Exodus 2:23-3:5

And in those days after a length of time, the king of Egypt died, and the children of Israel groaned because of their tasks, and cried out, and their cry rose up to God because of their tasks. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraam, and Isaac, and Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and became known to them.

And Moses was tending the flock of Jothor, his father-in-law, the priest of Madian; and he led the sheep near to the desert, and came to the mount of Choreb. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in flaming fire in the midst of the bush, and he saw that the bush burning with fire—but the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed.”

Now when the Lord saw him turn aside to look, the Lord called him from the midsts of the bush, saying, “Moses! Moses!” And he said, “What is it?” And he said, “Do not come near here. Take your sandals off of your feet! For the place where you stand is holy ground.”

Exodus 3:6-14

And God said to Moses, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses turned away his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Indeed, I have seen the affliction of My people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry *caused* by their taskmasters; for I know their affliction. And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them out of that land, and to bring them into a good and spacious land, into a land flowing with milk and honey, into the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Gergesites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to me, and I have seen the affliction with which the Egyptians oppress them. And now come, I will send you to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and you will bring my people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt.”

And Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt?” And God spoke to Moses, saying, “I will be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you have brought my people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.” And Moses said to God, “Look, I will go to the children of Israel, and I will say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you;” and they will ask me, “What is his Name? What will tell them?” And God said to Moses, “I am The One Who Is.” And he said, “You will say this to the children of Israel, ‘The One Who Is has sent me to you.’”

Exodus 15:22-16:1a

Then Moses brought the children of Israel from the Red Sea, and led them into the wilderness of Sur. And they went three days in the desert, and found no water to drink. And they came to Merra, and could not drink the waters of Merra, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place, ‘Bitterness.’ And the people murmured against Moses, saying, “What will we drink?” So Moses cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. He established a statutes and an ordinance there for them. He proved him there, and said, “If you will diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is pleasing in His sight, and will listen to His commands, and keep all His ordinances, I will not bring any of the diseases upon you which I have brought upon the Egyptians, for I am the Lord your God Who heals you.”

And they came to Ælim, and there were twelve fountains of water there, and seventy palm-trees; so they encamped there by the waters.

And they departed from Ælim, and the entire congregation of the children of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Ælim and Sinai.

Exodus 30:17-30

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Make a bronze washbasin, and a bronze base for it, for washing; and you will put it between the tent of witness and the altar, and you will pour water into it, and Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and their feet with water from it. Whenever they go into the tent of witness, they will wash themselves with water, so they do not die, whenever they come near to the altar to serve and to offer the whole burnt-offerings to the Lord. They will wash their hands and feet with water, whenever they they go into the tent of witness; they will wash themselves with water, so they do not die; and it will be a perpetual ordinance for them, for him and his generations after him.”

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Take also sweet spices, the flower of choice myrrh, five hundred shekels worth; and fragrant cinnamon, half of this, two hundred and fifty shekels, and two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling calamus, and five hundred shekels of cassia, [according to the shekel] of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. And you will make it a holy anointing oil, an aromatic ointment *according* to the art of the perfumer. It will be a holy anointing oil. And you will anoint the tent of witness with it, and the ark of the tent of witness, and all its utensils, and the lampstand and all its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of whole burnt-offerings and all its utensils, and the table and all its utensils, and the washbasin and its base. And you will sanctify them, and they will be most holy: everyone who touches them shall be holy {consecrated}. And you will anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them to serve Me as priests.

Deuteronomy 6:3-7:26

Hear, therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do this, that it may be well with you, and you may be greatly multiplied, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.

And these *are* the statutes and the judgments, which the Lord commanded the children of Israel in the wilderness, when they came out of the land of Egypt. “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, and with all you soul, and all your strength. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart and in your soul. And you shall teach them to your children, and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall bind them on your hand as a sign, and it shall be unshakable before your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your houses, and on your gates.

And it will come to pass, when the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, and to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you great and beautiful cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and wells dug in the rock that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant, then when you have eaten and are full, beware that you do not forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall fear the Lord your God, and serve Him, and cling to Him, and swear by His Name. Do not go after other gods, the gods of the nations around you, for the Lord your God, Who is in the midst of you, *is* a jealous God, lest the anger of Lord your God be roused against you, and destroy you from the face of the earth.

You shall not tempt the Lord your God, as you tempted Him in the Temptation. You shall diligently keep the commands of the Lord your God, the testimonies, and the ordinances, which He commanded you. And you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and inherit the good land, which the Lord swore to your fathers, to chase all your enemies from before your face, as the Lord said.

And it shall be, when your son asks you in the future, saying, “What are the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments that the Lord our God has commanded us?” Then you shall say to your son, “We were slaves to Pharaoh in the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought us from there with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm. And the Lord set great and evil signs and wonders afflicting Egypt, on Pharao and on his house, before us. And He brought us out from there to give us this land, which he swore to give to our fathers. And the Lord charged us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, that it may be well with us all our days, that we may live, at it is today. And there will be mercy to us, if we are watchful to keep all these commands before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us.

And when the Lord your God brings you into the land you go to inherit, and removes great nations from before you, the Hittites, and Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canannites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations *more* numerous and stronger than you, and the Lord your God delivers them into your hands, then you will strike them, you will utterly destroy them. You will not make a covenant with them, or show them mercy. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to his son, and you shall not take his daughter to your son. For she will draw away your son from Me, and he will serve other gods; and the Lord will be very angry with you, and will utterly destroy you suddenly. But this is what you shall do to them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their pillars, and cut down their groves, and burn the carved images of their gods with fire.

For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; and the Lord your God chose you to be a peculiar people to Him, more than all the nations upon the face of the earth. It was not because you are more numerous than all *other* nations that the Lord preferred you and chose you, for you are the least in all the nations; but because the Lord loved you, and since He was keeping the oath that He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a strong hand, and the Lord has redeemed thee from the house of slavery, out of the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know, therefore, that the Lord your God, he *is* God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him, and those who keep His commandments, and Who repays those Who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. And He will not be slack with them that hate Him; He will repay them to their face. Therefore, You shalt keep the commands, and the statutes, and these judgments, which I command you today to do.

And it will come to pass, when you listen to these statutes, and keep them and do them, that the Lord your God will keep for you the covenant and the mercy, which he swore to your fathers. And He will love you, and bless you, and multiply you; and He will bless the offspring of your womb, and the fruit of your land, your grain, and your wine, and your oil, the herds of your oxen, and the flocks of your sheep, on the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give to you. You will be blessed more than all the nations; there will not be an impotent or infertile one among you, or among your cattle. And the Lord your God will remove every illness from you, and He will not inflict all of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you have seen and that you have experienced, on you; but he will inflict them upon all that hate you. And you will eat all the spoils of the nations that the Lord your God gives to you; your eye will not have pity on them, and you shall not serve their gods; for that would be a snare to you.

But if you should say in your heart, “This nation *is* greater than I, how will I be able to destroy them?” you shall not be afraid of them; you shall remember all that the Lord your God did to Pharaoh, and to all the Egyptians: the great trials that your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders, the strong hand, and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So will the Lord your God do to all the nations whose presence you fear. And the Lord your God will send the hornets against them, until those who are left, who hide from you, are destroyed. You will not be wounded before them, because the Lord your God in the midst of you *is* a great and powerful God. And the Lord your God will consume these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to consume them quickly, lest the land become desert, and the wild animals of the field multiply against you. And the Lord your God will deliver them into your hands, and you will destroy them with a great destruction, until He has utterly destroyed them. And He will deliver their kings into your hands, and you will destroy their name from that place; no one will be able to stand against you until you have utterly destroyed them. You will burn the carved images of their gods with fire. You shall not desire silver and gold from them, and you shall not take it for yourself, lest you stumble by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. And you shall not bring an abomination into your house, lest you be an anathema like it. You shall utterly abhor it, for it is an anathema {accursed thing}.

Joel 2:12-27

Now, says the Lord your God,

“turn to me with all your heart,

with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning,

and tear your hearts, and not your clothing.

and turn to the Lord your God,

for He is merciful and compassionate,

longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy,

and repents of evils.

Who knows if he will return, and repent,

and leave a blessing behind him,

even a meat-offering and a drink-offering

to the Lord your God?”

Sound the trumpet in Zion;

sanctify a fast,

proclaim a *solemn* service:

gather the people,

sanctify the congregation,

assemble the elders,

gather the nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom go out of his bed-chamber,

and the bride out of her bridal chamber.

Between the porch and the altar,

the priests that minister to the Lord will weep, and say,

“Spare Your people, O Lord,

and do not give Your inheritance to the reproach

of being ruled over by the nations,

lest they should say among the nations,

‘Where is their God?’”

But the Lord was jealous for His land,

and spared His people.

And the Lord answered and said to his people,

“Behold, I *am* sending you

grain, and wine, and oil,

and you will be satisfied with them,

and I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

And I will drive the [army] from the north away from you,

and banish him to a parched land,

and I will drown his face in the first sea,

and his rear in the last sea,

and his decay will rise up,

and his stink come up,

because he magnified his works.

Be of good courage, O land,

rejoice and be glad,

for the Lord has done great things!

Be of good courage, you animals of the plain,

for the plains of the wilderness have blossomed,

for the trees bear their fruit;

the fig tree and the vine have yielded their full strength.

And you children of Zion,

rejoice then and be glad in the Lord your God,

for he has given you food that is right for you,

and he will rain on you with the early and the late rain, as before.

The threshing floors will be filled with grain,

and the presses will overflow with wine and oil.

And I will recompense you for the years

which the locust devoured,

and the grasshopper, and the caterpillar, and the blight,

*even for* my great army, which I sent against you.

And you will eat abundantly, and be satisfied,

and will praise the Name of the Lord your God

*for the* marvelous *things* He has done with you.

And My people will never again be put to shame.

Then you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,

and *that* I am the Lord your God, and *that* there is no other but me.

And my people will never again be put to shame.

Jonas 1

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonas the son of Amathi, saying, “Arise, and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of its wickedness has come up to me.” But Jonas rose up to flee to Tharsis from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tharsis, and he paid his fare, and went on board to sail with them to Tharsis, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord raised up a wind on the sea, and there was a great storm on the sea, and the ship was in danger of breaking up. And the mariners were afraid and cried out, each one to his god. And they cast out the cargo of the ship into the sea, to be lightened of if. But Jonas had gone below into the hold of the ship, and was asleep, and snoring. And the captain came to him, and said to him, “Why are you snoring? Get up and call upon your God, that God may deliver us, so we do not perish.”

And each man said to his neighbour, “Come, let us cast lots and find out for on whose account this calamity is upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonas. And they said to him, “Tell us, why is this calamity upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? And from what country and people are you?” And he said to them, “I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord, God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry *land*.” Then the men feared greatly, and said to him, “What is this *that* you have done?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

And they said to him, “What should we do to you, so that the sea will calm itself for us?” For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonas said to them, “Pick me up, and throw me into the sea, and the sea will become calm to you, for I know that this great tempest is upon you because of me.” And the men tried hard to return to land, and were not able, for the sea rose and grew even more tempestuous against them. And they cried out to the Lord, and said, “No way, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life, and do not bring righteous blood upon us, for You, O Lord, hast done as You have willed.” So they took Jonas, and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord very greatly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and vowed vows. Now the Lord had commanded a great sea creature to swallow Jonas, and Jonas was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights.

Jonas 2

And Jonas prayed to the Lord, his God, out of the belly of the sea creature, and said,

“I cried out to the Lord my God in my affliction,

and he heard me,

my cry, out of the belly of Hades,

You heard my voice.

You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea,

and the floods surrounded me;

all Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

And I said, ‘I have been driven away from Your sight;

Will I again look toward Your holy temple?’

Water is poured over me as far as my life;

the deepest abyss surrounded me,

my head sank into the crevices of the mountains;

I descended into the earth,

whose bars are everlasting barriers;

yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord my God.

When my life was failing me, I remembered the Lord;

so may my prayer come to You, into Your holy temple.

They that follow vanities and lies have forsaken their own mercy.

But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of praise and confession;

all that I have vowed I will offer to You, the Lord of *my* deliverance.”

And the sea creature was commanded by the Lord, and it cast Jonas out upon the dry *land*.

Jonas 3:1-4:11

And the word of the Lord came to Jonas a second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it according to the message which I previously spoke to you.” And Jonas arose, and went to Nineveh, as the Lord had said. Now Nineveh was a very great city to God, of about three days’ journey. And Jonas began to enter into the city, going about a day’s journey, and he proclaimed and said, “Three more days, and Nineveh will be overthrown!”

And the men of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. And the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and removed his robe, and put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. And proclamation was made, and it was commanded in Nineveh by the king and his nobles, saying, “Let not men, cattle, oxen, and sheep, taste *anything*, or feed, or drink water.” So men and cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried fervently to God; and they each turned from their evil ways, and from the iniquity of their hands, saying, “Who knows if God will repent, and turn from his fierce anger, and we will not perish?” And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God repented of the evil which He had said He would do to them; and He did not do *it*.

But Jonas was very deeply grieved, and he was confounded. So he prayed to the Lord, and said, “O Lord, were these not my words when I was yet in my land? That is why I saw the need to fled to Tharsis; because I knew that You are merciful and compassionate, long-suffering, and abundant in mercy, and willing to repent at calamities. And now, O Sovereign, Lord, take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live.”

And the Lord said to Jonas, “Art you exceedingly grieved?” And Jonas went out from the city, and sat down opposite the city, and made a tent for himself there, and he sat under its shade, until he might see what would happen to the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonas, to be a shade over his head, to shade him from his discomforts. Jonas rejoiced with great joy because of the gourd. But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and it withered up. And it came to pass, at the rising of the sun, that God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonas, and he became disheartened, and despaired of his life, and said, “*It is* better for me to die than to live.”

And God said to Jonas, “Art you very much grieved over the gourd?” And he said, “I am very much grieved, even to death.” And the Lord said, “You had consideration for the gourd, for which you had not suffered, and had not made to grow, which came up during the night, and perished before *the next* night, but shall not I spare Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand human beings, who do not know their right hand from their left hand; and much livestock?

Habakkuk 3:2-19

O Lord, I have heard Your report, and was afraid

I considered Your works, and was astonished.

You will be known in the midst of the two living creatures;

You will be acknowledged when the years draw near;

You will be manifested when the time comes;

You will remember mercy when my soul is troubled in wrath.

God will come from Teman,

and the Holy One from a shady, densely wooded mountain. *(Pause.)*

His excellence has covered the heavens,

and the earth is full of his praise.

And his brightness will be like light;

horns are in His hands,

and He has established a strong love of his strength.

A report will go forth before Him,

and He will go forth, with His feet in sandals.

He stopped, and the earth trembled;

He looked, and the nations melted away;

the mountains were violently shattered;

the everlasting hills melted at His eternal going forth.

The encampments of the Ethiopians will be dismayed,

also the tents of the land of Madiam.

Were You angry, O Lord, with the rivers?

or *was* Your wrath against the rivers,

or was Your fury against the sea?

that You will mount Your horses,

and Your chariots of salvation?

“You will bend your bow against scepters,” says the Lord. *(Pause.)*

The land of rivers will be torn asunder.

The nations will see You and be in travail,

*as You* scatter the moving waters.

The deep gave forth its voice,

and raised its form on high.

The sun rose, and the moon stood still in its course;

Your arrows will go forth at the light,

with the flashing of Your gleaming weapons.

Thou will bring low the land with threatening,

and You will bring down the nations in wrath.

You went forth for the salvation of Your people,

to save Your anointed ones.

You brought death on the heads of the lawless;

You fettered *their* necks. *(Pause.)*

You beheaded rulers in frenzy,

they will tremble at this.

They will open their bridles, like as a poor man eating in secret.

And You caused Your horses to run into the sea,

churning up much water.

I watched, and my belly was terrified

by the sound of the prayer of my lips,

and trembling entered into my bones,

and my frame [of mind] was troubled.

I will rest in the day of tribulation

to going up to the people of my sojourning.

For *though* the fig tree will bear no fruit,

and there will be no produce on the vines;

the labour of the olive tree will fail,

and the fields will yield no food;

[though] the sheep have fled the pasture,

and there are no oxen in the cribs;

yet I will exult in the Lord,

I will rejoice in God my Saviour.

The Lord God is my strength,

and He will establish my feet to the end.

He sets my feet upon high places,

that I may be victorious in his song.

Zechariah 8:7-13

“This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘Behold, I *will* save my people from the land of the east, and from the land of the west country. And I will bring them in, and make *them* dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they will be to Me a people, and I will be to them a God, in truth and in righteousness.’

This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘Let your hands be strong, *you who* hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time that the temple was built. For before those days the wages of men could not be profitable, and there could be no wages for cattle, and because of affliction, there could be no peace to those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all people, each against his neighbour. But now I *will* not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather, I will demonstrate peace, the vine will yield its fruit, and the land will yield its produce, and the heaven will give its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of my people. And it will come to pass, as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Juda and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing; be of good courage, and strengthen your hands.’

Zechariah 8:7-19

“This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘Behold, I *will* save my people from the land of the east, and from the land of the west country. And I will bring them in, and make *them* dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they will be to Me a people, and I will be to them a God, in truth and in righteousness.’

This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘Let your hands be strong, *you who* hear in these days these words from the mouth of the prophets, from the day that the house of the Lord Almighty was founded, and from the time that the temple was built. For before those days the wages of men could not be profitable, and there could be no wages for cattle, and because of affliction, there could be no peace to those going out and those coming in, and I will send forth all people, each against his neighbour. But now I *will* not do to the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Rather, I will demonstrate peace, the vine will yield its fruit, and the land will yield its produce, and the heaven will give its dew, and I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of my people. And it will come to pass, as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Juda and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing; be of good courage, and strengthen your hands.’

For this is what Lord Almighty says, ‘As I took purposed to afflict you when your fathers provoked me to wrath,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and I did not repent, so now in these days I have prepared and taken purposed to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Juda; be of good courage. These *are* the things you will do: speak the truth, everyone to his neighbour, and render judgment in your gates that makes for peace, and let none of you devise evil in his heart against his neighbour, and do not love a false oath; for I hate all these things,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, “This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast, shall be to the house of Juda for joy and gladness, and for good feasts. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.’”

Zechariah 8:18-23

And the word of the Lord Almighty came to me, saying, “This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘The fourth-month fast, and the fifth-month fast, and the seventh-month fast, and the tenth-month fast, shall be to the house of Juda for joy and gladness, and for good feasts. And you will rejoice, and you will love truth and peace.’

This is what Lord Almighty says, ‘Many peoples will come yet, and the inhabitants of many cities. And the inhabitants of five cities will come together to one city, saying, “Let us go to beseech the Lord, and to seek the face of the Lord Almighty; I too will go.” And many peoples and many nations will come to seek the face of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem, and to obtain favour of the Lord. This is what the Lord Almighty says, “In those days if ten men from all the languages of the nations stop you—even if they take hold of the hem of a Jewish man, they will say, ‘We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”’”

Zechariah 14:8-11

And in that day living water will come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea, and half of it toward the western sea; and it will be so in both summer and spring. And the Lord will be king over all the earth, in that day there will be one Lord, and His Name one Name, encircling all the earth, even the wilderness from Gabe unto Remmon, south of Jerusalem. But Rama will remain in its place; from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners, and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king’s winepresses, they will dwell in the city, and there will be no more anathema {curse}, and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

Isaiah 1:2-18

Hear, O heaven, and listen, O earth, for the Lord has spoken:

“I have begotten and brought up children,

but they rejected me.

The ox knows its owner,

and the donkey its master’s crib,

but Israel does not know Me,

and the people have not understood me.”

Ah sinful nation,

a people full of sins,

an evil offspring,

lawless children,

you have forsaken the Lord,

and provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger!

Why should ye be beaten *any*more

as you continue in lawlessness?

the whole head is pained,

and the whole heart sad.

From the feet to the head,

there is no soundness in them;

sores, and bruises, and festering wounds*,*

there is no bandage to apply,

nor oil, nor salve.

Your land is desolate;

your cities are burned with fire;

strangers devour your land it in your presence,

and it is made desolate,

overthrown by foreign peoples.

The daughter of Sion will be forsaken

like a tent in a vineyard,

like a garden-watcher’s hut in a cucumber field,

like a besieged city.

And if the Lord of Hosts

had not left us offspring,

we would have become like Sodom,

and been made like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the Lord,

You rulers of Sodom!

Pay attention to the law of God,

you people of Gomorra!

“What is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?”

says the Lord;

“I am full of whole burnt offerings of rams,

and I do not want the fat of lambs,

or the blood of bulls and goats.

not even when you come to appear before me.

For who required these things at your hands?

You will tread in my court no more.

If you bring fine flour, *it is* futile;

incense is an abomination to me.

I cannot bear your new moons, and your sabbaths,

and the great day. My soul hates

fasting, and holy days,

as well as your new moons, and your feasts.

You have become loathsome to Me;

I will no longer forgive your sins.

When you stretch out your hands to Me,

I will turn My eyes away from you,

even if you make many petitions,

I will not listen to you,

for your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; become clean;

remove your evil deeds from your souls

before My eyes;

cease from your evil deeds;

learn to do good;

seek judgement;

redeem the wronged;

defend for the orphan,

and obtain justice for the widow.

Come, let us reason together,”

says the Lord:

“although your sins are like crimson,

I will make them white like snow,

and although they are like scarlet,

I will make *them* white like wool.

Isaiah 1:16-26

“Wash yourselves; become clean; remove the evil deeds from your souls before My eyes; cease from your evil deeds; learn to do good; seek judgement, redeem the wronged; defend for the orphan, and obtain justice for the widow. Come, let us reason together,” says the Lord: “although your sins are like crimson, I will make them white like snow, and although they are like scarlet, I will make *them* white like wool. And if you are willing, and listen to me, you will eat the good things of the land. But if you are not willing, and do not listen to me, a sword will devour you,” for the mouth of the Lord has spoken these things.

How the faithful city Zion has become a prostitute! It was full of justice; the righteous lodged in it, but now murderers do! Your silver is worthless; your taverns mix wine with water. Your rulers are disobedient, companions of thieves, loving bribes, and seeking after rewards; they do not defend the orphans, or pay attention to the cause of widows. Therefore, this is what the Master, the Lord of Hosts, says, “Woe to the mighty *ones* of Israel! For My wrath against mine adversaries will not cease, and I will execute judgement on My enemies! And I will bring my hand upon you, and purge you completely. I will destroy the disobedient, and will remove all the lawless from among you, and humble all the arrogant. And I will establish your judges as before, and your counsellors as at the beginning. And after these things, you will be called the city of righteousness, Zion, the faithful mother-city.”

Isaiah 1:19-2:3a

“If you are willing, and listen to me,

you will eat the good things of the land.

But if you are not willing, and do not listen to me,

a sword will devour you,”

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken these things.

How has the faithful city Zion

has become a prostitute!

*It* was *once* full of justice;

he righteous lodged in it,

but now murderers do!

Your silver is worthless;

your taverns mix the wine with water.

Your rulers are disobedient,

they are companions of thieves,

loving bribes,

and seeking after rewards;

they do not defend orphans,

or pay attention to the cause of widows.

Therefore, this is what the Master, the Lord of Hosts, says,

“Woe to the mighty *ones* of Israel!

For My wrath against My adversaries will not cease,

and I will execute judgement on My enemies!

And I will bring my hand upon you,

and purge you completely.

I will destroy the disobedient,

and will remove the lawless from among you,

and humble the arrogant.

And I will establish your judges as before,

and your counsellors as at the beginning.

And after these things, you will be called the city of righteousness,

Zion, the faithful mother-city.”

For her captives will be saved

with judgement, and with mercy.

But the lawless and the sinners will be crushed together,

and those who forsake the Lord will come to an end.

For they will be ashamed of their idols they desired,

And the gardens which they longed for.

For they will be like a terebinth tree

that has lost its leaves,

and like a garden that has no water.

Their strength will be like a thread of flax,

and their works as sparks of fire,

and the lawless and the sinners will be burnt together,

and there will be no one to quench *them*.

The word, which came from the Lord to Isaias the son of Amos concerning Judea, and concerning Jerusalem.

For in the last days

the mountain of the Lord will be manifest,

and the house of God *will be* on the tops of the mountains,

and it will be exalted above the hills,

and all the nations will come to it.

And many nations will go and say,

“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

and to the house of the God of Jacob,

and He will proclaim us His way,

and we will walk in it.”

Isaiah 2:3-11

And many nations will go and say,

“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

and to the house of the God of Jacob,

and He will proclaim us His way,

and we will walk in it.”

For a law will go forth from Zion,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

And He will judge between the nations,

and will rebuke many people,

and they will beat their swords into plows

and their spears into pruning hooks,

and nation will no long take up sword against nation,

and they will not learn to wage war anymore.

And now, O house of Jacob,

come, *and* let us walk

in the light of the Lord!

For he has abandoned his people,

the house of Israel,

for as from the beginning,

their country is filled with divinations,

like the *land* of the foreigners {Philistines},

and many children of foreigners were born to them.

For their land is filled with silver and gold,

and their treasures were countless;

their land is also filled with horses,

and their chariots were countless.

And the land is filled with abominations,

the works of their hands,

and they worshipped *the works* which their fingers had made.

And so a man bowed down,

and the man was humbled,

and I will not forgive them!

Now [therefore] enter into the rocks,

and hide yourselves in the earth,

from before the fear of the Lord,

and from the glory of his might,

when he will rise to crush the earth.

For the eyes of the Lord are high, but man is lowly,

and the haughtiness of man will be brought low,

and the Lord will shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 2:11c-19

And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

For the day of the Lord of hosts will

come upon all who are insolent and arrogant,

and upon all who are high and lifted up,

and they will be humbled;

and upon every cedar of Lebanon,

high and towering,

and upon every oak of Basan,

and upon every mountain,

and upon every high hill,

and upon every high tower,

and upon every high wall,

and upon every ship of the sea,

and upon every sight of beautiful ships.

And every person will be humbled,

and the haughtiness of man will fall,

and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

And they will hide all *idols* made by hands,

carrying *them* into the caves,

and into the clefts of the rocks,

and into the holes of the earth,

from before the fear of the Lord,

and from the glory of His might,

when He arises to crush the earth.

Isaiah 3:1-14b

Behold now, the Lord, the Lord of hosts,

will take away from Judea and from Jerusalem

the mighty man and mighty woman,

the strength of bread, and the strength of water,

the great and mighty man, the man of war,

both the judge and the prophet,

the diviner, and the elder,

the captain of fifty also,

and the wonderful counselor,

the skilled artisan,

and the intelligent listener {disciple}.

“And I will make youths their rulers,

and mockers will rule over them.

And the people will collapse,

man upon man,

and *every* man upon his neighbour;

the child will stumble against the elder,

and the vulgar against the honourable.”

For a man will take seize his brother,

or one of his father’s household, saying,

“You have clothing,

be our ruler,

and let my food

be supplied by you.”

And he will answer in that day, and say,

“I will not be your ruler,

for I have no bread in my house, nor clothing.

I will not be

the ruler of this people.”

For Jerusalem is ruined,

and Judea has fallen,

because their tongues are lawless,

and they are disobedient to the Lord.

Therefore, their glory has now been brought low.

And the shame of their face has risen up against them;

they have proclaimed their sin like that of Sodom,

and have made it manifest.

Woe to their soul!

For they have devised an evil counsel against themselves,

saying, “Let us bind the just, for he is burdensome to us.”

Therefore, they will eat the fruits of their works.

Woe to the wicked!

Evil things will happen to him

according to the works of his hands.

“O my people, your exactors strip you,

and extortioners rule over you.

O my people, those who call you blessed lead you astray,

and confuse the path of your feet.”

But now the Lord will stand up to judge,

and He will enter into judgement with his people.

The Lord Himself will enter into judgement

with the elders of the people, and with their rulers.

Isaiah 4:2-:7a (not done yet)

And in that day God shall shine gloriously in counsel on the earth, to exalt and glorify the remnant of Israel. And it will come to pass *that* the remnant left in Zion and in Jerusalem, will be called holy, everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem. For the Lord will wash away the filth of the sons and daughters of Zion, and will cleans the blood from their midst with a spirit of judgement and a spirit of burning. And He will come, a could will overshadow every site of Mount Zion and all that surrounds it by day, and it will be like smoke and like a light of fire burning by night, and it will be covered with glory. And it will serve as a shade from the heat, and as a shelter and a hiding place from inclement weather and rain.

“Now I will sing to *My* Beloved

a song of My Beloved concerning My vineyard.

*My* beloved had a vineyard

on a high hill, in a fertile place.

And I made a hedge round it, and fenced it in,

and planted a choice vine,

and built a tower in the midst of it,

and dug out a place for the wine-vat in it;

and I waited *for it* to bring forth grapes,

but it brought forth thorns.

And now, man of Judah

and dwellers in Jerusalem,

judge between Me and My vineyard.

What more might I do for my vineyard,

that I have not done for it?

For I waited for it to bring forth grapes,

but it has brought forth thorns.

But now I will tell you

what I will do to My vineyard.

I will take away its hedge,

and it will be plundered;

and I will pull down its walls,

and it will be trampled down.

And I will abandon my vineyard,

and it will not be pruned or cultivated,

and thorns will come up as on a barren land,

and I will command the clouds

not to rain on it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts

is the house of Israel,

and the man of Judah is *his* beloved plant.

Isaiah 9:1-2

*Do this first,* and do it quickly, O country of Zabulon, land of Nephthalim by the sea, and the rest *dwelling along* the seacoast, and *the land* beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Nations. O you people who walk in darkness, behold a great light! You who dwell in the country of the shadow of death, a light will shine upon you!

Isaiah 35:1-10

Be glad, O thirsty desert! Let the desert be glad, and blossom like a lily! The deserts of Jordan will blossom and rejoice. the glory of Lebanon and the honour of Carmel has been given to it; and My people will see the glory of the Lord, and the majesty of God. Be strong, you weak hands and feeble knees. Comfort one another, you fainthearted. Be strong, do not fear. Behold, our God renders judgement, and He will render *it*; He will come and save us.

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will hear. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the stammerers will speak clearly; for water has burst forth in the desert, and a channel *of water* in a thirsty land. And the dry land shall become marshlands, and there will be a spring of water in the thirsty land. The joy of birds will be there, a habitation of reeds and marshland.

A pure way will be there, and it will be called a holy way; and the unclean will not pass through there, and there will be no unclean way there; but the dispersed will walk on it, and they will not go astray. There will be no lion there, nor will any evil beast go upon it, or be found there at all; but the redeemed will walk in it, and those gathered by the Lord will return, and come to Zion with joy, and everlasting joy *will be* over their heads; for on their heads *will be* praise and great joy, and gladness will take hold of them—sorrow and pain, and groaning have fled away.

Isaiah 40:1-5

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “Speak, O priests, to the heart of Jerusalem; comfort her, for her humiliation has been fulfilled, her sin has been done away with, for she has received from the Lord’s hand double *for* her sins.”

The voice of one crying in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low; the crooked *ways* will be made straight, and the rough *places into* plains. The glory of the Lord will appear, and all flesh will see the salvation of God, for the Lord has spoken *it*.”

Isaiah 43:16-44:6

Thus says the Lord, who provides a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty water, who has brought forth chariots and horse, and a mighty multitude. But they have lain down, and will not rise; they are extinguished like a wick that is quenched: “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. Behold, I *will* do new things, which will now spring forth, and you will know them; and I will make a road in the desert, and rivers in the dry land. The wild animals of the field will praise me, the owls and young ostriches, for I have given water in the wilderness, and rivers in the dry land, to give drink to My chosen race, My people whom I have preserved to declare My excellence.

I have not called you now, O Jacob, nor have I made you weary, O Israel. You have not brought me the sheep of your whole burnt offering, nor have you glorified me with your sacrifices, nor have I wearied you with frankincense, nor have you purchased incense for me with silver, nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices; but I set before you your sins, and in your iniquities. I, *even* I, am He who blots out your lawlessness, and I will not remember *them* at all. But as for you, remember, and let us judge *together*. You confess your lawless acts first, that you may be made righteous. Your fathers first, and also their rulers, acted lawlessly against Me. And the rulers defiled My holy things, so I gave Jacob to destruction, and Israel to reproach.”

But hear now, O Jacob my servant, and Israel, whom I have chosen. Thus says the Lord God Who made you, and who formed you in the womb, “You will yet be helped; fear not, My servant Jacob; and My beloved Israel, whom I have chosen. For I will give water to the thirsty who walk in a dry land. I will put My Spirit upon your offspring, and My blessings upon your children. They will spring up like grass in the midst of water, and like a willow on by flowing water. One will say, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Jacob; and another will write, ‘I am God’s,’ and will call himself by the name of Israel.”

Thus says God, the King of Israel, Who delivers him, the God of hosts, “I am the first, and I am after these things; there is no god besides Me.

Baruch 3:36-4:4

This is our God, no other will be compared to Him. He found the whole way of knowledge, and give it to Jacob His servant, and to Israel His beloved. Afterwards, she was seen upon earth, and lived with men.

She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures forever. All they who keep her will live; but those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take hold of her; walk towards the radiance of the presence of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or the things that are of advantage to you to a foreign nation.

O Israel, we are blessed, because what is pleasing to God is known to us.

Ezekiel 36:25-29a

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed from all your uncleanness, and I will also cleanse you from all your idols. And I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you, and I will take the heart of stone from your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and to keep My judgments, and to do *them*. And you will dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you will be to Me a people, and I will be to you a God. And I will save you from all your uncleanness.”

Ezekiel 47:1-9

And [the Spirit] brought me in by the entrance of the house, and, behold, water flowed from under the atrium by the east, for the front of the house looked towards the east, and the water came down from the right side, from the south to the altar. And He brought me out by the way of the northern gate, and He led me round by the outside way to the gate of the court that looks eastward, and, behold, water flowed down from the right side, in *the direction* in which a man went forth opposite. And *there was* a measuring line in his hand, and he measured a thousand *cubits* with the measure; and he passed through the water; *it was* water of a remission. And *again* he measured a thousand, and he passed through the water, and the water was up to the thighs. And *again* he measured a thousand, and he passed through water up to his loins. And *again* he measured a thousand, and he could not pass through, for *the water* broke into a rushing torrent which *man* cannot pass through. And he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen *this*?”

Then He led me back to the bank of the river. As I returned, behold, on the banks of the river *there were* very many trees on one side and on the other side. And he said to me, “This is the water that flows into Galilee, which is towards; then it goes down to Arabia, and would come as far as the sea, to the outlet of the water; and it will heal the waters. And it will come to pass, *that* every living thing that moving, wherever the river goes, will live. And there will be a great multitude of fish there, because this water will go there, and it will heal *them*, and they will live; everything on which the river comes will live.