14**Oh, shepherd Your people with Your staff,

Your very own flock.

May they who dwell isolated

In a woodland surrounded by farmland[[371]](#footnote-371)f

Graze[[372]](#footnote-372)g Bashan and Gilead

As in olden days.

**15**I will show him[[373]](#footnote-373)h wondrous deeds

As in the days when You sallied forth from the land of Egypt.

**16**Let nations behold and be ashamed

Despite all their might;

Let them put hand to mouth;

Let their ears be deafened!

**17**Let them lick dust like snakes,

Like crawling things on the ground!

Let them come trembling out of their strongholds[[374]](#footnote-374)i

To the Eternal our God;

Let them fear and dread You!

**18**Who is a God like You,

Forgiving iniquity

And remitting transgression;

Who has not stayed angry forever

Toward the remnant of God's own people,

Because of lovingkindness!

**19**[God] will take us back in love,

Quashing our iniquities;[[375]](#footnote-375)°

You will hurl all our[[376]](#footnote-376)j sins

Into the depths of the sea.

**20**You will keep faith with Jacob,

Loyalty to Abraham,

As You promised on oath to our fathers

In days gone by.

NAM - - TaNaKH - A New Translation of THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (NJPS corrections 2020)

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Nahum

1

**1**A pronouncement on Nineveh: The Book of the Prophecy of Nahum the Elkoshite.

**2**The Eternal is a passionate, avenging God;

God is vengeful and fierce in wrath.

God takes vengeance on opponents,

And rages against foes.

**3**God is slow to anger and of great forbearance,

But God does not remit all punishment.

[God] travels in whirlwind and storm,

With clouds the dust on divine feet.

**4**[God] rebukes the sea and dries it up,

And makes all rivers fail;

Bashan and Carmel languish,

And the blossoms[[377]](#footnote-377)k of Lebanon wither.

**5**The mountains quake because of [God],

And the hills melt.

The earth heaves[[378]](#footnote-378)l before [God],

The world and all that dwell therein.

**6**Who can stand before God's wrath?

Who can resist such fury?

God's anger pours out like fire,

And rocks are shattered as a result.

**7**God is good to [those who have hope],

And is a haven on a day of distress—

Being mindful of those seeking refuge.

**8**And with a sweeping flood

[God] makes an end of her place,[[379]](#footnote-379)m

And chases enemies into the darkness.

**9**Why will you plot against [[380]](#footnote-380)°God?

Utter destruction is the outcome:

No adversary[[381]](#footnote-381)n opposes [God] twice!

**10**[[382]](#footnote-382)oFor like those besotted with drink,

They are burned up like tangled thorns,

Like straw that is thoroughly dried.

**11**[[383]](#footnote-383)pThe base plotter

Who designed evil against God

Has left you.[[384]](#footnote-384)°

**12**Thus said God:

“Even as those days[[385]](#footnote-385)q were full and many,

Even so are they over and gone;

As surely as I afflicted you,

I will afflict you no more.[[386]](#footnote-386)r

**13**And now

I will break off his yoke bar from you[[387]](#footnote-387)°

And burst your cords apart.”

**14**God has commanded concerning him:[[388]](#footnote-388)s

No posterity shall continue your name.[[389]](#footnote-389)t

I will do away with

The carved and graven images

In the temples of your gods;

I will make your grave

Accord with your worthlessness.[[390]](#footnote-390)u

2

**1**Behold on the hills

The footsteps of a herald

Announcing good fortune!

“Celebrate your festivals, O Judah,

Fulfill your vows.

Never again shall scoundrels invade you,

They have totally vanished.”

**2**[[391]](#footnote-391)vA shatterer has come up against you.[[392]](#footnote-392)°

Put up the guard posts,

Watch the road;

Steady your loins,

Brace all your strength!

**3**For God has restored the Pride[[393]](#footnote-393)w of Jacob[[394]](#footnote-394)x

As well as the Pride[[395]](#footnote-395)y of Israel,

Though marauders have laid them waste

And ravaged their branches.

**4**His warriors' shields are painted red,[[396]](#footnote-396)°

And the soldiers are clothed in crimson;

The chariots are like flaming torches,[[397]](#footnote-397)z

On the day they are made ready.

The [arrows of] cypress wood are poisoned,[[398]](#footnote-398)a

**5**The chariots dash about frenzied in the fields,

They rush through the meadows.

They appear like torches,

They race like streaks of lightning.

**6**[[399]](#footnote-399)bHe commands his burly men;

They stumble as they advance,

They hasten up to her wall,

Where wheeled shelters[[400]](#footnote-400)c are set up.

**7**The floodgates are opened,

And the palace is deluged.[[401]](#footnote-401)d

**8**And Huzzab is exiled and carried away,[[402]](#footnote-402)e

While her handmaidens escort [her][[403]](#footnote-403)f

As with the voices of doves,

Beating their breasts.

**9**Nineveh has been like a [placid] pool of water

From earliest times;[[404]](#footnote-404)g

Now they flee.

“Stop! Stop!”—

But none can turn them back.

**10**“Plunder silver! Plunder gold!”

There is no limit to the treasure;

It is a hoard of all precious objects.

**11**Desolation, devastation, and destruction!

Spirits sink,

Knees buckle,

All loins tremble,

All faces turn ashen.[[405]](#footnote-405)h

**12**What has become of that lions' den,

That pasture[[406]](#footnote-406)i of great beasts,

Where lion and lion's breed walked,

And lion's cub—with none to disturb them?

**13**[Where is] the lion that tore victims for its cubs

And strangled for the lionesses,

And filled its lairs with prey

And its dens with mangled flesh?

**14**I am going to deal with you

—declares God of Hosts:

I will burn down her chariots in smoke,[[407]](#footnote-407)j

And the sword shall devour your great beasts;

I will stamp out your killings from the earth,

And the sound of your messengers[[408]](#footnote-408)k

Shall be heard no more.

3

**1**Ah, city of crime,

Utterly treacherous,

Full of violence,

Where killing never stops!

**2**Crack of whip

And rattle of wheel,

Galloping steed

And bounding chariot!

**3**Charging cavalry,

Flashing swords,

And glittering spears!

Hosts of slain

And heaps of corpses,

Dead bodies without number—

They stumble over bodies.

**4**Because of the countless harlotries of the harlot,

The winsome mistress of sorcery,

Who ensnared[[409]](#footnote-409)l nations with her harlotries

And peoples with her sorcery,

**5**I am going to deal with you

—declares God of Hosts.

I will lift up your skirts over your face

And display your nakedness to the nations

And your shame to kingdoms.

**6**I will throw loathsome things over you

And disfigure you

And make a spectacle of you.

**7**All who see you will recoil from you

And will say,

“Nineveh has been ravaged!”

Who will console her?

Where shall I look for

Anyone to comfort you?

**8**Were you any better than No-amon,[[410]](#footnote-410)m

Which sat by the Nile,

Surrounded by water—

Its rampart a river,[[411]](#footnote-411)n

Its wall consisting of sea?

**9**Populous Nubia

And teeming Egypt,

Put and the Libyans—

They were her[[412]](#footnote-412)o helpers.

**10**Yet even she was exiled,

She went into captivity.

Her babes, too, were dashed in pieces

At every street corner.

Lots were cast for her nobles,

And all her dignitaries were bound in chains.

**11**You too shall be drunk

And utterly overcome;[[413]](#footnote-413)p

You too shall seek

A refuge from the enemy.

**12**All your forts are fig trees

With[[414]](#footnote-414)q ripe fruit;

If shaken they will fall

Into the mouths of devourers.

**13**Truly, the troops within you are women;

The gates of your land have opened themselves

To your enemies;

Fire has consumed your gate bars.

**14**Draw water for the siege,

Strengthen your forts;

Tread the clay,

Trample the mud,

Grasp the brick mold!

**15**There fire will devour you,

The sword will put an end to you;

It will devour you like the grub.

Multiply like grubs,

Multiply like locusts![[415]](#footnote-415)r

**16**You had more traders

Than the sky has stars—

The grubs cast their skins and fly away.

**17**Your guards were like locusts,

Your marshals like piles of hoppers

Which settle on the stone fences

On a chilly day;

When the sun comes out, they fly away,

And where they are nobody knows.

**18**Your shepherds are slumbering,

O king of Assyria;

Your sheepmasters are lying inert;[[416]](#footnote-416)s

Your people are scattered[[417]](#footnote-417)t over the hills,

And there is none to gather them.

**19**There is no healing[[418]](#footnote-418)u for your injury;

Your wound is grievous.

All who hear the news about you

Clap their hands over you.

For who has not suffered

From your constant malice?

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Habakkuk

1

**1**The pronouncement made by the prophet Habakkuk.

**2**How long, O Eternal One, shall I cry out

And You not listen,

Shall I shout to You, “Violence!”

And You not save?

**3**Why do You make me see iniquity

[Why] do You look[[419]](#footnote-419)v upon wrong?—

Raiding and violence are before me,

Strife continues and contention goes on.[[420]](#footnote-420)w

**4**That is why decision fails

And justice never emerges;

For villains hedge in those whose cause is just—

Therefore judgment emerges deformed.

**5**“Look among the nations,

Observe well and be utterly astounded;

For a work is being wrought in your days

Which you would not believe if it were told.

**6**For lo, I am raising up the Chaldeans,

That fierce, impetuous nation,

Who cross the earth's wide spaces

To seize homes not their own.

**7**They are terrible, dreadful;

They make their own laws and rules.[[421]](#footnote-421)x

**8**Their horses are swifter than leopards,

Fleeter than wolves of the steppe.[[422]](#footnote-422)y

Their steeds gallop—their steeds[[423]](#footnote-423)z

Come flying from afar.

Like vultures rushing toward food,

**9**They all come, bent on rapine.

The thrust[[424]](#footnote-424)a of their van is forward,

And they amass captives like sand.

**10**Kings they hold in derision,

And princes are a joke to them;

They laugh at every fortress,

They pile up earth and capture it.

**11**[[425]](#footnote-425)bThen they pass on like the wind,

They transgress and incur guilt,

For they ascribe their might to their god.”

**12**You, O Eternal One, are from everlasting;

My holy God, You[[426]](#footnote-426)c never die.

O Eternal One, You have made them a subject of contention;

O Rock, You have made them a cause for complaint.

**13**You whose eyes are too pure to look upon evil,

Who cannot countenance wrongdoing,

Why do You countenance treachery,

And stand by idle

While the one in the wrong devours

The one in the right?

**14**You have made humankind like the fish of the sea,

Like creeping things that have no ruler.[[427]](#footnote-427)d

**15**He has fished them all up with a line,

Pulled them up in his trawl,

And gathered them in his net.

That is why he rejoices and is glad.

**16**That is why he sacrifices to his trawl

And makes offerings to his net;

For through them his portion[[428]](#footnote-428)e is rich

And his nourishment fat.

**17**Shall he then keep emptying his trawl,[[429]](#footnote-429)f

And slaying nations without pity?

2

**1**I will stand on my watch,

Take up my station at the[[430]](#footnote-430)g post,

And wait to see what [God] will say to me,[[431]](#footnote-431)°

What will be the reply[[432]](#footnote-432)h to my complaint.

**2**God answered me and said:

Write the prophecy down,

Inscribe it clearly on tablets,

So that it can be read easily.

**3**For there is yet a prophecy[[433]](#footnote-433)i for a set term,

A truthful witness for a time that will come.

Even if it tarries, wait for it still;

For it will surely come, without delay:

**4**Lo, their spirit within them is puffed up, not upright,

But[[434]](#footnote-434)j the righteous are rewarded with life

For their fidelity.

**5**How much less then shall the defiant[[435]](#footnote-435)k go unpunished,

The treacherous, the arrogant

Who have made their maw as wide as Sheol,

Who are as insatiable as Death,

Who have harvested all the nations

And gathered in all the peoples!

**6**Surely all these shall pronounce a satire against them,

A pointed epigram concerning them.

They shall say:

Ah, you who pile up what is not yours—

How much longer?—

And make ever heavier your load of indebtedness!

**7**Right suddenly will your creditors[[436]](#footnote-436)l arise,

And those who remind[[437]](#footnote-437)m you will awake,

And you will be despoiled by them.

**8**Because you plundered many nations,

All surviving peoples shall plunder you—

For crimes against humans and wrongs against lands,

Against cities and all their inhabitants.

**9**Ah, you who have acquired gains

To the detriment of your own house,

Who have destroyed many peoples[[438]](#footnote-438)n

In order to set your nest on high

To escape disaster!

**10**You have plotted shame for your own house,

And guilt for yourself;

**11**For a stone shall cry out from the wall,

And a rafter shall answer it from the woodwork.

**12**Ah, you who have built a town with crime,

And established a city with infamy,

**13**So that peoples have had to toil for the fire,[[439]](#footnote-439)o

And nations to weary themselves for naught!

[[440]](#footnote-440)pBehold, it is from God of Hosts:

**14**For the earth shall be filled

With awe for the glory of God

As water covers the sea.[[441]](#footnote-441)q

**15**Ah, you who make others drink to intoxication

As you pour out[[442]](#footnote-442)r your wrath,

In order to gaze upon their nakedness![[443]](#footnote-443)s

**16**You shall be sated with shame

Rather than glory:

Drink in your turn and stagger![[444]](#footnote-444)t

The cup in the right hand of God

Shall come around to you,

And disgrace to[[445]](#footnote-445)u your glory.

**17**For the lawlessness against Lebanon shall cover you,

The destruction of animals shall overwhelm you[[446]](#footnote-446)v—

For crimes against humans and wrongs against lands,

Against cities and all their inhabitants.

**18**[[447]](#footnote-447)wWhat has the carved image availed,

That its maker has carved it

For an image and a false oracle—

That the one who makes an item has trusted in it,

Producing dumb idols?

**19**Ah, you who say, “Wake up” to wood,

“Awaken,” to inert stone!

Can that give an oracle?

Why, it is encased in gold and silver,

But there is no breath inside it.

**20**But God in the holy Abode—

Be silent before [God], all the earth!

3

**1**A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk. In the mode of Shigionoth.[[448]](#footnote-448)x

**2**O Eternal One! I have learned of Your renown;

I am awed, O Eternal One, by Your deeds.

Renew them in these years,

Oh, make them known in these years!

Though angry, may You remember compassion.

**3**God is coming from Teman,

The Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah.[[449]](#footnote-449)y

God's majesty covers the skies,

Such splendor fills the earth:

**4**[[450]](#footnote-450)zIt is a brilliant light

Which gives off rays on every side—

And therein God's glory is enveloped.

**5**Pestilence marches in front,

And plague comes forth at God's heels.

**6**God's standing up makes the earth shake;[[451]](#footnote-451)a

A mere glance makes nations tremble.

The age-old mountains are shattered,

The primeval hills sink low.

God's routes are ancient:

**7**As a scene of havoc I behold[[452]](#footnote-452)b

The tents of Cushan;

Shaken are the pavilions

Of the land of Midian!

**8**Are You wroth, O Eternal One, with Neharim?

Is Your anger against Neharim,

Your rage against Yam[[453]](#footnote-453)c—

That You are driving Your steeds,

Your victorious chariot?

**9**All bared and ready is Your bow.

Sworn are the rods of the word.[[454]](#footnote-454)d Selah.

You make the earth burst into streams,

**10**The mountains rock at the sight of You,

A torrent of rain comes down;

Loud roars the deep,

The sky returns the echo.[[455]](#footnote-455)e

**11**Sun [and] moon stand still on high

As Your arrows fly in brightness,

Your flashing spear in brilliance.

**12**You tread the earth in rage,

You trample nations in fury.

**13**You have come forth to deliver Your people,

To deliver Your anointed.[[456]](#footnote-456)f

You will smash the roof of the villain's house,

Raze it from foundation to top. Selah.

**14**You will crack [the enemy's] skull with Your[[457]](#footnote-457)g bludgeon;

Blown away shall be his warriors,

Whose delight is to crush me suddenly,

To devour a pauper in an ambush.[[458]](#footnote-458)h

**15**You will make Your steeds tread the sea,

Stirring the mighty waters.

**16**I heard and my bowels quaked,

My lips quivered at the sound;

Rot entered into my bone,

I trembled where I stood.

Yet I wait calmly for the day of distress,

For a people to come to attack us.

**17**Though the fig tree does not bud

And no yield is on the vine,

Though the olive crop has failed

And the fields produce no grain,

Though sheep have vanished from the fold

And no cattle are in the pen,[[459]](#footnote-459)i

**18**Yet will I rejoice in God,

Exult in the God who delivers me.

**19**The Sovereign God is my strength,

Making my feet like the deer's

And letting me stride upon the heights.

For the leader; with instrumental music.[[460]](#footnote-460)j

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Zephaniah

1

**1**The word of God that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi son of Gedaliah son of Amariah son of Hezekiah, during the reign of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah.

**2**I will sweep everything away

From the face of the earth

—declares God.

**3**I will sweep away human and animal;

I will sweep away the birds of the sky

And the fish of the sea.

I will make the wicked stumble,[[461]](#footnote-461)k

And I will destroy humankind

From the face of the earth

—declares God.

**4**I will stretch out My arm against Judah

And against all who dwell in Jerusalem;

And I will wipe out from this place

Every vestige of Baal,

And the name of the priestlings[[462]](#footnote-462)l along with the priests;

**5**And those who bow down on the roofs

To the host of heaven;

And those who bow down and swear to God

But also swear by Malcam;[[463]](#footnote-463)m

**6**And those who have forsaken God,

And those who have not sought God

And have not made inquiry.

**7**Be silent before my Sovereign God,

For the day of God is approaching;

For God has prepared a sacrificial feast,[[464]](#footnote-464)n

Has bidden the guests purify themselves.[[465]](#footnote-465)°

**8**And on the day of God's sacrifice

I will punish the officials

And the king's sons,[[466]](#footnote-466)o

And all who don a foreign vestment.

**9**I will also punish on that day

Everyone who steps over the threshold,[[467]](#footnote-467)p

Who fill their master's[[468]](#footnote-468)q palace

With lawlessness and fraud.

**10**In that day there shall be

—declares God—

A loud outcry from the Fish Gate,

And howling from the Mishneh,[[469]](#footnote-469)r

And a sound of great anguish from the hills.

**11**The dwellers of the Machtesh[[470]](#footnote-470)s howl;

For all the traders have perished,

All who weigh silver are wiped out.

**12**At that time,

I will search Jerusalem with lamps;

And I will punish all those

Who rest untroubled on their lees,

Who say to themselves,

“God will do nothing, good or bad.”

**13**Their wealth shall be plundered

And their homes laid waste.

They shall build houses and not dwell in them,

Plant vineyards and not drink their wine.

**14**The great day of God is approaching,

Approaching most swiftly.

Hark, the day of God!

It is bitter:

There a warrior shrieks![[471]](#footnote-471)t

**15**That day shall be a day of wrath,

A day of trouble and distress,

A day of calamity and desolation,

A day of darkness and deep gloom,

A day of densest clouds,

**16**A day of horn blasts and alarms—

Against the fortified towns

And the lofty corner towers.

**17**I will bring distress on the people,

And they shall walk like the blind,

Because they sinned against God;

Their blood shall be spilled like dust,

And their fat[[472]](#footnote-472)u like dung.

**18**Moreover, their silver and gold

Shall not avail to save them.

On the day of God's wrath,

In the fire of such passion,

The whole land shall be consumed;

For [God] will make a terrible end

Of all who dwell in the land.

2

**1**Gather together, gather,

O nation without shame,

**2**Before the day the decree is born—

The day flies by like chaff[[473]](#footnote-473)v—

Before the fierce anger

Of God overtakes you,

Before the day of anger

Of God overtakes you.

**3**Seek God,

All you humble of the land

Who have fulfilled God's law;

Seek righteousness,

Seek humility.

Perhaps you will find shelter

On the day of God's anger.

**4**Indeed, Gaza shall be deserted

And Ashkelon desolate;

Ashdod's people shall be expelled in broad daylight,

And Ekron shall be uprooted.

**5**Ah, nation of Cherethites

Who inhabit the seacoast!

There is a word of God against you,

O Canaan,[[474]](#footnote-474)w land of the Philistines:

I will lay you waste

Without inhabitants.

**6**The seacoast Cheroth[[475]](#footnote-475)x shall become

An abode for shepherds and folds for flocks,

**7**And shall be a portion for the remnant of the House of Judah;

On these [pastures] they shall graze [their flocks],

They shall lie down[[476]](#footnote-476)y at eventide

In the houses of Ashkelon.

For the Eternal their God will take note of them

And restore their fortunes.

**8**I have heard the insults of Moab

And the jeers of the Ammonites,

Who have insulted My people

And gloated over their country.

**9**Assuredly, as I live

—declares God of Hosts, the God of Israel—

Moab shall become like Sodom

And the Ammonites like Gomorrah:

Clumps[[477]](#footnote-477)z of weeds and patches[[478]](#footnote-478)a of salt,

And desolation evermore.

The remnant of My people shall plunder them,

The remainder of My nation shall possess them.

**10**That is what they'll get for their haughtiness,

For insulting and jeering

At the people of God of Hosts.

**11**God will appear terrible against them,

Causing all the gods on earth to shrivel;[[479]](#footnote-479)b

And all the coastlands of the nations

Shall bow in homage—

Everyone in their own home.

**12**You Cushites too—

They shall be slain by My sword.

**13**[God] will reach out against the north

And destroy Assyria—

Making Nineveh a desolation,

Arid as the desert.

**14**In it flocks shall lie down,

Every species of beast,

While jackdaws and owls roost on its capitals,

The great owl hoots in the window,

And the raven [croaks] on the threshold.

For its cedarwork is laid bare.[[480]](#footnote-480)c

**15**Is this the exultant city

That dwelt secure,

That thought in her heart,

“I am, and there is none but me”?

Alas, she is become a waste,

A lair of wild beasts!

Everyone who passes by her

Hisses and makes a hand gesture.[[481]](#footnote-481)d

3

**1**Ah, sullied, polluted,

Overbearing[[482]](#footnote-482)e city!

**2**She heeds no call,

Has learned no lesson;

She has not trusted in God,

Has not drawn near to her God.

**3**The officials within her

Are roaring lions;

Her judges are wolves of the steppe,

They leave no bone until morning.[[483]](#footnote-483)f

**4**Her prophets are reckless,

Totally faithless;

Her priests profane what is holy,

They give perverse rulings.

**5**But God in her midst is righteous,

And does no wrong;

[God] issues judgment every morning,

As unfailing as the light.

The wrongdoer knows no shame!

**6**I wiped out nations:

Their corner towers are desolate;

I turned their thoroughfares into ruins,

With none passing by;

Their towns lie waste with nobody around,

Without inhabitants.

**7**And I thought that she[[484]](#footnote-484)g would fear Me,

Would learn a lesson,

And that the punishment I brought on them[[485]](#footnote-485)h

Would not be lost on her.[[486]](#footnote-486)i

Instead, all the more eagerly

They have practiced corruption in all their deeds.

**8**But wait for Me—says God—

For the day when I arise as an accuser;[[487]](#footnote-487)j

When I decide to gather nations,

To bring kingdoms together,

To pour out My indignation on them,

All My blazing anger.

Indeed, by the fire of My passion

All the earth shall be consumed.

**9**For then I will make the peoples pure of speech,[[488]](#footnote-488)°

So that they all invoke God by name

And render service with one accord.[[489]](#footnote-489)k

**10**From beyond the rivers of Cush, My suppliants[[490]](#footnote-490)l

Shall bring offerings to Me in Fair Puzai.[[491]](#footnote-491)m

**11**In that day,

You will no longer be shamed for all the deeds

By which you have defied Me.

For then I will remove

The proud and exultant within you,

And you will be haughty no more

On My sacred mount.[[492]](#footnote-492)n

**12**But I will leave within you

A poor, humble folk,

And they shall find refuge

In the name of God.

**13**The remnant of Israel

Shall do no wrong

And speak no falsehood;

A deceitful tongue

Shall not be in their mouths.

Only such as these shall graze and lie down,

With none to trouble them.

**14**Shout for joy, Fair Zion,

Cry aloud, O Israel!

Rejoice and be glad with all your heart,

Fair Jerusalem!

**15**God has annulled the judgment against you,

And swept away your foes.

Israel's Sovereign God is within you;

You need fear misfortune no more.

**16**In that day,

This shall be said to Jerusalem:

Have no fear, O Zion;

Let not your hands droop!

**17**Your God the Eternal One is in your midst—

A warrior who brings triumph—

Who will rejoice over you and be glad,

Who will shout over you with jubilation

Who will lovingly soothe

**18**Those long disconsolate.[[493]](#footnote-493)o

I will take away from you the woe

Over which you endured mockery.[[494]](#footnote-494)p

**19**At that time I will make [an end]

Of all who afflicted you.

And I will rescue the lame [sheep]

And gather the strayed;

And I will exchange their disgrace

For fame and renown in all the earth.

**20**At that time I will gather you,

And at [that] time I will bring you [home];

For I will make you renowned and famous

Among all the peoples on earth,

When I restore your fortunes

Before their[[495]](#footnote-495)q very eyes

—said God.

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Haggai

1

**1**In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, this word of God came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

**2**Thus said God of Hosts: These people say, “The time has not yet come[[496]](#footnote-496)r for rebuilding the House of God.”

**3**And the word of God through the prophet Haggai continued:

**4**Is it a time for you to dwell in your paneled houses, while this House is lying in ruins? **5**Now thus said God of Hosts: Consider how you have been faring! **6**You have sowed much and brought in little; you eat without being satisfied; you drink without getting your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one gets warm; and he who earns anything earns it for a leaky purse.

**7**[[497]](#footnote-497)sThus said God of Hosts: Consider how you have fared: **8**Go up to the hills and get timber, and rebuild the House; then I will look on it with favor and I will be glorified[[498]](#footnote-498)t—said God.

**9**You have been expecting much and getting little; and when you brought it home, I would blow on it![[499]](#footnote-499)u Because of what?—says God of Hosts. Because of My House which lies in ruins, while you all hurry to your own houses! **10**That is why the skies above you have withheld [their] moisture and the earth has withheld its yield, **11**and I have summoned fierce heat upon the land—upon the hills, upon the new grain and wine and oil, upon all that the ground produces, upon human and animal, and upon all the fruits of labor.

**12**Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak and all the rest of the people gave heed to the summons of the Eternal their God and to the words of the prophet Haggai, when the Eternal their God sent him; the people feared God. **13**And Haggai, God's messenger, fulfilling God's mission, spoke to the people, “I am with you—declares God.”

**14**Then God roused the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the spirit of all the rest of the people: They came and set to work on the House of God of Hosts, their God, **15**on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month. In the second year of King Darius,

2

**1**on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of God came through the prophet Haggai:

**2**Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and to the rest of the people: **3**Who is there left among you who saw this House in its former splendor? How does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing to you. **4**But be strong, O Zerubbabel—says God—be strong, O high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak; be strong, all you people of the land—says God—and act! For I am with you—says God of Hosts. **5**So I promised you when you came out of Egypt, and My spirit is still in your midst. Fear not!

**6**For thus said God of Hosts: In just a little while longer I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; **7**I will shake all the nations. And the precious things of all the nations shall come [here], and I will fill this House with glory, said God of Hosts. **8**Silver is Mine and gold is Mine—says God of Hosts. **9**The glory of this latter House shall be greater than that of the former one, said God of Hosts; and in this place I will grant prosperity—declares God of Hosts.

**10**On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth [month], in the second year of Darius, the word of God came to the prophet Haggai:

**11**Thus said God of Hosts: Seek a ruling from the priests, as follows: **12**If someone is carrying sacrificial flesh in a fold of their garment, and with that fold touches bread, stew, wine, oil, or any other food, will the latter become holy? In reply, the priests said, “No.” **13**Haggai went on, “If someone defiled by a corpse touches any of these, will it be defiled?” And the priests responded, “Yes.”

**14**Thereupon Haggai said: That is how this people and that is how this nation looks to Me—declares God—and so, too, the work of their hands: Whatever they offer there is defiled. **15**And now take thought, from this day backward:[[500]](#footnote-500)v As long as no stone had been laid on another in the House of God, **16**if one came to a heap of twenty measures,[[501]](#footnote-501)w it would yield only ten; and if one came to a wine vat to skim off fifty measures, the press would yield only twenty. **17**I struck you—all the works of your hands—with blight and mildew and hail, but you did not return[[502]](#footnote-502)x to Me—declares God. **18**Take note, from this day forward—from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day when the foundation was laid for God's Temple—take note **19**while the seed is still in the granary, and the vine, fig tree, pomegranate, and olive tree have not yet borne fruit. For from this day on I will send blessings.

**20**And the word of God came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month: **21**Speak to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah: I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. **22**And I will overturn the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the might of the kingdoms of the nations. I will overturn chariots and their drivers. Horses and their riders shall fall, each by the sword of his fellow. **23**On that day—declares God of Hosts—I will take you, O My servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel—declares God—and make you as a signet;[[503]](#footnote-503)y for I have chosen you—declares God of Hosts.

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Zechariah

1

**1**In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, this word of God came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berechiah son of Iddo:[[504]](#footnote-504)z **2**God was very angry with your ancestors. **3**Say to them further:

Thus said God of Hosts: Turn back to me—says God of Hosts—and I will turn back to you—said God of Hosts. **4**Do not be like your ancestors! For when the earlier prophets called to them, “Thus said God of Hosts: Come, turn back from your evil ways and your evil deeds, they did not obey or give heed to Me—declares God. **5**Where are your ancestors now? And did the prophets live forever? **6**But the warnings and the decrees with which I charged My servants the prophets overtook your ancestors—did they not?—and in the end they had to admit, ‘God of Hosts purposed to deal with us according to our ways and our deeds; that is just what has been done to us.’”

**7**On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month of the second year of Darius—the month of Shebat—this word of God came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berechiah son of Iddo:

**8**In the night, I had a vision. I saw a man, mounted on a bay horse, standing among the myrtles[[505]](#footnote-505)a in the Deep, and behind him were bay,[[506]](#footnote-506)b sorrel,[[507]](#footnote-507)c and white horses. **9**I asked, “What are those, my lord?” And the angel who talked with me answered, “I will let you know what they are.” **10**Then the man who was standing among the myrtles[[508]](#footnote-508)d spoke up and said, “These were sent out by God to roam the earth.”

**11**And in fact, they reported to the angel of God who was standing among the myrtles,[[509]](#footnote-509)e “We have roamed the earth, and have found all the earth dwelling in tranquility.”[[510]](#footnote-510)f **12**Thereupon the angel of God exclaimed, “O Lord of Hosts! How long will You withhold pardon from Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, which You placed under a curse seventy years ago?”

**13**God replied with kind, comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

**14**Then the angel who talked with me said to me: “Proclaim! Thus said God of Hosts: I am very jealous for Jerusalem—for Zion— **15**and I am very angry with those nations that are at ease; for I was only angry a little, but they overdid the punishment. **16**Assuredly, thus said God: I graciously return to Jerusalem. My House shall be built in her—declares God of Hosts—the measuring line is being applied to Jerusalem. **17**Proclaim further: Thus said God of Hosts: My towns shall yet overflow with bounty. For God will again comfort Zion—and will again choose Jerusalem.”

2

**1**I looked up, and I saw four horns.[[511]](#footnote-511)g **2**I asked the angel who talked with me, “What are those?” “Those,” he replied, “are the horns that tossed Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.” **3**Then God showed me four smiths. **4**“What are they coming to do?” I asked. He replied: [[512]](#footnote-512)°“Those are the horns that tossed Judah, so that nobody at all could raise their head; and these [smiths] have come to throw them into a panic,[[513]](#footnote-513)h to hew down[[514]](#footnote-514)i the horns of the nations that raise a horn against the land of Judah, to toss it.”

**5**I looked up, and I saw a man holding a measuring line. **6**“Where are you going?” I asked. “To measure Jerusalem,” he replied, “to see how long and wide it is to be.” **7**But the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him. **8**The former said to him, “Run to that agent and tell him:[[515]](#footnote-515)°

“Jerusalem shall be peopled as a city without walls, so many shall be the people and cattle it contains. **9**And I Myself—declares God—will be a wall of fire all around it, and I will be a glory inside it.

**10**“Away, away! Flee from the land of the north—says God—though I swept you [there] like the four winds of heaven—declares God.”

**11**Away, escape, O Zion, you who dwell in Fair Babylon! **12**For thus said God of Hosts—who sent me after glory[[516]](#footnote-516)j—concerning the nations that have taken you as spoil: “Whoever touches you touches the pupil of their own[[517]](#footnote-517)k eye. **13**For I will lift My hand against them, and they shall be spoil for those they enslaved.”—Then you shall know that I was sent by God of Hosts.

**14**Shout for joy, Fair Zion! For lo, I come; and I will dwell in your midst—declares God. **15**In that day many nations will attach themselves to God and become God's[[518]](#footnote-518)l people, and God[[519]](#footnote-519)m will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that I was sent to you by God of Hosts.

**16**God will take Judah as God's own portion[[520]](#footnote-520)n in the Holy Land—and will choose Jerusalem once more.

**17**Be silent, all flesh, before God!

For [God] is roused from the holy habitation.

3

**1**I was further shown Joshua, the high priest, standing before the angel of God, and the Accuser[[521]](#footnote-521)o standing at his right to accuse him. **2**But [the angel of] God said to the Accuser, “God rebukes you, O Accuser; God who has chosen Jerusalem rebukes you! For this is a brand plucked from the fire.”[[522]](#footnote-522)p **3**Now Joshua was clothed in filthy garments when he stood before the angel. **4**The latter spoke up and said to his attendants, “Take the filthy garments off him!” And he said to him, “See, I have removed your guilt from you, and you shall be clothed in [priestly] robes.” **5**Then he[[523]](#footnote-523)q gave the order, “Let a pure[[524]](#footnote-524)r diadem be placed on his head.” And they placed the pure diadem on his head and clothed him in [priestly] garments,[[525]](#footnote-525)s as the angel of God stood by.

**6**And the angel of God charged Joshua as follows: **7**“Thus said God of Hosts: If you walk in My paths and keep My charge, you in turn will rule My House and guard My courts, and I will permit you to move about among these attendants. **8**Hearken well, O High Priest Joshua, you and your fellow priests sitting before you! For those men are a sign that I am going to bring My servant the Branch.[[526]](#footnote-526)°[[527]](#footnote-527)t **9**For mark well this stone which I place before Joshua, a single stone with seven eyes.[[528]](#footnote-528)u I will execute its engraving—declares God of Hosts—and I will remove that country's guilt in a single day. **10**In that day—declares God of Hosts—you will be inviting each other to the shade of vines and fig trees.”

4

**1**The angel who talked with me came back and woke me as someone is wakened from sleep. **2**He said to me, “What do you see?” And I answered, “I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl above it. The lamps on it are seven in number, and the lamps above it have[[529]](#footnote-529)v seven pipes; **3**and by it are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and one on its left.” **4**I, in turn, asked the angel who talked with me, “What do those things mean, my lord?” **5**“Do you not know what those things mean?” asked the angel who talked with me; and I said, “No, my lord.” **6**Then he explained to me as follows:[[530]](#footnote-530)w

“This is the word of God to Zerubbabel:[[531]](#footnote-531)x Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit[[532]](#footnote-532)y—said God of Hosts. **7**Whoever you are, O great mountain in the path of Zerubbabel, turn into level ground! For he shall produce that excellent stone; it shall be greeted with shouts of ‘Beautiful! Beautiful!’”

**8**And the word of God came to me: **9**“Zerubbabel's hands have founded this House and Zerubbabel's hands shall complete it. Then you shall know that it was God of Hosts who sent me to you. **10**Does anyone scorn a day of small beginnings? When they see the stone of distinction[[533]](#footnote-533)z in the hand of Zerubbabel, they shall rejoice.

“Those seven are the eyes of God, ranging over the whole earth.”

**11**“And what,” I asked him, “are those two olive trees, one on the right and one on the left of the lampstand?” **12**And I further asked him, “What are the two tops[[534]](#footnote-534)a of the olive trees that feed their gold[[535]](#footnote-535)b through those two golden tubes?”[[536]](#footnote-536)c **13**He asked me, “Don't you know what they are?” And I replied, “No, my lord.” **14**Then he explained, “They are the two anointed dignitaries[[537]](#footnote-537)d who attend the Sovereign of all the earth.”

5

**1**I looked up again, and I saw a flying scroll. **2**“What do you see?” he asked. And I replied, “A flying scroll, twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide.” **3**“That,” he explained to me, “is the curse which goes out over the whole land. For everyone who has stolen, as is forbidden on one side [of the scroll], has gone unpunished; and everyone who has sworn [falsely], as is forbidden on the other side of it, has gone unpunished.[[538]](#footnote-538)e **4**[But] I have sent it forth—declares God of Hosts—and [the curse] shall enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name, and it shall lodge inside their houses and shall consume them to the last timber and stone.”

**5**Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said, “Now look up and note this other object that is approaching.” **6**I asked, “What is it?” And he said, “This tub[[539]](#footnote-539)f that is approaching—this,” said he, “is their eye[[540]](#footnote-540)g in all the land.” **7**And behold, a disk of lead was lifted, revealing a woman seated inside the tub. **8**“That,” he said, “is Wickedness”; and, thrusting her down into the tub, he pressed the leaden weight into its mouth.

**9**I looked up again and saw two women come soaring with the wind in their wings—they had wings like those of a stork—and carry off the tub between earth and sky. **10**“Where are they taking the tub?” I asked the angel who talked with me. **11**And he answered, “To build a shrine for it in the land of Shinar;[[541]](#footnote-541)h [a stand] shall be erected for it, and it shall be set down there upon the stand.”

6

**1**I looked up again, and I saw: Four chariots were coming out from between the two mountains; the mountains were of copper. **2**The horses of the first chariot were bay, the horses of the second chariot were black; **3**the horses of the third chariot were white, and the horses of the fourth chariot were spotted—dappled. **4**And I spoke up and asked the angel who talked with me: “What are those, my lord?” **5**In reply, the angel said to me, “Those are the four winds of heaven coming out after presenting themselves to the Sovereign of all the earth. **6**The one with the black horses is going out to the region of the north; the white ones have gone out[[542]](#footnote-542)i to what is to the west of them;[[543]](#footnote-543)j the spotted ones have gone out[[544]](#footnote-544)k to the region of the south; **7**and the dappled ones have gone out…”[[545]](#footnote-545)l They were ready to start out and range the earth, and he gave them the order, “Start out and range the earth!” And they ranged the earth. **8**Then he alerted me, and said to me, “Take good note! Those that went out to the region of the north have done my pleasure[[546]](#footnote-546)m in the region of the north.”[[547]](#footnote-547)n

**9**The word of God came to me: **10**Receive from[[548]](#footnote-548)o the exiled community—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon—and you, in turn, proceed the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. **11**Take silver and gold and make crowns. Place [one] on the head of High Priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, **12**and say to him, “Thus said God of Hosts: Behold, a man called the Branch[[549]](#footnote-549)p shall branch out from the place where he is, and he shall build the Temple of God. **13**He shall build the Temple of God and shall assume majesty, and he shall sit on his throne and rule. And there shall also be a priest seated on his throne,[[550]](#footnote-550)q and harmonious understanding shall prevail between them.”

**14**The crowns shall remain in the Temple of God as a memorial to Helem,[[551]](#footnote-551)r Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen[[552]](#footnote-552)s son of Zephaniah. **15**Peoples from far away shall come and take part in the building of the Temple of God, and you shall know that I have been sent to you by God of Hosts—if only you will obey the Eternal your God!

7

**1**In the fourth year of King Darius, on the fourth day of the ninth month, Kislev, the word of God came to Zechariah— **2**when Bethel-sharezer and Regem-melech and his men sent[[553]](#footnote-553)t to entreat the favor of God, **3**[and] to address this inquiry to the priests of the House of God and to the prophets: “Shall I weep and practice abstinence in the fifth month,[[554]](#footnote-554)u as I have been doing all these years?”

**4**Thereupon the word of God of Hosts came to me: **5**Say to all the people of the land and to the priests: When you fasted and lamented in the fifth and seventh months all these seventy years, did you fast for my benefit? **6**And when you eat and drink, who but you does the eating, and who but you does the drinking? **7**Look, this is the message that God proclaimed through the earlier prophets, when Jerusalem and the towns about her were peopled and tranquil, when the Negeb and the Shephelah were peopled.

**8**And the word of God to Zechariah continued: **9**Thus said God of Hosts: Execute true justice; deal loyally and compassionately with one another. **10**Do not defraud the widow, the orphan, the stranger, and the poor; and do not plot evil against one another.[[555]](#footnote-555)°— **11**But they refused to pay heed. They presented a balky back and turned a deaf ear. **12**They hardened their hearts like adamant against heeding the instruction and admonition that God of Hosts sent to them by divine spirit through the earlier prophets; and a terrible wrath issued from God of Hosts. **13**Even as they were called and they would not listen, “So,” said God of Hosts, “let them call and I will not listen.” **14**I dispersed them among all those nations which they had not known, and the land was left behind them desolate, without any who came and went. They caused a delightful land to be turned into a desolation.

8

**1**The word of God of Hosts came [to me]:

**2**Thus said God of Hosts: I am very jealous for Zion, I am fiercely jealous for her. **3**Thus said God: I have returned to Zion, and I will dwell in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be called the City of Faithfulness, and the mount of God of Hosts the Holy Mount.

**4**Thus said God of Hosts: There shall yet be elderly men and women in the squares of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. **5**And the squares of the city shall be crowded with boys and girls playing in the squares. **6**Thus said God of Hosts: Though it will seem impossible to the remnant of this people in those days, shall it also be impossible to Me?—declares God of Hosts. **7**Thus said God of Hosts: I will rescue My people from the lands of the east and from the lands of the west, **8**and I will bring them home to dwell in Jerusalem. They shall be My people, and I will be their God—in truth and sincerity.

**9**Thus said God of Hosts: Take courage, you who now hear these words which the prophets spoke when the foundations were laid for the rebuilding of the Temple, the House of God of Hosts.

**10**[[556]](#footnote-556)vFor before that time, the earnings from labor were nil, and profits from livestock were nothing. It was not safe to go about one's business on account of enemies; and I set every person against someone else. [[557]](#footnote-557)°**11**But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as before—declares God of Hosts— **12**but what it sows shall prosper: The vine shall produce its fruit, the ground shall produce its yield, and the skies shall provide their moisture. I will bestow all these things upon the remnant of this people. **13**And just as you were a curse[[558]](#footnote-558)w among the nations, O House of Judah and House of Israel, so, when I vindicate you, you shall become a blessing.[[559]](#footnote-559)x Have no fear; take courage!

**14**For thus said God of Hosts: Just as I planned to afflict you and did not relent when your ancestors provoked Me to anger—said God of Hosts— **15**so, at this time, I have turned and planned to do good to Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. Have no fear! **16**These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to one another, render true and perfect justice in your gates. **17**Not a single one of you shall contrive evil against another; and do not love perjury, because all those are things that I hate—declares God.

**18**And the word of God of Hosts came to me, saying, **19**Thus said God of Hosts: The fast of the fourth month,[[560]](#footnote-560)y the fast of the fifth month,[[561]](#footnote-561)z the fast of the seventh month,[[562]](#footnote-562)a and the fast of the tenth month[[563]](#footnote-563)b shall become occasions for joy and gladness, happy festivals for the House of Judah; but you must love honesty and integrity.

**20**Thus said God of Hosts: Peoples and the inhabitants of many cities shall yet come— **21**the inhabitants of one shall go to the other and say, “Let us go and entreat the favor of God, let us seek God of Hosts; I will go, too.” **22**The many peoples and the multitude of nations shall come to seek God of Hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of God. **23**Thus said God of Hosts: In those days, ten people from nations of every tongue will take hold—they will take hold of every Jew by a corner of their cloak and say, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”

9

**1**A pronouncement: The word of God.

[God] will reside in the land of Hadrach and Damascus;

For mortals' eyes will turn to God—

Like all the tribes of Israel—

**2**Including Hamath, which borders on that land,[[564]](#footnote-564)c

And Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise.

**3**Tyre has built herself a fortress;

She has amassed silver like dust,

And gold like the mud in the streets.

**4**But my Sovereign will impoverish her;

Her forces shall be defeated at sea,

And she herself shall be consumed by fire.

**5**Ashkelon shall see it and be frightened,

Gaza shall tremble violently,

And Ekron, at the collapse of her hopes.

Kingship shall vanish from Gaza,

Ashkelon shall be without inhabitants,

**6**And a mongrel people[[565]](#footnote-565)d shall settle in Ashdod.

I will uproot the grandeur of Philistia.

**7**But I will clean out the blood from its mouth,

And the detestable things from between its teeth.

Its survivors, too, shall belong to our God:

They shall become like a clan in Judah,

And Ekron shall be like the Jebusites.

**8**And I will encamp in My House against armies,[[566]](#footnote-566)e

Against any that come and go,

And no oppressor shall ever overrun them again;

For I have now taken note with My own eyes.[[567]](#footnote-567)f

**9**Rejoice greatly, Fair Zion;

Raise a shout, Fair Jerusalem!

Lo, your king is coming to you.

He is victorious, triumphant,

Yet humble, riding on an ass,

On a donkey foaled by a she-ass.

**10**He[[568]](#footnote-568)g shall banish chariots from Ephraim

And horses from Jerusalem;

The warrior's bow shall be banished.

He shall call on the nations to surrender,[[569]](#footnote-569)h

And his rule shall extend from sea to sea

And from ocean to land's end.

**11**[[570]](#footnote-570)iYou, for your part, have released[[571]](#footnote-571)j

Your prisoners from the dry pit,[[572]](#footnote-572)k

For the sake of the blood of your covenant,

**12**[Saying], “Return to Bizzaron,[[573]](#footnote-573)l

You prisoners of hope.”

In return [I] announce this day:

I will repay you double.

**13**For I have drawn Judah taut,

And applied [My hand] to Ephraim as to a bow,

And I will arouse your sons, O Zion,

Against your sons, O Javan,

And make you like a warrior's sword.

**14**And God will be made manifest to Judah,[[574]](#footnote-574)m

With arrows that flash like lightning;

My Sovereign God shall sound the ram's horn

And advance in a stormy tempest.[[575]](#footnote-575)n

**15**God of Hosts will protect them

[[576]](#footnote-576)oWith slingstones that devour and conquer;

They shall drink, shall rage as with[[577]](#footnote-577)p wine,

And be filled [with it] like a dashing bowl,

Like the corners of an altar.

**16**The Eternal their God shall prosper them

On that day,

[Pasturing] this covenanted people like sheep.

[They shall be] like crown jewels glittering on God's soil.

**17**How lovely, how beautiful they shall be,

Producing young men like new grain,

Young women like new wine!

10

**1**Ask God for rain

In the season of late rain.[[578]](#footnote-578)q

It is God who causes storms—[[579]](#footnote-579)r

providing rainstorms for them,

Grass in the fields for everyone.[[580]](#footnote-580)s

**2**For the teraphim[[581]](#footnote-581)t spoke delusion,

The augurs predicted falsely;

And dreamers speak lies

And console with illusions.

That is why My people have strayed[[582]](#footnote-582)u like a flock,

They suffer[[583]](#footnote-583)v for lack of a shepherd.

**3**My anger is roused against the shepherds,

And I will punish the he-goats.[[584]](#footnote-584)w

For God of Hosts has taken thought

In behalf of the flock, the House of Judah;

They will be made like majestic chargers in battle.

**4**From them shall come cornerstones,

From them tent pegs,[[585]](#footnote-585)x

From them bows of combat,

And every captain shall also arise from them.

**5**And together they shall be like warriors in battle,

Tramping in the dirt of the streets;

They shall fight, for God shall be with them,

And they shall put cavalry to shame.

**6**I will give victory to the House of Judah,

And triumph to the House of Joseph.

I will restore them, for I have pardoned them,

And they shall be as though I had never disowned them;

For I the Eternal One am their God,

And I will answer their prayers.

**7**Ephraim shall be like a warrior,

And they[[586]](#footnote-586)y shall exult as with wine;

Their children shall see it and rejoice,

They shall exult in God.

**8**I will whistle to them and gather them,

For I will redeem them;

They shall increase and continue increasing.[[587]](#footnote-587)z

**9**For though I sowed them among the nations,

In the distant places they shall remember Me,

They shall escape with their children and shall return.

**10**I will bring them back from the land of Egypt

And gather them from Assyria;

And I will bring them to the lands of Gilead and Lebanon,

And even they shall not suffice for them.

**11**A hemmed-in force shall pass over the sea

And shall stir up waves in the sea;[[588]](#footnote-588)a

And all the deeps of the Nile shall dry up.

Down shall come the pride of Assyria,

And the scepter of Egypt shall pass away.

**12**But I will make Judah and Ephraim[[589]](#footnote-589)b mighty through God,

And they shall march proudly[[590]](#footnote-590)c in My name[[591]](#footnote-591)°

—declares God.

11

**1**Throw open your gates, O Lebanon,

And let fire consume your cedars!

**2**Howl, cypresses, for cedars have fallen!

How the mighty are ravaged!

Howl, you oaks of Bashan,

For the stately forest is laid low!

**3**Hark, the wailing of the shepherds,

For their rich pastures[[592]](#footnote-592)d are ravaged;

Hark, the roaring of the great beasts,

For the jungle of the Jordan is ravaged.

**4**Thus said my God the Eternal One: Tend the sheep meant for slaughter, **5**whose buyers will slaughter them with impunity, whose seller will say, “Praised be God! I'll get rich,” and whose shepherd will not pity them. **6**For I will pity the inhabitants of the land no more—declares God—but I will place everyone at the mercy of their neighbor and at the mercy of their king; they shall break the country to bits, and I will not rescue it from their hands.

**7**So I tended the sheep meant for slaughter, for those poor ones of the sheep.[[593]](#footnote-593)e I got two staffs, one of which I named Favor and the other Unity, and I proceeded to tend the sheep. **8**But I lost the three shepherds[[594]](#footnote-594)f in one month; then my patience with them was at an end, and they in turn were disgusted with me. **9**So I declared, “I am not going to tend you; let the one that is to die die and the one that is to get lost get lost; and let the rest devour each other's flesh!”

**10**Taking my staff Favor, I cleft it in two, so as to annul the covenant I had made with all the peoples;[[595]](#footnote-595)g **11**and when it was annulled that day, the same poor ones of the sheep[[596]](#footnote-596)h who watched[[597]](#footnote-597)i me realized that it was a message from God. **12**Then I said to them, “If you are satisfied, pay me my wages; if not, don't.” So they weighed out my wages, thirty shekels of silver— **13**the noble sum that I was worth in their estimation.[[598]](#footnote-598)j God said to me, “Deposit it in the treasury.”[[599]](#footnote-599)k And I took the thirty shekels and deposited it in the treasury in the House of God. **14**Then I cleft in two my second staff, Unity, in order to annul the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.[[600]](#footnote-600)l

**15**God said to me further: Get yourself the gear of a foolish shepherd. **16**For I am going to raise up in the land a shepherd who will neither miss the lost [sheep], nor seek the strayed,[[601]](#footnote-601)m nor heal the injured, nor sustain the frail,[[602]](#footnote-602)n but will feast on the flesh of the fat ones and tear off their hoofs.[[603]](#footnote-603)o

**17**Oh, the worthless shepherd

Who abandons the flock!

Let a sword descend upon his arm

And upon his right eye!

His arm shall shrivel up;

His right eye shall go blind.

12

**1**A pronouncement: The word of God concerning Israel.

The utterance of God,

Who stretched out the skies

And made firm the earth,

And created mortals' breath within them:

**2**Behold, I will make Jerusalem a bowl of reeling for the peoples all around. Judah shall be caught up in the siege upon Jerusalem, **3**when all the nations of the earth gather against her. In that day, I will make Jerusalem a stone for all the peoples to lift; all who lift it shall injure themselves. **4**In that day—declares God—I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness. But I will watch over the House of Judah while I strike every horse of[[604]](#footnote-604)p the peoples with blindness. **5**And the clans of Judah will say to themselves, “The dwellers of Jerusalem are a task set for us by[[605]](#footnote-605)q their God, God of Hosts.” **6**In that day, I will make the clans of Judah like a flaming brazier among sticks and like a flaming torch among sheaves. They shall devour all the besieging peoples right and left; and Jerusalem shall continue on its site, in Jerusalem.[[606]](#footnote-606)r

**7**God will give victory to the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the House of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be too great for Judah. **8**In that day, God will shield the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and the feeblest of them shall be in that day like David, and the House of David like a divine being—like an angel of God—at their head.

**9**In that day I will all but annihilate[[607]](#footnote-607)s all the nations that came up against Jerusalem. **10**But I will fill the House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem with a spirit of pity and compassion; and they shall lament[[608]](#footnote-608)t to Me about those who are slain, wailing over them as over a favorite son and showing bitter grief as over a first-born. **11**In that day, the wailing in Jerusalem shall be as great as the wailing at Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddon.[[609]](#footnote-609)u **12**The land shall wail, each family by itself: The family of the House of David by themselves, and their womenfolk by themselves; the family of the House of Nathan by themselves, and their womenfolk by themselves; **13**the family of the House of Levi by themselves, and their womenfolk by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by themselves, and their womenfolk by themselves; **14**and all the other families, every family by itself, with their womenfolk by themselves.[[610]](#footnote-610)v

13

**1**In that day a fountain shall be open to the House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem for purging and cleansing.

**2**In that day, too—declares God of Hosts—I will erase the very names of the idols from the land; they shall not be uttered any more. And I will also make the “prophets” and the unclean spirit[[611]](#footnote-611)w vanish from the land. **3**If some man “prophesies” thereafter, his own father and mother, who brought him into the world, will say to him, “You shall die, for you have lied in the name of God”; and his own father and mother, who brought him into the world, will put him to death when he “prophesies.” **4**In that day, every such “prophet” will be ashamed of the “visions” [he had] when he “prophesied.” In order to deceive, he[[612]](#footnote-612)x will not wear a hairy mantle,[[613]](#footnote-613)y **5**and he will declare, “I am not a ‘prophet’; I am a tiller of the soil;[[614]](#footnote-614)z you see, I was plied with the red stuff[[615]](#footnote-615)a from my youth on.” **6**And if he is asked, “What are those sores on your back?”[[616]](#footnote-616)b he will reply, “From being beaten in the homes of my friends.”[[617]](#footnote-617)c

**7**[[618]](#footnote-618)dO sword!

Rouse yourself against My shepherd,

The man in charge of My flock[[619]](#footnote-619)e

—says God of Hosts.

Strike down the shepherd

And let the flock scatter;

And I will also turn My hand

Against all the shepherd boys.

**8**Throughout the land

—declares God—

Two-thirds shall perish, shall die,

And one-third of it shall survive.

**9**That third I will put into the fire,

And I will smelt them as one smelts silver

And test them as one tests gold.

They will invoke Me by name,

And I will respond to them.

I will declare, “You are My people,”

And they will declare,

“The Eternal is our God!”

14

**1**Lo, a day of God is coming when your[[620]](#footnote-620)f spoil shall be divided in your very midst! **2**For I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem for war: The city shall be captured, the houses plundered, and the women violated; and a part of the city shall go into exile. But the rest of the population shall not be uprooted from the city.

**3**Then God will come forth and make war on those nations as a fighter makes war on a day of battle. **4**On that day, God's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives shall split across from east to west, and one part of the Mount shall shift to the north and the other to the south, a huge gorge. **5**[[621]](#footnote-621)gAnd the Valley in the Hills shall be stopped up, for the Valley of the Hills shall reach only to Azal; it shall be stopped up as it was stopped up as a result of the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah.—And the Eternal my God, with all the holy beings, will come to you.

**6**[[622]](#footnote-622)hIn that day, there shall be neither sunlight nor cold moonlight, **7**but there shall be a continuous day—only God knows when—of neither day nor night, and there shall be light at eventide.

**8**In that day, fresh water shall flow from Jerusalem, part of it to the Eastern Sea[[623]](#footnote-623)i and part to the Western Sea,[[624]](#footnote-624)j throughout the summer and winter.

**9**And God shall be sovereign over all the earth; in that day there shall be one God with one name.[[625]](#footnote-625)k

**10**Then the whole country shall become like the Arabah,[[626]](#footnote-626)l from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem.[[627]](#footnote-627)m The latter, however, shall perch high up where it is, and shall be inhabited[[628]](#footnote-628)n from the Gate of Benjamin to the site of the Old Gate, down to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. **11**Never again shall destruction be decreed, and Jerusalem shall dwell secure.

**12**As for those peoples that warred against Jerusalem, God will smite them with this plague: Their flesh shall rot away while they stand on their feet; their eyes shall rot away in their sockets; and their tongues shall rot away in their mouths.

**13**In that day, a great panic from God shall fall upon them, and everyone shall snatch at the hand of another, and everyone shall raise their hand against everyone else's hand. **14**Judah shall join the fighting in Jerusalem, and the wealth of all the nations round about—vast quantities of gold, silver, and clothing—shall be gathered in.

**15**The same plague shall strike the horses, the mules, the camels, and the asses; the plague shall affect all the animals in those camps.

**16**All who survive of all those nations that came up against Jerusalem shall make a pilgrimage year by year to bow low to the Supreme God of Hosts and to observe the Feast of Booths. **17**Any of the earth's communities that does not make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem to bow low to the Supreme God of Hosts shall receive no rain. **18**However, if the community of Egypt does not make this pilgrimage, it shall not be visited by the same affliction with which God will strike the other nations that do not come up to observe the Feast of Booths.[[629]](#footnote-629)o **19**Such shall be the punishment of Egypt and of all other nations that do not come up to observe the Feast of Booths.

**20**In that day, even the bells on the horses shall be inscribed “Holy to God.” The metal pots in the House of God shall be like the basins before the altar; **21**indeed, every metal pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holy to God of Hosts. And all those who sacrifice shall come and take of these to boil [their sacrificial meat] in; in that day there shall be no more traders[[630]](#footnote-630)p in the House of God of Hosts.

MAL - - TaNaKH - A New Translation of THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (NJPS corrections 2020)

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Malachi

1

**1**A pronouncement: The word of God to Israel through Malachi.

**2**I have shown you love, said God. But you ask, “How have You shown us love?” After all—declares God—Esau is Jacob's brother; yet I have accepted Jacob **3**and have rejected Esau. I have made his hills a desolation, his territory a home for beasts[[631]](#footnote-631)q of the desert. **4**If Edom thinks, “Though crushed, we can build the ruins again,” thus said God of Hosts: They may build, but I will tear down. And so they shall be known as the region of wickedness, the people damned forever of God. **5**Your eyes shall behold it, and you shall declare, “Great is God beyond the borders of Israel!”

**6**A son should honor his father, and a slave[[632]](#footnote-632)r his master. Now if I were a father, where would be the honor due Me? And if I were a master, where would be the reverence due Me?—said God of Hosts to you, O priests who scorn My name. But you ask, “How have we scorned Your name?” **7**You offer defiled food on My altar. But you ask, “How have we defiled You?”[[633]](#footnote-633)s By saying, “The table of God can be treated with scorn.” **8**When you present a blind animal for sacrifice—it doesn't matter! When you present a lame or sick one—it doesn't matter! Just offer it to your governor: Will he accept you? Will he show you favor?—said God of Hosts. **9**And now implore the favor of God! Will compassion be shown to us? This is what you have done—will any of you be accepted?

God of Hosts has said: **10**If only you would lock My doors, and not kindle fire on My altar to no purpose! I take no pleasure in you—said God of Hosts—and I will accept no offering from you. **11**For from where the sun rises to where it sets, My name is honored among the nations, and everywhere incense and pure oblation are offered to My name; for My name is honored among the nations—said God of Hosts. **12**But you profane it when you say, “The table of the Sovereign is defiled and the meat,[[634]](#footnote-634)t the food, can be treated with scorn.” **13**You say, “Oh, what a bother!” And so you degrade[[635]](#footnote-635)u it—said God of Hosts—and you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; and you offer such as an oblation. Will I accept it from you?—said God.

**14**A curse on the cheat who has an [unblemished] male in the flock, but vows and sacrifices a blemished animal to the Sovereign! For I am an emperor—said God of Hosts—and My name is revered among the nations.

2

**1**And now, O priests, this charge is for you: **2**Unless you obey and unless you lay it to heart, and do honor to My name—said God of Hosts—I will send a curse and turn your blessings into curses. (Indeed, I have turned them into curses, because you do not lay it to heart.) **3**I will put your seed under a ban,[[636]](#footnote-636)v and I will strew dung upon your faces, the dung of your festal sacrifices, and you shall be carried out to its [heap].

**4**Know, then, that I have sent this charge to you that My covenant with Levi may endure—said God of Hosts. **5**I had with him a covenant of life and well-being, which I gave to him, and of reverence, which he showed Me. For he stood in awe of My name.

**6**[[637]](#footnote-637)wProper rulings were in his mouth,

And nothing perverse was on his lips;

He served Me with complete loyalty

And held the many back from iniquity.

**7**For the lips of a priest guard knowledge,

And rulings are sought from his mouth;[[638]](#footnote-638)x

For he is a messenger of God of Hosts.

**8**But you have turned away from that course: You have made the many stumble through your rulings;[[639]](#footnote-639)y you have corrupted the covenant of the Levites—said God of Hosts. **9**And I, in turn, have made you despicable and vile in the eyes of all the people, because you disregard My ways and show partiality in your rulings.

**10**Have we not all one Source? Did not one God create us? Why do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors? [[640]](#footnote-640)°**11**Judah has broken faith; abhorrent things have been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned what is holy to, and desired by, God—and espoused daughters of alien gods. **12**May God leave to any man who has done this no descendants[[641]](#footnote-641)z dwelling in the tents of Jacob and presenting offerings to God of Hosts. **13**And this you do as well:[[642]](#footnote-642)a You cover the altar of God with tears, weeping, and moaning, so that [God] refuses to regard the oblation any more and to accept what you offer.[[643]](#footnote-643)b **14**But you ask, “Because of what?” Because God is a witness between you and the wife of your youth with whom you have broken faith, though she is your partner and covenanted spouse. **15**Did not the One make [all,] so that all remaining life-breath is that One's? And what does that One seek but godly folk? So be careful of your life-breath,[[644]](#footnote-644)c and let no one break faith with the wife of his youth. **16**For I detest divorce—said the Eternal, the God of Israel—and covering oneself with lawlessness as with a garment[[645]](#footnote-645)d—said God of Hosts. So be careful of your life-breath and do not act treacherously.

**17**You have wearied God with your talk. But you ask, “By what have we done so?” By saying, “All who do evil are good in the sight of God, who delights in them,” or else, “Where is the God of justice?”

3

**1**Behold, I am sending My messenger to clear the way before Me, and the Sovereign you seek shall come to the Temple suddenly. As for the angel of the covenant[[646]](#footnote-646)e that you desire, he is already coming. **2**But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can hold out when he appears? For he is like a smelter's fire and like fuller's lye. **3**He shall act[[647]](#footnote-647)f like a smelter and purger of silver; and he shall purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they shall present offerings in righteousness. **4**Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem shall be pleasing to God as in the days of yore and in the years of old. **5**But [first] I will step forward to contend against you, and I will act as a relentless accuser against those who have no fear of Me: Who practice sorcery, who commit adultery, who swear falsely, who cheat laborers of their hire, and who subvert [the cause of] the widow, orphan, and stranger, said God of Hosts.

**6**[[648]](#footnote-648)gFor I am God—I have not changed; and you are the children of Jacob—you have not ceased to be. **7**From the very days of your ancestors you have turned away from My laws and have not observed them. Turn back to Me, and I will turn back to you—said God of Hosts. But you ask, “How shall we turn back?” **8**Ought mortals to defraud[[649]](#footnote-649)h God? Yet you are defrauding Me. And you ask, “How have we been defrauding You?” In tithe and contribution.[[650]](#footnote-650)i **9**You are suffering under a curse, yet you go on defrauding Me—the whole nation of you. **10**Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,[[651]](#footnote-651)j and let there be food in My House, and thus put Me to the test—said God of Hosts. I will surely open the floodgates of the sky for you and pour down blessings on you; **11**and I will banish the locusts[[652]](#footnote-652)k from you, so that they will not destroy the yield of your soil; and your vines in the field shall no longer miscarry—said God of Hosts. **12**And all the nations shall account you happy, for you shall be the most desired of lands—said God of Hosts.

**13**You have spoken hard words against Me—said God. But you ask, “What have we been saying among ourselves against You?” **14**You have said, “It is useless to serve God. What have we gained by keeping God's charge and walking in abject awe of God of Hosts? **15**And so, we account the arrogant happy: they have indeed done evil and endured; they have indeed dared God and escaped.” **16**In this vein have those who revere God been talking to one another. God has heard and noted it, and a scroll of remembrance has been written at God's behest concerning those who revere God and esteem the holy name. **17**And on the day that I am preparing, said God of Hosts, they shall be My treasured possession; I will be tender toward them as a man is tender toward a son who ministers to him. [[653]](#footnote-653)°**18**And you shall come to see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who have served God and those who have not.

**19**For lo! That day is at hand, burning like an oven. All the arrogant and all the doers of evil shall be straw, and the day that is coming—said God of Hosts—shall burn them to ashes and leave of them neither stock nor boughs. **20**But for you who revere My name a sun of victory shall rise to bring healing.[[654]](#footnote-654)l You shall go forth and stamp like stall-fed calves, **21**and you shall trample the wicked to a pulp, for they shall be dust beneath your feet on the day that I am preparing—said God of Hosts.

**22**Be mindful of the Teaching of My servant Moses, whom I charged at Horeb with laws and rules for all Israel.

**23**Lo, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before the coming of the awesome, fearful day of God. **24**He shall reconcile parents with children and children with their parents, so that, when I come, I do not strike the whole land with utter destruction.

Repeated verse in printed editions; it should be marked as smaller type.

Lo, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before the coming of the awesome, fearful day of God.

1. a**1.2** *stray* Lit. “whore away.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. b**1.2** *a wife of whoredom and children of whoredom; for the land will stray from following God* Force of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. c**1.4** *Jehu* Emendation yields “Israel”; cf. next note. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. d**1.4** *bloody deeds at Jezreel* See 1 Kings 21.1–24; 2 Kings 9.21–35. Emendation yields “the Baal days”; cf. 2.15. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. e**1.6** *Lo-ruhamah* I.e., “Not-accepted” or “Unpitied”; cf. 2.3, 6, and 25. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. f**1.6** *or pardon them* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “but will disown them”; cf. 9.15 and elsewhere. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. g**1.9** *Lo-ammi* I.e., “Not-My-People.” [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. h**1.9** *you* I.e., you and your fellow countrymen. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. i**1.9** *I will not be your [God]* Cf. 2.25. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. j**2.1** Vv. 1–3 anticipate the conclusion of the chapter. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. k**2.1** *You are Not-My-People* See 1.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. l**2.2** *from the ground* Meaning, perhaps, “from their wretched condition,” or “to ascendancy over the land.” [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. m**2.2** *the day of Jezreel* I.e., the day when the name Jezreel will convey a promise (2.23–25) instead of a threat (1.4–5). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. n**2.3** *call* God addresses Hosea and his fellow North Israelites; see 1.9. The mother is the nation; her children the individual North Israelites. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. o**2.4–25** See preceding note. In this passage, God speaks as if in a family quarrel, or in a court of law. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. °**2.4** *she is not My wife / And I am not her husband* A declaration of divorce. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. p**2.8** *her* Heb. “your.” Vv. 8–9 would read well after v. 15. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. q**2.16** *wilderness* I.e., her ravaged land (see vv. 5, 10–11, 14); so Ibn Ezra. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. r**2.17** *Valley of Achor* A desolate region; cf. Isa. 65.10; see further Josh. 7.25–26. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. s**2.17** *plowland of hope* Connecting *pethaḥ* with *pittaḥ* “to plow” (see Isa. 28.24). Meaning of Heb. uncertain; others “door of hope.” [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. t**2.18** *Ishi* I.e., “my husband.” [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. u**2.18** *Baali* Like *Ishi*, *Baali* means “my husband,” but it also means “my Baal.” [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. v**2.20** *banish* Lit. “break.” [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. w**2.21–22** *with righteousness and justice, … with goodness and mercy, … with faithfulness* As the bride-price to be paid upon marriage, the bridegroom (God) will confer these qualities on the bride (the people of Israel), which she lacked in their first marriage, so that their second one will last forever. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. x**2.24** *Jezreel* I.e., “God sows.” The names of Hosea's children (1.3–8) are applied here to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. y**3.1** *befriend … befriended* For this sense, see Deut. 10.19. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. z**3.1** *just as God befriends the Israelites* See Hos. 2.10. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. a**3.1** *to other gods and love the cups of the grape* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “‘to other gods.’ And so I befriended a woman of lust.” [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. b**3.2** *a lethech of barley* Septuagint reads “a jar of wine.” [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. c**3.3** *In return* Lit. “for me.” [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. d**3.4** *sacrifice* Emendation yields “altar.” [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. e**4.4** *For this your people has a grievance against [you], O priest!* For failing to reprove; but meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. f**4.5** *a prophet* Emendation yields “your children”; cf. v. 6 end. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. g**4.5** *kindred* Lit. “mother.” [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. h**4.10** *swill* For this meaning of *hiznah* cf. v. 18. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. i**4.10** *practice* Cf. 12.7. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. j**4.11** *Wine* Emendation yields “New grain”; cf. 7.14; 9.1–2. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. k**4.12** *stick* I.e., its phallus, meaning “its lust.” [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. l**4.12** *rod* I.e., its phallus, meaning “its lust.” [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. m**4.12** *strayed* See note at 1.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. n**4.13** *their* Heb. “your,” here and through v. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. o**4.14** *turn aside* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. p**4.14** *without sense* Cf. vv. 11–12. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. q**4.15** *Do not come to Gilgal* One who participates in the debaucheries of the open-air shrines is not fit to visit a temple building. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. r**4.15** *Beth-aven* Lit. “House of Delusion,” substituted for Bethel (cf. Amos 4.4). [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. s**4.15** *do not swear by God* I.e., you are not fit to profess this religion; see Jer. 12.16. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. t**4.16** *graze him / On the range, like a sheep* Instead of giving them fodder in return for their work; cf. Isa. 30.23–24. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. u**4.17** Meaning of vv. 17–19 uncertain in part. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. v**4.19** *is bringing* Lit. “has bound up in the corners of its garment”; see note at Mal. 3.20. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. w**5.1** *House* Emendation yields “prophets.” [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. °**5.1** *For right conduct is your responsibility! / But you* Or “This verdict pertains to you. / You.” [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. x**5.2** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. y**5.5–6** *Israel's pride … will not find* This passage would read well after 5.15; cf. 5.6 with 6.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. z**5.6** *They have been cast off* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. a**5.7** *they have* Emendation yields “[God] has.” [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. b**5.7** *Therefore, the new moon / Shall devour their portion* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. c**5.8** *Gibeah … Ramah … Beth-aven* The three towns named, in the territory of Benjamin, are now being wrested from Israel by Judah; see v. 10. On the latter town's name, see second note at 4.15. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. d**5.8** *After you* Emendation yields “Stir up.” [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. e**5.9** *tribes* I.e., the kingdoms of Judah and Israel (represented by Ephraim). [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. f**5.11** *futility* Cf. Targum and Septuagint; but meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. g**5.12** *Judah* Emendation yields “Israel.” [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. h**5.13** *Judah* See note at v. 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. i**5.13** *patron* Compare the verb *ryb* in the sense of “to champion, uphold the cause of,” in Isa. 1.17; 3.13; 19.20 end; 51.22. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. j**5.14** *Judah* See note at v. 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. k**6.1** As anticipated at the end of chapter 5, Israel seeks God's favor; the answer begins with v. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. l**6.3** *refreshes* Taking *yoreh* as equivalent of *yarweh*. [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. m**6.4** *Judah* Emendation yields “Israel”; cf. “Ephraim…Israel” in v. 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. n**6.5** *the prophets* Emendation yields “your children”; cf. 9.13. [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. o**6.5** *And the day that dawned [brought on] your punishment* Cf. v. 3 but meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. p**6.7–11** Meaning of these verses unclear in part. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. °**6.7** *human beings [are wont to do]* Or “at Adam,” a town in central Transjordan; cf. Josh. 3.16. [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. q**6.9** *encouraged* Heb. “done”; cf. 5.1–3. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. r**6.10** *the House of Israel* Emendation yields “Beth-shean.” [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. s**6.11** *(Even Judah has reaped a harvest of you!)* Cf. 5.9–10; but meaning of clause uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. t**7.2** *them* Emendation yields “Me.” [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. u**7.3** Vv. 3–6 would read well in the order 4, 6, 3, 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. v**7.4** *commit adultery* Emendation yields “rage.” [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. w**7.5** *He gave his hand to traitors* I.e., he trusted traitors; but meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. x**7.6** *For they approach … like an oven* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. y**7.6** *baker* Emendation yields “rage.” [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. z**7.8** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. a**7.9** *mold* Like Akkadian *shību*; others “gray hairs.” [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. b**7.12** *I will chastise them / When I hear their bargaining* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. c**7.14** This verse would read well after 8.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. d**7.14** *lay wailing* I.e., in penitence; cf. Isa. 58.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. e**7.14** *debauch* Cf. Aramaic *gar*/*yegur* “to commit adultery”; for the thought, cf. 4.11. [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. f**7.14** *faithless* Taking *yasuru* as equivalent to *yasoru*, from *sarar*; cf. 9.15 end. [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. g**7.16** *They have been of no use* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. h**7.16** *stammering* Cf. Arabic *zaghūm* and *zughmūm* “a stammerer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. i**7.16** *jabbering* I.e., the negotiations conducted in the Egyptian language. [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. j**8.1** *Like an eagle* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. k**8.1** *God* Emendation yields “Israel.” [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. l**8.2** Following this verse, 7.14 would read well. [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. m**8.3** *An enemy shall pursue him* Emendation yields “They pursue delusion.” [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. n**8.5** *I reject* Heb. “He rejects.” [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. o**8.5–6** *purity? / 6For it was Israel's doing* Emendation yields “understanding, / That House of Israel?” [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. p**8.8** *bewildered* A play on words: The Heb. root *balaʻ*, which means “bewildered” here (cf. Isa. 28.7), means “devour” in the preceding verse. [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. q**8.9** *Ephraim has* Emendation yields “In Egypt they have.” [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. r**8.10** *There I will hold them fast* Cf. 9.6; but meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. s**8.10** *And they shall begin … officers* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-100)
101. t**8.13** *When they present sacrifices to Me* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-101)
102. u**9.1–2** *You have loved a harlot's fee / By every threshing floor of new grain. / 2Threshing floor and winepress / Shall not join them, / And the new wine shall betray her* Emendation and rearrangement yield: “You have loved fornication / By every threshing floor and press; / The new grain shall not join them, / And the new wine shall fail them.” [↑](#footnote-ref-102)
103. v**9.3** *eat unclean food in Assyria* The lands of the heathen and the food there are unclean; cf. Ezek. 4.13; Amos 7.17. [↑](#footnote-ref-103)
104. w**9.6** *from destruction* Emendation yields “to Assyria.” [↑](#footnote-ref-104)
105. x**9.6** *hold them fast* Cf. 8.10. [↑](#footnote-ref-105)
106. y**9.6** *Moph* Believed to be Memphis, elsewhere called Noph. [↑](#footnote-ref-106)
107. z**9.8** *my God. / As for the prophet* Emendation yields “the prophet of my God.” [↑](#footnote-ref-107)
108. a**9.9** *the days of Gibeah* See Judg. 19–20. [↑](#footnote-ref-108)
109. b**9.10** *Like the first fig to ripen on a fig tree* Emendation yields “like a ripe fig in a waterless waste”; cf. 13.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-109)
110. c**9.10** *shamefulness* Cf. Num. 25.1–3. [↑](#footnote-ref-110)
111. d**9.10** *Then they became … loved* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-111)
112. e**9.11** V. 16 would read well after this verse. [↑](#footnote-ref-112)
113. f**9.12** *Woe to them indeed / When I turn away from them!* Emendation yields: “Even if they wean their babes, / They shall be dismayed because of them.” [↑](#footnote-ref-113)
114. g**9.13** *It shall go … in a meadow* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-114)
115. h**9.15** *them* The specific allusion is uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-115)
116. i**9.15** *All their officials are* Emendation yields “They are all.” [↑](#footnote-ref-116)
117. j**9.16** *Ephraim* Targum reads “Their crown,” i.e., of a tree. [↑](#footnote-ref-117)
118. k**10.2** *boughs* Cf. 2 Sam. 18.14, where the word is rendered “thick growth.” [↑](#footnote-ref-118)
119. l**10.4** *degenerates into poison weeds, / Breaking out* Cf. Amos 6.12; lit. “breaks out like poison weeds.” [↑](#footnote-ref-119)
120. m**10.5** *Beth-aven* See the second note at 4.15. [↑](#footnote-ref-120)
121. n**10.5** *Whose joy it once was* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-121)
122. o**10.6** *patron* See the second note at 5.13. [↑](#footnote-ref-122)
123. p**10.6** *plans* Emendation yields “image,” referring to the calf. [↑](#footnote-ref-123)
124. q**10.7** *monarchy* The Heb. verb agrees with this word, not with “Samaria.” [↑](#footnote-ref-124)
125. r**10.8** *[Beth-]aven* See the second note at 4.15. [↑](#footnote-ref-125)
126. s**10.9** *the days of Gibeah* See note at 9.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-126)
127. t**10.9–10** *There they stand … gather against them* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-127)
128. u**10.11** *placed a yoke / Upon her sleek neck* Lit. “passed over the comeliness of its neck.” [↑](#footnote-ref-128)
129. v**10.11** *do advance plowing* Taking *rkb* in the sense of the Arabic *krb*. [↑](#footnote-ref-129)
130. w**10.11** *Judah* Emendation yields “Israel.” [↑](#footnote-ref-130)
131. x**10.12** *the fruits of* Lit. “according to.” [↑](#footnote-ref-131)
132. y**10.12** *a teacher* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; Septuagint reads “the fruits.” [↑](#footnote-ref-132)
133. z**10.13** *way* Septuagint reads “chariots.” [↑](#footnote-ref-133)
134. a**10.14** *Shalman* Perhaps identical with the Shallum of 2 Kings 15.10ff.; cf. the atrocities of Shallum's rival, ibid., v. 16. [↑](#footnote-ref-134)
135. b**10.15** *is what Bethel has done to you* Emendation yields “will I do to you, O House of Israel.” [↑](#footnote-ref-135)
136. c**10.15** *At dawn* Meaning, perhaps, “swiftly as the dawn”; cf. v. 7 above, “like foam upon water.” [↑](#footnote-ref-136)
137. d**11.2–7** Meaning of parts of these verses uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-137)
138. e**11.2** *Baalim* Emendation yields “calves”; cf. 8.4–6; 13.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-138)
139. f**11.3** *My* Heb. “his.” [↑](#footnote-ref-139)
140. °**11.3** *pampered Ephraim, / Taking them in My arms;* Or “taught Ephraim to walk, / Taking him by his arms.” [↑](#footnote-ref-140)
141. °**11.4** *human ties* Perhaps the ropes with which parents gently teach their children to walk; cf. Rashi and Kimhi. [↑](#footnote-ref-141)
142. °**11.4** *But I seemed to them as one / Who imposed a yoke on their jaws, / Though I was offering them food.* Or “I became to them like those / Who lift the harness from their mouths, / And I stooped and fed them.” [↑](#footnote-ref-142)
143. g**11.6** *towns* Emendation yields “bodies,” lit. “skins”; cf. Job 18.13. [↑](#footnote-ref-143)
144. h**11.6** *[them] because of their designs* Emendation yields “their bones.” [↑](#footnote-ref-144)
145. i**11.7** *For My people … rise at all* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-145)
146. j**11.8** *Admah … Zeboiim* Towns that were destroyed with neighboring Sodom and Gomorrah; cf. Gen. 10.19; 14.2, 8; Deut. 29.22. [↑](#footnote-ref-146)
147. k**11.9** *The Holy One … in fury* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-147)
148. l**12.1** *guile* I.e., the deceit and guile they practice on each other (below vv. 8–9) is constantly noted by God. [↑](#footnote-ref-148)
149. m**12.1** *(But Judah … the Holy One.)* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-149)
150. n**12.2** *calamity* Septuagint reads “futility.” [↑](#footnote-ref-150)
151. o**12.2** *Now they make a covenant with Assyria / Now oil is carried to Egypt* I.e., they foolishly depend on alliances instead of on God; cf. 5.13; 7.10–11. [↑](#footnote-ref-151)
152. p**12.3** *Judah* Presumably the patriarch Judah. Emendation would yield “Israel”; cf. next note. [↑](#footnote-ref-152)
153. q**12.4** Cf. Gen. 25.26; 32.29. [↑](#footnote-ref-153)
154. r**12.5** *him* Heb. “us.” [↑](#footnote-ref-154)
155. s**12.6** *as “God”* I.e., one should not invoke any of the angelic hosts. [↑](#footnote-ref-155)
156. t**12.9** *All my gains … real guilt* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-156)
157. u**12.10** *in your tents* I.e., securely; see 2 Kings 13.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-157)
158. v**12.10** *old* Lit. “a fixed season.” [↑](#footnote-ref-158)
159. w**12.11–12** *And spoke parables … no purpose* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-159)
160. x**12.12** *Like stone heaps upon a plowed field* I.e., the cults of Gilead and Gilgal are as worthless as that of Bethel. [↑](#footnote-ref-160)
161. y**12.13** *had to flee* This is the punishment mentioned in v. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-161)
162. z**12.14** *through a prophet* I.e., not through an angel. [↑](#footnote-ref-162)
163. a**12.14** *Through a prophet* See previous note. [↑](#footnote-ref-163)
164. b**12.15–13.1** Meaning of these verses uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-164)
165. c**13.1** *Baal* I.e., Baal-peor; cf. 9.10. [↑](#footnote-ref-165)
166. d**13.2** *Yet for these they appoint people to sacrifice* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-166)
167. e**13.8** *I will devour them there like a lion* Emendation yields “There dogs shall devour them”; cf. Septuagint. [↑](#footnote-ref-167)
168. f**13.9** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-168)
169. g**13.12** *stored away* I.e., for future retribution. [↑](#footnote-ref-169)
170. h**13.13** *And the babe … birthstool of babes* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-170)
171. i**13.14** This verse would read well before 14.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-171)
172. j**13.14** *Revenge shall be far from My thoughts* Lit. “Satisfaction (for this meaning of *nḥm* see Deut. 32.36; Isa. 1.24) shall be hidden from My eyes.” [↑](#footnote-ref-172)
173. k**14.3** *Forgive … lips* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-173)
174. l**14.4** *No more will we ride on steeds* I.e., we will no longer depend on an alliance with Egypt; cf. 2 Kings 18.24 (Isa. 36.9); Isa. 30.16. [↑](#footnote-ref-174)
175. °**14.4** *find pity* In the sense of parental compassion (cf. Ps. 103.13) and/or legal affiliation (cf. Hos. 2.6, 25). [↑](#footnote-ref-175)
176. m**14.5** *affliction* For this meaning of *meshubah* see Jer. 2.19; 3.22. [↑](#footnote-ref-176)
177. n**14.5** *them* Heb. “him.” [↑](#footnote-ref-177)
178. o**14.6** *Lebanon tree* Emendation yields “poplar.” [↑](#footnote-ref-178)
179. p**14.8** *Lebanon* Emendation yields “Helbon”; cf. Ezek. 27.18. [↑](#footnote-ref-179)
180. q**14.9** *Your fruit is provided by Me* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-180)
181. r**1.4** *cutter … locust … grub … hopper* The meaning of the corresponding Heb. terms is uncertain; they probably designate stages in the locust's development. [↑](#footnote-ref-181)
182. s**1.5** *denied you* Lit. “cut off from your mouth.” [↑](#footnote-ref-182)
183. t**1.15** *Shaddai* Traditionally “the Almighty”; see Gen. 17.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-183)
184. u**1.17** *The seeds … clods* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-184)
185. v**1.18** *dazed* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-185)
186. w**1.19** *fire … flame* I.e., scorching heat. [↑](#footnote-ref-186)
187. x**2.6** *turn ashen* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; cf. Nah. 2.11. [↑](#footnote-ref-187)
188. y**2.7** *cross* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-188)
189. z**2.8** *And should they fall … not get hurt* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-189)
190. a**2.14** When the locusts depart, there will again be yield enough for offerings; see 1.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-190)
191. b**2.16** *purify themselves* Cf. Exod. 19.10; Zeph. 1.7. [↑](#footnote-ref-191)
192. c**2.20** *the northerner* I.e., the locusts. Emendation yields “My multitude”; cf. “nation” (1.6), “horde,” “army,” and “host” (2.2, 5, 11, 25). [↑](#footnote-ref-192)
193. d**2.20** *the Eastern Sea* The Dead Sea. [↑](#footnote-ref-193)
194. e**2.20** *the Western Sea* The Mediterranean Sea. [↑](#footnote-ref-194)
195. f**2.25** *for the years* Emendation yields “double what was.” [↑](#footnote-ref-195)
196. g**3.3** *Before the great and terrible day of God comes* Brought up from v. 4 for clarity. [↑](#footnote-ref-196)
197. h**3.5** *Anyone who invokes God will be among the survivors* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-197)
198. i**4.2** *Jehoshaphat* Here understood as “God contends”; contrast v. 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-198)
199. j**4.10** *plowshares* See note at Isa. 2.4. [↑](#footnote-ref-199)
200. k**4.11** *Rouse yourselves* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-200)
201. l**4.11** *bring down* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-201)
202. m**4.12** *Jehoshaphat* Here understood as “God judges”; contrast v. 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-202)
203. n**4.21** *I will treat as innocent their blood / Which I have not treated as innocent* Emendation yields “their unavenged blood shall be avenged.” [↑](#footnote-ref-203)
204. o**1.1** *the earthquake* See Zech. 14.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-204)
205. p**1.3** *the decree* Of punishment. Heb. “it.” [↑](#footnote-ref-205)
206. q**1.4** *send down fire* Cf. Lam. 1.13. [↑](#footnote-ref-206)
207. r**1.4** *Hazael … Ben-hadad* Two of Aram’s kings; cf. 2 Kings 13.22–25. [↑](#footnote-ref-207)
208. °**1.6** *the decree* See note at v. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-208)
209. s**1.6** *exiled* I.e., cooperated in the annexation of Israelite territory; cf. Jer. 13.19 with note. [↑](#footnote-ref-209)
210. t**1.6** *Edom* Emendation yields “Aram”; cf. Isa. 9.11. [↑](#footnote-ref-210)
211. °**1.9** *the decree* See note at v. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-211)
212. u**1.9** *Edom* Emendation yields “Aram.” [↑](#footnote-ref-212)
213. v**1.9** *covenant of brotherhood* I.e., the alliance between kings of similar stature. Cf. 1 Kings 5.26; 9.12–13; and see note at 20.32. [↑](#footnote-ref-213)
214. °**1.11** *the decree* See note at v. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-214)
215. °**1.11** *his brother* I.e., an army of the descendants of Israel; cf. Gen. 25.25–26; 35.10; 36.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-215)
216. °**1.11** *repressed all pity* Or “destroyed his womenfolk”; cf. Judg. 5.30. Change of vocalization yields “destroyed his wombs”; cf. v. 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-216)
217. w**1.11** *stormed* Cf. Akkadian *shamaru* and Jer. 3.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-217)
218. °**1.13** *the decree* See note at v. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-218)
219. °**2.1** *the decree* See note at 1.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-219)
220. °**2.4** *the decree* See note at 1.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-220)
221. °**2.6** *the decree* See note at 1.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-221)
222. x**2.7** *who trample the heads of the poor / Into the dust of the ground, / And make the humble walk a twisted course!* Understanding *shoʼafim* as equivalent to *shafim*. Emendation yields: “Who crush on the ground / The heads of the poor, / And push off the road / The humble of the land”; cf. Job 24.4. [↑](#footnote-ref-222)
223. y**2.13** Meaning of verse uncertain; alternatively: “I will slow your movements / As a threshing sledge (cf. Isa. 28.27–28) is slowed / When clogged by cut grain.” [↑](#footnote-ref-223)
224. z**2.16** *unarmed* Lit. “naked.” [↑](#footnote-ref-224)
225. a**3.9** *Ashdod* Septuagint reads “Assyria.” [↑](#footnote-ref-225)
226. b**3.9** *hill* Heb. plural; but cf. 4.1; 6.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-226)
227. °**3.12** *As a shepherd rescues … tip of an ear* Cf. Exod. 22.9, 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-227)
228. c**3.12** *leg* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-228)
229. d**3.12** *head* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-229)
230. e**3.14** *altar* Heb. plural, but cf. “altar” in next line. [↑](#footnote-ref-230)
231. f**4.1** *your* Heb. “their.” [↑](#footnote-ref-231)
232. °**4.2** *irrevocably* Lit. “by His holiness.” [↑](#footnote-ref-232)
233. g**4.2–3** *When you will be carried off … on the refuse heap* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-233)
234. h**4.5** *thank offering of leavened bread* Cf. Lev. 7.12–14; where, however, the bread is not to be burned. [↑](#footnote-ref-234)
235. i**4.9** *Repeatedly* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-235)
236. j**4.10** *pestilence / In the manner of Egypt* Alluding to the plagues at the time of the Exodus. [↑](#footnote-ref-236)
237. k**4.12** *Because I am doing that to you* Emendation yields “Because you are acting thus toward Me.” [↑](#footnote-ref-237)
238. l**4.13** *wishes* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-238)
239. m**4.13** *blackness* Cf. Joel 2.2. Emendation yields “darkness”; cf. 5.8. [↑](#footnote-ref-239)
240. n**5.5** *cross over* I.e., into Judah; cf. 1 Kings 19.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-240)
241. o**5.6** *will rush like fire* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-241)
242. p**5.6** *Bethel* Septuagint reads “the House of Israel.” [↑](#footnote-ref-242)
243. q**5.9** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-243)
244. r**5.11** *impose a tax* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-244)
245. °**5.13** *keep silent* Or “moan.” [↑](#footnote-ref-245)
246. s**5.26–27** These verses would read well after 6.14. [↑](#footnote-ref-246)
247. t**5.26** *Sikkuth and Kiyyun* Two Akkadian names applied to Saturn, here deliberately pointed with the vowels of Heb. *shiqquṣ*, “detestable thing.” [↑](#footnote-ref-247)
248. u**5.27** *whose name is God of Hosts* I.e., who is Sovereign of all the astral bodies. [↑](#footnote-ref-248)
249. v**6.1** *Zion* Emendation yields “Joseph,” cf. v. 6, and 5.6, 15, where “Joseph” denotes the northern kingdom. [↑](#footnote-ref-249)
250. w**6.1** *pin their hopes* Taking *baʼ l-* as synonymous with *baʼ ʻad*; see Isa. 45.24 and second note there. [↑](#footnote-ref-250)
251. x**6.2** *Or is their territory larger than yours?* Emendation yields “Or is your territory larger than theirs?” [↑](#footnote-ref-251)
252. y**6.3** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-252)
253. z**6.5** *They hum snatches … account themselves musicians* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-253)
254. a**6.8** *Pride of Jacob* A poetic designation of the northern kingdom. [↑](#footnote-ref-254)
255. °**6.10** *who is to burn incense for one of the deceased* Or “along with an embalmer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-255)
256. b**6.10** *And if someone's kinsman … out of a house* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-256)
257. c**6.12** *Can it be plowed with oxen?* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “Can one plow the sea with oxen?” [↑](#footnote-ref-257)
258. d**6.13** *Lo-dabar … Karnaim* Two towns east of the Jordan recovered for Israel by Jeroboam II (see 2 Kings 14.25). For Lo-dabar, cf. 2 Sam. 9.4, 5; 17.27; for Karnaim, cf. Gen. 14.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-258)
259. e**7.1** *the late-sown crops after the king's reaping* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. The king's reaping of fodder apparently occurred near the end of the rainy season, and whatever the locust destroyed after that could not be replaced for another year. [↑](#footnote-ref-259)
260. f**7.4** *to contend by* Emendation yields “flaming.” [↑](#footnote-ref-260)
261. g**7.7** *checked with a plumb line* Or “destined for the pickax”; meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-261)
262. h**7.7** *plumb line* Or “pickax”; meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-262)
263. i**7.8** *plumb line* See second note at v. 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-263)
264. j**7.8** *plumb line* See previous note. [↑](#footnote-ref-264)
265. k**7.12** *Earn your living* Lit. “eat bread.” [↑](#footnote-ref-265)
266. l**7.14** *prophet* I.e., by profession. [↑](#footnote-ref-266)
267. m**7.14** *cattle breeder* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “sheep breeder”; cf. the next verse and 1.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-267)
268. n**7.17** *play the harlot* Emendation yields “be ravished”; cf. Lam. 5.11. [↑](#footnote-ref-268)
269. o**7.17** *unclean soil* Cf. Hos. 9.3 and note. [↑](#footnote-ref-269)
270. p**8.1** *figs* Heb. *qayiṣ*, lit. “summer fruit.” [↑](#footnote-ref-270)
271. q**8.2** *hour of doom* Heb. *qeṣ*. [↑](#footnote-ref-271)
272. r**8.4** *who devour the needy, annihilating the poor of the land* Emendation yields “who on every new moon devour the needy, and on every sabbath the humble of the land”; cf. v. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-272)
273. s**8.5** *using an ephah that is too small, and a shekel that is too big* I.e., giving short measures of grain, but using oversize weights for the silver received in payment. [↑](#footnote-ref-273)
274. t**8.7** *by* Or “concerning”; cf. 6.8 with note. [↑](#footnote-ref-274)
275. u**8.10** *the earth* Heb. “it”; cf. vv. 8 and 9d. [↑](#footnote-ref-275)
276. v**8.10** *All* Lit. “the end.” [↑](#footnote-ref-276)
277. w**8.14** *As your god lives, Dan* See 1 Kings 12.28–29. [↑](#footnote-ref-277)
278. x**8.14** *As the way to Beer-sheba lives* See 5.5 with note. [↑](#footnote-ref-278)
279. y**9.1** *Strike the capitals … first of them all* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-279)
280. z**9.9** *sieve* A coarse sieve used for cleansing grain of straw and stones, or sand of pebbles and shells. [↑](#footnote-ref-280)
281. a**9.12** *So that they shall possess the rest of Edom / And all the nations once attached to My name* I.e., the House of David shall reestablish its authority over the nations that were ruled by David. [↑](#footnote-ref-281)
282. b**9.13** *the plower shall meet the reaper* Cf. Lev. 26.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-282)
283. °**1.6** *Esau* I.e., the Edomites, descendants of Jacob's twin brother; cf. Gen. 36.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-283)
284. c**1.12** *How could you* Lit. “Do not,” and so through v. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-284)
285. d**1.14** *passes* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-285)
286. e**1.16** *you* I.e., the Israelites. [↑](#footnote-ref-286)
287. f**1.16** *evermore* Emendation yields “at My hand,” cf. Isa. 51.17; Jer. 25.15; Ps. 75.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-287)
288. g**1.17** *holy* I.e., inviolate; cf. Jer. 2.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-288)
289. h**1.19–21** Meaning of parts of these verses uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-289)
290. i**1.19** *district of Samaria* After the exile of the northern tribes, the city and district of Samaria were occupied mainly by non-Israelites. [↑](#footnote-ref-290)
291. j**1.19** *Benjamin* Emendation yields “the land of the Ammonites.” [↑](#footnote-ref-291)
292. k**1.20** *Zarephath* A town in southern Phoenicia; see 1 Kings 17.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-292)
293. l**1.20** *Sepharad* Probably Asia Minor, called Saparda in Persian cuneiform inscriptions. [↑](#footnote-ref-293)
294. m**1.21** *liberators shall march up* Several ancient versions read, “they [the exiles from Jerusalem named in the preceding verse] shall march up victorious.” [↑](#footnote-ref-294)
295. n**1.1** *Jonah* Mentioned in 2 Kings 14.25. [↑](#footnote-ref-295)
296. °**1.7** *Those aboard* Heb. “They.” [↑](#footnote-ref-296)
297. o**2.9** *welfare* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-297)
298. p**3.3** *an enormously large city* Lit. “a large city of God.” [↑](#footnote-ref-298)
299. q**4.6** *ricinus plant* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; others “gourd.” [↑](#footnote-ref-299)
300. r**4.8** *sultry* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-300)
301. s**4.11** I.e., infants and animals are not held responsible for their actions. [↑](#footnote-ref-301)
302. °**1.3** *the heavenly* Lit. “His.” [↑](#footnote-ref-302)
303. t**1.5** *shrines* Emendation yields “sins.” [↑](#footnote-ref-303)
304. °**1.7** *her harlot's wealth* I.e., the bounty of offerings dedicated to idols. [↑](#footnote-ref-304)
305. u**1.9** *the nation's* Heb. “her.” [↑](#footnote-ref-305)
306. v**1.10–13** Meaning of much of these verses uncertain. They may refer to the transfer of part of western Judah to Philistine rule by Sennacherib of Assyria in the year 701 b.c.e. [↑](#footnote-ref-306)
307. w**1.10** *Tell it not … weeping* So that enemies may not gloat; cf. 2 Sam. 1.20. [↑](#footnote-ref-307)
308. x**1.10** *dust* Heb. *ʻaphar*, a play on Beth-leaphrah; vv. 10–15 contain several similar puns. [↑](#footnote-ref-308)
309. y**1.14** *The houses of Achzib are* Emendation yields “Fair Achzib is.” [↑](#footnote-ref-309)
310. z**1.16** *make yourself bald* A common rite of mourning; cf. Jer. 7.29. [↑](#footnote-ref-310)
311. a**2.4** *rebel* Emendation yields “ravager.” [↑](#footnote-ref-311)
312. b**2.4** *My people's portion … ravaged* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-312)
313. c**2.5** *cast a lot cord* On a piece of land, thus acquiring title to it; cf. Josh. 18.6 and Ps. 16.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-313)
314. d**2.6–7** *Shame … condemned* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-314)
315. e**2.8** *an enemy arises against* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “you arise as enemies against.” [↑](#footnote-ref-315)
316. f**2.8** *with the cloak* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “off peaceful folk.” [↑](#footnote-ref-316)
317. g**2.8** *Who are turned away from war* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-317)
318. h**2.10** *Because of … befall* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-318)
319. i**2.12–13** These verses may offer another example of the “acceptable” preaching mentioned in v. 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-319)
320. j**2.12** *of Bozrah* Emendation yields “in a fold [Arabic *sīrah*].” [↑](#footnote-ref-320)
321. k**2.12** *pen* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-321)
322. l**3.2–3** Syntax of these verses uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-322)
323. m**3.3** *And after tearing their skins off them, / And their flesh off their bones* Brought down from v. 2 for clarity. [↑](#footnote-ref-323)
324. n**3.3** *as into* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; Septuagint and Syriac read “like flesh in.” [↑](#footnote-ref-324)
325. o**3.7** *cover their upper lips* As a sign of mourning; cf. Ezek. 24.17, 22; Lev. 13.45. [↑](#footnote-ref-325)
326. p**4.1–3** Cf. Isa. 2.2–4. [↑](#footnote-ref-326)
327. q**4.2** *instruction shall come forth* I.e., oracles will be obtainable. [↑](#footnote-ref-327)
328. r**4.3** *plowshares* More exactly, the iron points with which wooden plows were tipped. [↑](#footnote-ref-328)
329. s**4.3** *know* Cf. Judg. 3.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-329)
330. °**4.4** *every one* I.e., every household. [↑](#footnote-ref-330)
331. t**4.7** *expelled* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “weaklings”; cf. Ezek. 34.4. [↑](#footnote-ref-331)
332. u**4.8** *Migdal-eder* Apparently near Bethlehem; see Gen. 35.19–21. [↑](#footnote-ref-332)
333. v**4.8** *Outpost of Fair Zion, / It shall come to you* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-333)
334. w**4.8** *Fair Jerusalem* Emendation yields “the House of Israel”; cf. 5.1–2. [↑](#footnote-ref-334)
335. x**4.10** *scream* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-335)
336. y**4.11** *Obscenely gaze* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-336)
337. z**4.13** *You* Heb. *-ti* serves here as the ending of the second-person singular feminine; cf. Judg. 5.7 and note; Jer. 2.20; etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-337)
338. a**4.14** *in grief* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-338)
339. b**5.1** *Ephrath* The clan to which the Bethlehemites belonged; see 1 Sam. 17.12; Ruth 1.2; 4.11. [↑](#footnote-ref-339)
340. c**5.2** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-340)
341. d**5.2** *has borne* I.e., a ruler, shepherd (v. 3), to deliver Israel from the Assyrians (vv. 4–5). [↑](#footnote-ref-341)
342. e**5.4** *fortresses* Septuagint and Syriac read “soil”; cf. v. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-342)
343. f**5.4** *that nation* Heb. “it.” [↑](#footnote-ref-343)
344. °**5.4** *other nations* Lit. “human beings.” [↑](#footnote-ref-344)
345. g**5.5** *in its gates* Emendation yields “with drawn blades”; cf. Ps. 37.14; 55.22. [↑](#footnote-ref-345)
346. h**5.13** *cities* Emendation yields “idols.” [↑](#footnote-ref-346)
347. i**5.14** *nations* Emendation yields “arrogant.” [↑](#footnote-ref-347)
348. j**6.2** *You firm* Emendation yields “Give ear, you.” [↑](#footnote-ref-348)
349. k**6.5** *From Shittim to Gilgal* I.e., the crossing of the Jordan; see Josh. 3.1, 14–4.19. [↑](#footnote-ref-349)
350. l**6.8** *to walk modestly with your God* Or “It is prudent to serve your God.” [↑](#footnote-ref-350)
351. m**6.9** *Then will your name achieve wisdom* Emendation yields “And it is worthwhile to revere God's name.” [↑](#footnote-ref-351)
352. °**6.9** *the city* Apparently the capital of either the northern or southern kingdom. [↑](#footnote-ref-352)
353. n**6.9–10** *Hear … but you?* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-353)
354. o**6.10** *overlook* Taking *ish* as from *nashah* “to forget”; cf. Deut. 32.18. [↑](#footnote-ref-354)
355. p**6.10** *short ephah* Cf. Amos 8.4–5. [↑](#footnote-ref-355)
356. q**6.11** *they* Heb. “I”; change of vocalization yields “Will I acquit them.” [↑](#footnote-ref-356)
357. r**6.12** This verse would read well after “city” in v. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-357)
358. s**6.14** *And there is a gnawing … bearing young* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-358)
359. t**6.15** *grapes* Lit. “new wine.” [↑](#footnote-ref-359)
360. u**6.16** *you have kept* Heb. “is kept.” [↑](#footnote-ref-360)
361. v**6.16** *the city's* Heb. “her”; cf. v. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-361)
362. w**6.16** *hissing* See note at Jer. 18.16. [↑](#footnote-ref-362)
363. x**6.16** *peoples* Heb. “My people.” [↑](#footnote-ref-363)
364. y**7.1** *me* The speaker is feminine (cf. *ʼelohayikh*, v. 10), probably Samaria personified; cf. note at 6.16. [↑](#footnote-ref-364)
365. z**7.3** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-365)
366. a**7.4** *On the day you waited for* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-366)
367. b**7.8** *enemy* Heb. feminine, apparently referring to Damascus. [↑](#footnote-ref-367)
368. c**7.10** *enemy* See note at v. 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-368)
369. d**7.11** *walls* To keep out tramplers (end of preceding verse); cf. Isa. 5.5; Ps. 80.13–14. [↑](#footnote-ref-369)
370. e**7.13** *your* Heb. “the.” [↑](#footnote-ref-370)
371. f**7.14** *In a woodland surrounded by farmland* I.e., the land west of the Jordan, which is represented as far less fertile than adjacent regions. [↑](#footnote-ref-371)
372. g**7.14** *Graze* Emendation yields “possess.” [↑](#footnote-ref-372)
373. h**7.15** *I will show him* Emendation yields “Show us.” [↑](#footnote-ref-373)
374. i**7.17** *Let them come trembling out of their strongholds* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-374)
375. °**7.19** *Quashing* Or, perhaps, “Forgiving,” as in Akkadian *kabasu*. [↑](#footnote-ref-375)
376. j**7.19** *our* Heb. “their.” [↑](#footnote-ref-376)
377. k**1.4** *blossoms* Lit. “bud.” [↑](#footnote-ref-377)
378. l**1.5** *heaves* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-378)
379. m**1.8** *her place* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “those who oppose [God].” [↑](#footnote-ref-379)
380. °**1.9** *you* I.e., Assyria, whose capital is Nineveh; cf. v. 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-380)
381. n**1.9** *adversary* Cf. Ugaritic *ṣrt*. [↑](#footnote-ref-381)
382. o**1.10** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-382)
383. p**1.11–14** These verses would read well after 2.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-383)
384. °**1.11** *you* I.e., the kingdom of Judah. [↑](#footnote-ref-384)
385. q**1.12** *those days* Of your affliction; Heb. “they.” [↑](#footnote-ref-385)
386. r**1.12** *Even as … no more* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-386)
387. °**1.13** *his* I.e., Assyria's. [↑](#footnote-ref-387)
388. s**1.14** *him* Heb. “you”; cf. v. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-388)
389. t**1.14** *No posterity shall continue your name* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-389)
390. u**1.14** *Accord with your worthlessness* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-390)
391. v**2.2** This verse would read well after v. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-391)
392. °**2.2** *you* I.e., Nineveh; cf. 1.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-392)
393. w**2.3** *Pride* Emendation yields “vine.” [↑](#footnote-ref-393)
394. x**2.3** *Jacob … Israel* Respectively, the northern kingdom (cf. Amos 6.8; 8.7) and the southern kingdom. The latter is regarded as the remnant of Israel after the fall of the northern kingdom (cf. Mic. 1.13–15). [↑](#footnote-ref-394)
395. y**2.3** *Pride* See first note at this verse. [↑](#footnote-ref-395)
396. °**2.4** *His* I.e., the shatterer in v. 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-396)
397. z**2.4** *torches* Understanding *peladoth* as equivalent to *lappidoth*. [↑](#footnote-ref-397)
398. a**2.4** *The [arrows of] cypress wood are poisoned* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “The cavalry charge”; cf. 3.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-398)
399. b**2.6** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-399)
400. c**2.6** *wheeled shelters* To protect the crews that swung the battering rams. [↑](#footnote-ref-400)
401. d**2.7** *The floodgates are opened, / And the palace is deluged* I.e., the walls are breached and the palace is overrun. [↑](#footnote-ref-401)
402. e**2.8** *And Huzzab is exiled and carried away* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “And its mistress is led out and exiled.” [↑](#footnote-ref-402)
403. f**2.8** *escort [her]* Emendation yields “moan.” [↑](#footnote-ref-403)
404. g**2.9** *From earliest times* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-404)
405. h**2.11** *turn ashen* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; cf. note at Joel 2.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-405)
406. i**2.12** *pasture* Emendation yields “cave.” [↑](#footnote-ref-406)
407. j**2.14** *her chariots in smoke* Emendation yields “your thicket in fire.” [↑](#footnote-ref-407)
408. k**2.14** *messengers* Emendation yields “devouring.” [↑](#footnote-ref-408)
409. l**3.4** *ensnared* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-409)
410. m**3.8** *No-amon* Amon was the tutelary deity of No (Thebes; cf. Jer. 46.25), which the Assyrians had sacked in 663 b.c.e. [↑](#footnote-ref-410)
411. n**3.8** *river* Heb. “sea.” [↑](#footnote-ref-411)
412. o**3.9** *her* Heb. “your.” [↑](#footnote-ref-412)
413. p**3.11** *overcome* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-413)
414. q**3.12** *With* Emendation yields “Your troops are”; cf. next verse. [↑](#footnote-ref-414)
415. r**3.15** *Multiply like grubs, Multiply like locusts* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-415)
416. s**3.18** *lying inert* Lit. “dwelling”; emendation yields “asleep.” [↑](#footnote-ref-416)
417. t**3.18** *scattered* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-417)
418. u**3.19** *healing* Heb. *kehah*, a variant of *gehah*; see Prov. 17.22. [↑](#footnote-ref-418)
419. v**1.3** *[Why] do You look* Targum and Syriac “So that I look.” [↑](#footnote-ref-419)
420. w**1.3** *goes on* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-420)
421. x**1.7** *They make their own laws and rules* Lit. “Their law and majesty proceed from themselves.” [↑](#footnote-ref-421)
422. y**1.8** *steppe* Understanding *ʻereb* as synonymous with *ʻarabah*; cf. Jer. 5.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-422)
423. z**1.8** *their steeds* The Qumran Habakkuk commentary (hereafter 1QpHab) reads “and spread [wings].” [↑](#footnote-ref-423)
424. a**1.9** *thrust* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-424)
425. b**1.11** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-425)
426. c**1.12** *You* Heb. “we,” a change made by a pious scribe. [↑](#footnote-ref-426)
427. d**1.14** *that have no ruler* 1QpHab “[for him] to rule over”; cf. Gen. 1.28; Ps. 8.7–9. [↑](#footnote-ref-427)
428. e**1.16** *portion* Emendation yields “bread”; cf. Gen. 49.20. [↑](#footnote-ref-428)
429. f**1.17** *emptying his trawl* 1QpHab “drawing his sword.” [↑](#footnote-ref-429)
430. g**2.1** *the* 1QpHab reads “my.” [↑](#footnote-ref-430)
431. °**2.1** *to me* Or “through me”; cf. Num. 12.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-431)
432. h**2.1** *What will be the reply* Taking *ʼashib* as equivalent to *yashib*. [↑](#footnote-ref-432)
433. i**2.3** *there is yet a prophecy* Emendation yields “the prophecy is a witness.” [↑](#footnote-ref-433)
434. j**2.4** *Lo, their spirit within them is puffed up, not upright, / But* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “Lo, there is a reward for the upright— / the life breath within them— / And…” [↑](#footnote-ref-434)
435. k**2.5** *defiant* Connecting *hyyn* (1QpHab *hwn*) with the root *hwn*, Deut. 1.41; for the thought cf. Prov. 11.31. Meaning of rest of line uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-435)
436. l**2.7** *creditors* Lit. “usurers.” [↑](#footnote-ref-436)
437. m**2.7** *remind* Lit. “shake”; the same verb means “to call to mind” in Samaritan Aramaic. [↑](#footnote-ref-437)
438. n**2.9** *Who have destroyed many peoples* Brought up from v. 10 for clarity. [↑](#footnote-ref-438)
439. o**2.13** *for the fire* I.e., without profit. [↑](#footnote-ref-439)
440. p**2.13** Connection with the next four lines uncertain; they might read better after v. 20. [↑](#footnote-ref-440)
441. q**2.14** *For the earth … the sea* Cf. Isa. 11.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-441)
442. r**2.15** *As you pour out* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “from the bowl of.” [↑](#footnote-ref-442)
443. s**2.15** *nakedness* Cf. Gen. 9.21–22. [↑](#footnote-ref-443)
444. t**2.16** *stagger* Emendation yields “uncover yourself”; cf. Lam. 4.21. [↑](#footnote-ref-444)
445. u**2.16** *disgrace to* Or “vomit of disgrace upon.” [↑](#footnote-ref-445)
446. v**2.17** *For the lawlessness … overwhelm you* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-446)
447. w**2.18** This verse would read well after v. 19. [↑](#footnote-ref-447)
448. x**3.1** *Shigionoth* Meaning uncertain; perhaps “psalms of supplication”; cf. Ps. 7.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-448)
449. y**3.3** *Selah* A musical direction of uncertain meaning. [↑](#footnote-ref-449)
450. z**3.4** Meaning of verse uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-450)
451. a**3.6** *shakes* Cf. Targum and Septuagint. [↑](#footnote-ref-451)
452. b**3.6–7** *God's are … I behold* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-452)
453. c**3.8** *Neharim … Yam* Neharim (lit. “Floods”) and Yam (lit. “Sea”) were marine monsters vanquished by God in hoary antiquity. On Yam see Ps. 74.13; Job 7.12. A being called both Yam and Nahar figures in early Canaanite literature. [↑](#footnote-ref-453)
454. d**3.9** *Sworn are the rods of the word* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-454)
455. e**3.10** *The sky returns the echo* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-455)
456. f**3.13** *Your anointed* I.e., the king of Judah. [↑](#footnote-ref-456)
457. g**3.14** *Your* Heb. “His.” [↑](#footnote-ref-457)
458. h**3.13–14** *You will smash … in an ambush* Emendation yields: “You will strike the heads of evildoers, / Smash the pates of Your adversaries. *Selah*. / You will crack their skulls with Your bludgeon; / Dispersed, blown like chaff shall be they / Who lie in wait to swallow the innocent, / To devour the poor in an ambush.” [↑](#footnote-ref-458)
459. i**3.15–17** Or: 15“You will make Your steeds tread the sea, / Stirring the mighty waters, / 16That I may have rest on a day of distress, / When a people come up to attack us. / But this report made my bowels quake, / These tidings made my lips quiver; / Rot entered into my bone, / I trembled where I stood: / 17That the fig tree does not bud, / And no yield is on the vine; / The olive crop has failed, / And the fields produce no grain; / The sheep have vanished from the fold, / And no cattle are in the pen.” [↑](#footnote-ref-459)
460. j**3.19** *For the leader; with instrumental music* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-460)
461. k**1.3** *I will make the wicked stumble* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-461)
462. l**1.4** *priestlings* Heb. *kemarim*, a term used only of priests of heathen gods. [↑](#footnote-ref-462)
463. m**1.5** *Malcam* Apparently identical with “Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites”; cf. 1 Kings 11.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-463)
464. n**1.7** *sacrificial feast* I.e., a slaughter of sinners. [↑](#footnote-ref-464)
465. °**1.7** *bidden the guests purify themselves* I.e., invitations have already been issued in anticipation; cf. 1 Sam. 16.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-465)
466. o**1.8** *king's sons* Apparently brothers of King Amon, who exercised influence during the minority of King Josiah (2 Kings 22.1). [↑](#footnote-ref-466)
467. p**1.8–9** *don a foreign vestment … steps over the threshold* Apparently two customs of heathen worship; cf. 2 Kings 10.22 and 1 Sam. 5.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-467)
468. q**1.9** *their master's* I.e., King Josiah's. [↑](#footnote-ref-468)
469. r**1.10** *Mishneh* A quarter of Jerusalem; cf. 2 Kings 22.14. [↑](#footnote-ref-469)
470. s**1.11** *Machtesh* Another quarter of Jerusalem. [↑](#footnote-ref-470)
471. t**1.14** *Hark, the day of God! / It is bitter: / There a warrior shrieks!* Emendation yields: “The day of God is faster than a runner, / Fleeter than a warrior”; cf. Ps. 19.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-471)
472. u**1.17** *fat* Or “marrow”; meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-472)
473. v**2.1–2** *O nation … chaff* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields: “O straw [Aramaic *gel*] not gathered in, / Before you are driven like flying chaff”; cf. Ps. 35.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-473)
474. w**2.5** *Canaan* Or “Phoenicia,” of which Philistia is regarded as an extension southward. [↑](#footnote-ref-474)
475. x**2.6** *Cheroth* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-475)
476. y**2.7** *lie down* Change of vocalization yields “rest [them]”; cf. Song 1.7. [↑](#footnote-ref-476)
477. z**2.9** *Clumps* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-477)
478. a**2.9** *patches* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-478)
479. b**2.11** *shrivel* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-479)
480. c**2.14** *species of beast … laid bare* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-480)
481. d**2.15** *Hisses and makes a hand gesture* To ward off a like fate from themselves; cf. Jer. 18.16 and note. [↑](#footnote-ref-481)
482. e**3.1** *Overbearing* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “harlot”; cf. Isa. 1.21. [↑](#footnote-ref-482)
483. f**3.3** *of the steppe, / They leave no bone until morning* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-483)
484. g**3.7** *she* Heb. “you.” [↑](#footnote-ref-484)
485. h**3.7** *them* Heb. “her.” [↑](#footnote-ref-485)
486. i**3.7** *lost on her* Lit. “cut off [from] her vision.” [↑](#footnote-ref-486)
487. j**3.8** *accuser* Understanding *ʻad* as equivalent to *ʻed*, with Septuagint and Syriac. [↑](#footnote-ref-487)
488. °**3.9** *I will make the peoples pure of speech* Thus reversing the primeval confounding of speech in Babel; cf. Abravanel and Gen. 11.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-488)
489. k**3.9** *accord* Lit. “back,” i.e., like working animals. [↑](#footnote-ref-489)
490. l**3.10** *My suppliants* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-490)
491. m**3.10** *Puzai* Emendation yields “Zion.” For the thought, cf. Isa. 18.1, 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-491)
492. n**3.11** *My sacred mount* I.e., in My holy land; cf. Isa. 11.9; 57.13; 65.25. [↑](#footnote-ref-492)
493. o**3.17–18** *lovingly … disconsolate* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-493)
494. p**3.18** *the woe … mockery* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-494)
495. q**3.20** *their* Heb. “your.” [↑](#footnote-ref-495)
496. r**1.2** *The time has not yet come* Lit. “It is not time for the coming of the time.” [↑](#footnote-ref-496)
497. s**1.7–8** These verses would read well after v. 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-497)
498. t**1.8** *be glorified* Emendation yields “glorify it”; see 2.7–9. [↑](#footnote-ref-498)
499. u**1.9** *blow on it* Meaning, perhaps, cast a curse on it. [↑](#footnote-ref-499)
500. v**2.15** *backward* Or “forward.” [↑](#footnote-ref-500)
501. w**2.16** *measures* I.e., of grain. [↑](#footnote-ref-501)
502. x**2.17** *you did not return* Lit. “there was not with you to Me”; cf. Amos 4.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-502)
503. y**2.23** *make you as a signet* I.e., bring you close to Me; contrast Jer. 22.24–30. [↑](#footnote-ref-503)
504. z**1.1** A clause like “Say to the people” is here understood; cf. 7.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-504)
505. a**1.8** *among the myrtles* Septuagint reads “between the mountains”; cf. 6.1. In 6.1ff. four teams of horses leave that abode to roam the four quarters of the earth; in 1.8ff. they are about to reenter God's abode after such a reconnaissance. [↑](#footnote-ref-505)
506. b**1.8** *bay* Septuagint adds “dappled”; cf. 6.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-506)
507. c**1.8** *sorrel* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “black”; cf. 6.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-507)
508. d**1.10** *among the myrtles* See the first note at v. 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-508)
509. e**1.11** *among the myrtles* See the first note at v. 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-509)
510. f**1.11** *dwelling in tranquility* Upheavals at the start of Darius' reign had encouraged hopes of an early restoration of the Davidic dynasty (cf. Hag. 2.21ff.). Now these hopes were dashed. [↑](#footnote-ref-510)
511. g**2.1** *four horns* These correspond to the four winds of v. 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-511)
512. °**2.4** *He* I.e., the angel who has been conversing with the prophet. [↑](#footnote-ref-512)
513. h**2.4** *to throw them into a panic* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “to sharpen ax heads.” [↑](#footnote-ref-513)
514. i**2.4** *hew down* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-514)
515. °**2.8** *that agent* The referent is unclear—either the measurer or the prophet. [↑](#footnote-ref-515)
516. j**2.12** *who sent me after glory* Emendation yields “whose Presence sent me.” [↑](#footnote-ref-516)
517. k**2.12** *their own* According to ancient Jewish tradition, a scribal change for “My.” [↑](#footnote-ref-517)
518. l**2.15** *God's* Heb. “My.” [↑](#footnote-ref-518)
519. m**2.15** *God* Heb. “I.” [↑](#footnote-ref-519)
520. n**2.16** *take Judah as God's own portion* Emendation yields “allot to Judah its portion”; cf. Num. 34.17. [↑](#footnote-ref-520)
521. o**3.1** *Accuser* Others “Satan.” [↑](#footnote-ref-521)
522. p**3.2** *a brand plucked from the fire* Joshua's grandfather had been executed by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25.18–21) and his father was exiled (Hag. 1.1; 1 Chron. 5.40–41), but he himself has returned. [↑](#footnote-ref-522)
523. q**3.5** *he* Heb. “I.” [↑](#footnote-ref-523)
524. r**3.5** *pure* I.e., ritually pure. [↑](#footnote-ref-524)
525. s**3.5** *they placed the pure diadem on his head and clothed him in [priestly] garments* Joshua has now been rendered fit to associate with the heavenly beings (v. 7); cf. Isa. 6.6–8. [↑](#footnote-ref-525)
526. °**3.8** *you! For those men are a sign that* Or “you—who are men of significance! For.” [↑](#footnote-ref-526)
527. t**3.8** *the Branch* I.e., the future king of David's line. See 6.12; Jer. 23.5–6; 33.15–16; cf. Isa. 11.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-527)
528. u**3.9** *with seven eyes* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. The stone apparently symbolizes the God-given power of the future Davidic ruler; see below 4.6–7. [↑](#footnote-ref-528)
529. v**4.2** *lamps above it have* Emendation yields “bowl above it has.” [↑](#footnote-ref-529)
530. w**4.6** *as follows* The explanation is given in the last sentence of v. 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-530)
531. x**4.6** *Zerubbabel* A grandson of King Jehoiachin (1 Chron. 3.17–19) and the secular head of the repatriated community (Hag. 1.1; etc.). [↑](#footnote-ref-531)
532. y**4.6** *by My spirit* I.e., Zerubbabel will succeed by means of spiritual gifts conferred upon him by God; cf. Isa. 11.2ff. [↑](#footnote-ref-532)
533. z**4.10** *stone of distinction* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; others “plummet.” [↑](#footnote-ref-533)
534. a**4.12** *tops* Meaning of Heb. uncertain; literally “ears” (as of grain). [↑](#footnote-ref-534)
535. b**4.12** *gold* Emendation yields “oil”; cf. v. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-535)
536. c**4.12** *tubes* Or “funnels”; through them the oil runs from the olive trees into the bowl of vv. 2 and 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-536)
537. d**4.14** *anointed dignitaries* I.e., the high priest and the king (cf. 3.8–9 with note); lit. “sons of oil.” [↑](#footnote-ref-537)
538. e**5.3** *For everyone who has stolen … and everyone who has sworn … has gone unpunished* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-538)
539. f**5.6** *tub* Heb. *ephah*, a measure of capacity. [↑](#footnote-ref-539)
540. g**5.6** *eye* Septuagint and Syriac read “guilt.” [↑](#footnote-ref-540)
541. h**5.11** *Shinar* I.e., Babylonia; cf. Gen. 10.10; 11.2, 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-541)
542. i**6.6** *have gone out* Change of vocalization yields “will go out.” [↑](#footnote-ref-542)
543. j**6.6** *what is to the west of them* Cf. *ʼaḥor*, “west,” Isa. 9.11. Emendation yields “the region of the west.” [↑](#footnote-ref-543)
544. k**6.6** *have gone out* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-544)
545. l**6.7** *the dappled ones have gone out…* Emendation yields “the bay ones will go out to the region of the east.” [↑](#footnote-ref-545)
546. m**6.8** *done my pleasure* Cf. postbiblical *naḥath ruaḥ*, “gratification.” Emendation yields, “done God's pleasure.” [↑](#footnote-ref-546)
547. n**6.8** *the region of the north* I.e., Babylonia, whose communication with Judah was via North Mesopotamia and Syria; cf. 2.10–11. [↑](#footnote-ref-547)
548. o**6.10** *from* Emendation yields “the gift of.” [↑](#footnote-ref-548)
549. p**6.12** *the Branch* See note at 3.8. [↑](#footnote-ref-549)
550. q**6.13** *seated on his throne* Septuagint reads “on his right side.” [↑](#footnote-ref-550)
551. r**6.14** *Helem* The Syriac version reads “Heldai”; cf. v. 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-551)
552. s**6.14** *Hen* In v. 10, “Josiah.” [↑](#footnote-ref-552)
553. t**7.2** *and Regem-melech and his men sent* Emendation yields “sent Regem-melech and his men.” [↑](#footnote-ref-553)
554. u**7.3** *weep and practice abstinence in the fifth month* Because of the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem; cf. 2 Kings 25.8ff. [↑](#footnote-ref-554)
555. °**7.10** *evil* More precisely, “even a hint of evil.” [↑](#footnote-ref-555)
556. v**8.10** Cf. Hag. 1.6. [↑](#footnote-ref-556)
557. °**8.10** *from labor* Lit. “of a person.” [↑](#footnote-ref-557)
558. w**8.13** *a curse* I.e., a standard by which people curse; cf. Gen. 12.2 and note; Jer. 24.9. [↑](#footnote-ref-558)
559. x**8.13** *a blessing* I.e., a standard by which people bless; cf. Gen. 12.2 and note. [↑](#footnote-ref-559)
560. y**8.19** *fast of the fourth month* Commemorating the events of 2 Kings 25.3–7 (Jer. 52.6ff.). [↑](#footnote-ref-560)
561. z**8.19** *fast of the fifth month* Commemorating the events of 2 Kings 25.8–15 (Jer. 52.12ff.). [↑](#footnote-ref-561)
562. a**8.19** *fast of the seventh month* Commemorating the events of 2 Kings 25.25–26 (Jer. 41). [↑](#footnote-ref-562)
563. b**8.19** *fast of the tenth month* Commemorating the events of 2 Kings 25.1–2 (Jer. 52.4). [↑](#footnote-ref-563)
564. c**9.2** *that land* I.e., of Hadrach and Damascus; Heb. “it.” [↑](#footnote-ref-564)
565. d**9.6** *a mongrel people* Heb. *mamzer*; cf. note at Deut. 23.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-565)
566. e**9.8** *against armies* Change of vocalization yields “as a garrison.” [↑](#footnote-ref-566)
567. f**9.8** *with My own eyes* Emendation yields “of their suffering”; cf. 1 Sam. 1.11. [↑](#footnote-ref-567)
568. g**9.10** *He* Heb. “I.” [↑](#footnote-ref-568)
569. h**9.10** *call on the nations to surrender* Cf. Deut. 20.10–12 and note. [↑](#footnote-ref-569)
570. i**9.11–12** Exact meaning and connection of these verses uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-570)
571. j**9.11** *released* Taking *shillaḥti* as a second-person singular feminine form, with Septuagint; cf. Judg. 5.7 with note. [↑](#footnote-ref-571)
572. k**9.11** *dry pit* I.e., a pit that serves as a dungeon rather than a cistern (both are called *bor* in Heb.). [↑](#footnote-ref-572)
573. l**9.12** *Bizzaron* Perhaps a nickname (“fortress”) for Samaria (Heb. *Shomeron*). [↑](#footnote-ref-573)
574. m**9.14** *Judah* Heb. “them.” [↑](#footnote-ref-574)
575. n**9.14** *stormy tempest* Lit. “tempests of wind”; for *teman* in the sense of wind, cf. Job 9.9; 39.26. [↑](#footnote-ref-575)
576. o**9.15** The meaning of much of the rest of the chapter is uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-576)
577. p**9.15** *drink, shall rage as with* Some Septuagint mss. read “drink blood like.” [↑](#footnote-ref-577)
578. q**10.1** *season of late rain* Septuagint reads “in its season / The early rain and the late.” Cf. Deut. 11.14. [↑](#footnote-ref-578)
579. r**10.1** *storms* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-579)
580. s**10.1** *for them, / Grass in the fields for everyone* Emendation yields “[producing] food for men, / Grass in the fields for cattle.” Cf. Deut. 11.14–15. [↑](#footnote-ref-580)
581. t**10.2** *teraphim* Idols consulted for oracles; cf. 1 Sam. 15.23; Ezek. 21.26. [↑](#footnote-ref-581)
582. u**10.2** *strayed* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-582)
583. v**10.2** *suffer* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-583)
584. w**10.3** *he-goats* I.e., oppressive leaders; cf. Ezek. 34.17ff. [↑](#footnote-ref-584)
585. x**10.4** *cornerstones, / From them tent pegs* Emendation yields “shields and bucklers.” [↑](#footnote-ref-585)
586. y**10.7** *Ephraim shall be like a warrior, / And they* Emendation yields “And when Ephraim is victorious, / They…” [↑](#footnote-ref-586)
587. z**10.8** *and continue increasing* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-587)
588. a**10.11** *A hemmed-in force … waves in the sea* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-588)
589. b**10.12** *Judah and Ephraim* Heb. “them”; cf. vv. 6–7. [↑](#footnote-ref-589)
590. c**10.12** *march proudly* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “have glory”; cf. Isa. 45.25. [↑](#footnote-ref-590)
591. °**10.12** *My* Heb. “His.” [↑](#footnote-ref-591)
592. d**11.3** *rich pastures* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-592)
593. e**11.7** *for those poor ones of the sheep* Emendation yields “for the sheep dealers”; cf. the word rendered “trader” in 14.21. [↑](#footnote-ref-593)
594. f**11.8** *the three shepherds* Emendation yields “a third of the flock.” [↑](#footnote-ref-594)
595. g**11.10** *annul the covenant I had made with all the peoples* Perhaps alluding to the prediction of 14.1–3. [↑](#footnote-ref-595)
596. h**11.11** *the same poor ones of the sheep* Emendation yields “the sheep dealers.” [↑](#footnote-ref-596)
597. i**11.11** *watched* Emendation yields “hired.” [↑](#footnote-ref-597)
598. j**11.13** *the noble sum that I was worth in their estimation* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-598)
599. k**11.13** *treasury* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-599)
600. l**11.14** *Israel* Two mss. of the Septuagint have “Jerusalem”; cf. 12.2–3; 14.14. [↑](#footnote-ref-600)
601. m**11.16** *seek the strayed* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-601)
602. n**11.16** *sustain the frail* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-602)
603. o**11.16** *tear off their hoofs* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-603)
604. p**12.4** *watch over the House of Judah while I strike every horse of* Emendation yields “open the eyes of Judah while I strike all.” [↑](#footnote-ref-604)
605. q**12.5** *The dwellers of Jerusalem are a task set for us by* Emendation yields “We will save the dwellers of Jerusalem with the help of.” [↑](#footnote-ref-605)
606. r**12.6** *Jerusalem* Emendation yields “safety.” [↑](#footnote-ref-606)
607. s**12.9** *all but annihilate* For the idiom cf. Gen. 43.30; it is also attested in postbiblical Hebrew. [↑](#footnote-ref-607)
608. t**12.10** *lament* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-608)
609. u**12.11** *Megiddon* Usually “Megiddo.” [↑](#footnote-ref-609)
610. v**12.14** In this way, apparently, they will prevail upon God to spare the remnant of the besieging nations; cf. v. 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-610)
611. w**13.2** *unclean spirit* To which abnormal human behavior was attributed. [↑](#footnote-ref-611)
612. x**13.4** *he* Heb. “they.” [↑](#footnote-ref-612)
613. y**13.4** *wear a hairy mantle* In imitation of Elijah; cf. 2 Kings 1.8. [↑](#footnote-ref-613)
614. z**13.5** *I am a tiller of the soil* I.e., I was addicted to wine like Noah, the tiller of the soil (cf. Gen. 9.20–21), hence my hallucinations and ravings; cf. Prov. 23.33. [↑](#footnote-ref-614)
615. a**13.5** *I was plied with the red stuff* Connecting *ʼadam* with *ʼadom* “red” (cf. Prov. 23.31); but meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-615)
616. b**13.6** *sores on your back* Lit. “sores between your arms”; cf. 2 Kings 9.24. Sores are sometimes symptoms of hysteria. [↑](#footnote-ref-616)
617. c**13.6** *beaten in the homes of my friends* Presumably for making drunken scenes; cf. Prov. 23.35. [↑](#footnote-ref-617)
618. d**13.7–9** These verses would read well after 11.17. [↑](#footnote-ref-618)
619. e**13.7** *in charge of My flock* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-619)
620. f**14.1** *your* Jerusalem is addressed. [↑](#footnote-ref-620)
621. g**14.5** Vocalizing the repeated verb as *[we]nistam* with Targum, Septuagint, and an old Heb. ms. Other mss. and printed editions read, “You [pl.] shall flee [to] the Valley in the Hills, for the Valley of the Hills shall reach up to Azal. You shall flee as you fled because of the earthquake…” [↑](#footnote-ref-621)
622. h**14.6** Meaning of verse uncertain; cf. Job 21.26. [↑](#footnote-ref-622)
623. i**14.8** *the Eastern Sea* I.e., the Dead Sea; cf. Joel 2.20. [↑](#footnote-ref-623)
624. j**14.8** *the Western Sea* I.e., the Mediterranean Sea; cf. Joel 2.20. [↑](#footnote-ref-624)
625. k**14.9** *one God with one name* I.e., God alone shall be worshiped—and shall be invoked by that name only. [↑](#footnote-ref-625)
626. l**14.10** *like the Arabah* I.e., depressed like the Jordan Valley. [↑](#footnote-ref-626)
627. m**14.10** *from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem* I.e., from the northern border of the Kingdom of Judah (1 Kings 15.22; 2 Kings 23.8) to the southern border (Josh. 15.32; 19.7). [↑](#footnote-ref-627)
628. n**14.10** *shall be inhabited* Brought up from v. 11 for clarity. [↑](#footnote-ref-628)
629. o**14.18** Because Egypt is not dependent on rain, it will suffer some other punishment, presumably that described in v. 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-629)
630. p**14.21** *traders* To sell ritually pure vessels. [↑](#footnote-ref-630)
631. q**1.3** *a home for beasts* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-631)
632. r**1.6** *slave* Septuagint and Targum add “should reverence”; cf. next part of verse. [↑](#footnote-ref-632)
633. s**1.7** *You* Septuagint “it.” [↑](#footnote-ref-633)
634. t**1.12** *meat* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-634)
635. u**1.13** *degrade* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-635)
636. v**2.3** *put your seed under a ban* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-636)
637. w**2.6** See Hag. 2.10–13; cf. Lev. 10.8–11; Deut. 33.8, 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-637)
638. x**2.7** *For the lips of a priest guard knowledge, / And people seek rulings from his mouth* Or: For the lips of a priest are observed; / Knowledge and ruling are sought from his mouth. [↑](#footnote-ref-638)
639. y**2.8** *through your rulings* By ruling falsely that an act was licit or an object ritually pure. [↑](#footnote-ref-639)
640. °**2.10** *Source* Lit. “Father.” Or “father,” namely Jacob; cf. Ibn Ezra and Kimhi. [↑](#footnote-ref-640)
641. z**2.12** *no descendants* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-641)
642. a**2.13** *as well* Lit. “a second time”; Septuagint reads “which I detest”; cf. v. 16. [↑](#footnote-ref-642)
643. b**2.13** *what you offer* Lit. “from your hand.” [↑](#footnote-ref-643)
644. c**2.15** *so that all remaining life-breath … careful of your life-breath* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-644)
645. d**2.16** *and covering … with a garment* Meaning of Heb. uncertain. [↑](#footnote-ref-645)
646. e**3.1** *angel of the covenant* Apparently the messenger of the previous sentence is regarded as Israel's tutelary angel. [↑](#footnote-ref-646)
647. f**3.3** *act* Lit. “sit.” [↑](#footnote-ref-647)
648. g**3.6** Vv. 6–12 resume the thought of 1.2–5. [↑](#footnote-ref-648)
649. h**3.8** *defraud* Heb. *qabaʻ*, a play on the name of Jacob (v. 6); cf. Gen. 27.36. [↑](#footnote-ref-649)
650. i**3.8** *In tithe and contribution* I.e., the contributions to the priests from the new grain, oil, and wine; see Num. 18.12. [↑](#footnote-ref-650)
651. j**3.10** *storehouse* I.e., the public storehouse; see Neh. 13.10–13. [↑](#footnote-ref-651)
652. k**3.11** *locusts* Lit. “devourer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-652)
653. °**3.17** *man* Or “householder,” by implication. [↑](#footnote-ref-653)
654. l**3.20** *to bring healing* Lit. “with healing in the folds of its garments”; others “with healing in its wings.” [↑](#footnote-ref-654)