Genesis 18:17-19:29

And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham, My servant, what I intend to do? But Abraham will become a great and populous nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed. For I know that he will instructs his sons and his house after him, and they will keep the ways of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring all things upon Abraham that He has spoken to him. Thenthe Lord said, “The outcry concerning Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are very great.  Therefore, I will go down and see whether or not they are carrying out the outcry that comes to me concerning them, that I may know.”

Then the men turned away from there and went to Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. And Abraham drew near and said, “Would you destroy the righteous with the ungodly? Will the righteous be as the ungodly? If there should be fifty righteous in the city, will You destroy them? Will You not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous, if they are in it? By no means will You do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the ungodly, so that the righteous will be as the wicked! By no means! Will not You, Who judges the whole earth do what is right?” And the Lord said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, I will spare the whole place for their sakes. And Abraham said in reply, “Now I who am earth and ashes have begun to speak to my Lord. But if the fifty righteous should be diminished to forty-five, will You destroy the whole city on account of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there.” And he continued to speak to Him, and said, “But if forty should be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of forty.” And he said, “Pardon, Lord, if I should speak, but if thirty are found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of thirty.” And he said, “Since I am able to speak to the Lord, what if twenty are found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it, if I should find twenty there.” And he said, “Pardon, Lord, if I speak once more, but if there ten should be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.” And the Lord departed, when He had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Now the two angels came to Sodom at evening, and Lot was sitting beside the gate of Sodom. And when Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed with his face to the ground, and said, “Here, lords, turn aside to your servant’s house, and rest, and wash your feet; then you may rise early in the morning and depart on your way.” And they said, “No, but we will find lodging in the street.” And he insisted strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house, and he made a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.” But before they went to sleep, the men of the city, the Sodomites, both young and old, all the people together, surrounded the house. And they called Lot out, and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we may have relations with them.” And Lot went out to the doorway to them, and he shut the door after himself, and said to them, “By no means, brethren, do not act wickedly. I have two daughters, who have not known a man. I will bring them out to you, and you can use them as you wish, only not do anything to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shelter of my roof.” And they said to him, “Stand aside! You came to reside as an alien, was it also to judge? Now then we will do worse to you than to them.” And they pressed hard against the man, Lot, and nearly broke down the door. And the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door of the house. And they struck the men at the door of the house with blindness, from the smallest to the greatest, and they became exhausted trying to find the door.

And the men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone here, sons-in-law, or sons or daughters? Or if you have any other friend in the city, bring them out of this place. For we are going to destroy this place, because the outcry concerning them has been raised before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.” Then Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Rise, and get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city.” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

Now when dawn was breaking, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife, and your two daughters you have, and get out, lest you also be destroyed with the lawlessness of the city.” And they were thrown into confusion, and the angels took his hand, and his wife’s hand, and his two daughters’ hands, and the Lord spared him.

And it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that they said, “Save your own life! Do not look back, or stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be overtaken together with them.” And Lot said to them, “I pray, O Lord, since Your servant has found mercy before You, and you have magnified Your righteousness, which You showed me by saving my life, but I will not be able to escape to the mountain, for fear the disasters overtake me and I die. Look, this city, which is small, is near enough for me to flee to for refuge, and I will escape there. Is it not little? And my soul will live! And He said to him, “See, I have indulged you also in this matter, in that I will not overthrow this city, which you have spoken of. So hurry to escape there, for I will not be able to do anything until you arrive there.” Therefore he called the name of that city, Segor.

The sun rose upon the earth, when Lot entered into Segor. And the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew these cities, and all the region around them, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and all that grew upon the earth. And his wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

And Abraham rose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. And he looked towards Sodom and Gomorrah, and towards the region around them, and he saw, and see, a flame went up from the land, like the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass that when God destroyed all the cities of the surrounding region, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the destruction, when the Lord overthrew those cities in which Lot had lived.

Genesis 22:1-18

And it happened after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” And he said, “Take your son, Isaac, whom you love, and go into the high land, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will tell you of.”

And Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and he took two servants with him, and Isaac his son, and he split firewood for a whole burnt offering, and arose and departed, and went to the place God had spoken to him of. On the third day, Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place far off. And Abraham said to his servants, “Sit here with the donkeys, and I and the lad will go over there, and after we have worshipped, we will come back to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the whole burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took fire and a knife into his hands, and the two went together. And Isaac said to Abraham his father, “Father.” And he said, “What is it, son?” And he said, “See, the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself a sheep for a whole burnt offering, *my* son.” And the two of them went together, and came to the place that God had spoken of to him. And Abraham built the altar there, and placed the wood on it; and he bound Isaac his son, hand and foot, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

And Abraham reached out his hand to take the knife to kill his son. And the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” And he said, “Do not lay your hand upon the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, and for My sake you have not spared your beloved son.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw, and look! A ram caught by its horns in a Sabek plant. And Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a whole burnt offering instead of Isaac his son. And Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord has seen,” that they might say today, “On the mount the Lord was seen.”

And an angel of the Lord called to Abraham the second time out of heaven, saying, “I have sworn by Myself, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and on My account have not spared your beloved son, surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand by the sea sore; and your seed will inherit the cities of their enemies. And in your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have listened to My voice.

Genesis 27:1-41a

Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, that he called Esau, his older son, and said to him, “My son.” And he answered, “Here I am”. And he said, “See, I have grown old, and I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the plain, and hunt game for me, and make me the savoury food that I like, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you, before I die.”

Now, Rebecca heard Isaac speaking to his son Esau. And Esau went into the plain to hunt game for his father. And Rebecca spoke to Jacob her younger son, saying, “Look, I heard your father speaking to your brother Esau, saying, ‘Bring me game and make savoury food for me, that I may eat and bless you in the presence of the Lord before I die.’ Now then, my son, listen to me, as I command you, and go to the flocks and take two kids, tender and good, and I will make savoury food for your father, as he likes. And you will bring them in to your father, and he will eat it and bless you before he dies.”

And Jacob said to his mother Rebecca, “My brother Esau is a hairy man, and I a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I will be like a scorner before him, and I will bring a curse upon myself, and not a blessing.” But his mother said to him, “Your curse be upon me, my son; only listen to my voice, and go and bring *them* for me.” So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savoury food, as his father liked. Then Rebecca took the fine clothes of her elder son, Esau which were with her in the house, put them on Jacob, her younger son. And she put the skins of the kids on his arms the, and on the exposed part of his neck. And she gave the savoury food and the bread she had prepared into the hands of her son Jacob.

And he brought *them* to his father, and said, “Father.” And he said, “Here I am; who are you, son?” And Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me; arise, sit, and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” And Isaac said to his son, “What is this that you have quickly found, my son?” And he said, “That which the Lord your God delivered up before me.” And Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near to me, that I may feel you, son, if you are my son Esau or not.” And Jacob went near to his father Isaac, and he felt him, and said, “The voice *is* Jacob’s voice, but the hands *are* Esau’s hands.” And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like the hands of his brother Esau; and he blessed him. Then he said, “Are you my son Esau?” and he said, “I *am*.” And he said, “Bring it to me, and I will eat of your game, son, that my soul may bless you.” And he presented it to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. And Isaac his father said to him, “Come near to me, and kiss me, son.” And he came near and kissed him, and smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him, and said,

“See, the smell of my son

is like the smell of an abundant field that the Lord has blessed.

And may God give you of the dew of heaven,

and of the fatness of the earth,

and an abundance of grain and wine.

And let nations serve you,

and princes bow down to you,

and be lord over your brother,

and the sons of your father will bow down to you.

Accursed is he that curses you,

and blessed is he that blesses you.”

And it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing his son Jacob, it happened just as Jacob had gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. And he also had made savory food and brought it to his father, and said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that your soul may bless me.” And Isaac his father said to him, “Who are you?” And he said, “I am your firstborn son Esau.” And Isaac was amazed, and with very great amazement he said, “Who then hunted game for me, and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him, and indeed—he shall be blessed.” When Esau heard the words of his father Isaac, he cried out with a great and very bitter cry, and said, “Bless me, also me, father.” And he said to him, “your brother has come with deceit, and taken you blessing.” And Esau said, “His name was rightly called Jacob, for he has supplanted me now this second time; he has taken both my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing.” and Esau said to his father, “Do you not have a blessing left a for me, father?” And Isaac answered and said to Esau, “I have made him your lord, and have made all his brethren his servants, and have sustained him with grain and wine, what shall I do for you, my son?” And Esau said to his father, “Have you *only* one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, father. And Isaac was troubled, Esau cried aloud and wept. And Isaac his father answered and said to him,

Look, your dwelling will be of the fatness of the earth,

and of the dew of heaven from above.

And you will live by your sword,

and you will serve your brother;

and there will be *a time* when you will break his yoke from your neck.”

And Esau was angry with Jacob because of the blessing, with which his father had blessed him.

Genesis 28:10-22

And Jacob departed from the Well of the Oath, and went to Charran. And came to a certain place and slept there, for the sun had set. And he took *one* of the stones of the place and put it at his head, and lay down to sleep in that place. And he dreamed, and see, a ladder was set firmly on the earth, and its top reached to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood upon it, and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham, and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, I will give to you the land on which you lie, and to your offspring. And your offspring will be like the sand of the earth, and it will spread about to the sea, and to the south, and to the north, and to the east, and all the tribes of the earth will be blessed in you and in your offspring. And see, I am with you to preserve you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done all that I have spoken to you.”

And Jacob woke from his sleep, and said, “The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” And Jacob arose in the morning, and took the stone he had put by his head, and he set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. And Jacob called the name of that place, the House of God; and the name of the city was previously Oulam-luz.

And Jacob made a vow, saying, “If the Lord God will be with me, and guard me throughout on this journey, on the way I am going, and give me bread to eat, and clothing to put on, and bring me back in safety to my father’s house, then the Lord will be my God. And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be a house of God to me, and of all You give me, I will give a tithe to You.”

Genesis 32:2-30

And Jacob departed for his journey, and looking up, he saw the hosts of God encamped, and the angels of God met him. And when he saw them, Jacob said,” This is the encampment of God;” and he called the name of that place, Encampments.

And Jacob sent messengers ahead to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, in the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, “Speak this to my lord Esau, ‘This is what your servant Jacob is saying, “I have sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord Esau, so that your servant might find grace in your sight.”’” And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you and four hundred men are with him.” And Jacob was greatly afraid, and was perplexed. And he divided the people that were with him, and the cows, and the camels, and the sheep, into two companies. And Jacob said, “If Esau should come to one company, and destroy it, the other company will escape.”

And Jacob said, “God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, O Lord Who said to me, ‘Depart quickly to the land of your birth, and I will deal well with you,’ it is sufficient to me because of all the righteousness and truth You have worked with your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid of him, lest he should come and attack me, and the mother with the children. But You said, ‘I will surely deal well with you, and will make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which will not be numbered for multitude.’”

And he slept there that night, and took gifts from the things that he was bringing, and sent out to his brother Esau two hundred female goats, twenty male goats, two hundred sheep, twenty rams, thirty milk camels and their foals, forty cows, ten bulls, twenty female donkeys, and ten colts. And he gave them to the control of his servants, *each* flock separately, and he said to his servants, “Go on before me, and put some distance between each drove.” And he commanded the first, saying, “If my brother Esau meets you, and he ask you, saying, ‘To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these going before you?’ You will say, ‘Your servant Jacob’s; he has sent gifts to my lord Esau, and look, he is behind us.’ And he commanded the first, the second, and the third, and all that went before him after these flocks, saying, “This is how you will speak to Esau when you find him, and say, ‘Look, your servant Jacob is coming after us.’” For he said, I will propitiate his face with the gifts going before him, and afterwards I will see his face, for perhaps he will accept me.” So the gifts went on before him, but he himself stayed that night in the encampment.

And he arose that night, and took his two wives and his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabboh. And he took them and crossed over the torrent, and brought over all his possessions. And Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until the morning. And He saw that He did not prevail against him, and He touched the flat part of his thigh, and the flat part of Jacob’s thigh became numb as he wrestling with him. And He said to him, “Let Me go, for the day has dawned.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” And he said to Him, “What is your name?” And he answered, “Jacob.” And He said to him, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have prevailed with God, and will be mighty with men.” And Jacob asked and said, “Tell me Your Name.” and He said, “Why do you ask after My Name?” And He blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of that place, the Form of God, “for I have seen God face to face, and my life has been preserved.”

Genesis 49:33-50:26

And Jacob finished giving orders to his sons, and lifted up his feet onto the bed, and breathed his last, and was added to his people.

And Joseph fell on his father’s face, and wept over him, and kissed him. And Joseph ordered his servants the embalmers to embalm his father, and the embalmers embalmed Israel. And they completed his forty days, for so the days of embalming are numbered. And Egypt mourned for him seventy days.

Then after the days of mourning had past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, “If I have found favour in your sight, speak in Pharaoh’s ear, saying, ‘My father made me swear an oath, saying, “In the tomb that I dug for myself in the land of Chanaan, there you will bury me.” Now then I will go up and bury my father, and come back.’” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

So Joseph went up to bury his father; and all the servants of Pharaoh went up with him, and the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and all the house of his father, his kindred. And they left behind the sheep and the oxen in the land of Gesem. And chariots and horsemen went up with him, and the company was very great. And they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned him with a great and very strong lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days. And the inhabitants of the land of Chanaan saw the mourning at the floor of Atad, and said, “This is a great mourning to the Egyptians.” Therefore, one called its name, “The mourning of Egypt,” which is beyond the Jordan. And so his sons did this to him, just as he commanded them. So his sons carried him up into the land of Chanaan, and buried him in the double cave, opposite Mambre, the cave that Abraham had bought for property of a burying place, from Ephron the Chettite. And Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brethren, and they who had gone up with him to bury his father.

And when the Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph may bear a grudge against us, and repay us all the evil that we have done to him.” And they came to Joseph, and said, “Your father commanded *us* before his death, saying, ‘Say this Joseph, “Forgive them their injustice and their sin, seeing that they have done you evil.”’ And now, pardon the injustice of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept as they spoke to him. And they came to him and said, “We are your servants.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I am God’s. You took counsel against me for evil, but God took counsel for me for good, in order that a numerous people might be fed.” And he said to them, “Do not Fear, I will sustain you, and your households.” And he comforted them, and spoke to their heart.

And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers, and the entire household of his father. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. And Joseph saw the children of Ephraim to the third generation, and the sons of Machir, the son of Manasse, were brought up on Joseph’s knees.

And Joseph spoke to his brothers, saying, “I am about to die, but God will surely visit you, and will bring you out of this land, to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraam, Isaac, and Jacob.” And Joseph took an oath from the sons of Israel, saying, “At the time of the visitation with which God will visit you, you shall carry up my bones from here with you.” And Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus 2:11-20

And it came to pass in the course of many days, when Moses was grown, he went out to his brethren, the sons of Israel. And as he observed their burdens, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren, the children of Israel. And when he looked around this way and that way, and saw no one, he killed the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the one who was wrong, “Why are you hitting your neighbour?” And he replied, “Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Will you kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?” Then Moses was alarmed, and said, “Has this matter has become so well known?” And Pharaoh heard this matter, and sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Madian. When he came into the land of Madian, he sat on a well.

Then the priest of Madian had seven daughters, who fed the flock of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs, to water their father’s flock. Then the shepherds came, and were driving them away, but Moses rose up and rescued them, and drew water for them, and watered their sheep. When they came to Ragouel their father, and he said to them, “How is it that you have come so quickly today?” And they said, “An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds, and drew water for us, and watered our sheep.” So he said to his daughters,” And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call hi, that he may eat bread.”

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 4:19-6:13

And the Lord said to Moses in Madian, “Go, return to Egypt, for all that sought your life are dead.” And Moses took his wife and his children, and mounted them on the beasts of burden, and returned to Egypt, and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. And the Lord said to Moses, “When you back to Egypt, see—all the wonders I have put in your hand, you will work before Pharaoh. But I will harden his heart, and he will not send the people away. Then you will say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says, “Israel *is* my first-born son. So I say to you, ‘Send my people away so that they may serve me.’ But if you will not send them away, see then, I will kill your firstborn son.”‘“

And it happened on the way, at the inn, that the Angel of the Lord met him, and sought to kill him. And Sepphora took a stone and cut off the foreskin of her son, and fell at his feet and said, “The blood of the circumcision of my son is staunched.” And he departed from him, because she said,” The blood of the circumcision of my son is staunched.”

And the Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the desert to meet Moses.” And he went and met him at the mount of God, and they kissed each other. And Moses reported to Aaron all the words of the Lord that He had sent, and all the things that He had commanded him. Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spoke all these words, which God had spoken to Moses, and performed the signs before the people. And the people believed and rejoiced, because God had visited the children of Israel, and because He had seen their affliction. Then the people bowed and worshipped.

And after this Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they said to him, “This is what the Lord God of Israel, says, “Send My people away so that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the desert.” And Pharaoh said, “Who is He that I should obey His voice, to send the children of Israel away? I do not know the Lord, and I will not send Israel away!” And they say to him, “The God of the Hebrews has called us to Him. We will therefore travel a three days’ journey into the desert in order to sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest at any time death or slaughter meet us.” And the king of Egypt said to them, “Why do you, Moses and Aaron, turn the people from their works? Each of you, go back to your work.” And Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land are now very numerous; let us then give them no rest from their work.” Then Pharaoh gave orders to the task-masters of the people and their clerks, saying, “You will no longer give straw to the people for brick-making as it was yesterday and the third day. Let them go and collect straw for themselves. And you will impose a quota of brick-making on them, which they are to do each day. You will not remove anything, for they are idle; therefore, they cry out, saying, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’ Let the works of these men be oppressive, and let them be preoccupied with this, and do not let them be preoccupied with empty words.”

And the taskmasters and the clerks urged them, and spoke to the people, saying, “This is what Pharaoh says, ‘I *will* no longer give you straw. Go yourselves, gather straw for yourselves wherever you can find it, for nothing is reduced from your workload.’” So the people were dispersed throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. And the taskmasters forced them to hurry, saying, “Fulfill your daily quota, as when straw was given to you.” And the clerks from the race of the children of Israel, who were set over them by the taskmasters of Pharaoh, were beaten and questioned, *“*Why have you not fulfilled your quota of brickmaking just as yesterday and the third day, today as well?”

Then the clerks of the children of Israel went in and cried to Pharaoh, saying, “Why are you acting like this with your servants? Straw is not given to your servants, and they tell us to make brick; and look, your servants have been beaten, you will therefore injure your people.” And he said to them, “You are idle, you are men of leisure! Therefore you say, ‘Let us go *and* offer sacrifice to our God.’ Now then, go and work, for straw will not be given to you, yet you will deliver the quota of bricks.” And the clerks of the children of Israel saw themselves in trouble, with *men* saying, “You will not fail to deliver the daily quota of the brick-making.”

And they departed from Pharaoh, and met Moses and Aaron, coming to meet them. And they said to them, “The Lord look upon you and judge you, for you have made our smell loathsome before Pharaoh, and before his servants, to put a sword into his hands to kill us.”

And Moses turned to the Lord, and said, “O Lord, why have You brought affliction on this people? And why have You sent me? From the time that I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your Name, he has afflicted this people, and You have not delivered Your people.”

And the Lord said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh; for by a mighty hand he will send them forth, and with an outstretched arm he will drive them out of his land.”

And God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I *am* the Lord. I appeared to Abraam, and Isaac, and Jacob, being their God, but I did not reveal My Name, ‘Lord,’ to them. And I established my covenant with them, to give them the land of the Canaanites, the land of their sojourn, in which they lived as strangers. And I have heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians enslave, and I remembered your covenant. Go! speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘I *am* the Lord; I will bring you out from the tyranny of the Egyptians, and I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great judgments. And I will take you as My people, and be your God. And you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from the tyranny of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land for which I stretched out my hand to give it to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it you for an inheritance: I *am* the Lord.’” And Moses spoke this to the sons of Israel, and but did not listen to Moses because of their discouragement and their hard tasks.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Go in, tell Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to send away the children of Israel from his land.” And Moses spoke before the Lord, saying, “look, the children of Israel have not listened to me. How will Pharaoh listen to me? I am not eloquent.” And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them instructions for Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he should send the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 7:14-8:19

And the Lord said to Moses, “The heart of Pharaoh is hardened so that he will not let the people go. Go to Pharaoh early in the morning. Look, he is going to the water, and you will meet him by the bank of the river, and you will take the rod that was turned into a serpent in your hand. And you will say to him, ‘The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Send My people away, so that they may serve Me in the desert,” and, look, you have not listened to this so far. This is what the Lord says, “By this you will know that I am the Lord. Look, I strike the water in the river with the rod in my hand, and it will be change into blood. And the fish that are in the river will die, and the river will stink, and the Egyptians will not be able to drink water from the river.”’” And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron your brother, ‘Take your rod in your hand, and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their standing water, and it will become blood.’” And there was blood in all the land of Egypt, in vessels of wood and of stone.

And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded them. And *Aaron* lifted up *his hand* with his rod, and struck the waters in the river in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and all the water in the river changed into blood. And the fish in the river died, and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink water from the river, and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. And the Egyptians enchanters did likewise with their sorceries; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord said. And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not fix his attention even on this thing. And all the Egyptians dug round the river, so that they might drink water, for they could not drink water from the river. And seven days were completed after the Lord struck the river.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, and you will say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says, “send away my people so that they may serve me. And if you will not send them away, look, I will strike all your borders with frogs; and the river will vomit frogs, and they will go up and enter into your houses, and into your bedrooms, and on your beds, and into your servants’ houses, and your people’s houses, and in your bread dough, and in your ovens. The frogs will come up on you, and your servants, and your people.”’” And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to your brother Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, the canals, and the pools, and cause the frogs to come.’” And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and brought up the frogs, and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. And the Egyptian enchanters did likewise with their sorceries, and brought up the frogs on the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron, and said, “Pray for me to the Lord, and let Him take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will send them away, and they will sacrifice to the Lord.” And Moses said to Pharaoh, “Appoint me *a time* when I will pray for you, and for your servants, and for your people, to make the frogs disappear from you, and from your people, and from your houses. They will only remain in the river.” And Pharaoh said, “tomorrow.” Moses said therefore, “As you have said, so that you may know that there is no other but the Lord. And the frogs will be taken away from you, and from your houses, and from the villages, and from you servants, and from you people; they will only remain in the river.” And Moses and Aaron departed from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord about the restricting of the frogs, as he had agreed with Pharaoh. And the Lord did as Moses said, and the frogs died from the houses, the villages, and the fields. And they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. And when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, his heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord said.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod with your hand and strike the dust of the earth, and there will be lice on men, and on four-footed animals, and throughout all the land of Egypt.’” So Aaron stretched out his rod with his hand, and struck the dust of the earth; and the lice were on men and on four-footed animals, and in all the dust of the earth there were lice. And the enchanters also did so with their sorceries, to bring forth the lice, and they could not. And the lice were on both the men and on the four-footed animals. So the enchanters said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord said.

Exodus 8:20-9:35

And the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh. Look, he will go out to the water, and you will say to him, ‘This is what the Lord is saying, “Send my people away, so that they may serve Me in the desert. And if you will not send My people away, look, I will send the dog-fly upon you, and your servants, and on your people, and your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians will be filled with the dog-fly, even into the land that they are on. And on that day I will distinguish gloriously the land of Gesem, in which My people dwell, in which the dog-fly will not be, so that you may know that I am the Lord the God of all the earth. And I will put a difference between My people and your people, and tomorrow this will be on the land.”’” And the Lord did so, and the dog-fly came in great numbers into the houses of Pharaoh, and into the houses of his servants, and into all the land of Egypt; and the land was destroyed by the dog-fly.

And Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron, saying, “Go and sacrifice to the Lord your God in the land!” And Moses said, “It cannot be so, for we would be sacrificing the abominations of the Egyptians to the Lord our God. For if we sacrifice the abominations of the Egyptians before them, they will stone us. We will go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as He told us.” And Pharaoh said,” I *will* send you away—sacrifice to your God in the desert, but do not go very far away; pray then for me to the Lord.” And Moses said, “Then I will go out from you and pray to God, and the dog-fly will depart from you, and from your servants and your people tomorrow. Do not deceive again, Pharaoh, so as to not send the people away to sacrifice to the Lord.”

And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and prayed to God. And the Lord did as Moses said, and removed the dog-fly from Pharaoh, his servants, and his people, and not one remained. And Pharaoh hardened his heart, on this occasion too, and he would not send the people away.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, and you will say to him, ‘This is what the Lord God of the Hebrews is saying, “Send my people away so that they may serve Me. But if you will not send My people away, and still hold them, look, the hand of the Lord will be on your livestock in the fields, on the horses, on the donkeys, and on the camels, oxen, and sheep—a very great death. And I will distinguish gloriously between the livestock of the Egyptians, and the livestock of the children of Israel: nothing will die from all that is of the children of Israel.”’”

And God set a limit, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” And the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of the Egyptians died, but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one. And when Pharaoh saw that of all the livestock of the children of Israel not one was dead, Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not send the people away.

And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward heaven before Pharaoh, and before his servants. And let it become dust over all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils to break out in sores on men and on beasts, in all the land of Egypt.” So he took of the ashes from a furnace before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered it toward heaven, and it caused boils to break out in sores on men and on beasts. And the sorcerers could not stand before Moses because of the sores, for the sores were on the sorcerers, and in all the land of Egypt. And the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said to Moses.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord God of the Hebrews is saying, “Send My people away, so that they may serve Me. For at this time I will send all my plagues into your heart, and the heart of your servants and of Your people, so that you may know that there is not another such as I in all the earth. For now I will stretch forth My hand and strike you, and kill your people, and you will be destroyed from off the earth. And you have been preserved for this reason, that I might display My strength in you, and that My name might be declared in all the earth. Still then, you hold on to My people, so as not to send them away. Look, tomorrow, at this time I, will cause a very great hail to rain, such as has not been in Egypt from its founding until today. Now then, hurry to gather your livestock, and all that you have in the fields, for the hail will come down on all the men and livestock, everything that is found in the fields, and does not enter a house, will die.”’’ He who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh gathered his livestock into the houses. And he that did not pay attention with his mind to the word of the Lord left the livestock in the fields.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand to heaven, and there will be hail in all the land of Egypt, both on men and on livestock, and on every herb in the land.” And Moses stretched out his hand to heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran about on the ground, and the Lord rained hail on all the land of Egypt. So there was hail and flashing fire mingled with the hail. And the hail was very great, such as had not occurred in Egypt from the time people came to be upon it. And throughout the land of Egypt, the hail struck both man and animals, and all the grass in the field, and the hail broke all the trees of the field. Only in the land of Gesem, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

And Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and I and my people are impious. Therefore, pray for me to the Lord, and let Him cause the thunder of God to cease, and the hail and the fire, and I will send you forth and you will remain no longer.” And Moses said to him, “As soon as I leave the city, I will stretch out my hands to the Lord, and the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail and the rain, so that you may know that the earth is the Lord’s. But as for you and your servants, I know that you have not yet feared the Lord.” And the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was ripe, and the flax was going to seed. But the wheat and the rye were not ruined, for they were late. And Moses went out from Pharaoh, out of the city, and stretched out his hands to the Lord, and the thunder ceased, and the hail and the rain were not poured on the earth. And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder ceased, he continued to sin, and hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not send away the children of Israel, as the Lord said to Moses.

Exodus 10:1-11:10

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that these signs may come upon them; in order that you may tell in the hearing of your children, and your children’s children, how I mocked the Egyptians, and My wonders that I performed among them; and you will know that I *am* the Lord.”

And Moses and Aaron went in before Pharaoh and said to him, “This is what the Lord God of the Hebrews, says, ‘How long will you refuse to reverence me? Send My people away, so that they may serve Me. But if you will not send My people away, look, at this hour tomorrow I will bring an abundance of locusts upon all your boarders. And they will cover the face of the earth, and you will not be able to see the earth; and they will devour all that is left of the abundance of the land, which the hail has left you, and will devour every tree that grows for you on the land. And your houses will be filled, and the houses of your servants, and all the houses in all the land of the Egyptians; things which neither your fathers, nor their forefathers have seen, from the day that they were upon the earth until this day.’” And Moses turned away and went out from Pharaoh.

And the servants of Pharaoh said to him, “How long will this be a snare to us? Send the men away, so that they may serve their God; do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?” And they brought back both Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh; and he said to them, “Go and serve the Lord your God, but who are the ones that are going with you?” And Moses said, “We will go with the young and the old, with our sons, and daughters, and sheep, and oxen, for it is a feast of the Lord.” And he said to them, “let the Lord be with you as I send you away, but not your belongings also, for evil lies before you. Not so, but let the men go and serve God, for that is what you desired.” And they threw them out from Pharaoh’s presence.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and let the locust come upon the land, and devour every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees that the hail left.” And Moses lifted up his rod towards heaven, and the Lord brought a south wind upon the earth, all that day and all that night. The morning dawned, and the south wind brought up the locusts, and brought them up over all the land of Egypt. And they rested in very great abundance over all the territories of Egypt. Previously there had been no locusts as these, nor will there be after them. And they covered the face of the earth, and the land was wasted, and they devoured all the herbs of the land, and all the fruit of the trees that was left by the hail. There was no green thing left on the trees, nor on all the plants of the field in all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh hurried to call Moses and Aaron, saying, “I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. Therefore, pardon my sin yet this time, and pray to the Lord your God, and let Him take away from me this death.” And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and prayed to God. And the Lord brought from the opposite direction a strong wind from the sea, and took up the locusts and blew them into the Red Sea, and there was not one locust left in all the land of Egypt. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not send the children of Israel away.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand to heaven, and let there be darkness over the land of Egypt—darkness that may be felt.” And Moses stretched out his hand to heaven, and there was a very thick darkness, even a storm, over all the land of Egypt three days. And for three days no one saw his brother, and no one rose up from his bed for three days. But all the children of Israel had light where they lived.

And Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron, saying, “Go, serve the Lord your God, only leave your sheep and your oxen, and let your belongings go with you.” And Moses said, “No, but you must give to us whole burnt offerings and sacrifices that we will sacrifice to the Lord our God. And our cattle will go with us, and we will not leave a hoof behind, for from them we will take to serve the Lord our God, but we do not know in what manner we will serve the Lord our God until we arrive there.” But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he would not let them go. And Pharaoh said, “Depart from me, beware of seeing my face again, for the day you appear before me, you will die.” And Moses said, “You have spoken! I will no longer appear in your presence.”

And the Lord said to Moses, “I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh, and on Egypt. Afterward he will send you away from here. And whenever he sends you out with everything, he will indeed drive you out. Therefore, speak secretly in the ears of the people, and let everyone ask from his neighbour jewels of silver and gold, and clothing.” And the Lord gave his people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, and they lent to them. And the man Moses was very great before the Egyptians, and before Pharaoh, and before his servants.

And Moses said *to Pharaoh*, “This is what the Lord says, ‘About midnight I will go forth into the midst of Egypt. And every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is by the mill, and to the firstborn of all the cattle. And there will be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as has not been, and which will not be repeated again. But against not even one of children of Israel, whether man or beast, will a dog snarl with his tongue, that you may know how wide a distinction the Lord will make between the Egyptians and Israel.’ And all these your servants will come down to me, and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go forth, and all the people who follow you,’ and afterwards I will go.” And Moses went out from Pharaoh with wrath.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, that I may greatly multiply My signs and wonders in the land *of* Egypt.” And Moses and Aaron worked all these signs and wonders in the land *of* Egypt before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not listen, to send the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

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.

Numbers 10:34-11:35

And it happened when the ark set out, that Moses said,

“Arise, O Lord, and let Your enemies be scattered;

let all who hate You flee!”

And when the ark rested, he said,

“Return, O Lord, to the thousands *and* tens of thousands in Israel!”

And the cloud overshadowed them by day, when they set out from camp.

And the people grumbled evilly before the Lord, and the Lord heard *them* and was provoked to anger. And fire was kindled among them from the Lord, and devoured part of the camp. And the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire was quenched. And the name of that place was called Burning, for a fire was kindled among them from the Lord.

And the mixed multitude among them craved with desire, and they and the children of Israel sat down and wept, and said, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish that we ate freely in Egypt, and the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the garlic, and the onions. But now our soul is dried up; there is nothing before our eyes but the manna.” And the manna is like coriander seed, and the appearance of it the appearance of ice pellets. And the people went through the field, and gathered, and ground it in the mill, or pounded it in a mortar, and baked it in a pan, and made cakes of it; and its flavour was like the taste *of* cakes made with oil. And when the dew came on the camp at night, the manna descended upon it.

And Moses heard them weeping throughout the tribes, everyone at his door; and the Lord was very angry, and Moses was displeased. And Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You afflicted Your servant? Why have I not found grace in Your sight, that You lay the weight of this people on me? Have I conceived all this people, or have I born them, that You should say to me, “Take them to your bosom, as a nurse would take her nursing child, into the land that You swore to their fathers? From where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep to me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ I will not be able to bear this people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. And if this is how You are going to treat me, kill me, slay me, if I have found favour with You, that I may not see my affliction.”

And the Lord said to Moses, “Gather to Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be elders of the people and are their scribes; and you shall bring them to the tabernacle of witness, and they will stand there with you. And I will descend and speak with you there. And I will take of the spirit that is upon you, and will put it upon them; and they will help you bear the burden of the people, that you may not bear it alone. And to the people you will say, ‘Purify yourselves for tomorrow, and you will eat flesh, for you have wept before the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.” And the Lord will give you meat to eat, and you will eat meat. You will not eat one day, or two, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, but you will eat for a full month, until *it* come out of your nostrils, and becomes nausea to you, because you disobeyed the Lord, who is among you, and wept before Him, saying, “Why did we come out of Egypt?”’” And Moses said, “The people I am among are six hundred thousand footmen, and You said, ‘I will give them meat to eat, and they will eat it for a whole month.’ Will sheep and oxen be slaughtered for them, and will it be enough for them? Or will all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and will it be enough for them?” And the Lord said to Moses, “Will the hand of the Lord not be sufficient? Now you will know whether or not My word will overtake you or not.”

And Moses went out and spoke the words of the Lord to the people, and he gathered seventy men from the elders of the people, and he set them around the tabernacle. And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and put it upon the seventy men who were elders. And when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, though they never did again. And there were two men left in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other was Modad, and the spirit rested upon them. And these were among those that were enrolled, but they did not come to the tabernacle, and they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Modad prophesy in the camp.” And Joshua the son of Nun, who attended on Moses, the chosen one, said, “Lord Moses, forbid them.” And Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, when the Lord puts his spirit upon them.” And Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

And a wind went forth from the Lord, and brought quails from over from the sea; and it brought them down upon the camp, about a day’s journey on this side, and a day’s journey on the other side, all around the camp, as it were three feet above the ground. And the people stayed up all day, and all night, and all the next day, and gathered quails; he who gathered the least, gathered ten measures [of 220 liters]; and they spread the meat around about the camp to dry. The meat was still between their teeth, before it was hardly dead, when the Lord was angry with the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. And the name of that place was called the Graves of Lust, because they buried there the people who lusted. The people set out from the Graves of Lust to Haseroth, and they camped at Haseroth.

Deuteronomy 5:15-22

And you shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand, and an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord your God instructed you to keep the Sabbath day and to sanctify it.

Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not commit murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife; you shall not covet your neighbour’s house, his field, his male servant, his female maid, his ox, his donkey, his livestock, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

The Lord spoke these words to your whole assembly at the mountain from the midst of the fire—*there was* darkness, blackness, storm, a loud voice—and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone, and He gave them to me.

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 you 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}.

Deuteronomy 8:1-9:4

“You must be watchful to perform all the commands that I command you today, that you may live and be multiplied, and go in and inherit the land, which the Lord your God swore to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God led you in the wilderness, so that Hemight afflict you, and try you, and make manifest the things in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He distressed you and weakened you with hunger, and fed you with manna, which your fathers did not know; that he might teach you that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God shall man live. Your clothes did not wear out on you; your feet did not become callused, for forty years. And you shall know in your heart, that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God will discipline you. And you shall keep the commands of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good and extensive land, where torrents of waters, and springs of bottomless depth flow through the plains and through the mountains; a land of wheat and barley, *of* vines, figs, pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will not eat your bread in poverty, and upon which you will not want for anything; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can dig copper. And you will eat and be filled, and bless the Lord your God on the good land that He has given you.

Watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord your God, so as not to keep His commands, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full, and have built fine houses, and lived in them, and when your oxen and sheep have multiplied, and when silver and gold have been multiplied to you, and when all your possessions have been multiplied to you, you should become exalted in heart, and forget the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, Who led you through that great and fearful wilderness, where *there was* the biting serpent and scorpion, and thirst, where there was no water, Who brought a spring of water for you out of flint rock, Who fed you with manna in the wilderness, which your fathers did not know, that He might distress you, and thoroughly test you, htat you might do well at your end. Then, do not say in your heart, “My strength and the power of my hand have gained for me this great power.” But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He that gives you strength to gain power, that He may establish His covenant, which the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. And it will come to pass, if by forgetting you forget the Lord your God, and go after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I bear witness against you today, that you will surely perish. As the remaining nations, which the Lord is destroying before your face, so you will perish, because you did not listen to the voice of the Lord your God.

Hear, O Israel! You are crossing the Jordan today, to go in to inherit nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and walled up to heaven, a great, numerous, and tall people, the sons of Anak, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it *said*, “Who can stand against the sons of Anak?” And you shall know today, that the Lord your God—He goes before you; He is a consuming fire; He will destroy them, and He will turn them back before you, and will destroy them utterly, as the Lord has said to you. Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God has destroyed these nations before you, “Because of my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land;” but because of the ungodliness of these nations the Lord will destroy them from before you.

Deuteronomy 9:7-10:11

Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God in the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt, until came into this place, you continued to be disobedient to the Lord. Also at Choreb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant, which the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. And the Lord gave me the two stone tables written with the finger of God, and on them had been written all the words that the Lord had spoken to you at the mountain in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, after forty days and forty nights, that the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. And the Lord said to me, “Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they have turned aside quickly from the way that I commanded them; they have made themselves a molten image.” And the Lord said to me, “I have spoken to you once, and twice, saying, ‘I see this people, and indeed, they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them utterly, and I will blot out their name from under heaven, and I will make of you a great and strong nation, more numerous than this one.’”

And I turned and went down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets *were* in my two hands. And when I saw that you had sinned against the Lord your God, and had made a molten image for yourself, and had gone astray from the way that the Lord had commanded you, then I took hold of the two tablets, and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I made my petition before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, on account of all your sins that you had sinned by doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, to provoke Him. And I was terrified because of the anger, and the wrath, because the Lord was provoked by you utterly to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. And the Lord was very angry with Aaron, and would have utterly destroyed him, and I prayed also for Aaron at that time. And your sin which you had committed, the calf, I took it and burnt it with fire, and crushed it, and ground it down until it was as fine as dust, and I threw the dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

Also at the Burning, and the Temptation, and at the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God. And when the Lord sent you from Kades Barne, saying, “Go up and inherit the land that I am giving you,” then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and did not believe Him, or listen to His voice. You were disobedient in the things relating to the Lord from the day in which He became known to you.

And I prayed before the Lord, forty days and forty nights, I kept praying, for the Lord said that He would utterly destroy you. And I prayed to God, and said, “O Lord, Lord, King of the gods, do not destroy Your people and Your portion, whom You redeemed, whom You brought out of the land of Egypt by Your great strength, and with Your mighty hand, and with Your outstretched arm. Remember Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself; do not look upon the stubbornness of this people, and upon their impieties, and upon their sins, lest the inhabitants of the land from which You have brought us out speak, saying, ‘Because the Lord could not bring them into the land of which He spoke to them, and because He hated them, He brought them out to kill them in the desert.’ And these *are* Your, people and Your portion, whom You brought out of the land of Egypt by Your great strength, and with Your mighty hand, and with Your outstretched arm.”

At that time the Lord said to me, “Carve for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make yourself an ark of wood. And I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke, and you will put them into the ark.” So I made an ark of boards of wood that would not decay, and I carved the two tablets of stone like the former ones, and I went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hands. And He wrote the Ten Commandments on the tablets, in accordance with the first writing, which the Lord spoke to you in the mountain, from the midst of the fire, and the Lord gave them to me. And I turned and came down from the mountain, and I put the tablets into the ark I had made; and they were there, as the Lord commanded me.

(And the children of Israel departed from Beroth of the sons of Jakim to Misadai. Aaron died there, and there he was buried, and Eleazar his son became priest instead of his. From there they departed to Gadgad, and from Gadgad to Ietebatha, a land with torrents of water. At that time, the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister and bless in His Name, to this day. Therefore, the Levites have no portion or inheritance among their brethren; the Lord Himself is their inheritance, as He said to him.)

And I stayed on the mount forty days and forty nights. And the Lord listened to me at that time also, and the Lord chose not to destroy you. And the Lord said to me, “Go, lead this people, and let them go in and inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give to them.”

Deuteronomy 10:12-11:28

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his statutes that I commanded you today, that it may be well with you? Look, the heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth and everything in it. Yet the Lord chose your fathers to love them, and he chose their offspring after them, you, above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore, circumcise the hardness of your heart, and do not be stiff necked any longer. For the Lord your God, He *is* God of gods, and the Lord of lords, the great, and mighty, and awesome God, who show partiality, or accept bribes. He administers justice for the stranger, orphan, and widow, and He loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. And you shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God, and serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and swear by His Name. He *is* your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things in the midst of you, which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down into Egypt with seventy-five souls, but the Lord your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His orders, and His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, always. Know this day, I do not speak to your children, who do not know and have not seen the discipline of the Lord your God, His wonderful works, His strong hand, His outstretched arm, His miracles, and His wonders, which He worked in the midst of Egypt upon Pharaoh king of Egypt, and all his land; and what He did to the host of the Egyptians, to their chariots, their cavalry, and their host; how He made the water of the Red Sea to flow over them as they pursued you, and the Lord destroyed them to this day; and all the things that He did for you in the desert until you came into this place; and all the things that He did to Dathan and Abiron the sons of Eliab the son of Ruben, how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, their tents, and all their possessions that were with them, in the midst of all Israel: but your eyes have seen all the mighty works of the Lord, that He worked among you today.

And you shall keep all his commandments that I have command you today, that you may live, and be multiplied, and go in and inherit the land, into which you are crossing the Jordan to inherit, that you may live long upon the land, which the Lord swore to your fathers to give to them, and to their offspring after them, a land flowing with milk and honey. For the land into which you are entering to inherit it, is not like the land of Egypt, from which you came, where they sow the seed, and water it with their feet like a garden of herbs: but the land into which you are entering to inherit it, is a land of hills and plains, it will drink water of the rain of heaven, a land which the Lord your God looks upon, the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

Now if you will indeed listen to all the commands that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve Him with all your heart, and with all your soul, then He will give you the early and latter rain in its season for your land, that you may gather your corn, and your wine, and your oil. And He will give food in your fields to your cattle; and when you have eaten and are full, take care to yourself, that your heart does not become puffed up, and you transgress and serve other gods, and worship them, and the Lord become angry with you, and shut up the heaven, so that there will be no rain, and the earth will not yield its fruit, and you will perish quickly from the good land, which the Lord has given you.

And you shall store these words in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be fixed before your eyes. And you shall teach them to your children, speaking 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 write them on the door posts of your houses, and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be long in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give to them, like the days of heaven on earth. And it will happen that if you will indeed listen to all these commands, which I commanded you to observe today, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him, then the Lord will drive out all these nations before you, and you will inherit great nations, stronger than yourselves. Every place where the sole of your foot treads will be your: from the desert and Anti-Lebanon, and from the great river Euphrates, even to the Western Sea will be your boarders. No one will stand before you, and the Lord your God will put the fear of you and the dread of you on the face of all the land where you tread, as He told you.

See, I set before you today the blessing and the curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commands of the Lord your God, all that I command you today; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commands of the Lord your God, which I command you today, but go astray from the way I have commanded you, to go to serve other gods, which you do not know.

Deuteronomy 11:29-12:27

And it will come to be, when the Lord your God has brought you into the land you are crossing over into to inherit, that you will give the blessing on mount Garizin, and the curse on mount Gaibal. Look, are they not across the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of Chanaan, which lies toward the west, near Golgol, by the high oak? For you are crossing over the Jordan, to go in and inherit the land, which the Lord your God is giving to you to inherit for all days, and you will live in it. And you will be careful to do all His ordinances, and these judgments, as many as I have set before you today.

And these *are* the ordinances and the judgments that you shall be careful to observe in the land that the Lord God of your fathers is giving you for an inheritance, all the days which you live upon the earth.

You shall utterly destroy all the places in which the nations whose land you will inherit served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills, and under the grove of trees. And you shall destroy their altars, and break their pillars in pieces, and you shall cut down their groves, and burn their engraved images of their gods with fire, and you shall destroy their name out of that place. You shall not do so to the Lord your God. But in the place that the Lord your God will choose in one of your cities to name His Name there, and to be called upon there, you shall go and seek *Him* there. And you shall carry your whole burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your firstfruits, your vowed-offerings, your freewill-offerings, offerings of thanksgiving, and the first-born of your herds, and of your flocks there. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all the things to which you put your hand, you and your households, as the Lord your God has blessed you.

You will not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is pleasing in his own sight—for have not yet come into the rest and the inheritance, which the Lord your God gives you. And you shall cross over the Jordan, and live in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to inherit; and He will give you rest from all your enemies around you, and you will live in safely. And there will be a place that the Lord your God will choose for His Name to be called there, and you will bring all things that I command you today there: your whole burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the firstfruits of your hands, and your choice gifts that you vow to the Lord your God. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons, and your daughters, and your male and female servants, and the Levite who is at your gates (since he has no portion or inheritance with you).

Take care to yourself that you do not offer your whole burnt offerings in any place that you see; but in the place that the Lord your God will choose, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your whole burnt offerings, and there you shall do all things that I command you today.

But you will kill according to your every desire, and will eat meat according to the blessing of the Lord your God, which He has given you in every city; the unclean and the clean may eat of it together, of the gazelle or the deer. Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it out on the ground like water. You may not eat the tithe in your cities: of your grain, wine, or olive oil, of the firstborn of your oxen and your sheep, and any vow you have vowed, and your thank-offerings, and the firstfruits of your hands. But these you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place that the Lord your God will choose for Himself, you, and your son, and your daughter, your male and female servants, and the stranger that is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, in whatever you will put your hand. Take care to yourself that you do not forsake the Levite as long as you live upon the earth.

Now if the Lord your God enlarges your borders, as He told you, and you say, “I will eat meat,” because you desire to eat meat, you may eat as much meat according as your soul desires. But if the place the Lord your God chooses for Himself, for His Name to be called there, is far from you, then you may slaughter from oxen and sheep that the Lord gave you as I commanded you, and you shall eat in your cities according to your soul’s desire. Just as the gazelle and deer are eaten, so you will eat it; the unclean among you and the clean will eat it in like manner. Take diligent care to eat no blood, for blood *is* the life; the life shall not be eaten with the meat. You shall not eat *it*; you shall pour it out on the ground like water. You shall not eat it, that it may be well with you and with your sons after you, if you do what is good and pleasing before the Lord your God. But you shall take your holy things, whatever you have, and your vowed-offerings, and come to the place which the Lord your God will choose to have his Name called upon it. And you shall offer your whole burnt offerings, you shall offer the meat upon the altar of the Lord your God; and you shall pour out the blood of your sacrifices at the foot of the altar of the Lord your God; but you shall eat the meat.

Joshua 2:1-6:26

And Joshua the son of Naue sent two young men from Sattin to spy out the land, saying, “Go and see the land, especially Jericho.” And the two young men went and entered Jericho, and they entered into the house of a prostitute named was Raab, and lodged there. And it was reported to the king of Jericho, saying, “Men of the sons of Israel have come here to spy out the land.” And the king of Jericho sent, and spoke to Raab, saying, “Bring out the men who entered your house tonight, for they have come to spy out the land.” And the woman took the men and hid them, and she spoke to the messengers, saying, “The men came to me, but when the gate was shut in the evening, the men went out. I do not know where they went. Pursue them, if you can overtake them.” But she had brought them up on the roof of the house, and hid them in the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. And the men pursued after them on the road to the Jordan, to the fords, and the gate was closed.

And it happened, when the men who pursued them had gone out, and before the spies had gone to sleep, she too came up to them on the top of the house and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, for the dread of you has fallen upon us. For we have heard that the Lord God dried up the Red Sea before you when you came out of the land of Egypt, and what He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond Jordan, to Seon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And when we heard it we were amazed in our heart, and there was no spirit left in any of us because of you, for the Lord your god is God in heaven above, and on the earth below. And now swear to me by the Lord God that as I deal showed you mercy, so you will also be mercifully with the house of my father, and spare the house of my father, my mother, and my brethren, and all my house, and all that they have, and deliver my soul from death.”

And the men said to her, “Our life for your life, even to death.” And she said, “When the Lord delivers the city to you, deal with me in mercy and truly.” And she let them down by the window. Ad she said to them, “Depart into the hill country, so that the pursuers do not come upon you. And you will be hidden there for three days, until those who pursue after you have returned, and afterwards you will depart on your way.”

And the men said to her, “We will be without fault regarding this oath of yours. Look, we will enter into a part of the city, and you will set a sign; you will hang this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you will gather to yourself and your father and mother, and your brethren, and all the family of your father into your father’s house. Whoever goes outside the door of your house, he will be responsible on his own account, and we will be free of this oath of yours. And we will be responsible for any who are with you in your house. But if anyone injures us, or reveals these words of ours, we will be free from this oath of yours.” And she said to them, “Let it be according to your word.” And she sent them away.

And they departed and went to the hill country, and remained there for three days; and the pursuers searched all the roads, but did not find them. And the two young men returned and came down out of the mountain. And they crossed over to Joshua the son of Naue, and told him everything that had happened to them. And they said to Joshua, “The Lord has delivered all the land into our hand, and everyone who inhabitants that land cowers because of us.

And Joshua rose up early in the morning, and departed from Sattin; and they came as far as the Jordan, and lodged there before they crossed over. And it happened after three days, that the scribes went through the camp and commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord our God, and our priests and the Levites bearing it, you will depart from your places, and you will go after it. But let there be a distance between you and it. You will stand as much as two thousand cubits from it. Do not come near it, that you may know the way to go; for you have not gone this way before.” And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and go before the people.” And the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and went before the people.

And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I am beginning to exalt you before all the children of Israel, so they will know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. And now command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you will stand in Jordan.’” Joshua then said to the children of Israel, “Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God. By this you will know that the living God is among you, and will utterly destroy from before our face the Cananites, and the Chettites and Pherezites, and the Hevites, and the Amorites, and the Gergesites, and the Jebusites. Look, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passes through the Jordan. Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. And it will happen that when the feet of the priests that carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will case, and the water coming down will stand still.”

And the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. And when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord were entering the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord were dipped into part of the water of the Jordan—now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest—then the upstream waters stopped, and a solid wall of water formed over a great distance, as far as the region of Kariathiarim, and the lower part came down to the sea of Araba, the salt sea, until it completely ceased. And the people stood opposite Jericho. And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry land in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry land, until all the people had crossed the Jordan.

And when all the people had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, “Take men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, saying, ‘take twelve stones that are on hand out of the midst of the Jordan, and when you have carried them over with you, place them in your camp, where you will encamp for the night.’” And when Joshua had called twelve men of honour among the children of Israel, one from each tribe, he said to them, “Advance before me in the presence of the Lord into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone from there, and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, so that these may be an appointed sign for you continually, so that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are these stones to you?’ then you will explain to your son, saying, ‘The river Jordan dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth, when it crossed over,’ and these stones will be for a memorial for you, for the children of Israel forever.”

And the children of Israel did so, as the Lord commanded Joshua. And they took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, (as the Lord commanded Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely crossing over,) and carried these stones with them into the camp, and laid them down there. And Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord. And there they are to this day.

And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant stood in the Jordan, until Joshua had finished all that the Lord commanded him to tell the people. And the people hurries, and crossed over. And it happened, as soon as the people had crossed over, that the ark of the covenant of the Lord crossed over, and the stones in front of them. And the sons of Ruben, and the sons of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasse crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses commanded them. Forty thousand men armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to war against the city of Jericho. On that day the Lord magnified Joshua before all the people of Israel, and they feared him as long as he lived, as they did Moses.

And the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, “Command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the testimony of the Lord, to come up out of the Jordan.” And Joshua commanded the priests, saying, “Come up out of Jordan.” And it happened that as soon as the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord came up out of the Jordan, and set their feet on the land, that the water of Jordan rushed headlong into place, and went as before over all its banks.

And the people went up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and the children of Israel encamped in Galgala in the region eastward from Jericho. And Joshua set those twelve stones, which he had taken out of the Jordan in Galgala, saying, “When your sons ask you, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ tell your sons, that Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land; that the Lord our God dried up the water of the Jordan from before them until they had all crossed over, as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up from before us until we crossed over; that all the nations of the earth might know that the power of the Lord is mighty, and that you might worship the Lord our God in every age.

And it happened, when the kings of the Amorites, who were beyond the Jordan, and the kings of Phoenicia by the sea heard that the Lord God had dried up the river Jordan from before the children of Israel when they crossed over, that their hearts failed, and they were panic-stricken, and there was no sense in them because of the children of Israel.

And about this time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make stone knives for yourself of sharp rock, and sit down and circumcise the sons of Israel.” And Joshua made sharp stone knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the place called “the Hill of Foreskins.” And in this manner Joshua purified the sons of Israel, as many as were born along the way, and as many as were uncircumcised of those who came out of Egypt, Joshua circumcised all these. Israel wandered in the desert of Madbaritis for forty-two years, therefore, most of the fighting men who came out of the land of Egypt, and who disobeyed the commandments of God, were uncircumcised. Concerning these, He also determined that they should not see the land, which the Lord swore to give to their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey. And in their place, he raised up their sons, whom Joshua circumcised, because they were born during the journey, and thus uncircumcised. And when they had been circumcised, they rested there and stayed in the camp until they were healed. And the Lord said to Joshua the son of Naue, “Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you.” And he called the name of that place Galgala.

And the children of Israel kept the Pascha on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the westward of Jericho, across the Jordan in the plain. And they ate of the grain of the earth unleavened and new grain. On this day the manna ceased, after they had eaten of the grain of the land, and the children of Israel no longer had manna, for they enjoyed the fruit of the land of the Phoenicians in that year.

And it happened, when Joshua was in Jericho, that he looked up with his eyes and saw a man standing before him with a drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua came near and said to him, “Are you for us, or on the side of our adversaries?” And he said to him, “I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord.” And Joshua fell on his face on the earth, and said to him, “Master, what do you command your servant?” And the captain of the Lord said to Joshua, “Loose the sandals from off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy.”

And Jericho was enclosed and fortified, and no one went out of it, and no one came in. And the Lord said to Joshua, “Look, I am delivering Jericho into your control, and its king in it, and its mighty men. Place your soldiers around it, and when you sound the trumpet, let all the people will shout together. And when they shout, the walls of the city will fall by themselves; and all the people will enter, each rushing headlong into the city.”

And Joshua the son of Naue went to the priests, and spoke to them, saying, “Command the people to go around, and surround the city, and let the men of war pass by armed before the Lord. And let seven priests holding seven sacred trumpets likewise pass by before the Lord, and let them signal vigorously. And let the ark of the covenant of the Lord follow after them. Let the men of war go before, and let the priests bring up the rear behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord, as they walk, and sound the trumpets.” And Joshua commanded the people, saying, “Do not shout, or let anyone hear your voice, until He Himself tells you to shout, and then shout.” And the ark of the covenant of God went around the city, it immediately returned to the camp, and lodged there.

And on the second day Joshua rose in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord. And the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went on before the Lord. The armed men followed after with the rest of the multitude, behind the ark of the covenant of the Lord. And the priests sounded the trumpets, and the rest of the multitude surrounded the city from close by, and went back again to the camp. They did this for six days.

And on the seventh day they rose up early in the morning, and marched around the city seven times. And on the seventh circuit the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the children of Israel, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. And the city will be devoted, it and all things that are in it, to the Lord of Hosts. Only keep safe Raab the prostitute, and whatever is in her house. But keep yourselves well away from what is accursed, so that you do not covet and take what is accursed, and you make the camp of the children of Israel accursed, and destroy us. And all the silver, gold, bronze, or iron, will be holy to the Lord, it will be carried into the treasury of the Lord.”

And the priests sounded the trumpets, and when the people heard the trumpets, they all shouted at together with a great and mighty shout. And the entire wall fell round about, and all the people went into the city. And by the edge of the sword, Joshua devoted it, and all that was in the city, man and woman, young man and old, and calf and draft animal. And Joshua said to the two young men who had acted a spies, “Go into the house of the woman, and bring her out from there, and whatever she has.” And the two young men who had spied out the city entered into the house of the woman, and brought out Raab the prostitute, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and her kindred, and all that she possessed. And they set her outside the camp of Israel. And the city was set on fire, but the silver, gold, bronze, and iron, they brought to the treasury of the Lord.

And Joshua kept Raab the prostitute alive, and all the house of her father, and caused her to dwell in Israel until this day, because she hid the spies that Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. And Joshua adjured Israel before the Lord that day, saying,

“Cursed be the man

who rebuilds that city.

he will lay its foundation

at the cost of his firstborn,

and he will set up its gates

at the cost of his youngest son.”

And so did Ozan of Baithel; he laid the foundation at the cost of Abiron, his firstborn, and set up the gates of it at the cost his youngest, although he escaped.

And the Lord was with Joshua, and his name was known throughout all the land.

Joshua 7:1-26

But the children of Israel committed a great offence, and appropriated for themselves part of what was accursed. And Achar the son of Charmi, the son of Zambri, the son of Zara, of the tribe of Judah, took from what was accursed, and the Lord was very angry with the children of Israel.

And Joshua sent men to Gai, which is by Bethel, saying, “Spy out Gai.” And the men went up and spied out Gai. And they returned to Joshua, and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and take the city by siege. Do not lead up the whole people there, for the enemy are few.” And about three thousand men went up, and they fled before the men of Gai. And the men of Gai killed thirty-six of them, and pursued them from the gate, and crushed them on the steep slope. And the hearts of the people were terrified and became like water.

And Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the ground on his face before the Lord until evening, both he and the elders of Israel, and they put dust on their heads. And Joshua said, “I pray, Lord, why has Your servant brought this people across the Jordan, to deliver them to the Amorite to destroy us? If only we had remained and settled beyond the Jordan. And what will I say, since Israel has turned his back before his enemy? And when the Chananites, and all the inhabitants of the land hear this, they will surround us, and destroy us from off the land. Then what will You do for Your great Name?”

And the Lord said to Joshua, “Rise up. Why have you fallen upon your face? The people has sinned, and transgressed the covenant that I made with them; for they have stolen from the what was cursed, and put it among their possessions. And the children of Israel will not be able to stand before their enemies. They will turn their back before their enemies, because they have become what is accursed thing; I will no longer be with you, until you remove what is cursed from among you. Rise up and sanctify the people; and tell them to sanctify themselves for tomorrow. This is what the Lord God of Israel says, ‘The accursed thing is among you. You will not be able to stand before your enemies, until you have removed the cursed thing from among you. In the morning you shall all be gathered together by your tribes, and it will happen that the tribe that the Lord shows, you will bring family by family. And the family that the Lord shows, you shall bring household by household. And the household that the Lord shows, you shall bring man by man. And the man who is pointed out, shall be burnt with fire, along with and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and has committed lawlessness in Israel.”

And Joshua rose up early, and brought the people by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was pointed out. And it was brought by their families, and family of Zara was pointed out. And it was brought man by man, and Achar the son of Zambri, the son of Zara, was pointed out. And Joshua said to Achar, “Give glory to the Lord God of Israel today, and make confession. Tell me what you have done, and do not hide it from me.” And Achar answered Joshua, and said, “Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel. Thus and so have I done: I saw a beautiful, multi-coloured garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of fifty shekels of gold in the spoil, and I desired them and took them. And, look, they are hidden in my tent, and the silver is hidden under them.” And Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent in the camp. And these things were hidden in his tent, and the silver was under them. And they brought them out of the tent, and brought them to Joshua and the elders of Israel, and they placed them before the Lord.

And Joshua took Achar the son of Zara, and brought him to the Valley of Achor, along with his sons, and his daughters, and his calves, and his donkeys, and all his sheep, and his tent, and all his property—and all the people were with him. And he brought them to the Valley of Achor. And Joshua said to Achar, “Why have you destroyed us? May the Lord destroy you as well today.” And all Israel stoned him with stones. And they set up a great heap of stones over him, and the Lord ceased from His fierce anger. Therefore, he called the place “the Valley of Achor” until this day.

1 Samuel 1:1-2:21 or 1 Kings 1:1-2:21

There was a man of Harmathaim Sipha, from the mountain of Ephraim, and his name was Elkana the son of Jeremeel, the son of Elias, the son of Thoke, in Nasib Ephraim. And he had two wives; the name of the one was Anna, and the name of the second, Phennana. And Phennana had children, but Anna had no child.

And each year the man went up from his city of Harmathaim to worship and sacrifice to the Lord God of Hosts in Shiloah. And Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinees, the priests of the Lord, went there as well. And the day came, and Elkana sacrificed, and gave portions to his wife Phennana and her children. And to Anna he gave a one portion, since she had no child. However, Elkana loved Anna more than the other one, but the Lord had closed her womb. Since the Lord did not give her a child in her affliction, and during to the discouragement of her affliction, she was becoming broken-hearted because of this, that the Lord had closed her womb, and did not give her a child. So year by year she went up to the house of the Lord, and she was broken-hearted, and wept, and did not eat.

And Elkana her husband said to her, “Anna.” And she said to him, “Here I am, my lord.” And he said to her, “What troubles you that you weep? And why do you not eat? And why does your heart strike you? Am I not better to you than ten children?”

And Anna arose after they had eaten in Shiloah, and stood before the Lord. And Eli the priest was sitting on a seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. And she was deeply distressed in spirit, and prayed to the Lord, and wept greatly. And she vowed a vow to the Lord, saying, “O Lord, my God of Hosts, if You are indeed looking, look on the humiliation of Your handmaiden, and remember me, and give to Your handmaiden a male child, then will I dedicate Him to You until the day of his death. And he will not drink wine or strong drink, and no razor will come upon his head.”

And it happened, while she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli the priest watched her mouth. And she was speaking in her heart, and her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore, Eli thought she was drunk. And the servant of Eli said to her, “How long will you remain drunken? Put away your wine, and go out from the presence of the Lord!” And Anna answered and said, “No, my lord, I am a woman for whom this is a difficult day, and I have not drunk wine or strong drink, but I pour out my soul before the Lord. Do not count your handmaiden a pestilent woman, just because of the abundance of my idle words I have put forth.” And Eli answered and said to her, “Go in peace, may the God of Israel grant you all your petition, which you have asked of Him.” And she said, “Your handmaiden has found favour in your eyes.” And the woman went her way, and entered into her lodging, and ate and drank with her husband, and her face was no longer sad.

And they rose early in the morning, and worship the Lord, and went on their way back to Elkana’a house at Armathaim. And he knew his wife Anna, and the Lord remembered her, and she conceived. And it happened when the time had come, that she bore a son, and called his name Samuel, and said, “Because I asked him from the Lord God of Hosts.”

And the man Elkana and all his house went up to Shiloah to offer the yearly sacrifice, his vows, and all the tithes of his land. But Anna did not go up with him, for she said to her husband, “I will not go up until the child goes up, when I have weaned him he will appear in the presence of the Lord, and he will stay there continually.” And Elkana her husband said to her, “Do what is good in your eyes, wait until you have weaned him; but may the Lord confirm what comes out of your mouth.” And the woman stayed, and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

And she went up with him to Shiloah with a three-year-old calf, loaves of bread, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she entered into the house of the Lord in Shiloah, and the child was with them. And they brought him before the Lord, and his father slaughtered the offering that he offered yearly to the Lord. And he brought the child, and slaughtered the calf. And Anna, the mother of the child, brought him to Eli. And she said, “My lord, as your soul lives, I am the woman who stood in your presence while praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me my request, which I asked of Him. And I lend him to the Lord all his days that he lives, a loan to the Lord.

And she said,

“My heart is made firm in the Lord,

my horn is exalted in my God.

My mouth is made wide over my enemies;

I have rejoiced in Your salvation.

For there is none holy besides the Lord,

and there is none righteous like our God,

no one is holy but You.

Do not boast, or speak of high things;

do not let high-sounding words come from your mouth,

for the Lord is a God of knowledge,

and God prepares his own ways.

The bow of the mighty has become weak,

and the weak have girded themselves with strength.

Those who were full of bread were made empty,

and the hungry have forsaken the land.

For the barren woman has born seven,

and she who has many children has become feeble.

The Lord kills and makes alive;

He brings down to Hades, and raises up.

The Lord makes poor, and makes rich;

He brings low, and lifts up.

He raises the poor from the earth,

and lifts the needy from the dunghill,

to seat him with the princes of the people,

and make them to inherit a throne of glory.

Granting the prayer to him who prays,

He blesses the years of the righteous,

for man cannot prevail by strength.

The Lord will weaken his adversary;

the Lord is holy.

May the wise man not boast in his wisdom,

and may the mighty man not boast in his strength,

and may the rich man not boast in his wealth.

But let him that boasts boast in this,

to understand and know the Lord,

and to work justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

The Lord has ascended to the heavens and thundered.

He will judge the earth’s ends.

He gives strength to our kings,

and will exalt the horn of his Christ.”

And they left him there before the Lord, and departed to Armathaim, and the child served in the presence of the Lord before Eli the priest.

And the sons of Eli the priest were evil sons, not knowing the Lord. And the custom of the priests for the people who sacrificed was for the priest’s servant came when the meat was in boiling, with a three-pronged meat-hook in his hand. And he thrust it into the great caldron, or into the brazen vessel, or into the pot, and whatever came up with the meat-hook, the priest took for himself. So they did this to all the Israelites that came to sacrifice to the Lord at Shiloah. And before the fat was burnt for a sweet savour, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man that sacrificed, “Give meat to roast for the priest, and I will not take any of your boiled meat out of the caldron.” And if the man that sacrificed said, “First he should burn the fat, as it is fitting, and then take for yourself as much as your soul desires,” then he would say, “No, you will give it to me now, and if not I will take it by force.” So the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for they made the offering of the Lord nothing.

And Samuel was serving before the Lord, as a young boy, clothed with a linen ephod. And his mother made him a little robe, and brought it to him each year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli blessed Elkana and his wife, saying, “May the Lord repay you with a seed from this woman, in return for the loan that you have loaned to the Lord.” And the man returned to his place. And the Lord visited Anna, and she bore three more sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

1 Samual 3:1-20 or 1 Kings 3:1-20

And the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest, and the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no discerning vision. And it happened at that time that Eli was laying down in his place, and his eyes began to grow heavy, and could not see, and it was before the lamp of God was trimmed and replenished, and Samuel slept in the temple, where was the ark of God. And the Lord called, “Samuel, Samuel!” And he said, “Here I am!” And he ran to Eli, and said, “Here am I, for you called me.” And he said, “I did not call you; go back, lay down,” and he returned and lay down. And the Lord called again, “Samuel, Samuel!” And he went to Eli the second time, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” And he said, “I did not call you; go back, lie down.” And this was before Samuel knew the Lord, and before the word of the Lord was revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again for a third time, and he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. And he said, “Go, child, lay down; and it will happen, if He calls you, that that you will say, ‘Speak for Your servant is listening.” And Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the Lord came, and stood, and called him as before. And Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” And the Lord said to Samuel, “Look, I will carry out My words in Israel, and whoever hears them, both his ears will tingle. In that day, I will raise up against Eli everything that I have spoken against his house; I will begin, and I will finish it. And I have told him that I will be avenged on his house forever for the iniquities of his sons. For his sons reviled God, and even so he did not correct them. I have sworn to the house of Eli, saying, “the iniquity of the house of Eli will not be atoned by incense or sacrifices forever.”

And Samuel lay there until morning, and rose early in the morning. he opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. And Heli said to Samuel, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.” And he said, “What was the word that was spoken to you? Do not hide it from me. May God do these things to you, and also more, if you hide any thing of all the words that were spoken to you in your ears from me.” And Samuel reported all the words, and did not hide them from him. And Heli said, “He is the Lord. He will do what is good in His sight.”

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and not one of his words fell to the ground. And all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew that Samuel was faithful to the Lord as a prophet.

1 Samuel 17:16-54, 18:6-9 or 1 Kings 17:1-18:4

And the Philistine gathered their armies for battle, and they were gathered at Sochoh of Judah, and they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah in Ephermem. And Saul and the men of Israel gathered and encamped in the valley; they formed battle ranks opposite the Philistines. The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And a mighty man named Goliath, from Gath, came out from the ranks of the Philistines. He was six feet and nine inches tall. And he had a helmet on his head, and wore a coat of chain mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass and iron. And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a bronze shield between his shoulders. And the shaft of his spear was like the beam of a loom, and his spear weighed six hundred shekels, and a shield-bearer went before him. And he stood and shouted to the armies of Israel, and said to them, “Why do you come out to line up for battle against us? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not Hebrews of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight against me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I am able to kill him, then you will be our servants, and subject to us.” And the Philistine said, “Look! Today, on this very day, I challenge the ranks of the armies of Israel. Give me a man, and the two of us will fight in single combat.” When Saul and all Israel heart these words of the Philistine they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

But David said to Saul, “Do not let the heart of my lord fall reading him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “No, you are not able to go against the Philistine to fight him, since you are a boy, and he has been a man of war from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending the flock for his father, and when a lion and or a bear would come and take a sheep from the flock, I would go after it, and strike it, and pull the sheep from its mouth, and if it arose against me, then I caught it by its throat and struck it, and killed it. Your servant would kill both lion and bear, and the uncircumcised Philistine will be line one of them to me. Shall I not go and kill him today, and take away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised one who challenges the ranks of the living God? The Lord, Who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He Himself will deliver me from the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord will be with you!”

So Saul clothed David with armor, and put a bronze helmet on his head, and clothed David with his sword over his armor. David tried walking once and twice, and he grew tired. And David said to Saul, “I am not able to go with these, for I am not experienced.” And they removed them. Then David took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones for himself from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s bag to store away, and with his sling in his hand he advanced against the Philistine.

And when Goliath saw David, he disdained him, for he was a boy, ruddy with a good face. So the Philistine said to David, “Am I like a dog, that you come against me with a staff and stones?” And David said, “No, worse than a dog!” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of heaven, and to the beasts of the field!” And David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, and a spear, and a shield, but I come to you in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have reproached today. And today the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will kill you and take your head from you, and I will give your carcass and the carcasses of the camp of the philistines to the birds of heaven and the wild beasts of the earth, and all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, and all this assembly will know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord’s, and the Lord will deliver you into our hands.”

And the Philistine arose and came to meet David, and David put his hand in his bag and took out one stone. He slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone penetrated through his helmet into his forehead, and he fell to the ground on his face. And David ran, and stood over him, and took his sword and put him to death, cutting off his head.

And the Philistines saw that their mighty one was dead, and the fled. And the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued them as far as the entrance of Gath, and to the gates of Ashkelon. And the wounded of the Philistines fell on the way to the gates, even as far as Gath and Ashkelon. And then men of Israel returned from pursuing the Philistines, and plundered their camp. And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, and put his armor in his tent.

And dancers came to meet David from all the cities of Israel, with drums, and rejoicing with cymbals. And the women began a song, and sang, “Saul killed thousands, and David ten thousands.” These words seemed evil in the eyes of Saul, and he said to David, “They ascribe ten thousands to you, and they only ascribe thousands to me.” And Saul eyed David with suspicion from the day forward.

1 Samuel 23:26-24:22 or 1 Kings 23:26-24:22

And Saul and his men went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hiding himself to escape from Saul, and Saul and his men encamped against David and his men to capture them. And a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hurry and come here, for the Philistines have invaded the land!’ So Saul turned back from pursuing David, and went to meet the Philistines; therefore, that place was called the Divided Rock.

And David went up from there, and stayed in the narrow passes of Engaddi. And it happened, when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, “David *is* in the wilderness of Engaddi.” And he took with him three thousand men, chosen from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men in front of Sadaiem. And he came to the flocks of sheep that were by the road, and there was a cave there, and Saul went in to prepare himself, and David and his men were sitting in the inner part of the cave. And David’s said to him, “Look! this *is* the day of which the Lord spoke to you, that he would deliver your enemy into your hands, and you will do to him as *it is* good in your eyes.” So David arose and secretly cut a corner of Saul’s cloak. Then it happened that David’s heart troubled him, because he had cut off a corner of his cloak. And David said to his men, “The Lord forbid it me, that I should do this to my lord, the anointed of the Lord, to lift my hand against him, for he is the anointed of the Lord.” So David persuaded his men by *his* words, and did not permit them to rise up and kill Saul. And got up arose and went his way.

And David got up *and went* after him out of the cave, and David cried out after Saul, saying, “*My* lord, *O* king!” and Saul looked behind him, and David bowed with his face to the ground, and prostrated himself. And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of the people who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your life?’ See, today your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave, and I was not willing to kill you, but spared you, and said, ‘I will not lift up my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ And look, the corner of your cloak *is* in my hand, I cut off the corner, and did not kill you. Know then and see today that there is no evil, impiety, or rebellion in my hand. I have not sinned against you, yet you hunt for my life to take it. The Lord judge between you and me, and may the Lord avenge me of you, but my hand will not be upon you. As the ancient proverb says, ‘wrongdoing will come forth out of lawlessness, but my hand will not be upon you.’ And now after whom do you come forth, O king of Israel? After whom do you pursue? After a dying dog, or after a flea? Let the Lord be judge and jury between you and me; may the Lord look upon my cause and judge, and rescue me from your hand.”

And it came to pass, when David finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, “*Is* this your voice, O son David?” And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. And Saul said to David, “You *are* more righteous that I, for you have repaid me with good, but I have repaid you with evil. Today you have made known how you dealt with me, how the Lord delivered me into your hands today, and you did not kill me. And if anyone should find his enemy in distress, and should send him out in a good way, then the Lord will reward him good, just as you have done today. And now, look, I know that you will reign, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now then swear to me by the Lord, that you will not destroy my seed after me, that you will not blot out my name from the house of my father. So David swore to Saul, and Saul departed to his place, and David and his men went up to the stronghold of Messara.

1 Kings 17:2-24 or 3 Kings 17:2-24

And the word of the Lord came to Elias, *saying*, “Depart and go eastward, and hide by the brook of Chorrath, which is before Jordan. And it will be *that* you will drink water of the brook, and I will command the ravens to feed you there.” And Elias did according to the word of the Lord, and he stayed by the brook of Chorrath before the Jordan. And the ravens brought him loaves in the morning, and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. And it happened after some time, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain on the land.

And the word of the Lord came to Elias, *saying*, “Arise, and go to Sarepta of the Sidonia *land*; look, I have there commanded a widow there to feed you. And he arose and went to Sarepta, and came to the gate of the city, and, look, there was a widow there gathering sticks, and Elias cried after her, and said to her, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” And she went to get it, and Elias cried after her, and said, “Please bring me a piece of the bread that is in your hand. And the woman said, “*As* the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, but only a handful of flour in the pitcher, and a little oil in a jar, and, you see, I am going to gather two sticks, and I will go and prepare it for myself and my children, and we will eat it and die.” And Elias said to her, “Be of good courage; go in and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first and bring *it* to me. Afterwards you will make *some* for yourself and your children. For this is what the Lord says, ‘The pitcher of flour will not be used up, and the jar of oil will not diminish until the day that the Lord gives rain on the earth.’” And the woman went and did *so*, and she, he, and her children ate. And the pitcher of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil was not diminished, according to the word of the Lord that He spoke by the hand of Elias.

And it happened after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, was sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. And she said to Elias, “What do I have to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sins to remembrance, and to kill my son?” And Elias said to the woman, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her bosom, and carried him up to the chamber where he himself was staying, and laid him on the bed. And Elias cried aloud, and said, “Alas, O Lord, the witness of the widow with whom I lodge, You have done evil by killing her son.” And he breathed on the child three times, and called on the Lord, and said, “O Lord my God, let, the soul of this child return to him.” And it happened, and the child cried out. And he brought the child down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother; and Elias said, “See, your son lives.” And the woman said to Elias, “See, I know that you *are* a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth *is* true.”

2 Kings 4:8-37 or 4 Kings 4:8-37

And a day came, when Elisha passed over to Souman, and a great lady was there, and she persuaded him to eat bread. And it happened that as often as he went into *the city, that* he turned aside to eat there. And the woman said to her husband, “Look now, I know that this *is* a holy man of God who comes to us regularly. Let us now make a small upper chamber for him; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table, a stool, and a lampstand. And it will happen that when he comes to us, he will turn aside to this place.” And a day came, and he came there, and turned aside into the upper chamber, and lay there. And he said to Giezi his servant, “Call this Somanite woman to me.” And he called her, and she stood before him. And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘Look, you have shown us all this care, what should I do for you? Do you have any request *for* the king, or to the commander of the army?’” And she said, “I live among my own people.” And he said to Giezi, “What must we do for her?” And Giezi his servant said, “Indeed, she has no son, and her husband *is* old.” And he called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said to her, “At this season *next year*, when the season *is* ripe, you will embrace a son.” And she said, “No, my lord, do not lie to your servant!” And the woman conceived, and bore a son at the when this season came, when the time was ripe, as Elisha said to her.

And the child grew. And it happened when he went out to his father to the reapers, that he said to his father, “My head, my head!” and *his father* said to a servant, “carry him to his mother.” And he carried him to his mother, and he lay down on her knees until noon, and died. And she carried him and laid him on the bed of the man of god, and she closed the door on him, and went out. And she called her husband, and said, “Send me one of the young men, and one of the donkeys, and I will ride quickly to the man of God, and return.” And he said, “Why are you going to him today? It is neither new moon, nor the Sabbath.” And she said, “*It is* well.” And she saddled the donkey, and said to her servant, “Lead onward, and do not slacken the pace on my account, unless I tell you! Come on, and you will proceed, and come to the man of God at mount Carmel.”

And it happened when Elisha saw her coming, that he said to Giezi his servant, “Look, it is the Somanite woman. Now run to meet her, and say, ‘*Is it* well with you? *is it* well with your husband? *is it* well with the child?’” And she said, “*It is* well.” And she came to Elisha at the mountain, and took hold of his feet, and Giezi came near to push her away. And Elisha said, “Leave her alone, for her soul *is* in great distress, and the Lord has hidden *it* from me, and did not tell me.” And she said, “Did I ask for a son from my lord? Did I not say, ‘Do not deal deceitfully with me?’” And Elisaha said to Giezi, “Gird up your loins, and take my staff in your hand, and go; if you meet any man, do not salute him, and if a man salutes you, do not answer him, and you shall lay my staff on the child’s face.” And the mother of the child said, “*As* the Lord lives and *as* your soul lives, I will not leave you.” And Elisha arose, and followed her. And Giezi went on before her, and laid the staff on the child’s face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he returned to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child is not awaked.”

And Elisha went into the house, and, look, the dead child was laying dead on his bed. And Elisha went into the house, and shut the door upon themselves, the two, and prayed to the Lord. And he went up, and laid on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, and his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the child grew warm. And he returned, and walked up and down in the house, and he went up, and bowed himself on the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And Elisha cried out to Giezi, and said, “Call this Somanite woman.” So he called her, and she came in to him, and Elisha said, “Take your son.” And the woman went in, and fell at his feet, and did obeisance *bowing* to the ground; and she took her son, and went out.

2 Kings 5:1-27 or 4 Kings 5:1-27

Now Naiman, the commander of the army of Syria, was a great man before his master, and highly respected, because the Lord had given deliverance to Syria by him. And the man was mighty in strength, but a leper. And the Syrians went out lightly armed, and took a young girl captive out of the land of Israel, and she waited on Naiman’s wife. And she said to her mistress, “If only my master were before the prophet of God in Samaria, then he would recover him from his leprosy.” And she went in and told her master, and said, “This is what the young girl from the land of Israel said.” And the king of Syria said to Naiman, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

And he went, and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of clothing. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, “Now then, as soon as this letter reaches you, see, I send to you my servant Naiman, and you shall recover him from his leprosy.” And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his garments, and said, “Am I God, able to kill and to make alive, that this man sends to me to recover a man of his leprosy? Consider, however, and see that this man seeks a pretext *to quarrel with* me.”

And it happened, when Elisha heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, that he sent to the king of Israel, saying, “Why have you torn your garments? Let Naiman come to me, and let him know that there is a prophet in Israel.” So Naiman came with horse and chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will return to you, and you will be cleansed.” And Naiman was angry, and departed, and said, “See, I said that he would come out to me, and stand, and call on the Name of his God, and lay his hand upon the place, and recover the leper! Are not the Abana and the Pharphar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not go and wash in them, and be cleansed?” and he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants approached him and said, “If the prophet had told you to do a great thing, would you not do it? But he has only said to you, ‘Wash, and be cleansed.‘” So Naiman went down, and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha, and his flesh returned to him like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed.

And he and his company returned to Elisha, and came and stood before him, and said, “Look, I know that there is no god in all the earth, but only in Israel. And now receive a blessing from your servant.” And Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing.” And he pressured him to take it, but he would not. And Naiman said, “Well then, if not, let your servant be given a load of a pair of mules, and you will give me from the red earth, and your servant will no longer offer whole burnt offering, or sacrifice to other gods, except to the Lord alone. And let the Lord be merciful to your servant when my master goes into the house of Remman to worship there, and he will rest on my hand, and I will bow down in the house of Remman when he bows down in the house of Remman; may the Lord be merciful to your servant in this matter.” And Elisha said to Naiman, “Go in peace.” And he departed from him a little way.

And Giezi, the servant of Elisha said, “Look, my master has spared this Syrian Naiman, by not accepting from his hand what he brought; as the Lord lives, I will surely run after him, and take something from him.” So Giezi followed after Naiman, and Naiman saw him running after him, and turned back from his chariot to meet him. And Giezi said, “Peace. My master sent me, saying, “Look now, there are two young men who have come to me from the sons of the prophets from mount Ephraim. Give them, a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.” And Naiman said, “Take two talents of silver.” And Giezi took two talents of silver in two bags, and two changes of clothing, and handed them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of him. And he came to a secret place, and took he them from their hands, and stored them in the house, and dismissed the men.

And he went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, “Where have you come from, Giezi?” And Giezi said, “Your servant has not gone anywhere.” And Elisha said to him, “Did not my heart go with you when the man returned from his chariot to meet you? And now you have received silver, and the garments, and will you receive from him olive yards, vineyards, sheep, oxen, menservants, and handmaidens? The leprosy of Naiman will cling to you, and to your offspring forever.” And he went out from his presence leprous, like snow.

4 Kings 6:8-7:2 or 2 Kings 6:8-7:20

And the king of Syria was at war with Israel, and he consulted with his servants, saying, “I will encamp in this specific place.” And Elisha sent word to the king of Israel, saying, “Take care that you do not pass by this place, for the Syrians are hidden there.” And the king of Israel sent to the place that Elisha mentioned to him, and avoided it not once or twice.

And the mind of the king of Syria was troubled about this matter, and he called his servants, and said to them, “Will you not tell me who betrays me to the king of Israel?” And one of his servants said, “No one, my Lord, O king, for Elisha the prophet in Israel reports to the king of Israel all your words that you might speak in your bedchamber.” And he said, “Go, see where this man is, and I will send and seize him.” And they sent word to him, saying, “See, he is in Dothaim.” And he sent horses, chariots, and a mighty host there, and they came by night, and surrounded the city.

And the servant of Elisha rose up early and went out, and see, a host surrounded the city, with horses and chariots. And the servant said to him, “O master! what will we do?” And Elisha said, “Do not Fear, for those who are with us are more than those that are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, open the eyes of the servant, and let him see.” And the Lord opened his eyes, and he saw: and, look, the mountain was full of horses, and there were chariots of fire all around Elisha. And *the Syrians* came down to him, and he prayed to the Lord, and said, “Strike this people with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness, according to the word of Elisha. And Elisha said to them, “This is not the city, and this is not the way; follow me, and I will lead you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them away to Samaria.

And it happened when they entered into Samaria, that Elisha said, “Open, O Lord, their eyes, and let them see.” And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw, and, look, they were in the midst of Samaria.

And the king of Israel said to Elisha, when he saw them, “Striking, shall I not kill them, my father?” And he said, “You will not kill them. Would you kill those whom you had taken captive with your sword and bow? Set food and water before them, and let them eat and drink, and return to their master.” And he set a great feast before them, and they ate and drank, and he dismissed them, and they went to their master. And the lightly armed raiding parties of Syria no longer came into the land of Israel.

And it happened after this, that the son of Hader, king of Syria, gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. And there was a great famine in Samaria, and look, they besieged it until a donkey’s head was valued at fifty shekels of silver, and a quarter liter of dove’s dung at five shekels of silver. And the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, and a woman cried out to him, saying, “Save *me*, my lord, O king!” And he said to her, “Unless the Lord saves you, how will I save you from the threshing-floor, or from the wine-press?” And the king said to her, “What is troubling you?” And the woman said to him, “This woman said to me, ‘Give us your son, and we will eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’ So we boiled my son, and ate him. And on the second day, I said to her, ‘Give your son, and let us eat him,’ but she had hidden her son.”

And it happened, when the king of Israel heard the woman’s words, that he tore his clothes, and as he passed by on the wall, the people saw sackcloth was on his flesh underneath. And he said, “God so do to me, and also more, if the head of Elisha remains on him today.”

And Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. And the king sent a man before him. Before the messenger came to him, he also said to the elders, “Do you see that this son of a murderer has sent to take away my head? See, as soon as the messenger comes, shut the door, and forcibly detain him at the door. Is it not the sound of his master’s feet behind him?” While he was yet speaking with them, see, a messenger came to him, and he said, “Look, this evil is of the Lord, why should I wait for the Lord any longer?”

And Elisha said, “Hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord is saying, ‘About this time tomorrow, a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gates of Samaria.’” And the officer on whose hand the king relied, answered Elisha, and said, “Look, if the Lord makes floodgates in heaven, might this thing be?” And Elisha said, “Look, you will see this with your own eyes, but will not eat of it.”

And there were four leprous men by the gate of the city, and one said to his neighbour, “Why do we sit here until we die? If we say, ‘Let us go into the city,’ and there is famine in the city, and we will die there. And if we sit here, then we will die. Now then come, and let us surrender to the camp of the Syrians. If they take us alive, then we will live, and if they put us to death, then we will also die.” And they rose up while it was still night, to go into the camp of Syria. They entered into the outskirts of the camp of Syria, and look, no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of Syria to hear the sound of chariots, and the sound of horses, even the sound of a great army, and each man said to his fellow, “Now the king of Israel has hired the kings of the Chettites, and the kings of Egypt, to come against us.” And they arose and fled while it was still dark, and left their tents, their horses, and their donkeys in the camp, as they were, and fled for their lives.

And these lepers entered the outskirts the camp, they went into one tent, and ate and drank, and took from it silver, gold, and clothing. And they went and came back, and entered another tent, and took from there, and went and hid the spoil. And one man said to the others, “We are not doing well; this day is a day of good news, and if we remain silent, and wait until the morning, we will find wickedness. Now them come, and let us go into the city, and report to the house of the king.” So they went and cried out toward the gate of the city, and proclaimed to them, saying, “We entered the camp of Syria, and look, there is no one there, not a man or the voice of man, only horses and donkeys tied, and their tents as they were.”

And the gatekeepers shouted the news, and reported *it* to the house of the king within. And the king arose in the night, and said to his servants, “Now I will tell you what the Syrians are doing. They know that we are hungry, and they have gone out from the camp and hidden themselves in the field, saying, ‘They will come out of the city, and we willl catch them alive, and enter into the city.’” And one of his servants answered and said, “Let them take five of the remaining horses that were left here; look, they are all that is left to all the multitude of Israel, and we will go there and see.” So they saddled two horses, and the king of Israel sent after the king of Syria, saying, “Go, and see.” And they went after them even to the Jordan, and, see, all the way was full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had thrown away in their panic. And the messengers returned, and brought word to the king. And the people went out and plundered the camp of Syria. And a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord, and two measures of barley for a shekel.

And the king appointed the officer on whose hand the king relied, to have charge over the gate, and the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spoke when the messenger came down to him. So it happened just as Elisha had said to the king, “Two measures of barley will be sold for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, and it will be about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria.” And the officer had answered Elisha, and said, “Look, if the Lord makes floodgates in heaven, can this be?” And Elisha said, “Look, you will see it with your eyes, but you will not eat of it.” And it was so, for the people trampled on him in the gate, and he died.

Tobit 1:1 – 3:6

The book of the words of Tobit, son of Tobiel, the son of Ananiel, the son of Aduel, the son of Gabael, of the seed of Asiel, of the tribe of Nephthali, who was taken captive in the days of Enemessar, king of the Assyrians, out of Thisbe, which is to the right of Kedesh Naphtali, in Galilee above Asher.

I, Tobit, have walked in the paths of truth and righteousness all the days of my life, and I performed many acts of charity for my brethren, and my nation, who came with me to Nineveh, in the land of the Assyrians. And when I was young and in my own country, in the land of Israel, all the tribe of my father, Nephthali turned away from the house of Jerusalem, which was chosen from all the tribes of Israel, that all the tribes should sacrifice there, where the Temple, the habitation of the Most High was consecrated and built for all the generations of the age.

Now all the tribes that joined in the revolt, and the house of my father Nephthali, sacrificed to the Baal the heifer. But I alone travelled often to Jerusalem for the feasts, as it was ordained for all the people of Israel by an everlasting decree, taking the firstfruits tithes of my harvest, and the first sheering. And I gave these to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. I offered the first tenth of all the harvest to the sons of Levi, who ministered at Jerusalem. A second tenth part I sold, and spent it at Jerusalem each year. And the third tenth I gave to those to whom it was fitting, as my father’s mother, Deborah, had commanded me, for I was left an orphan by my father. And when I came of age and became a man, I married Anna, from my own kindred, and by her I became the father of Tobias.

And when we were taken captive to Nineveh, all my brothers and those that were of my kindred ate from the bread of the Gentiles. But I kept myself from eating it, because I remembered God with all my soul. And the Most High gave me grace and favour before Enemessar, so that I was his purchasing agent. I would go into Media, and entrusted Gabael, the brother of Gabrias, at Rages a city of Media with ten talents of silver. Now when Enemessar died, Sennacherib his son reigned in his place, whose roads became unstable, so that I could no longer go into Media.

And in the time of Enemessar, I gave many alms to my brethren, and gave my bread to the hungry, and my clothes to the naked. And if I saw any of my people dead, or cast about the walls of Nineveh, I buried him. And if the king Sennacherib put anyone to death, when he came trying to escape from Judah, I buried them secretly. For in his wrath he killed many, and the king sought the bodies, but they were not found. And one of the Ninevites went and informed the king about me, that I buried them, so I hid myself. Discovering that I was sought to be put to death, I fled in fear. Then all my belongings were seized, and there was there nothing left to me, except my wife Anna and my son Tobias. And not even fifty days passed before two of his sons killed him, and they fled into the mountains of Ararat; and Sarchedonus his son reigned in his place, who appointed Achiacharus my brother Anael’s son, over his father’s accounts, and over all his affairs.

And Achiacharus entreating for me, so I returned to Nineveh. Now Achiacharus was cupbearer, and keeper of the signet, and steward, and overseer of the accounts, and Sarchedonus appointed him next to himself, and he was my nephew.

Now when I returned home again, and my wife Anna and my son Tobias were given back to me. It was the feast of Pentecost, which is the holy feast of the seven weeks. A was good dinner prepared me, and I sat down to eat. And when I saw abundance of meat, I said to my son, “Go and bring whatever poor you find from our brethren, who are mindful of the Lord; and, look, I will wait for you.” But he returned and said, “Father, one of our people has been strangled, and is thrown out in the marketplace!” Then before I tasted anything, I jumped up, and took him up into a room until the sun set. Then I returned, and washed myself, and ate my bread in heaviness. Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, when he said,

“Your feasts will be turned into mourning,

and all your gladness into lamentation.”

So I wept. When the sun set, I went and dug a grave, and buried him. But my neighbours mocked me, and said, “He is not longer afraid to be put to death for this matter. He ran away, and now, look, he is burying the dead again.”

That same night I returned from the burial, and because I was defiled, I slept by the wall of my courtyard, and my face was uncovered. And I did not know that there were sparrows in the wall, and since my eyes were open, the sparrows dropped warm dung into my eyes, and a white film came in mine eyes. So I went to the physicians, but they did not help me. Achiacharus, however, did nourish me until I went into Elymais.

And my wife Anna took women’s work. And when she had sent her work to the owners, they paid her wages, and they also gave her a kid. And when it was in my house, and began to bleat, I said to her, “Where is this kid from? It is not stolen? Return it to its owners, for it is not lawful to eat any thing that is stolen.” But she replied to me, “It was given to me as a gift, above my wages.” But I did not believe her, but told her to return it to its owners, and I blushed in anger at her. But she replied to me, “Where are your alms and your righteous deeds? Look, you and all your works are known.”

Then I wept weep in my grief, and prayed in anguish, saying,

“O Lord, You are righteous,

as are all Your works,

and all Your ways are mercy and truth,

and You judge truly and justly forever.

Remember me,

and look on me,

do not punish me for my sins and ignorances,

and for the sins of my fathers,

who have sinned before You.

For they did not obey Your commandments,

so You delivered us as a plunder,

and to captivity, and to death,

and made us a byword of disgrace

to all the nations among whom we were scattered.

And now Your many judgments many and true

in dealing with me according to my sins and my fathers’,

because we have not kept Your commandments,

for we have not walked in truth before You.

So now, deal with me as it seems best to You,

and command my spirit to be taken up,

that I may be released, and become earth,

for it is better for me to die than to live,

because I have heard false reproaches,

and there is much sorrow within me.

Command that I be released now from this distress,

to go into the everlasting place;

do not turn Your face away from me.”

Tobit 3:7 – 3:17

On the same day, it happened to Sara, the daughter of Raguel, in Ecbatana, a city of Media, that she was also reproached by her father’s maids, because she had been given to seven husbands, whom Asmodeus the evil demon had killed, before they had lain with her. “Do you not know,” they said, “that you have strangled your husbands? You have already had seven husbands, but you received no profit from any of them. Why do you beat us? If they bare dead, go with them! May we never see a son or daughter from you!”

When she heard these things, she was so deeply grieved that she thought to hang herself. And she said, “I am the only daughter of my father. If I do this, it will be a disgrace to him, and I will down bring his old age with sorrow into the Hades.” So she prayed toward her window, and said,

“You are blessed, O Lord my God!

And Your holy and glorious Name is blessed unto the ages.

Let all Your works praise You forever.

And now, O Lord, I have set

my eyes and my face toward You.

Command that I be released from the earth

and I may hear no more reproach.

You know, O Lord, that I am pure

from all sin with man,

and that I have not defiled my name,

nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity.

I am my father’s only begotten,

and he has no other child to be his heir

nor any near kinsman, nor any son of his,

that I should keep myself to be a wife.

Seven of my husbands have already died.

Why should I live?

But if it does not seem good to you to kill me,

command that some regard to be shown to me,

and pity be taken of me,

that I may not hear reproach anymore.”

The prayers of both were heard in the presence of the glory of the great Raphael, and he was sent to heal them both: to scale away the whiteness of Tobit’s eyes, and to give Sara, the daughter of Raguel for a wife to Tobias the son of Tobit, and to bind Asmodeus the evil demon, for she belonged to Tobias by right of inheritance. At that very moment Tobit home, and entered into his house, and Sara, the daughter of Raguel came down from her upper chamber.

Tobit 4:1-6:9

On that day Tobit remembered the silver that he had entrusted to Gabael at Rages of Media. So he said with himself, “I have asked for death, why do I not call for my son Tobias, that I may make known to him the money before I die?”

So he had called him and said, “My son, if I die, bury me, and do not disregard your mother, but honour her all the days of your life, and do that which is pleasing to her, and do not grieve her. Remember, my son, that she saw many dangers for you while you were in her womb. And when she dies, bury her beside me in one grave.

My son, remember the Lord our God all your days, and do not let your will be set to sin, or to transgress His commandments; do righteousness all the days of your life, and do not follow the ways of unrighteousness. For if you deal truly, your works will be successful. And to all those who live justly, give alms of your substance; and when you give alms, do not let your eye be envious, nor turn your face from any poor, and the face of God will not be turned away from you. If you have abundance, give alms accordingly; if you have but a little, do not be afraid to give according to that little, for you lay up a good treasure for yourself against the day of necessity, since alms deliver from death, and prevent us from coming into darkness. For almsgiving is a good gift for all who do it before the Most High.

Beware of all fornication, my son, and above all take a wife from among the seed of your fathers, and do not take a foreign woman, who is not of your father’s tribe as a wife, for we are the children of the prophets. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are our fathers form old. Remember, my son, that all these married wives of their own kindred, and were blessed in their children, and their seed will inherit the land. So now, my son, love your brethren, and do not despise your brethren in your heart, the sons and daughters of your people, by not taking a wife from them. For in pride there is ruin and great disorder, and in worthlessness there is loss and great want. For worthlessness is the mother of famine.

Do not let the wages of any man, who has worked for you, stay with you overnight, but give it to him immediately. For if you serve God, He will repay you. Watch yourself, my son, in all that you do, and be disciplined in your behaviour. What you yourself hate, do to no one. Do not drink wine to drunkenness, nor let drunkenness go with you on your journey. Give of your bread to the hungry, and of your clothes to those who are naked. If you have more than you need, give alms, and do not let your eye be envious when you give alms. Spread out your bread on the grave of the righteous, but give nothing to the sinners. Seek advice from all who are wise, and do not despise any advice that is useful. Bless the Lord your God at every moment, and ask of Him that your ways may be directed, and that all your paths and counsels may prosper. For not every nation has understanding, but the Lord Himself gives all good things, and He humbles whom He will, as He wills. So now, my son, remember my commandments, and do not let them be erased from your heart.

And now I inform you that I have entrusted ten talents of silver to Gabael, the son of Gabrias, at Rages of Media. And do not fear, my son, that we have become poor. For you are very rich if you fear God, and stay away from ever sin, and do what is pleasing in His sight.”

Then Tobias answered him and said, “Father, I will do everything you have commanded me. But how can I receive the silver, since I do not know him?” Then he gave him the bond, and said to him, “Seek a man for yourself who will go with you, while I still live, and I will give him wages; now go, and obtain the silver.

So he went to seek a man, he found Raphael, who was an angel, but he did not know it. And he said to him, “Can you go with me to Rages? And do you know those places well?” The angel said to him, “I will go with you, and I know the road well, and I have stayed with our brother, Gabael.” Then Tobias said to him, “Wait for me, I will tell my father.” And he said to him, “Go, but do not dely.”

So he went in and said to his father, “Look, I have found someone who will go with me.” Then he said, “Call him to me, that I may know what tribe he belongs to, and if he is a trustworthy man to go with you.” So he called him, and he came in, and they greeted one another.

Then Tobit said to him, “Brother, tell me, of what tribe and family do you belong?” And he said to him, “Do you seek a tribe and a family, or a hired man to go with your son?” Tobit said to him, “I wish to know, brother, your kindred and name.” Then he said, “I am Azarias, the son of Ananias the great, one of your relatives.” Then Tobit said, “You are welcome, brother; do not be angry with me for seeking to know your tribe and your family, for you are my brother, of an honest and good family. For I know Ananias and Jonathan, sons of that great Samaias, since we went together to Jerusalem to worship, and to offer the firstborn, and the tenths of the harvest. And they were not led astray by the error of our brethren. My brother, you are from a good root. But tell me, what wages will I give you? A drachma a day, and expenses, for you and my son? Yes, and if you return safe, I will add something to your wages.” So they were well pleased.

Then he said to Tobias, “Prepare yourself for the journey, and may you be successful.” And when his son had prepared all things for the journey, his father said, “Go with this man, and God Who dwells in heaven will make your journey successful, and may His angel go along with you.” So they both went out, and the young man’s dog was with them.

But Anna his mother wept, and said to Tobit, “Why have you sent our son away? Is he not the staff of our hand, as he goes in and out before us? Do not be not greedy, to add silver to silver, but let it be as dirt compared to our child. For as it has been given to us to live by the Lord, that is enough for us.” Then Tobit said to her, “Do not be concerned, my sister; he will return in good health, and your eyes will see him. For a good angel will go with him, and his journey will be prosperous; he will return in good health.” So she stopped weeping.

And they went on their journey, and came in the evening to the river Tigris, and they camped there. And when the young man went down to wash himself, a fish leaped out of the river, and wanted to swallow him. Then the angel said to him, “Take the fish.” And the young man grabbed the fish, and pulled it to land. The angel said to him, “Cut open the fish, and take the heart, the liver, and the gall, and put them away safely.” So the young man did as the angel commanded him; and when they had roasted the fish, they ate it.

Then they journeyed until they drew near to Ecbatana. Then the young man said to the angel, “Brother Azarias, of what use are the heart, liver, and the gal of the fish?” And he said to him, “Concerning the heart and the liver, if a devil or an evil spirit troubles anyone, one must burn them to produce smoke before the man or the woman, and he will no longer be troubled. As for the gall, use it to anoint a man that has white films on his eyes, and he will be healed.”

Tobit 6:9 – 11-19

And when they came near to Rages, the angel said to the young man, “Brother, today we will stay with Raguel. He is your cousin, and he has one only daughter, named Sara. I will speak for her, that she might be given to you for a wife, since her inheritance falls to you; for you alone are from her kindred. And the girl is beautiful and sensible. So now listen to me, and I will speak to her father. And when we return from Rages, we will celebrate the wedding feast. For I know that Raguel cannot marry her to another according to the law of Moses, or he would be guilty of death, because it is your right to receive the inheritance before any other.”

Then the young man answered the angel, “I have heard, brother Azarias, that this girl has been given to seven men, who all died in the bridal chamber. And now I am the only son of my father, and I am afraid that if I go in to her, I may die as the others before. For a demon loves her, and he does not harm anyone, except those who approach her. Therefore I also fear for myself that I may die, and bring my father’s and my mother’s life down into to the grave with sorrow, because of me. For they have no other son to bury them.”

But the angel said to him, “Do you not remember the words that your father commanded, that you should marry a wife from among your own people? Now listen to me, my brother, for she will become your wife. And do not worry about the demon, for tonight she will she be given to you as a wife. And when you enter the bridal chamber, take the embers of incense, and lay some of the heart and liver of the fish upon them, and make a smoke with it, and the demon will smell it, and flee, and will never again come back. But when you approach her, both of you will rise up, and pray to God, Who is merciful, Who will have pity on you, and save you. Do not fear, for she has been prepared for you from of old; and you will save her, and she will go with you. I suppose that you will have children by her.” Now when Tobias had heard these things, he loved her, and his spirit clung to her intensely.

And they went to Ecbatana, and came to the house of Raguel. Sara met them, and after they had greeted one another, she brought them into the house. Then Raguel said to Edna his wife, “How this young man resembles my cousin Tobit!” And Raguel asked them, “Where are you from, brethren?” They answered, “We are of the sons of Nephthalim, who are captives in Nineveh.” Then he said to them, “Do you know Tobit our kinsman?” And they said, “We know him.” Then he asked, “Is he in good health?” And they said, “He is alive and in good health.” And Tobias added, “He is my father.” Then Raguel jumped up, kissed him, and wept. And he blessed him, and said to him, “You are the son of an honest and good man.” But when he had heard that Tobit was blind, he grieved, and wept. And Edna his wife and Sara his also daughter wept, and they welcomed them warmly. Then they killed a ram from the flock, and they set out large servings of food.

Then said Tobias to Raphael, “Brother Azarias, speak of those things of which you talked on the way, and let this matter be completed.” So he told Raguel what he said, and Raguel said to Tobias, “Eat, drink, and be glad, for it is fitting that you should marry my daughter. However, I must tell you the truth. I have given my daughter in marriage to seven men, who died that night they came in toward her. But for now, be glad! But Tobias said, “I will not eat anything until you make a binding agreement with me.” Raguel said, “Then take her from now on, according to this decree, for you are her cousin, and she is yours, and may the merciful God prosper you both with the best.

Then he called Sara, his daughter, and she came to her father. And he took her by the hand, and gave her to be a wife for Tobias, saying, “Look, take her according to the law of Moses, and lead her away to your father.” And he blessed them, and called Edna his wife, and took paper, and wrote a contract, and sealed it. Then they began to eat.

Then Raguel called his wife Edna, and said to her, “Sister, prepare the other room, and bring her into it.” When she had done as he had said, she brought her there, and she wept, and she received the tears of her daughter, and said to her, “Take courage, my daughter; may the Lord of heaven and earth give you joy instead of this sorrow of yours. Take courage, my daughter.”

When they had dined, they led Tobias in to her. And as he went, he remembered the words of Raphael, and took the embers of incense, and put the heart and the liver of the fish upon them, and made a smoke with them. When the demon smelled the fragrant scent, he fled into the uppermost parts of Egypt, and the angel bound him.

And after that they were shut in together, Tobias rose out of the bed, and said, “Sister, arise, and let us pray that God will have mercy on us. Then Tobias began to say,

You are blessed, O God of our fathers,

and may Your holy and glorious Name be blessed forever.

Let the heavens and all Your creatures bless You.

You made Adam, and gave him Eve as a helper,

his wife as a support.

From them came mankind.

You said, ‘It is not good for man to be alone;

let us make a helper for him like himself.

And now, O Lord, I am not taking this, my sister, for lust

but with sincerity.

Therefore, mercifully ordain that we may grow old together.’”

And she said with him, “Amen.” Then they fell asleep for the night.

And Raguel got up, and went out to make a grave, Saying, “I fear that he too may die.” But when Raguel came into his house, he said to his wife Edna, “Send one of the maids, and let her see whether he is alive; if he is not, let us bury him, and no one may know.” So the maid opened the door, and went in, and found them both asleep, and came out, and told them that he was alive.

Then Raguel blessed God, saying,

You are blessed, O God, with every pure and holy blessing.

Let Your saints and all your creatures bless You;

and let all Your angels and Your elect bless You forever.

You are blessed, because You have made me glad,

and it did not turn out for me as I expected,

but You have dealt with us according to Your great mercy.

You are blessed because You have had mercy

on two only begotten children of their fathers.

Have mercy on them, O Lord,

and complete their life

in health with gladness and mercy.”

Then Raguel ordered his servants to fill in the grave.

And he gave them a wedding feast for fourteen days. And before the days of the wedding were finished, Raguel said to him by an oath, that he should not leave until the fourteen days of the wedding feast were ended, and that he should take the half of his property, and go in health to his father, and have the rest “when I and my wife die.”

Then Tobias called Raphael, and said to him, “Brother Azarias, take a servant, and two camels, and go to Rages of Media, to Gabael, and bring me the silver, and bring him to the wedding feast. For Raguel has sworn that I should not leave. But my father is counting the days, and if I delay long, he will be very distressed.” So Raphael went and stayed with Gabael, and gave him the bond, and he brought out bags with the seals, and gave them to him. And early in the morning they both went out together, and came to the wedding. And He blessed Tobias and his wife.

Now Tobit his father was counting each day, and when the days of the journey ended, and they had not come, Tobit said, “Are they detained? Or has Gabael died, and there is no one to give him the silver?” So he was very distressed. Then his wife said to him, “My son has perished; that is why he is delayed.” And she began to weep for him, and said, “Nothing matters to me, my son, since I have let you go, the light of my eyes.” But Tobit said to her, “Hold your peace, do not worry, for he is in good health”. But she said, “Be quiet, and do not deceive me! My son has perished.” And she went out every day into the road by which they had gone, and ate no food during the day, and did not cease mourning her son Tobias during the nights, until the fourteen days of the wedding feast were completed, which Raguel had sworn that he should spend there.

Then Tobias said to Raguel, “Send me back, for my father and my mother no longer hope to see me.” But his father-in-law said to him, “Stay with me, and I will send *messengers* to your father, and they will tell him how things are with you.” 1But Tobias said, “No, but send me back to my father.”

Then Raguel arose, and gave Sara his wife to him, and half his possessions, servants, cattle, and silver. And he blessed them, and sent them away, saying, “May the God of heaven give you a prosperous journey, my children, before I die.” And he said to his daughter, “Honour your father-in-law and your mother-in-law, who are now your parents, that I may hear good report of you.” And he kissed her. Then Edna said to Tobias, “May the Lord of heaven restore you, my dear brother, and grant that I may see your children from my daughter Sara before I die, that I may rejoice before the Lord. Look, I entrust my daughter to your care. Do not grieve her.”

After these things Tobias went away, blessing God because He had given him a prosperous journey. And he blessed Raguel and Edna his wife.

He travelled until they came near to Nineveh. Then Raphael said to Tobias, “Do you know, brother, how you left your father? Let us hurry ahead of your wife, and prepare the house. And take the gall of the fish in your hand. So they went on, and the dog followed after them.

Now Anna sat looking toward the road for her son. And when she saw him coming, she said to his father, “Look! Your son is coming, and the man who went with him!

Then Raphael said, “I know, Tobias, that your father will open his eyes. Therefore, anoint his eyes with the gall, and when he feels the sting he will rub them, and the white film will fall away, and he will see you.”

Then Anna ran up to her son, and fell on his neck, and said to him, “I have seen you, my son, from now I am content to die.” And they both wept both. Tobit went out toward the door, and stumbled. But his son ran to him, and took hold of his father, and he dabbed the gall on his fathers’ eyes, saying, “Take courage, my father.” And when his eyes began to sting, he rubbed them, and the white film peeled away from the corners of his eyes, and when he saw his son, he fell on his neck. Weeping, he said,

“You are blessed, O God,

and Your Name is blessed forever,

and all your holy angels are blessed.

For You have scourged me,

but You have had mercy on me;

Look! I see my son Tobias!”

And his son went in rejoicing, and he told his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

Then Tobit went out to meet his daughter-in-law at the gate of Nineveh, rejoicing and blessing God. And those who saw him go marvelled, because he had received his sight. And Tobias confessed before them, that God had mercy on him. And when he came near to Sara his daughter-in-law, he blessed her, saying, ”May you be in good health, daughter! God be blessed, Who has brought you to us, and blessed be your father and your mother.” And there was joy among all his relatives in Nineveh. And Achiacharus, and Nasbas his brother’s son, came. And Tobias’ wedding feast was kept with great joy for seven days.

Tobit 12:1 – 14:15

Then Tobit called his son Tobias, and said to him, “My son, see that the man who went with you has his wages, and you must give him more.” And Tobias said to him, “O father, would do me no harm to give him half of the things that I have brought, for he has brought me again to you in safety, and healed my wife, and brought me the silver, and likewise healed you.” Then the old man said, “He has earned it.” So he called the angel, and he said to him, “Take half of all that you have brought.”

Then Raphael took them both apart, and said to them, “Bless God, confess Him, and magnify Him, and confess Him in the presence of all the living for the things that He has done for you. It is good to bless God and exalt His Name, and honourably to declare the works of God. Therefore, do not hesitate to confess Him. It is good to guard the secret of a king, but it is honourable to reveal the works of God. Do what is good, and no evil will touch you. Prayer is good with fasting and alms and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold. For almsgiving delivers from death, and will purge away all sin. Those who practice almsgiving and righteousness will be filled with life, but those who sin are enemies to their own life.

I will not hide anything from you. Indeed, I said, ‘It is good to guard the secret of a king, but it is honourable to reveal the works of God.’ Now therefore, when you and Sara your daughter-in-law prayed, I brought the remembrance of your prayers before the Holy One, and when you burried the dead, I was likewise present with you. And when you did not delay to rise up, and left your dinner to go and cover the dead, your good deed was not hidden from me, but I was with you. So now God has sent me to heal you, and Sara your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the saints, and who enters before the glory of the Holy One.”

Then they were both troubled, and fell on their faces, for they were afraid. But he said to them, “Do not fear, you will have peace; But bless God forever. For I have come not by my grace, but by the will of our God; therefore, bless Him forever. All these days I appeared to you, I did not eat or drink, but you were seeing a vision. Now therefore, give confession to God, for I am ascending to Him Who sent me. And write in a book all things that have been accomplished.” And when they stood up, they saw him no longer. Then they confessed the great and wonderful works of God, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them.

Then Tobit wrote a prayer of rejoicing, and said,

“Blessed be God, Who lives forever,

and blessed be His kingdom.

For He scourges, and has mercy;

He leads down to Hades, and brings up again,

and there is no one who can escape His hand.

Confess him before the Nations, O children of Israel,

for He has scattered us among them.

Declare there His greatness;

exalt Him in the presence of all the living,

for He is our Lord and God,

and He is our Father unto all the ages.

And He will scourge us for our iniquities,

and He will have mercy again,

and will gather us out of all nations,

among whom He has scattered us.

If you turn back to Him with your whole heart,

and with your whole soul,

and do what is true before Him,

then He will turn to you,

and will not hide His face from you.

Therefore, see what He will do with you,

and confess Him fully with your mouth,

and bless the Lord of righteousness,

and exalt the King of the ages.

In the land of my captivity do I confess Him,

and declare his might and majesty to a sinful nation.

O you sinners, turn back

and do what is just before Him;

who knows if He will accept you,

and have mercy on you?

I will exalt my God,

and my soul will exalt the King of heaven,

and will rejoice in His majesty.

Let all speak,

and confess Him in Jerusalem.

O Jerusalem, the holy city,

He will scourge you for the works of your children,

and will have mercy again on the sons of the righteous.

Confess the Lord well,

and bless the King of the ages,

that His tent may be built in you again with joy,

and may He rejoice there in those who are captives,

and love within you those that are in distress,

for all the generations of the age.

Many nations will come from far away

to the Name of the Lord God,

bringing gifts in their hands, yes, gifts for the King of heaven.

Generations of generations

will praise you with great joy.

All who hate You are cursed,

and all who love You will be blessed forever.

Rejoice and be glad over the children of the righteous,

for they will be gathered together,

and will bless the Lord of the righteous.

O those who love You are blessed,

for they will rejoice in your peace.

Those who have grieved over all Your scourged are blessed,

for they will rejoice over You

when they have seen all Your glory,

and will rejoice forever.

Let my soul bless God the great King.

For Jerusalem will be built up

with sapphires and emeralds, and precious stones

Your walls and towers and battlements with pure gold.

And the streets of Jerusalem will be paved

with beryl and carbuncle and stones of Ophir.

And all her streets will say, ‘Alleluia!’

And will praise him, saying,

‘Blessed be God,

Who has exalted You unto all the ages.’”

Then Tobit ceased praising.

And he was fifty-eight years old when he lost his sight, which was restored to him after eight years. And he gave alms, and he increased in the fear of the Lord God, and confessed him.

And when he became very old, he called his son, and the sons of his son, and said to him, “My son, take your children; for, look, I have grown old, and am about to depart from this life. Go into Media my son, for I trust all the things that Jonas the prophet spoke of Nineveh, that it will be overthrown. But there will be peace for a time in Media. And our brethren will be scattered in the earth from that good land. And Jerusalem will be desolate, and the house of God in it will be burned, and will be desolate for a time.

But God will again have mercy on them, and bring them back into the land, where they will build the house, but not like the former one, until the time of that age is fulfilled. And afterward they will return from all places of their captivity, and build Jerusalem up honourably, and the house of God shall be built in it for ever as a glorious building, as the prophets have said concerning it. And all nations will turn and truly fear the Lord God, and will bury their idols. And all will nations bless the Lord, and His people will confess God, and the Lord will exalt his people. And all those who love the Lord God in truth and justice will rejoice, showing mercy to our brethren.

So now, my son, depart from Nineveh, since these things that the prophet Jonas spoke will surely happen. But keep the law and the commandments, and be merciful and just, so that it may go well with you. And bury me decently, and your mother with me, but dwell no longer in Nineveh. Remember, my son, what Aman did to Achiacharus who raised him, how he brought him from the light into darkness, and how he repaid him. Indeed, Achiacharus was saved, but the other received his retribution, and descended into darkness. Manasseh gave alms, and was saved from the trap of death that was set for him. But Aman fell into the trap, and perished. So then, my son, consider what almsgiving does, and how righteousness delivers.” When he had said these things in his bed, his soul left him. He was one hundred and fifty-eight years old, and *Tobias* buried him honourably. And when Anna his mother died, he buried her with his father.

Then Tobias departed with his wife and children to Ecbatana, to Raguel his father-in-law. And he grew old with honour, and he buried his father-in-law and mother-in-law honourably, and he inherited their property, and that of his father Tobit.

And *Tobias* died at Ecbatana in Media, being one hundred and twenty-seven years old. But before he died, he heard of the destruction of Nineveh, which was taken by Nabouchodonosor and Assuerus. So before his death he rejoiced over Nineveh.

Job 1:1-22

There was a certain man in the land of Ausitis, whose name *was* Job, and than man was true, blameless, righteous, *and* godly, abstaining from every evil thing. And he had seven sons and three daughters, and his livestock consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys in the pastures; he also had very many servants, and he had extensive activity on the earth, and that man was the *most* noble of all the *men* of the East.

And his sons used to visit one another and prepared a banquet every day, taking their three to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the banquet were completed, Job sent and purified them; rising up in the morning, and offered sacrifices for them, according to their number, and one calf for a sin-offering for their souls. For Job said, “Lest my sons have thought evil in their minds against God.” So Job did this continually.

And it happened one day, that look, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil came with them. And the Lord said to the devil, “Where have you come from?” And the devil answered the Lord, and said, “I have come from going around the earth, and walking about under heaven.” And the Lord said to him, “Have you considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth, a blameless, true, godly, man, abstaining from every evil thing?” Then the devil answered, and said before the Lord, “Does Job worship the Lord for no reason?” Have You not made a hedge around him, and around his household, and around all his possessions? And have You not blessed the works of his hands, and multiplied his cattle upon the land? But stretch out Your hand, and touch all that he has, surely he will curse You to *Your* face!” Then the Lord said to the devil, “See, I give into your hand all that he has, but do not touch him.” So the devil went out from the Lord.

And it happened on a certain day, when Job’s sons and daughters were drinking wine in the house of their elder brother. And, look, a messenger came to Job, and said to him, “The yokes of oxen were ploughing, and the female donkeys were feeding near them; and raiders came and took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone have escaped, and I came to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another messenger came, and said to Job, “Fire has fallen from heaven, and burnt up the sheep, and likewise consumed the shepherds; and I alone have escaped, and I came to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another messenger came, and said to Job, “Horsemen formed three companies against us, and surrounded the camels, and took them captive, and killed the servants with the sword; and I alone escaped, and I came to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another messenger came, and said to Job, “While your sons and daughters were eating and drinking with their elder brother, suddenly a great wind came from the desert and struck the four corners of the house, and the house fell upon your children, and they died; and I alone have escaped, and I came to tell you.”

So Job arose, tore his clothes, shaved the hair of his head, and fell on the ground, and worshipped, saying, “I came naked from my mother’s womb, and naked will I return; the Lord gave, the Lord has taken away. As it seemed good to the Lord, so it has come to pass. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.”

In all these things that happened him, Job did not sin at all before the Lord, or charge God with folly.

Job 11:1-20

Then Sophar the Minite answered and said,

“He who speaks much should also listen in turn,

or does the eloquent speaker think himself to be right?

Blessed *is* the short lived offspring of woman.

Do not be a speaker of many words,

for there is no one to reply to you.

For example, do not say, ‘I am pure in my works,

and blameless before Him.’

In that case, how could the Lord would speak to you?

He will open His lips against you!

Then He will declare the power of wisdom to you,

for it will be double what you have.

And then you will know that what has come upon you from the Lord is equal to your sins.

Will you find the Lord’s footprints?

Or have you come to the end *of what* the Almighty has made?

The heaven *is* high, and what will you do?

And there are deeper things than those in Hades; what do you know?

Do you know those dimensions that are longer than the measure of the earth,

or the breadth of the sea?

And if he should overthrow all that is,

who will say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

For He knows the works of the lawless,

and when He sees wrongs, He will not overlook *them*.

But man vainly swims in words,

and a mortal born of a woman *is* like a donkey in the desert.

For if you have made your heart pure,

and lift up *your* hands towards Him—

if there is any lawlessness in your hands, put if far away from you,

and let no wrongdoing lodge in your dwelling.

For in this way, your face will shine again, like pure water,

and you will cleanse away the filth, and you will not fear.

And you will forget trouble,

like a wave that has passed by,

and you will not be terrified.

And your prayer *will be* like the morning star,

and at midday life will arise to you.

And you will be confident, because you have hope;

and peace will dawn to you out of anxiety and care.

For you will be at ease,

and there will be no one to fight against you;

instead many will repent, and entreat your favour.

But deliverance will fail them,

for their hope is destruction,

and the eyes of the ungodly will waste away.”

Job 12, 13, 14

And Job answered and said,

“So then are you *alone* men,

and wisdom will die with you?

*But* I too have a heart, as well as you.

A righteous and blameless man

has become a laughingstock.

For it had been ordained that he should fall

under others at the appointed time,

and that his houses should be plundered by the lawless.

However, do not let anyone trust that,

being evil, he will be *held* innocent,

as many as provoke the Lord,

as if there were indeed to be no trial for them.

But ask now the four-footed animals, if they may speak to you,

And the birds of the air, if they may report it to you.

Tell the earth, if it should interpret it to you,

and the fish of the sea will explain to you.

Who among these does not know

that the hand of the Lord has made them?

That the life of all living things is in his hand,

and the breath of every man?

For the mind discerns words,

and the palate tastes food.

Wisdom comes with much time,

and knowledge with much living.

With Him are wisdom and power,

counsel and understanding are His.

If He tears down, who can build up again?

If He closes a door against man, who can open it?

If We withholds the water, He will dry the earth,

but if He lets it loose, He will overthrow and destroy it.

With Him are strength and power,

knowledge and understanding are His.

He leads counsellors away captive,

and makes fools of the judges of the earth.

He sets kings upon thrones,

and ties their waist with a belt.

He sends priests away into captivity,

and overthrows the mighty ones of the earth.

He changes the lips of the faithful,

and He knows the understanding of the elders.

He pours dishonour upon rulers,

and heals the humble.

He reveals deep things out of darkness,

He has brought the shadow of death into light.

He leads the nations astray and destroys them.

He overthrows the nations, and leading them *away*.

He changes the hearts of earthly rulers

and leads them astray in a way, they have not known,

*saying*, “Let them grope *in* darkness without light

and let them wander about like a drunken man.

Behold, my eye has seen these things,

and my ear has heard *them*.

What you know, I know as well;

I do not have less understanding than you.

Nevertheless I will speak to the Lord,

and I will reason before Him, if He wills.

But you are all bad physicians and wrongful healers.

But O that you would be silent,

for it would lead you to wisdom.

Hear the refutation of my mouth,

and heed the judgment of my lips.

Do you not speak before the Lord,

and utter deceit before Him?

Will you draw back?

Go ahead, become judges yourselves!

For it would be good, if He were to thoroughly search you;

for if, doing everything *in your power,* you will join yourselves to Him,

He will still convict you if you secretly show partiality.

Will His terror not make you dizzy,

and His fear all upon you?

In the end, your arrogance will prove to be like ashes,

and your body *like* clay.

Be silent, that I may speak,

and put my anger to rest,

having taken my flesh in my teeth,

and put my life in my hand.

Though the Mighty One should lay His hand upon me,

and has already begun,

I will speak, and argue my case before Him.

And this will turn for me to salvation,

for deceit cannot enter before Him.

Hear, hear my words,

for I will declare them in your hearing.

Behold, I am near my judgment:

I know that I will be shown to be righteous.

For who is there that will find fault with me,

that I should now be silent, and expire?

But grant me two things:

then I will not hide myself from Your face:

Withdraw *Your* hand from me,

and do not let Your fear terrify me.

Then You will call, and I will listen to you;

or You will speak, and I will give You an answer.

How many are my sins and my transgressions?

Teach me what they are.

Why do You hide Yourself from me,

and regard me as Your enemy?

Will You be wary *of me*, as *of* a windblown leaf?

Or will You set Yourself against me, one like windborne grass?

For You have written evil things against me,

and You have surrounded me with the sins of my youth.

And You have put my foot in the stocks,

and watched all my works,

and penetrated into the bottoms of my feet,

which have become old like a wineskin,

or like a moth-eaten garment.

For a mortal born of a woman

*is* short-lived, and full of wrath.

He falls like a flower that has bloomed,

and he departs like a shadow, and cannot continue.

Have You not taken account of him,

and brought him into judgment before You?

For who will be pure from uncleanness? None, not one!

Even if his life should be *but* one day upon the earth,

and his months are counted out to him,

You have appointed a time for *him*,

and he cannot exceed *it*.

Depart from him, that he may have quiet,

and take pleasure in his life, like a hired labourer.

For there is hope for a tree, even if it is cut down,

it will sprout again, and its tender shoots will not fail.

For though its root may grow old in the earth,

and its stump die in the rocky ground,

it will bud at the scent of water,

and will produce a crop like one newly planted.

But a man who has died is utterly gone,

and when a mortal has fallen, he is no more.

For the sea diminishes with time,

and a river fails and is dried up.

And a man that lays down *in death* will never rise again

until the heaven is dissolved,

and they will not be roused from their sleep.

For if only You had kept me in the grave,

and had hidden me until Your wrath had ceased,

and that You would appoint me a set time

in which You would remember me!

For if a man lives again

after he completes the days of his life, and dies,

I would endure until I would arise again.

Then You would call, and I would answer You.

But do not reject the work of Your hands.

But You have numbered my pursuits,

and not one of my sins will escape You.

And You have sealed up my transgressions in a bag,

and marked it down if I have transgressed unknowingly.

Truly a mountain falls and crumbles away,

and a rock wears out of its place.

Waters wear away stones,

and overflowing torrents wash away mounds of the earth,

and You destroy human endurance.

You pushed him to an end, and he is gone.

You set Your face against him, and sent him away.

And though his children are multiplied, he does not know *it*,

and if they become few, he is not aware.

Because his flesh is in pain, and his soul grieves.

Job 15:1-35

Then Eliphaz the Thaimanite answered and said,

“Will a wise man give a *mere* breath of wisdom for answer?

And does he satisfy the pain of his belly,

arguing with sayings that are beside the point,

and with unprofitable words?

Have you not also cast off fear,

and exhausted such words before the Lord?

You are guilty because of the words of your mouth,

and have not discerned the words of the mighty.

May your mouth convict you, and not I,

For your lips will testify against you.

What? Are you the first man that was born?

Or were you established before the hills?

Have you heard the plan of the Lord,

and has wisdom come *only* to you?

For what do you know that, we know not know?

Or what do you understand that we do not as well?

Both the aged and the very old are among us,

more advanced in days than your father.

You have only been punished for a few of your sins;

you have spoken haughtily *and* extravagantly.

What has your heart dared,

or what have your eyes *set themselves upon*,

that you have vented *your* anger before the Lord,

and delivered such words from *your* mouth?

For who, being a mortal, can be blameless?

Or, *who that is* born of a woman can be righteous,

Since He does not trust His holy ones,

and the heaven is not pure before Him?

Alas then, man is detestable and unclean,

drinking injustices like water!

But I will tell you, listen to me;

I will tell you what I have now seen,

what wise men say;

they have not hidden anything received from their fathers.

The earth was given to them alone,

and no stranger came upon them.

All the life of the ungodly *is spent* in anxiety,

and the years given to the mighty are numbered.

Fear is in his ears,

and when he at last seems to be at peace,

his destruction comes.

Do not let him believe that he will return from darkness,

for he has been already been given over to the power of the sword.

And he has been appointed to be food for vultures,

and he knows within himself that he lives in a dead body;

and a dark day will carry him away like a whirlwind.

Distress and anguish will take hold of him;

he will be like a general falling in the first rank.

For he has lifted his hands against the Lord,

and he has stiffened his neck against the Almighty Lord,

and ran with the insolent,

with the thickness of his wide shield.

For he has covered his face with his fat,

and made it a band on his thighs.

May he lodge in desolate cities,

and enter uninhabited houses;

and what they prepared, others will carry away.

He will never grow rich, and his possessions will not last.

He will not cast a shadow on the earth,

nor will he in escape the darkness.

Let the wind wither his blossom,

and let his flower fall off.

Do not let him believe that he will endure,

for emptiness will be his lot.

His harvest will perish before its time,

and his branch will provide no cover.

May he be gathered prematurely, like the unripe grape,

and may fall off, as the blossom of the olive tree.

For death is the witness of the ungodly man,

and fire will burn the houses of those who take bribes.

And he will conceive sorrows,

and his lot will turn out to be emptiness,

and his belly will carry deceit.

Job 16, 17

Then Job answered and said,

“I have heard many such things;

you are all bad comforters.

What? Is there any reason in vain words?

Or what troubles you, that you answer so?

I also will speak as you *do*:

If your live were indeed in the place of mine,

then I would attach you with words,

and I would shake my head at you.

But may there be strength in my mouth,

then I would not spare the movement of my lips!

For if I speak, I will not feel the pain of my wound,

and even if I remain silent, how will I be less wounded?

But now He has made me weary, and a worn-out fool,

and you have laid hold of me.

My falsehood has become a testimony,

and has risen up against me,

it has confronted me to my face.

In His wrath He has cast me down;

He gnashed at me with His teeth;

His raiders’ arrows fell upon me.

He attacked me with the sharp darts of His eyes;

He struck me on the cheek with his sharp *spear;*

and they ran at me with one accord.

For the Lord has delivered me into the hands of the unjust,

and has cast me to the ungodly.

When I was at peace, He scattered me;

He took me by the hair of my head, and pulled it out.

He set me up like a target.

They surrounded me with spears,

aiming at my mind {kidneys};

without sparing *me* they poured out my gall upon the ground.

They threw me down, with fall upon fall;

they ran at me with all their strength.

I sewed sackcloth upon my skin,

and my strength is spent on the ground.

My belly is on fire from weeping,

and there is a shadow on my eyelids.

Yet there was nothing unjust in my hands,

and my prayer is pure.

O earth, do not cover up the blood of my flesh,

or let my cry have no place.

And now, look, my witness is in the heavens,

and my corroborator is on high.

May my supplication come before the Lord,

and may my eyes weep before Him.

May a man plead before the Lord,

even *as* a son of man with his neighbour!

But my years are numbered, and *their end* has come,

and I will go the way of no returning.

I perish, carried away by the wind,

and I beg for burial, and do not obtain *it*.

I entreat wearily, and what have I achieved?

Strangers have stolen my possessions.

Who is this? let him join hands with me.

For You have hidden their heart from discernment;

therefore, You will not exalt them.

He will report evils to *his* party,

but *my* eyes have failed because of *my* children.

But You have made me a byword among the nations,

and I have become a laughingstock to them.

For my eyes have turned to stone because of Your wrath;

I am greatly besieged by all.

The truthful are seized by wonder at this,

and let the just rise up against the transgressor,

and let the faithful hold to his own way,

and let those who have clean hands take courage.

Nevertheless, you all strengthen *yourselves,*

and come now, for I find nothing true in you.

My days have passed in groaning,

and my heartstrings are broken.

They have turned night into day;

the light is near to darkness.

For if I endure, Hades is my home:

and my bed is made in darkness.

I have called upon death to be my father,

and decay *to be* my mother and sister.

Where then is my hope?

Or *where* will I see my good things?

Will they go down with me to Hades,

or will we go down together to the tomb?

Job 18:1-21

Then Baldad the Sauchite answered and said,

“How long will you continue?

Hold back, so that we also may speak.

Why have we been silent before you

like four-footed beasts?

Anger has possessed you.

What if you should die? Would *the earth* under heaven be uninhabited?

Or would the mountains be overthrown from their foundations?

The light of the ungodly will go out,

and their flame will not go up.

His light *will be* darkness in *his* dwelling,

and his lamp will be put out with him.

May the least of men chase down his possessions,

and may his counsel trip *him* up.

His foot has also been caught in a snare,

*and* may he be entangled in a net.

May snares come upon him!

He will strengthen those who thirst for his destruction.

His snare is hidden in the ground,

and the means of his capture by the path.

May pains destroy him on every side,

and may many *enemies* come about him

with sever famine.

An extraordinary destruction has been prepared for him.

May the toes of his feet be devoured,

and death will consume his beauty.

May health be torn from his dwelling,

and may distress seize him by royal decree.

It will dwell in his tent in his night;

his good appearance will be sown with brimstone.

His roots will be dried up from below,

and his crop will fall off above.

His memorial will perish from the earth,

and his name will no longer be remembered.

May he be driven from light into darkness.

He will not be known among his people,

nor will his house be preserved on the earth;

but others will live in what is his.

The last groaned for him,

and wonder seized the first.

These are the houses of the unrighteous,

and this is the place of those who do not know the Lord.”

Job 19:1-27

Then Job answered and said,

“How long will you weary my soul

and destroy me with words?”

Know only that the Lord has dealt with me this way.

You speak against me; you shamelessly press hard against me.

Yes, indeed, I have truly erred,

my the error dwells with me,

in having spoken words that were not right *to speak*,

and my words err, and are inappropriate.

But alas! You magnify

yourselves against me,

and attack me with disgrace.

Know then that it is the Lord that has troubled *me*,

and has raised His stronghold against me.

Look, I laugh at reproach, and I will not speak;

I will cry not out, judgment is nowhere to be found.

I am fenced in all round, and cannot escape,

for He has set darkness before my face.

And He has stripped me of my glory,

and has taken the crown from my head.

He has torn me apart on every side, and I am gone,

and He has cut down my hope like a tree.

And he has dealt with me terribly in anger,

and has counted me as an enemy.

His troops came against me with one accord;

they surrounded me in my paths, lying in ambush.

My brothers stood far from me;

they have recognized strangers *rather* than me.

And my friends have become merciless.

My nearest kin have not acknowledged me,

and my close friends have forgotten me.

*As for* my household, and my maid-servants,

I was a stranger before them.

I called my servant, and he did not respond,

though I begged him with my lips.

And I implored my wife,

and summoned the sons of my concubines with flattery,

but they rejected me forever;

when I arise, they speak against me.

My acquaintances detest me,

and those whom I had loved rose up against me.

My muscles have decayed under my skin,

and my bones are held in *my* teeth.

Pity me, pity me, O friends,

for it is the hand of the Lord that has touched me.

Why do you persecute me as the Lord *does*,

and are not satisfied with my flesh?

For who would grant that my words be written,

and that they were recorded in a book forever,

with an iron pen and lead,

or be carved in rocks?

For I know that He who is about to undo me on the earth is eternal,

May my skin, which has endured these things, be raised up,

for these things have been accomplished for me by the Lord;

which I am conscious of,

which my eyes have seen, and not those of another,

all that has been fulfilled for me in *my* bosom.

Job 20:1-29

Then Sophar the Minite answered and said,

“I did not suppose that you would answer like this,

nor do you understand more than I.

I will hear the instruction of my shameful,

and the spirit of my understanding answers me.

Have you *not* known these things of old,

from the time that man was put on the earth?

But the merriment of the ungodly ends with a great fall,

and the joy of transgressors in destruction.

Although his gifts should go up to heaven,

and his sacrifice reaches the clouds.

Just when he seems to be firmly established,

then he will utterly perish;

and those who knew him will say, “Where is he?”

Like a dream that has fled away, he will not be found;

and he has fled like a vision of the night.

An eye caught a glimpse of him, but will not *see him* again,

and his place will see him no longer.

May *his* inferiors destroy his children,

and his hands kindle the fire of sorrow.

His bones were full with his youthful vigor,

which will lie down with him in the dust.

Though evil is sweet in his mouth,

*and* he will hide it under his tongue,

though he will not spare it, and will not leave it,

but will hold it in the middle of his throat,

yet he will not be able to help himself,

for the gall of an asp is in his belly.

*His* wealth, unjustly collected, will be vomited up,

a messenger will drag him out of his house.

May he suck the poison of serpents,

and let the serpent’s tongue kill him.

May he not see the milk of the pastures,

nor his supplies of honey and butter.

He has laboured unprofitably and in vain,

*for* wealth of which he will not taste;

*for it is* like tough meat that he cannot chew.

For he has crushed the houses of many weak people,

and he has seized a dwelling, though he did not build *it*.

There is no security to his possessions;

he will not be saved by what he desired.

Nothing is left for him to eat;

Therefore, his goods will not flourish.

But when he at last seems to be satisfied, he will be afflicted,

and every distress will come upon him.

If somehow he should fill his belly,

let *God* send the fury of wrath upon him,

let Him bathe him in pains.

And he will not escape from the power of the sword;

may a bronze bow wound him.

May an arrow pierce through his body,

and may lighting strike his dwelling.

May terrors come upon him.

May total darkness await him.

A fire that does not burns out will consume him.

May a stranger plague his house.

May the heaven uncover his lawless acts,

and may the earth rise up against him.

May destruction bring his house to an end,

and may a day of wrath come upon him.

This is the portion of an ungodly man from the Lord,

and the possession of his goods *appointed to him* by the One who watches him.

Job 21:1-34

Then Job answered and said,

“Listen, listen to my words,

that I may not have this consolation from you.

Raise me, and I will speak;

then you will not laugh me to scorn.

What? Is my argument with man?

And why should I not be angry?

Look at me, and marvel,

laying your hand on your cheek.

For even when I remember, I am alarmed,

and pains seize my flesh.

Why do the ungodly live, and grow old even in wealth?

Their offspring is according to *their* desire,

and their children are before their eyes.

Their houses are prosperous, and they have no cause for fear,

and there is no scourge from the Lord upon them.

Their cow does not miscarry,

and their pregnant *animal* is safe, and does not miscarry.

And they remain as an unfailing flock,

and their children play before *them*,

taking up the psaltery and harp;

and they rejoice at the sound of a song.

And they finish their life in wealth,

and fall asleep in the rest of Hades.

Yet *such a man* says to the Lord,

“Depart from me; I do not wish to know Your ways.

What is the Mighty One, that we should serve Him?

And what profit is there that we should approach Him?”

For their good things were in *their* hands,

but He does not regard the works of the ungodly.

Nevertheless, the lamp of the ungodly will also be put out,

and destruction will come upon them,

and sharp pains will seize them, because of wrath.

And they will be like chaff before the wind,

or like dust that the storm has sucked up.

May his possessions fail his children,

*God* will repay him, and he will know it.

May his eyes see his own slaughter,

and may he not be saved by the Lord.

For his desire is in his house with him,

and the number of his months has been cut off.

Is it not the Lord who teaches understanding and knowledge?

And does He not judge murders?

One will die in the strength of his simplicity,

and wholly at ease and prosperous.

And his inwards are full of fat,

and his marrow is dispersed.

And another dies in bitterness of soul,

not eating any good thing.

But they lie down together in the earth,

and decay covers them.

So I know you, that you presumptuously attack me.

You will say, “Where is the house of the ruler?

And where is the shelter of the dwelling of the ungodly?”

Ask those who pass by the way,

and do not overlook their signs.

For the evil man makes light of the day of destruction,

but they will be led away in the day of His destruction.

Who will tell him his way to his face?

He acted, who will repay him?

And he has been carried away to the tombs,

and watch is kept over the bier.

The pebbles of the valley have been sweet to him,

and every man will depart after him,

and *there are* innumerable before him.

How then do you comfort me with empty words,

since I have no rest from you?

Job 22:1-30

Then Eliphaz the Thaimanite answered and said,

“Is it not the Lord Who teaches understanding and knowledge?

For what does it matter to the Lord

if you were blameless in *your* works?

Or is it profitable that you should make your ways plain?

Will He argue with you, though you plead your case?

And will He enter into judgment with you?

Is your wickedness not abundant,

and are your sins innumerable?

For you have taken pledges of your brethren for no reason,

and have taken away the clothing of the naked.

Neither have you given the thirsty water to drink,

but withheld a morsel from the hungry.

And you have shown favour to some,

and established them on the land.

But you sent widows away empty,

and mistreated orphans.

Therefore, snares have surrounded you,

and a disastrous war has troubled you.

The light has proved to be darkness to you,

and water has covered you while you slept.

Does not He Who dwells on high observe?

And has He not humbled the proud?

And you have said, ‘What does the Mighty One know?

Will He judge down in the darkness?

A cloud is His hiding-place, and He will not be seen;

and He passes through the circle of heaven.’

Will you keep the old way,

which unjust men have walked,

who were seized before their time?

Whose foundations *are* a flooding river;

who say, ‘What will the Lord do to us?’

or ‘what will the Almighty bring upon us?’

Yet He filled their houses with good things;

but the counsel for the ungodly is far from Him.

The righteous have seen *it*, and laughed,

and the blameless mocked *them*.

Surely their substance has been destroyed,

and the fire will devour what is left.

Be firm, if you would endure;

then your fruit will prosper.

And receive a declaration from His mouth,

and lay up His words in your heart.

And if you turn and humble yourself before the Lord,

you have removed unrighteousness far from your dwelling.

You will lay up *treasure* for yourself

in a heap on the rock;

and as though a rock of a torrent of water of Ophir.

So the Almighty will be your helper from enemies,

and He will render pure as silver tried by fire.

Then you will speak freely before the Lord,

looking up cheerfully to heaven.

And He will hear you when you pray to Him,

and He will grant you to pay your vows.

And He will restore righteousness to your dwelling,

and there will be light on your paths.

You will say, ‘man behaved proudly,

but he humbled himself;

and He will save him who bows down his eyes.’

He will deliver the innocent,

and save yourself by the purity of your hands.”

Job 25:1-26:14

Then Baldad the Sauchite answered and said,

“What beginning or fear is His—

He Who makes all things in the highest?

For may no one think that there is a respite for robbers,

and upon whom will there not come ambush from Him?

How will a mortal be righteous before the Lord?

Or who that is born of a woman can purify himself?

If He gives an order to the moon, then it shines not,

and the stars are not pure before Him.

But alas! Man is decay, and the son of man is a worm.”

But Job answered and said,

“To whom are you devoted,

or whom are you going to assist?

is it not He Who *has* great strength,

and *He* Who has a strong arm?

To whom have you given counsel?

Is it not to Him who has all wisdom?

Whom will you follow?

is it not He who has the greatest power?

To whom have you uttered words?

And whose breath is it that has come forth from you?

Will giants be born under the water

and the inhabitants thereof?

Hades is naked before Him,

and destruction has no covering.

He stretches out the north wind over nothing,

and He hangs the earth upon nothing.

Binding water in His clouds,

and the cloud is not torn open under it.

He grasps the face of His throne,

and spreads His cloud over it.

He encompassed the face of the water by a decree,

until the end of light and darkness.

The pillars of heaven were spread all over

and astonished at His rebuke.

He calmed the sea with *His* might,

and by knowledge He struck down the sea-creature.

And the bars of heaven fear him,

and by a command He has slain the rebellious dragon.

Look, these are parts of His way,

and we will listen to Him at the least of his words.

But who knows when He will employ the strength of his thunder?

Job 28:12-28

But where has wisdom been discovered?

And what is the place of understanding?

No mortal knows its way,

ant is it not discovered among men.

The deep said, “It is not in me;”

and the sea said, “It is not with me.”

One cannot give fine gold instead of it,

and silver cannot be weighed in exchange for it.

It cannot be compared with gold of Ophir,

with the precious onyx and sapphire.

Gold and crystal cannot equal it,

nor can vessels of gold be its exchange.

Coral and fine pearl shall not be mentioned,

but you must esteem wisdom above the most precious things.

The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it;

it cannot be compared with pure gold.

Where then has wisdom been discovered?

And what is the place of understanding?

No mortal knows its way,

and has been hidden from the birds of the air.

Destruction and Death said,

“We have heard of its fame.”

God has established well its way,

and He knows the its place.

For He observed the all that is under heaven,

knowing all the things in the earth, which He has made—

the weight of the winds, and the measures of the water.

When He made *them*, He saw and numbered them,

and made a way for the claps the thunder.

Then He saw wisdom, and declared it;

He prepared it *and* traced it out.

And He said to man, “See, the fear of God is wisdom,

and to abstain from evil is understanding.”

Job 29:2-20

Who might put me in a month of former days,

when God protected me!

As when His lamp shone over my head,

when by His light I walked through darkness,

*as* when I steadfastly pursued my ways,

when God would visit my house,

when I was very had great substance,

and my children were around me,

when my roads were flowing with butter,

and the hills flowed with milk,

when I would go out early into the city,

and my seat was placed for me in the square.

The young men saw me, and hid,

and all the old men stood up.

And the great men stopped talking,

and put their finger to their mouth.

And those who heard *me* blessed me,

and their tongues stuck to their throats.

For the ear heard, and blessed me,

and the eye saw me, and turned aside.

For I saved the poor from the hand of the oppressor,

and helped the orphan, who had no helper.

Let the blessing of the perishing man come upon me,

And the widow’s mouth blessed me.

Yes, I put on righteousness,

and clothed myself with judgment like a cloak.

I was the eye of the blind, and the foot of the lame.

I was the father of the helpless,

and I searched out the cause that I did not know.

And I broke the molars of the unrighteous,

and plucked the spoil from the midst of their teeth.

And I said, “My age will continue as the stem of a palm tree;

I will live a long while.”

*My* root was spread out by the waters,

and the dew would settle on my crop.

My glory was fresh within me,

and my bow prospered in its hand.

Job 30:9-32:5

“But now I am their lyre,

and they have me as a by-word.

They abhorred me, standing far off,

and did not spared my face their spit.

For He has opened his quiver and afflicted me.

They have cast off the restraint in my presence.

They have risen up against *me* on the right hand of *their* offspring;

they stretched out their foot,

and directed their ways of destruction against me.

My paths are ruined, for they have stripped off my garment.

He has shot at me with His arrows,

and He has treated me as He wishes;

I am overwhelmed with pains.

My pains return upon *me*;

my hope is gone like the wind,

and my safety like a cloud.

Even now my life will be poured forth upon me,

and days of anguish seize me,

by night my bones are set afire,

and my sinews are dissolved.

He has taken hold of my garment with great force,

He surrounds me like the collar of my coat.

And you regarded me like clay in the earth,

and my portion is in dust and ashes.

And I have cried to You, but You do not hear me.

They stood, and observed me.

You attacked me without mercy;

You have scourged me with a strong hand,

and you have appointed pains for me,

and You have cast me away from safety.

For I know that death will destroy me,

for the earth is the house for every mortal.

Oh that I might be able to lay hands on myself,

or at least ask another, and he should do this for me.

But I wept over every helpless man;

I groaned when I saw a man in distress.

But I, when I was intent on good things,

look, days of evils came upon me all the more.

My belly boiled, and will not be still;

the days of poverty outran me.

I have gone about, groaning without restraint,

and I have stood and cried out in the assembly.

I have become a brother of sirens,

and a companion of ostriches.

And my skin has been greatly blackened,

and my bones are burned with heat

My lyre has also been turned into mourning,

and my song into my weeping.

I made a covenant with my eyes,

and I will not think upon a virgin.

And what inheritance has God given from above?

and is there an inheritance of the Mighty One from the highest?

Do destruction not belong to the unrighteous,

and rejection to those who work iniquity?

Will He not see my way, and count all my steps?

But if I had walked with scorners,

and if too my foot has hurried to deceit,

then may He weigh me in a just balance,

for the Lord knows my innocence.

If my foot has turned aside from the way,

or if my heart has followed my eyes,

or if I have touched gifts with my hands,

then may I sow, and others eat.

Yes, let me be uprooted on the earth.

If my heart has followed after another man’s wife,

if I laid wait at her doors,

then let my wife also please another,

and let my children be humiliated.

For the rage of anger is uncontrollable

*in* defiling *another* man’s wife.

For it is a fire burning on every side,

and whoever it comes upon, it destroys root and branch.

And if I have despised the judgment of my male or female

when they pleaded with me,

what then will I do if the Lord should put me on trial?

And if He too visits me, what answer can I give?

Were they too not formed in the womb, just like me?

But the weak did not miss whatever they needed,

and I did not cause the eyes of the widow to fail.

And if too I ate my morsel alone,

and did not share it with the orphan

(for I nourished *them* as a father from my youth

and gave guidance from my mother’s womb.)

And if too I overlooked a naked person as he was perishing,

and did not clothe him;

and if the powerless did not bless me,

and their shoulders were *not* warmed with the fleece of my lambs,

if I raised my hand against an orphan,

trusting that my strength was far superior *to his*,

then let them my shoulder fall from the collarbone,

and let my arm be torn from its socket.

For the fear of the Lord controlled me,

and I cannot endure because of his burden.

If I made gold my strength,

or trusted the precious stone,

and if too I rejoiced when my wealth was great,

and if too I laid my hand on countless *treasures*

(do I not see the shining sun eclipsed,

and the moon waning? For they do not have *power to continue*);

and if my heart has been secretly deceived,

and if I have laid my hand upon my mouth and kissed it,

then let this too be reckoned to me as the greatest iniquity,

for I have lied against the Lord Most High.

And if too I was glad at the fall of my enemies,

and my heart said, “Good!

Then let my ear hear my curse,

and let me be a byword among my people in my affliction.

And if too my handmaids have often said,

“Who might grant us his meat to be satisfied?

(Though I was very kind,

and no stranger lodged outside,

and my door was opened to everyone who came);

or if too having sinned unintentionally, and I hid my sin,

(for I did not stand in awe of a great multitude,

so as not to confess boldly before them);

and if too I permitted a poor man to go out of my door

with empty pockets,

(Who might hear me?)

And if I had not feared the hand of the Lord,

I would place the document I had against someone

As a crown on my shoulders and read it,

and if I did not tear it up and return it,

having taken nothing from the debtor;

if at any time the land groaned against me,

and if its furrows wept together

and if I ate its strength alone, without payment,

and if I too grieved the heart of the owner of the land

by taking from *him*,

then let the nettle come up to me instead of wheat,

and a bramble instead of barley.”

And Job ceased speaking.

And his three friends also ceased answering Job, for Job was righteous before them. Then Elious the son of Barachiel, the Buzite, of the family of Ram, of the country of Ausitis, became angry; and he was very angry with Job, because he justified himself before the Lord. And he was also very angry with *his* three friends, because they were unable to give answers to Job, yet made him out to be an ungodly man.

But Elious had wated to give an answer to Job,

because they were older than he.

And Elious saw that there was no answer

on the lips of the three men,

and his anger was inflamed.

Job 32:6-16

And Elious the son of Barachiel ,the Buzite, answered and said,

I am younger in age, and you are the elder,

therefore I kept silent,

and did not dare to declare my knowledge to you.

And I said, “It is not time that speaks,

and in many years, *men* know wisdom.”

Rather, there is a spirit in mortals,

and the inspiration of the Almighty is what teaches.

The long-lived are not always wise,

nor do the aged always know judgment.

Therefore I said, “Listen to me,

and I will tell you what I know.”

Listen to my words,

for I will speak in your hearing,

until you have put words to the test.

And I will understand as far as you.

And, look, not one of you answered Job in argument;

lest you should say, “We have found that we have added wisdom to the Lord.”

And you have permitted a man to speak such words!

They were afraid, they answered no more;

they gave up their words.

I waited, (for I had not spoken,)

because they stood still, they did not answer.

Job 32:17-33:33

And Elious continued, and said,

“Again, I will speak, for I am full of words;

for the spirit of my stomach is killing me.

And my stomach is like a skin of sweet new wine,

bound up *and* ready to burst,

or like the bellows of a coppersmith, ready to bellow.

I will speak, that I may open my lips and relieve myself.

For truly I will not be in awe of a man,

nor indeed will I be ashamed before a mortal.

For I do not know how to respect persons,

or else moths would eat me.

Nonetheless, hear my words, O Job,

and listen to what I say.

For look, I have opened my mouth,

and my tongue has spoken.

By my words, my heart *will be found* pure,

and the understanding of my lips will meditate purity.

It is the Divine Spirit that has made me,

and the breath of the Almighty that teaches me.

If you can, give me an answer to these things;

wait, take a stand against me, and I *will stand* against you.

You are formed from clay, just as I am;

we have been formed from the same *thing*.

My fear will not terrify you,

nor will my hand be heavy upon you.

But you have said in my hearing,

(I heard the voice of your words;)

for you say, “I am pure, not having sinned;

I am blameless, for I have not transgressed.

Yet He has found a charge against me,

and He has counted me as an enemy.

And He has put my foot in the stocks,

and has watched all my ways.”

For how can you say, “I am righteous, and He has not listened to me”?

For He that is above mortals is eternal.

But you say, “Why has he not heard every word of my cause?”

For when the Lord speaks once,

or a second time, *through* a dream,

or in the meditation of the night;

(as when a dreadful fear falls upon men

while slumbering on their bed),

then He opens the human heart,

and frightens them with such fearful visions,

to turn a man from unrighteousness,

and he delivers his body from a fall.

He spares his soul from death,

and *does not allow* him not to fall in war.

And again, he chastens him with sickness on his bed,

and a great many of his bones grow stiff.

And he will not be able to take any food,

though his soul may long for it,

until his flesh wastes away,

and he shows his bones bare.

His soul also draws near to death,

and his life is in Hades.

Though there should be a thousand messengers of death,

not one of them will wound him.

If he purposes in his heart to turn to the Lord,

and declares his fault to men, and show his folly,

He will support him, that he should not perish,

and will restore his body like *fresh* plaster upon a wall,

and He will fill his bones with morrow.

And He will make his flesh tender like a baby’s,

and He will restore him among men in *his* full strength.

And he will pray to the Lord, and his prayer will be accepted.

He will enter with a cheerful face, with an expression full *of praise*,

for He will give to men with righteousness.

Even then, a man will blame himself, saying,

“What kind of things have I done?

And He has not punished me according to the full amount of my sins.”

Save my soul from going down into decay,

and my life will see the light.

Look, the Mighty one works all these things

three ways with a man.

But He has delivered my soul from death,

that my life may praise him in the light.

Listen, Job, and hear me;

be silent, and I will speak.

If you have words, answer me;

speak, for I desire you to be justified.

If not, listen to me;

be silent, and I will teach you wisdom.

Job 34:1-37

And Elious continued, and said,

“Hear me, O you wise men;

O you who have knowledge, pay attention to what is good.

For the ear tries words

as the mouth tastes food.

Let us choose judgment for ourselves;

let us know amount ourselves what is good.

For Job has said, ‘I am righteous,

the Lord has removed my judgment.’

And he has erred in my judgment, when he said,

‘my wound is severe, though I am without unrighteousness.’

What man is like Job,

drinking scorning like water?

*For he says*, ‘I have not sinned, nor committed ungodliness,

nor had fellowship with workers of iniquity,

to walk with the ungodly.’

For you should not say, ‘There will be no visitation of a man,’

and *there is* a visitation on him from the Lord!

Therefore, hear me, you that are wise in heart:

far be it from me to sin before the Lord,

and to pervert righteousness before the almighty.

Yes, He renders to a man as each one of them does,

and in a man’s path He will find him.

And do you think that the Lord will do wrong,

or will the Almighty Who made the earth pervert judgment?

And who is He that created everything under heaven,

and all things therein?

For if He would hold and restrain His spirit within Himself,

all flesh would die together,

and every mortal would return to the earth, from which he was formed.

Take heed *to this*, lest he rebuke *you*;

hear this, listen to the sound of words.

Look then at the One Who hates iniquities,

and Who destroys the wicked,

Who is forever just.

*He is* ungodly that says to a king,

‘You are a transgressor,’

and to rulers, ‘O most ungodly one.’

*Such a man* is not ashamed

before the face of an honourable man,

nor knows how to give honour to the great,

so that their persons should be respected.

But it will prove to be in vanity for them to cry out and entreat a man;

for they dealt unlawfully when they turned aside the weak.

For He observes the works of men,

and nothing of what they do has escaped Him.

Neither will there be a place

for the workers of iniquity to hide themselves.

For He will not put upon a man any longer.

For the Lord looks down upon all men.

He comprehends unsearchable things,

glorious and extraordinary things without number.

He discloses their workings,

and He will bring night about *upon them*, and they will be brought low

And He extinguishes the ungodly

for they are seen before Him.

Because they turned aside from the law of God,

and did not regard His ordinances,

so as to bring before Him the cry of the needy;

for He will hear the cry of the poor.

And He will give quiet, and who will condemn?

And He will hide His face, and who will see Him?

Whether *it be done* against a nation, or against a man also;

causing a hypocrite to be king,

because of the discontentment of the people.

For *there is* one that says to the Mighty One,

‘I have received *blessings*; I will not take a pledge;

I will see apart from myself;

show me if I have done unrighteousness,

and I will do so no more.’

Will He take vengeance for it on you,

because you will reject?

For you will choose, and not I,

therefore, speak what you know.

Because the wise in heart will say this,

and a wise man listens to my word.

But Job has not spoken with understanding,

and his words are without knowledge.

Bit learn, Job, do not answer as the foolish any longer,

that we do not add to our sins;

for iniquity will be counted against us,

if *we* speak many words before the Lord.”

Job 35:1-16

And Elious resumed and said,

“What is this that you consider as right?

Who are you that you have said, ‘I am righteous before the Lord?’

Or will you say, ‘What have I done, if I have sinned?’

I will answer you, and your three friends.

Look up to the heaven and see,

and observe the clouds, how high *they are* above you.

If you have sinned, what will you do?

And if you have transgressed much, what can you do?

And suppose you are righteous, what will you give Him?

Or what will He receive from your hand?

Your ungodliness *may affect* a man who is like you,

or your righteousness a son of man.

Those who are falsely accused by a multitude will cry out;

they will call for help because of the strength of many.

But no one said, ‘Where is the God Who made me,

Who appoints the night watches;

Who sets me apart from the four-footed animals of the earth,

and from the birds of the air?’

There they will cry out, and no one will listen,

because of the insolence of wicked men.

For the Lord does not desires to look on wrongdoing,

for He, the Almighty, beholds

those who perform lawless acts, and He will save me!

And submit to judgment before Him,

if you can praise Him, as it is now *possible*.

For He is not regarding his wrath now,

nor taking notice of very great transgression.

Yet Job opens his mouth in vain,

in ignorance he burdens us with words.”

Job 36:1-32

And Elious further continued, and said,

“Wait from me a little longer, so that I may teach you,

for there is still more speech in me.

Having fetched my knowledge from afar,

and in my efforts, I will speak what is just,

in truth, and you will not receive unjust words.

But know that the Lord will not cast off an innocent man;

being mighty in strength of wisdom,

He will not save alive the ungodly,

and He will grant the judgment of the poor.

He will not turn His eyes away from the righteous,

but *He will seat them* with kings on the throne,

and He will establish them in triumph, and they will be exalted.

But they that are bound in handcuffs

will be held in the cords of poverty.

And He will tell them their works, and their transgressions,

for such will act with violence.

But he will listen to the righteous,

and He has said that they will turn from unrighteousness.

If they listen and serve *Him*,

they will spend their days in prosperity,

and their years in honour.

But He does not save the ungodly,

because they are not willing to know the Lord,

and because they refused to listen when they were admonished.

And the hypocrites in heart will array wrath *against themselves*;

they will not cry out, because He has bound them.

Therefore let their soul die in youth,

and their life be wounded by messengers *of death*.

Because they afflicted the weak and helpless;

and He will manifest the judgment of the meek.

And He has also enticed you out of the mouth of the enemy,

*there is* a deep gulf *and* a rushing stream beneath it,

and your table came down full of fatness.

Judgment will not fail from the righteous,

but there will be wrath upon the ungodly,

on account of the ungodliness of the bribes that they received for iniquities.

Do not let your mind willingly turn you aside

from the petition of the weak who are in distress.

And do not draw out all the mighty *men* by night,

so that the people should go up instead of them.

But guard yourself, so that you not do what is wrong,

for you choose this because of poverty.

Look, the Mighty One will prevail by His strength,

for who is mighty like He is?

And who is it that examines His works?

Or who can say, ‘He has done injustice?’

Remember that His works are great,

*beyond* those that men have attempted.

Everyone has seen in himself

how many mortals are wounded.

Look, the Mighty One is great,

and we will not know *Him*;

the number of his years is boundless.

And He numbers the drops of rain,

and they will be poured out in rain to form a cloud.

The ancient *heavens* will flow,

and the clouds overshadow innumerable mortals.

He has fixed a time for cattle,

and they know the appointed time for rest.

*Yet* your mind is not astonished by all these things,

and your heart does not leap out of *your* body.

And even if one should understand the spreading out of the clouds,

*or* the measure of His tent,

look, He will stretch his bow against him,

and He covers the bottom of the sea.

For He will judge the nations by them;

He will give food to him that has strength.

He has hidden the light in *his* hands,

and has given orders concerning to the cloud that diverts it.

Job 37:1-24

At this also my heart was troubled,

and dropped out of its place.

Listen to a report in the anger of the Lord’s wrath,

and a discourse will come out of His mouth.

His dominion is under the whole heaven,

and His light is to the ends of the earth.

Behind Him a voice will cry out;

He will thunder with the voice of his outrage,

yet He will not cause men to pass away,

for one will hear His voice.

The Mighty One will thunder wondrously with His voice,

for He has done great things, which we cannot know,

commanding the snow, “Fall upon the earth,”

and the rain, and the winter storms of His might.

He seals up the hand of every man,

so that everyone may know his own weakness.

And the wild animals come in under shelter,

and rest in *their* lairs.

The whirlwinds come from their secret chambers,

and cold from the mountaintops.

And by the breath of the Mighty One, He will send frost,

and He guides the water as He wishes.

And *if* a cloud obscures *what is* precious *to Him*,

His light will disperse the cloud.

And He will swirl around the encircling *clouds* by His governance,

to *perform* their works, whatever He commands them;

this has been appointed by Him on the earth,

whether for correction, *or* for his land,

or if He will find *an object* for mercy.

Listen to this, O Job.

Stand still, and be warned of the power of the Lord.

We know that God has appointed His works,

having made light out of darkness.

And He knows the divisions of the clouds,

and the violent falls of the ungodly.

But your robe is warm,

and there is quiet upon the land.

Will you establish foundations

for the ancient heavens with Him*?*

*They are* strong as a molten mirror.

Why? Teach me, what will we say to him?

And let us cease from saying much.

Do I have a book or a scribe by me,

that I may stand and put man to silence?

But the light is not visible to all.

It shines far off in the heavens,

as that which is from Him in the clouds.

From the *north* come the clouds, shining like gold;

in these great are the glory and honour of the Almighty.

And we do not find another equal to Him in strength.

Do you not think He Who judges righteously listens?

Therefore, men will fear Him,

and the wise in heart will fear Him.

Job 38:1b-36

And the Lord spoke to Job through a whirlwind and clouds,

“Who is this who hides counsel from Me,

and hides words in *his* heart,

and thinks to conceal *them* from Me?

Gird your loins like a man,

and I will question you, and you will answer Me!

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Now tell Me, if you have understanding,

who determines its measures, if you know?

Or who stretched a line upon it?

On what rings is it fastened?

And who laid the cornerstone upon it?

When the stars were made,

all my angels praised Me with a loud voice.

Again, I shut up the sea with gates,

when it rushed out, coming from its mother’s womb.

And I made a cloud its clothing,

and swaddled it in mist.

And I set bounds to it,

surrounding it with bars and gates.

And I said to it, ‘This far you will come,

but you will not go beyond;

but your waves will be confined within your.’

Or was it in your time that I ordered the morning light,

and the morning star saw its post;

to take hold of the ends of the earth,

to shake the ungodly off of it?

Or did you take clay of the ground,

and form a living creature,

and set it with the power of speech upon the earth?

And have you removed light from the ungodly,

and crushed the arm of the proud?

Or have you gone to the source of the sea,

and walked in the tracks of the deep?

And do the gates of death open to you out of fear,

and did the doorkeepers of Hades quake when they saw you?

And have you been instructed in the breadth of the *all that is* under heaven?

Tell me now, what is the extent of it?

And in what kind of a land does the light dwell?

And of what kind is the place of darkness?

If you could bring me to their boarders,

and if you also know their paths,

then I will know that you were born at that time,

and *that* the number of your years is great!

And have you gone to the storehouses of the snow?

And have you seen the storehouses of the hail?

Are they stored for you against the time of *your* enemies,

for a day of war and battle?

And from where does the frost come?

Or *from where* is the south wind dispersed over the *whole world* under heaven?

And who prepared a course for the violent rain,

or a path for the thunders?

To *bring* rain on the land where *there is* no man,

the wilderness, where there is not a man in it,

to feed the untrodden and uninhabited *land*,

and to cause it to bring forth a crop of greenery?

Who is the rain’s father?

And who has begotten the drops of dew?

And from whose womb does the ice come?

And who has given birth to the frost in the sky,

which descends like flowing water?

Who has frozen the face of the deep?

And do you understand the band of Pleides,

and have you opened the barrier of Orion?

Or will you open Mazouroth in its season,

and the Evening Star with its rays?

Will you guide them?

And do you know the movements of heaven,

or the events that take place together under heaven?

And will you call a cloud with your voice,

and will it obey you with a violent shower of much rain?

And will you send lightnings, and they will go?

And will they say to you, ‘What is it?’

And who has given skill in weaving to women,

or knowledge of embroidery?”

Job 38:37-39:30

“Who numbers the clouds in wisdom,

and bowed down the heaven to earth?

When the dust was poured out like soil,

But I have cemented it, like a cut stone to another?

Will you hunt the prey for the lions?

Or satisfy the appetite of serpents?

They fear in their dens,

living in the woods to lie in wait.

Who provides food for the raven?

For its young ones cry to God

as they wander, searching for food.

Do you know the time when the wild rock goats bear young?

*Or* can you mark when the deer gives birth?

Can you number the months of their childbearing?

Or have you relieved their birth pangs?

Or have you reared their young without fear?

Their young ones will break forth;

they will be multiplied with offspring;

they depart, and do not return.

Who has set the wild donkey free?

Who has loosed its bonds?

I have made the wilderness his home,

and the barren land his dwellings.

He scorns the multitude of the city,

and does not hear the chiding of the tax collector.

It will survey the range of the mountains *as* its pasture,

and search after every green thing.

Will the unicorn be willing to serve you,

or lie down in your manger?

Can you bind its yoke with ropes?

Or will it plow your furrows in the plain?

Will you trust it, because its strength *is* great?

Or will you leave your labour to it?

Will you believe it, that it will return your seed to you,

and gather *it into* your threshing floor?

The wings of the falcon wave proudly,

but are its wings like the stork’s?

For falcons leave their eggs on the ground,

and warm them in dust,

and forgets that the foot may crush them,

or that the wild animals may trample them.

She is hardened against her young ones,

as though *they were* not hers.

her labour is in vain without fear,

because God has deprived her of wisdom,

and did not give understanding to her.

When she lifts herself on high,

she scorns the horse and its rider.

Have you given the horse strength?

Have you clothed its neck with terror?

Did you give it full honour,

And make its breast glorious with courage?

It paws in the plain,

and rejoices in *its* strength.

It goes on to meet the armed men.

It mocks at battle when it sees it,

and will never turn back from the sword.

The bow and the sword resound against it,

And its rage will stamp out the earth.

It will not believe until the trumpet sounds,

But when the trumpet sounds, it says, “Good, well done!”

It smells the battle from far off, with leaping and shouting.

Does the hawk fly by your wisdom,

*and* spread its wings, motionless, looking toward the south?

Does the eagle mount up at your command,

and the vulture remain upon its nest?

She sits and stays on the rock,

upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place.

From there she seeks prey,

*and* her eyes see far off.

Her young ones are drenched in blood,

and where the slain *are*, they are found there.”

Job 40:1-41:34

And the Lord God answered Job, and said,

“Will *anyone* pervert judgment with the Mighty One?

and He who reproved God will answer for it.”

And Job answered and said to the Lord,

”Why do I yet contend—being rebuked even while reproving the Lord,

hearing such things—when I am nothing?

And what answer will I give to these *things*?

I will lay my hand on my mouth.

I have spoken once, but I will not do so a second time.”

And the Lord yet again answered and spoke to Job out of the cloud,

“No, gird up your loins like a man,

and I will question you, and you will answer me.

Do not set aside my judgment.

And do you think that I have dealt with you in any other way,

than that you might appear to be righteous?

Do you hast an arm like the Lord’s?

Or do you thunder with a voice like His?

Assume now a majesty and power,

and clothe yourself with glory and honour.

And send forth messengers with wrath

and humble every insolent one.

Extinguish the proud man,

and consume at once the ungodly.

And hide them together in the earth

and fill their faces with shame.

*Then* I will confess that your right hand can save *you*.

But look now at the wild animals with you.

They eat grass like oxen.

See now, his strength is in his loins,

and his power is in the center of his stomach.

He sets up his tail like a cypress;

his nerves are tightly knit.

His ribs are like ribs of bronze,

and his backbone is *like* cast iron.

This is the chief of the creation of the Lord,

made to be mocked at by His angels.

And when he has gone up to a steep mountain,

he causes joy to the four-footed animals in Tartarus.

He lies under every kind of trees,

by the papyrus, reed, and bulrush.

And the great trees shade him with their branches,

and *so do* the bushes of the field.

If there should be a flood, he will not notice it;

he trust that Jordan will rush up into his mouth.

*Yet one* shall take him in his eyes,

*one* will catch *him* with a snare, and pierce his nose.

But will you catch the serpent with a hook,

and put a halter about his nose?

Or will you fasten a ring in his nose,

and pierce his lip with a hook?

Will he address you with a petition,

softly, with the voice of a suppliant?

And will he make a covenant with you?

And will you take him for a perpetual servant?

And will you play with him like with a bird?

Or cage him like a sparrow for a child?

And do the nations feed on it,

and do the Phoenician nations divide it up?

And all the ships together would not be able to carry merely the skin of its tail,

or *carry* its head in fishing vessels.

But you will lay your hand on it,

remembering the battle that is waged by its mouth,

and let it not be done any more!

Have you not seen it?

And have you not wondered at the things said *of it*?

Do you not fear because preparation has been made by Me?

For who able to stand against Me?

Who will stand against Me, and endure,

since all that is under heaven is Mine?

I will not be silent because of it,

though because of its power *one* will pity its antagonist.

Who remove its outer garment?

And who can enter within the fold of its breastplate?

Who will open the doors of its face?

Terror is round about its teeth.

Its inwards are like brazen plates,

and the texture of its *skin* as a smyrite stone.

One *part* clings to another,

and the air cannot come between them.

They will remain united each to the other,

they are bound together, and cannot be separated.

At its sneezing a light shines,

and its eyes have the appearance of the morning star.

Out of its mouth proceed flaming torches,

and fiery braziers are being cast forth.

Out of its nostrils proceeds smoke

of a furnace burning with fire of coals.

Its breath is live coals,

and a flame goes out of its mouth.

And power dwells in its neck;

destruction runs before him.

The muscles of its body are joined together.

*if one* pours *violence* upon it, it will not be shaken.

Its heart is hard as a stone,

and it stands like an unyielding anvil.

And when it turns, *it is* a terror

to the four-footed wild animals that leap on the earth.

If sword reaches it, *it* will do nothing,

*nor* the spear or the breast-plate.

For it regards iron as chaff,

and bronze as rotten wood.

The bronze bow will not wound it;

the sling-stone is like grass to it.

Hammers are counted as straw,

and it laughs to scorn the waving of the firebrand.

Its bed is *like* sharp skewers,

and all the gold of the sea under him

is like a great *amount of* clay.

It makes the deep boil like a brazen pot,

and it regards the sea like a pot of ointment,

and the lowest part of the deep as a captive.

It considers the deep as *its walking* range.

There is nothing on the earth like it,

made to be mocked at by My angels.

It beholds every high thing;

and it is king over all that are in the waters.”

Job 42:1-6

Then Job answered the Lord and said,

“I know that You can do all things,

and nothing is impossible for You.

For who is he that hides counsel from You?

Or who keeps back his words,

and thinks to hide them from You?

And who will tell me what I did not know,

great and wonderful things that I did not know?

But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak.

And I will ask You, and please teach me.

I have heard the report of You by the ear before,

but now My eye has seen You.

Therefore, I disparage myself, and waste away,

and I regard myself as dust and ashes.”

Job 42:7-17

And it happened, after the Lord had spoken all these words to Job, *that* the Lord said to Eliphaz the Thaimanite, “You have sinned, and your two friends, for you have not spoken anything true before My presence, as my servant Job *has*. Now then, take seven calves and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and he will offer a burnt offering for you. And my servant Job will pray for you, for I will only accept his face, for if not for him, I would have destroyed you, for what you have spoken against my servant Jab is not the truth.” So Eliphaz the Thaimanite, and Baldad the Sauchite, and Sophar the Minite went and did as the Lord commanded them, and He absolved them of their sin for Job’s sake.

And the Lord prospered Job, and when he prayed also for his friends, He forgave them *their* sin. And the Lord gave Job twice as much, even double what he had before.

And all his brothers and his sisters heard about all that had happened to him, and they came to him, as *did* all that had known him from the first. And they ate and drank with him, and comforted him, and they wondered at all that the Lord had brought upon him. And each one gave him a lamb, and four drachms’ weight of unstamped gold.

And the Lord blessed the latter years of Job, *more* than his beginning. and his livestock consisted of fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. And there were born to him seven sons and three daughters. And he named the first Day, and the second Cassia, and the third Amalthia’s horn. And in all the land there were not found any women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. And Job lived after *his* affliction one hundred and seventy years, and all the years he lived were two hundred and forty-eight; and Job saw his sons and his sons’ sons, for four generations. And Job died, an old man and full of days.

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom sings in the streets,

and speaks boldly in the squares,

and she preaches on the top of the walls,

and waits at the gates of princes,

and at the gates of the city she boldly says,

“As long as the simple hold on to righteousness,

they will not be ashamed;

but the fools, since they are lovers of pride,

having become ungodly, they hated knowledge,

and have become subject to reproofs.

Behold, I will bring forth to you

the utterance of my breath,

and I will teach you my word.

Since I called, and you did not listen,

and I spoke at length, and you paid no attention,

but you made my counsels invalid,

and disregarded my reproofs,

therefore I will laugh at your destruction,

and I will rejoice when ruin comes upon you.

Yes, when confusion comes upon you unexpectedly,

and destruction arrives like a whirlwind,

and when affliction and anguish come upon you,

and when ruin comes upon you.

For it will be that when you call upon me,

I will not listen to you;

evil people will seek me,

but will not find *me*,

for they hated wisdom,

and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

nor would they pay attention to my counsels,

but despised my reproofs.

Therefore, they will eat the fruits of their own way,

and will be filled with their own ungodliness.

For since they wronged the simple, they will be killed,

and an inquiry will ruin the ungodly.

But he who listens to me will live in hope,

and will be at ease, without fear of any evil.

Proverbs 2:1-15

*My* son, if you will receive the words of my commandment,

and hide them within yourself,

your ear will listen to wisdom,

and you will apply your heart to understanding,

and you will apply it to the instruction of your son.

For it you call upon wisdom,

and raise your voice for understanding;

and if you seek it like silver,

and search for it like treasure,

then you will understand the fear of the Lord,

and you will find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom,

and knowledge and understanding come from His presence,

and he stores up salvation for the upright;

He will protect their journey,

that He might guard the righteous ways,

and He will protect the way of those who reverence Him.

Then you will understand righteousness and judgement,

and you will direct all your course straight.

For if wisdom comes into your mind,

and discernment seems pleasing to your soul,

then good counsel will guard you,

and holy insight will guard you,

in order to rescue you from an evil way,

and from the man who speaks nothing trustworthy.

Woe to those who abandon right paths

to walk in ways of darkness,

who rejoice in evil,

and delight in wicked perverseness,

whose ways are crooked,

and whose paths are devious.

Proverbs 2:17-3:4

*My* son, do not let evil counsel overtake you,

that which forsakes the instruction of your youth,

and has forgotten the divine covenant.

For it establishes its house near death,

and its paths near Hades, with the dead;

all those who journey there do not return,

nor do they lay hold of straight paths,

for they do not comprehend the years of life.

For if they had walked in good paths,

they would have found the smooth paths righteousness.

The upright will inhabit the earth,

and the innocent will be left in it,

for the upright will encamp on the earth

and the holy will be left in in it;

The ways of the ungodly will perish from the earth,

and transgressors will be banished from it.

*My* son, do not forget My laws,

but let your heart keep my words;

for length of days, and years of life,

and peace, will be add to you.

Do not let almsgiving and faithfulness forsake you,

but fasten them on your neck,

and you will find favour,

and provide good things in the sight of the Lord, and of men.

Proverbs 3:5-18b

Trust in God with all your heart,

and do not exalt in your own wisdom.

In all your ways acquaint yourself with her,

that she may make your paths straight,

and your foot will not stumble.

Do not be wise in your own eyes,

but fear God, and turn away from every evil.

Then there will be healing for your body,

and treatment for your bones.

Honour the Lord with your just labours,

and offer Him the firstfruits of righteousness

that your storehouses may be filled with an abundance of grain,

and your presses may gush with wine.

*My* son, do not despise the discipline of the Lord,

or faint when you are rebuked by Him.

For whom the Lord loves, he disciplines, and He punishes every son He receives.

Blessed is the man who has found wisdom,

and the mortal who knows discernment.

For it is better to trade for her than

for treasures of gold and silver.

And she is more valuable than precious stones;

no evil thing will resist her;

she is well known to all who come near to her,

and no precious thing is equal to her in value.

For length of days and years of life are in her right hand,

and in her left hand are wealth and glory;

righteousness proceeds from her mouth,

and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Her ways are good ways,

and all her paths are peaceful.

She is a tree of life for all those who lay hold of her,

and she is steadfastness to all who lean

on her, as on the Lord.

Proverbs 3:19-4:9

God by wisdom founded the earth,

and He prepared the heavens with discernment.

By perception the depths were broken up,

and the clouds poured dew.

*My* son, do not be careless,

but keep my counsel and understanding,

that your soul may live,

and grace may be around your neck.

And it will be healing to your flesh,

and safety to your bones,

that you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways,

and that your foot may not stumble.

For if you sit down, you will be without fear,

and if you lie down, you will sleep pleasantly.

And you will not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you,

nor of the attacks of the ungodly when they come upon you.

For the Lord will be over all your ways,

and will plant your foot firmly that you may not be shaken.

Do not withhold doing good to the needy,

whenever your hand can help *him*.

Do not say, “Go, come back tomorrow and I will give,”

when you are able to do good,

for you do not know what the next day will bring.

Do not devise evil against your friend

who lives near you and trusts you.

Do not be ready to quarrel with a man without a cause,

lest he do you some harm.

Do not acquire the reproaches of evil men,

Nor desire their ways;

for every transgressor is unclean before the Lord,

and does not sit among the righteous.

The curse of God is in the houses of the ungodly,

but the dwellings of the righteous are blessed.

The Lord resists the proud,

but He gives grace to the humble.

The wise will inherit glory,

but the ungodly have exalted dishonour.

Listen, children, to the instruction of a father,

and pay attention that you might know his understanding.

For I offer you a good gift;

Do not forsake my law.

For I was also a son, and was obedient to *my* father,

and beloved in the sight of *my* mother,

who spoke and instructed me, *saying*,

“Let our words be fixed in your heart,

guard *our* commandments,

do not forget them,

and do not disregard the words of my mouth,

nor forsake it, and it will cling to you;

love it, and it will guard you.

Secure it, and it will exalt you;

honour it, that it may embrace you,

and give your head a crown of graces,

and cover you with a crown of delight.”

Proverbs 4:10-19

Listen, *my* son, and receive my words,

and the years of your life will be increased,

that the resources of your life may be many.

For I teach you the ways of wisdom,

and I set you in straight paths.

For when you walk, your steps will not be confined;

and when you run, you will not grow weary.

Take hold of my instruction; do not let it go,

but guard it for yourself as your life.

Do not go in the ways of the ungodly,

nor covet the ways of transgressors;

In whatever place they encamp, do not go there,

but turn aside from them, and pass by.

For they cannot sleep unless they have done evil;

their sleep is taken away, and they do not rest.

For they eat the bread of ungodliness,

and are drunk with wine of lawlessness.

But the ways of the righteous shine like a light;

they go on and shine until day is fully dawned.

But the ways of the ungodly are dark;

they do not know how they stumble.

Proverbs 4:20-27

*My* son, pay attention to my word,

and incline your ear to my words,

that your fountains may not fail you.

Keep them in *your* heart,

for they are life to those who find them,

and healing to all *their* flesh.

Keep your heart with all vigilance,

for from these words are the issues of life.

Remove from yourself a crooked mouth,

and remove unjust lips far away from yourself.

Let your eyes look straight ahead,

and let your eyelids assent *to* just *things*.

Make straight paths for your feet,

and straighten your ways.

Do not turn aside to the right or to the left,

but turn your foot away from an evil way,

for God knows the ways on the right hand,

but those on the left are twisted;

and He will make your paths straight,

and will guide your steps in peace.

Proverbs 5:1-12

*My* son, pay attention to my wisdom,

and incline your ear to my words,

that you may guard good thinking,

and I command you with the perception of my lips.

Pay no attention to a worthless woman,

for honey drops from the lips of a prostitute,

who for a season pleases your taste,

but afterwards you will find her more bitter than gall,

and sharper than a two-edged sword.

For the feet of folly lead those

who deal with her down to Hades with death,

and her footsteps are not planted,

for she does not travel the ways of life,

but her paths are slippery, and not easy to discern.

Now then, *my* son, listen to me me,

and do not make my words invalid.

Make your way far from her;

do not go near to the doors of her house,

lest you give away your life to others,

and your living to the merciless,

lest strangers be filled with your strength,

and your labours go into the houses of strangers.

And you will repent at the end,

when the flesh of your body is consumed,

and you will say, “How I hated discipline,

and my heart turned away from reproofs!”

Proverbs 8:1-11

You will proclaim wisdom,

that understanding may obey you;

for she is on lofty summit,

and stands in the midst of the ways.

For she sits beside the gates of princes,

and sings at the entrances, *saying*,

“You, O men, I exhort,

and I utter my voice to the sons of me;

O you simple ones, understand subtlety,

and you that are untaught, take heart.

Listen to me, for I will speak of serious things,

and I will bring forth what is right from my lips.

For my mouth will declare truth,

and false lips are an abomination before me.

All the words of my mouth are in righteousness;

there is nothing in them crooked or twisted.

They are all straightforward to those who understand,

and right to those who find knowledge.

Seize instruction, and not silver,

and knowledge rather than tried gold.

For wisdom is better than precious stones,

and no valuable thing is worthy of her.

Proverbs 8:12-21

I, wisdom, dwell *with* counsel,

and I call upon knowledge and understanding.

The fear of the Lord hates unrighteousness,

and both insolence and pride, and the ways of wicked;

and I the perverse ways of evil men.

Counsel and safety are mine;

prudence is mine, and strength is mine.

By me, kings reign,

and rulers decree justice.

By me, nobles become great,

and by me, monarchs rule over the earth.

I love those who love me,

and those who seek me will find *me*.

Wealth and glory belong to me,

and abundant possessions, and righteousness.

*It is* better to enjoy my fruits than gold and precious stones,

and my fruits are better than choice silver.

I walk in ways of righteousness,

and I *am* conversant with the paths of judgement;

that I may distribute substance to those who love me,

and may fill their treasures with good things.

Proverbs 8:22-36

The Lord created me the beginning of His ways

for the sake of His works.

He established me at the beginning, before time *was*,

before He made the earth, and before he made the depths,

before the fountains of water came forth,

before the mountains were established,

and before all hills, he begets me.

The Lord made the countries and the uninhabited *places*,

and the highest inhabited places under heaven.

When He prepared the heaven, I was present with Him,

and when He prepared His throne on the winds.

And when He strengthened the clouds above,

and when He secured the fountains of the earth,

and when He strengthened the foundations of the earth,

I was working beside Him;

it was I in whom He took delight.

And daily I rejoiced in His presence at every moment,

when He rejoiced after He had completed the world,

and rejoiced among the sons of men.

Now then, *my* son, hear me:

blessed is the man who will listen to me,

and the person who will guard my ways,

watching daily at my doors,

keeping watch at the posts of my entryways.

For my outgoings are the outgoings of life,

and grace is prepared from the Lord.

But those who sin against me act wickedly against their own souls,

and those who hate me love death.

Proverbs 9:1-11

Wisdom has built herself a house,

and supported it with seven pillars.

She has killed her sacrificial victims;

she has mixed her wine in a bowl,

and prepared her table.

She has sent out her servants,

calling with a stately proclamation to the feast, saying,

“He who is is foolish,

let him turn aside to me,”

and to those who lack understanding she says,

“Come, eat of my bread,

and drink wine that I have mixed for you.

Leave folly, and you will live,

and seek understanding so that you may live,

and keep straight your understanding with knowledge.”

He who chastises evil *men* will receive dishonour to himself,

and he who rebukes an ungodly *man* will disgrace himself.

Do not rebuke evil *men*, so they may not hate you;

rebuke a wise *man*, and he will love you.

Give an opportunity to a wise *man*, and he will become wiser;

instruct a righteous man, and he will continue to receive it.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

and the counsel of saints is understanding;

for to know the law is *the character* of a sound mind.

For in this manner you will live long,

and the years of your life will be increased.

Proverbs 9:12-18

My son, if you become wise in yourself,

you will also be wise for your neighbours;

but if you should prove *to be* evil,

you alone will bear the evil.

He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds,

and chase flying birds,

for he forsakes the ways of his own vineyard,

and strayed from the paths of his own farming;

and he will pass through a waterless desert,

a land destined for drought,

and gathers desolation with his hands.

A foolish and bold woman, who knows no shame,

becomes in need of a morsel.

She sits at the doors of her house,

on a seat openly in the streets,

calling to passersby,

who are going straight along their paths, *saying*,

”Whoever is most foolish among you,

let him turn aside to me,

and I exhort those who lack prudence, saying,

‘Take secret bread gladly,

and the sweet water of theft.’”

But he does not knows that the dead parish by her,

and he falls into a snare of Hades.

Proverbs 10:1-16

A wise son makes *his* father glad,

but a foolish son is a grief to his mother.

Treasures will not profit the lawless,

but righteousness will deliver from death.

The Lord will not let a righteous soul starve,

but He will overthrow the life of the ungodly.

Poverty makes a man humble,

but the hands of the vigorous make rich.

A son who is instructed will be wise,

and will use the fool for a servant.

A wise son is kept safe from heat,

but a lawless son is blasted by the winds at harvest time.

The blessing of the Lord is on the head of the righteous,

but untimely grief will cover the mouth of the ungodly.

The memory of the righteous is praised,

but the name of the ungodly *man* is extinguished.

A wise man will receive commandments in heart,

but he that is unguarded in his speech will be overthrown in his perverseness.

He who walks in integrity, walks confidently,

but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

He who winks with his eyes deceitfully earns griefs for men,

but he who reproves openly is a peacemaker.

*There is* a fountain of life in the hand of a righteous man,

but destruction will cover the mouth of the ungodly.

Hatred stirs up strife,

but affection covers all who do not love strife.

He who brings forth wisdom from his lips

strikes a heartless man with a rod.

The wise will conceal perception,

but the mouth of a rash man draws near to ruin.

The wealth of rich men is a strong city,

but poverty is the ruin of the ungodly.

The works of the righteous produce life,

but the fruits of the ungodly *produce* sins.

Proverbs 10:17-31

Instruction guards the right ways of life,

but unchastened instruction goes astray.

Righteous lips conceal enmity,

but those who utter slander are most foolish.

You will not escape sin by a multitude of words,

but if you refrain your lips you will be prudent.

The tongue of a righteous man is tried silver,

but the heart of the ungodly will fail.

The lips of the righteous know sublime *truths*,

but the foolish die in want.

The blessing of the Lord is on the head of the righteous,

it enriches *him*, and grief of heart will not be added to *it*.

A fool does evil things with laughter,

but wisdom brings forth prudence for a man.

The ungodly is engulphed in destruction,

but the desire of the righteous is acceptable.

When the storm passes by, the ungodly man vanishes away,

but the righteous man turns aside and will be saved forever.

As an unripe grape is harmful to the teeth, and smoke is to the eyes,

so iniquity hurts those who practice it.

The fear of the Lord adds days,

but the years of the ungodly will be shortened.

Gladness lingers with the righteous,

but the hope of the ungodly perishes.

The fear of the Lord is a strong hold for the saints,

but ruin *comes* to those who work evil.

The righteous will never fail,

but the ungodly will not inhabit the earth.

The mouth of the righteous drips wisdom,

but the tongue of the unjust will perish.

Proverbs 10:32-11:13

The lips of the righteous drip grace,

but the tongue of the ungodly turns people away.

False balances are an abomination before the Lord,

but a just weight is acceptable to Him.

Wherever pride enters, there will be also disgrace,

but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom.

When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret,

but the destruction of the ungodly at hand, and joyous.

[Possessions will not profit in a day of wrath,

but righteousness will deliver from death.]

Righteousness cuts straights and blameless paths,

but ungodliness embraces injustice.

The righteousness of upright men delivers them,

but transgressors are caught in their own destruction.

When a righteous man dies, hope does not perish,

but the boast of the ungodly perishes.

A righteous man escapes from a snare,

and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place.

There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of ungodly men,

but the perception of the righteous is prosperous.

A city is prosperous by the good deeds of the righteous,

but it is leveled to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly.

A man lacking discernment scorns *his fellow* citizens,

but a man of discernment keeps quiet.

A double-tongued man reveals the counsels of an assembly,

but he who is faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Proverbs 11:13-26

A double-tongued man reveals the counsels of an assembly,

but he who is faithful in spirit conceals matters.

Those who have no guidance fall like leaves,

but in much counsel there is safety.

A wicked man does harm wherever he meets a righteous man,

and he hates the sound of stability.

A gracious wife procures honour for her husband,

but a woman hating righteousness is a throne of dishonour.

The lazy come to want,

but the diligent support themselves with wealth.

A merciful man does good to his own soul,

but the merciless *person* destroys his own body.

An ungodly man does unrighteous works,

but the seed of the righteous is a reward of truth.

A righteous son is born to life,

but the pursuit of the ungodly *leads* to death.

Crooked ways are an abomination to the Lord,

but all those who are blameless in their ways are acceptable to Him.

He who unjustly joins hands will not go unpunished,

but he who sows righteousness will receive an assured reward.

The beauty of an evil-minded woman

is like a ring in a pig’s snout.

All the desire of the righteous is good,

but the hope of the ungodly will perish.

There are *those* who distribute their own things, and produce more,

and there are *those* also who gather, *yet* have less.

Every sincere soul is blessed,

but an ill-tempered man is not graceful.

May he who hoards grain leave it to the nations,

but may blessing be on the head of him who shares *it*.

He who devises good seeks good favour,

but he who seeks evil, it will overtake him.

Proverbs 11:27-12:22

He who devises good seeks good favour,

but he who seeks evil, it will overtake him.

He who trusts in wealth will fall,

but he who helps the righteous will rise.

He who does not deal graciously with his own house will inherit the wind,

and the fool will be the servant of the wise man.

A tree of life grows from the fruit of righteousness,

but the souls of transgressors are cut off before their time.

If the righteous hardly be saved,

where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?

He who loves instruction loves perception,

but he who hates correction is a fool.

He who finds favour with the Lord *is made* better,

but a transgressor will be passed over in silence.

A man will not prosper by wickedness,

but the roots of the righteous will not be pulled out.

A courageous wife is a crown to her husband,

But an evildoing wife destroys her husband like a worm in wood.

The thoughts of the righteous *are true* judgments,

but the ungodly devise deceits.

The words of the ungodly are crafty,

but the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

When the ungodly turns, he vanishes away,

but the houses of the righteous endure.

The mouth of an understanding *man* is praised by a man,

but he who is slow of heart is mocked.

It is better for a man in dishonour to be a servant to himself,

than one who honours himself while he lacks food.

A righteous man has compassion on the lives of his cattle,

but the bowels of the ungodly are without mercy.

He who tills his own land will be satisfied with bread,

but those who pursue vain things are in need of discernment.

He who enjoys himself in banquets of wine

will leave behind disgrace in his own strongholds.

The desires of the ungodly are evil,

but the roots of the godly are firmly set.

A sinner falls into a snare by the sin of *his*,

but a righteous man escapes from them.

He whose looks are gentle will be pitied,

but he who contends in the gates will afflict souls.

The soul of a man will be filled with good from the fruits of his mouth,

and the recompence of his lips will be given to him.

The ways of fools are right in their own eyes,

but a wise man listens to advice.

A fool expresses his anger at once,

but the prudent man hides his own disgrace.

A righteous man declares the truth as it is,

but an unjust witness is deceitful.

Some wound as they speak, *like* swords,

but the tongues of the wise heal.

Truthful lips establish a testimony,

but a hasty witness has an unjust tongue.

*There is* deceit in the heart of he who imagines evil,

but those who advise peace will be glad.

No injustice will please a righteous man,

but the ungodly will be filled with evil.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

but he who acts faithfully is acceptable to Him.

Sirach 2:1-3:4

My son, if you come to serve the Lord,

prepare your soul for temptation.

Set your heart aright, and be steadfast,

and do not be hasty in a time of distress.

Cling to Him, and do not depart away,

that you may be strengthened at your end.

Accept whatever is brought upon your,

and be patient when you are humiliated,

for gold is tried in the fire,

and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation.

Believe in Him, and He will help you;

make your way straight, and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy,

and do not turn aside, lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, believe Him,

and your reward will not fail.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,

and for everlasting gladness and mercy.

Look at the ancient generations, and see:

Who believed in the Lord and was put to shame?

Or who held fast to the fear of Him and was forsaken?

Or called upon Him, and was despised?

For the Lord is compassionate and merciful,

longsuffering, and very pitiful,

He forgives sins, and saves in the time of affliction.

Woe to timid hearts, and weakened hands,

and the sinner who walks on two paths!

Woe to the fainthearted, for it does not have faith;

therefore it will not be sheltered.

Woe to you that have lost endurance!

What will you do when the Lord visits you?

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words,

and those who love Him will keep His ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek His approval,

and those who love Him will be filled with the law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts,

and humble their souls in before Him,

Saying, “We will fall into the hands of the Lord,

and not into the hands of men!

For as His majesty is, so is His mercy.

Listen to me, your father, O children,

and do what I tell you, so that you may be safe.

For the Lord has given the father honour over the children,

and has confirmed a mother’s judgement over sons.

He who honours his father atones for his sins,

And he who honours his mother

is like one who stores up treasure.

Sirach 5:1-15

Do not set your heart upon your possessions,

and do not say, “I am self-sufficient.”

Do not follow your own soul and your strength,

to walk in your heart’s desires.

And do not say, “Who will be lord over me?”

For the Lord will surely punish you.

Do not say, “I have sinned, and what harm has come me?”

For the Lord is longsuffering.

Do not become fearless concerning atonement,

to add upon your sins.

And do not say, “His compassion is great;

He will atone for the multitude of my sins,”

for both mercy and wrath come from Him,

and his wrath rests on sinners.

Do not delay in turning to the Lord,

and do not put it off day after day;

for the wrath of the Lord will come forth suddenly,

and you will perish in the day of vengeance.

Do not set your heart on ill-gotten wealth,

For it will not profit you in the day of distress.

Do not winnow with every wind,

and do not follow every road;

as the double-tongued sinner does.

Be firm in your understanding,

and let your speech be consistent.

Be quick to listen,

and give your answer with patience.

If you have understanding, answer your neighbour,

but if not, place your hand over your mouth.

Honour and shame are in speaking,

and a person’s tongue is his downfall.

Do not be called a slanderer,

and do not ambush with your tongue;

for a shame is upon the thief,

and a grievous condemnation is upon the double-tongued.

Do not be ignorant in anything, in a great or a small matter.

Sirach 8:1-10:1

Do not content with a mighty man,

lest you fall into his hands.

Do not quarrel with a rich man,

lest he overweigh you;

for gold has destroyed many,

and has perverted the hearts of kings.

Do not contend with a talkative man,

and do not heap wood on his fire.

Do not jest with a rude man,

lest your ancestors be disgraced.

Do not reproach a man that turns away from sin,

but remember that we are all worthy of rebuke.

Do not dishonour a man in his old age,

for some of us, too, are growing old.

Do not rejoice over any dead person,

but remember that we all must die.

Do not despise the discourse of the wise,

but acquaint yourself with their proverbs,

for you will learn instruction from them,

and how to serve noblemen.

Do not miss out on the discourse of the elders,

for they also learned of their fathers,

and from them you will learn understanding,

and how to give an answer in time of need.

Do not kindle the coals of a sinner,

lest you be burnt with the flame of his fire.

Do not rise up in anger

at the presence of an insolent person,

lest he lie in wait to entrap you in your words.

Do not lend to a person that is stronger than yourself,

and if you do, consider it lost.

Do not give surety above your power pay,

and if you give surety, take care to pay it.

Do not go to law against a judge,

for they will decide for him because of his reputation.

Do not travel on the road with a reckless person,

lest he weigh you down,

for he will do according to his own will,

and you will perish with him through his folly.

Do not fight with an angry man,

and do not go with him into a solitary place,

for bloodshed is nothing in his sight,

and he will strike you down where there is no help.

Do not consult with a fool,

for he cannot keep matters confidential.

Do nothing confidential before a stranger,

for you do not know what he will bring forth.

Do not open your heart to every man,

lest he repay you with a shrewd turn.

Be not jealous over the wife of your bosom,

and so teach an evil lesson about yourself.

Do not give your soul to a woman

to let her trample on your strength.

Do not meet with a female escort,

lest you fall into her snares.

Do not associate with a dancing-girl,

lest you become caught in her endeavours.

Do not gaze at a virgin,

lest you stumble, and pay damages to her.

Do not give your soul to prostitutes,

Lest you destroy your inheritance.

Do not look round in the streets of the city,

and do not wander in its deserted places.

Turn your eye away from a shapely woman,

and do not look gaze at beauty belonging to another;

many have been led astray by the beauty of a woman,

for from it love is kindled as a fire.

Never sit down with another man’s wife,

and do not feast with her with wine,

lest your heart turn aside to her,

and so slip by desire and fall into destruction.

Do not forsake an old friend,

for the recent one is not comparable to him;

a new friend is as new wine,

you will drink it with pleasure only after it has aged.

Do not envy the honour given to a sinner,

for you do not know what his end will be.

Do not delight in the pleasure of the ungodly,

but remember they will not be deemed righteous even to Hades.

Keep far from a man who has power to kill,

so you will not be anxious of the fear of death,

but if you come near him, do not offend,

lest he take away your life.

Recognize that you are stepping in the midst of snares,

and walking upon the battlements of a city.

Evaluate your neighbour as well as you can,

and consult with the wise.

Let your discussion be with the wise,

and let all your communication be in the law of the Most High.

Let righteous men be your dinner companions,

and let your boasting be in the fear of the Lord.

A work will be praised for the skill of the artisans,

and the wise ruler of the people for his words.

A talkative man is feared in his city,

and he who is reckless in his speech will be hated.

A wise judge will instruct his people,

and the rule of an intelligent man is well ordered.

Sirach 10:1-31

A wise judge will instruct his people;

and the rule of an intelligent man is well ordered.

As the judge of the people is himself, so are his officials,

and as the ruler of the city is, so are all its inhabitants.

An unwise king destroys his people,

but a city will be made habitable by the wisdom of its rulers.

The Lord’s hand is the governance of the earth,

and He will raise up the appropriate man over it for an appointed time.

The success of a man is in the Lord’s hand,

and he lays honour on the person of the scribe.

Do not bear anger against your neighbour for every wrong,

and do nothing by acts of insolence.

Pride is hateful before God and man,

and iniquity is offensive to both.

Because of wrongdoing, insolence, and wealth,

dominion is transferred from one people to another.

There is nothing more lawless than the love of money,

For such a man sets his own soul for sale.

How can earth and ashes be proud,

since even while living, his insides are decaying.

A physician mocks a long illness,

And a king today will die tomorrow.

For when a man is dead,

he will inherit creeping things, beasts, and worms.

The beginning of pride is one’s arrogance to depart from God,

and to rebel against Him Who created his heart.

For the beginning of pride is sin,

and he who holds it will pour out abomination.

Therefore the Lord brought upon them incredible distress,

and completely destroyed them.

The Lord has cast down the thrones of rulers,

and enthroned the meek in their place.

The Lord has plucked out the roots of nations,

and planted the humble in their place.

The Lord overthrew the lands of the nations,

and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth.

He removed some of them, and destroyed them,

and has erased their memory from the earth.

Pride was not created for men,

nor furious anger for those who are born of women.

What kind of seed is honourable?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is honourable?

Those who fear the Lord.

What kind of seed is dishonourable?

The seed of man.

What kind of seed is dishonoured?

Those who transgress the commandments.

In the midst of kin, the leader is honourable,

and those fear the Lord are honoured in His eyes.

The fear of the Lord goes before the obtaining of authority,

but roughness and pride is the losing thereof.

Whether rich, noble, or poor,

their boasting is the fear of the Lord.

It is not right to dishonour an intelligent poor man,

nor is it proper to honour a sinful man.

Nobles, judges, and rulers will be honoured,

but none of them is greater than he who fears the Lord.

Free men will render service to a wise servant,

and he who has understanding will not grumble when he is reformed.

Do not put your wisdom on display when you do your work,

or boast of yourself in the time of your distress.

He who works and has plenty is better,

than he who boasts of himself, and lacks bread.

My son, glorify your soul with meekness,

and give it honour according to its worth.

Who will justify he who sins against his own soul?

And who will honour he who dishonours his own life?

The poor man is honoured for his knowledge,

and the rich man is honoured for his wealth.

If a man is honoured in poverty,

how much more in wealth?

And if an man is dishonoured in wealth,

how much more in poverty?

Sirach 11:1-10

Wisdom lifts up the head of a humble person,

and seats him among great men.

Do not praise a man for his beauty,

nor detest a man for his outward appearance.

The bee is small among flying creatures,

but her fruit is first among sweet things.

Do not boast of your fine clothes,

and do not exalt yourself in the day of honour,

for the works of the Lord are wondrous,

and his works are hidden among men.

Many tyrants have sat down on the ground,

and one that had never been thought of has worn the crown.

Many rulers have been utterly disgraced,

and honoured men have been betrayed into the hands of others

Do not find fault before you have investigated;

understand first, and then rebuke.

Do not answer before you have listened,

nor interrupt men in the middle of their talking.

Do not argue in a matter that does not concern you,

and do not sit together with sinners in judgment.

My son, do not let your business involve many things,

for if you meddle much, you will not remain innocent,

and if you pursue, you will not obtain them,

neither will you escape by fleeing.

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.

Joel 2:21-26

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 field,

for the plains of the wilderness have blossomed,

for the trees have borne their fruit,

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

Rejoice then and be glad

In the Lord your God,

you children of Zion,

for He has given you food in fullness,

and He will send you the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors will be full of wheat,

and the presses will overflow with wine and oil.

And I will repay you for the years

that the grasshopper and the locust,

and the blight, and the caterpillar devoured,

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.

Joel 2:28-32

And it will come to pass after these things,

that I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters will prophesy,

and your old men will dream dreams,

and your young men will see visions.

And on my servants and handmaids

I will pour out of my Spirit in those days.

And I will give wonders in heaven and on the earth, blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes to pass. And it will be *that* whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord will be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem will be the ones who have escaped, as the Lord has said, and they will have Good News announced to them, whom the Lord has called.

Joel 3:9-21

Proclaim these things among the nations:

“Prepare for war;

arouse the warriors;

draw near and go up,

all you men of war.

Beat your ploughs into swords,

and your sickles into spears.

Let the weak say, “I am strong.”

Assemble together, and come,

all your nations round about,

and gather yourselves there.

Let the gentle become a fighter.

Let all the nations rouse themselves

and come up to the valley of Josaphat,

for there will I sit to judge

all the nations round about.

Send forth sickles,

for the harvest has come.

Go in, tread *the grapes*,

for the winepress is full,

the vats overflow,

because their wickedness is multiplied.

Noises have resounded

in the valley of judgment,

for the day of the Lord is near

in the valley of judgment.

The sun and the moon will become dark,

and the stars will withdraw their light.

And the Lord will cry out of Zion,

and will give His voice from Jerusalem;

and the heavens and the earth will be shaken.

But the Lord will spare His people,

and will strengthen the children of Israel.

And you will know that I am the Lord your God,

Who dwells in Zion on My holy mountain.

And Jerusalem will be holy,

and strangers will no longer pass through her.

And it will happen in that day

*that* the mountains will drip sweetness,

and the hills will flow with milk,

and all the brooks of Judah will flow with water,

and a fountain will go forth from the house of the Lord

and will water the valley of rushes.

Egypt will be a desolation,

and Idumea will be a desolate plain,

because of the wrongs against the children of Judah,

because they have shed righteous blood in their land.

But Judah will be inhabited forever,

and Jerusalem to all generations.

And I will avenge their blood, and I will not let it go unpunished.

And the Lord will dwell in Zion.

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, have 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.

You 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.’

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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.

Malachi 1:6-3:6

“A son honours *his* father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is My honour? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the Lord Almighty. “You priests are the ones who despise My Name, yet you say, ‘how have we despised Your Name?’ By bringing defiled bread to My altar; but you say, ‘How have we defiled it?’ In that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible, and the food set on it is contemptible.’ 8 For if you bring something blind *as a* sacrifices, *is it* not evil? And if you offer the lame and the sick, *is it* not evil? Offer it then to you ruler, *and see* if he will receive it, if he will accept your person,” says the Lord Almighty.

“And now, entreat the face of your God, and pray to Him. These things have been done by your hands; will I receive you?” says the Lord Almighty. “For even among you the doors will be shut, and *you* will not kindle *the fire of* My altar in vain. I have no pleasure in you,” says the Lord Almighty, and I will not accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, My Name has been glorified among the nations; and in every place incense will be offered to My Name, and a pure offering, for My Name is great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty.

“But you profane it, in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and the food set upon it is contemptible.’  And you said, ‘These *services* are toilsome,’ therefore I have utterly rejected them with scorn,” says the Lord Almighty. “And you brought in things taken by violence, and lame, and sick, and when you bring an offering, should I accept them at your hands?” says the Lord Almighty. “And he who was able, who has a male in his flock, and who takes a vow, but sacrificed to the Lord what is blemished, is cursed—for I am a great King,” says the Lord Almighty, and My Name is glorious among the nations.

“And now, O priests, this commandment is to you. If you will not listen, if you will not take *it* to heart, to give glory to My Name,” says the Lord Almighty, “then I will send a curse upon you, and I curse your blessing, yes, I will curse it, and I will scatter your blessing, and it will not exist among you, because you do not take this to heart. Behold, I am turning my back on you, and I will smear dung upon your faces, the dung of your feasts, and I will carry you away at the same time. And you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant might be with the sons of Levi,” says the Lord Almighty.

“My covenant of life and peace was with him, and I gave *it to* him that he might reverently fear Me, and that he might be awe-struck at My Name. 6 The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked uprightly with me in peace, and he turned many from injustice. For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law from his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty.

“But you have turned aside from the way, and weakened many in the law, and you have corrupted the covenant of Levi”, says the Lord Almighty. “And I have made you despised and disregarded among all the nations, because you have not kept my ways, but have shown partiality in the law.”

Did God not create you? Do you not all have one father? Why, then, has each man forsaken his brother, to profane the covenant of your fathers? Judah has been forsaken, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah has profaned the holy things of the Lord, which he loved, and has gone after foreign gods. The Lord will utterly destroy the man that does these things, until he is humiliated from the tents of Jacob, and from among those who offer sacrifice to the Lord Almighty.

And you kept doing these things which I hated: you cover the altar of the Lord with tears, and with weeping and groaning because of troubles. *Is it* worthy to look upon your sacrifice, or to receive *anything* from your hands *as* acceptable? And you said, “Why?” Because the Lord was a witness between you and the wife of your youth, whom you abandoned, though she is your companion, and the wife of your covenant. And did God not make them one, and sustained them for the spirit of life? But you said, “What does God seek but offspring?” But be vigilant in your spirit, and do not forsake the wife of your youth. “But if you should hate *her* and put her away,” says the Lord God of Israel, “then ungodliness will cloud your thinking,” says the Lord Almighty “So be vigilant in your spirit, and do not forsake her.” You have provoked God with your words, yet you say, “How have we provoked him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,” and, “where is the God of justice?”

“Look, I am sending My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord Almighty. “And who will endure the day of His coming? Or who can withstand His appearance? For He is coming like a refiner’s fire, and as the soap of the washer. He will sit, melting and purifying as it were silver, and as it were gold, and He will purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver, and they will bring and offering to the Lord in righteousness. And the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in the former years.”

“And I will draw near to you in judgment, as a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My Name, those who defraud hired workers, those who oppress widows, and afflict orphans, and those who turn aside justice for the foreigner, and those who do not fear Me,” says the Lord Almighty. “For I am the Lord your God, and I have not changed. But you, the sons of Jacob, have not refrained from the iniquities of your fathers.

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 you 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 Zion 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;

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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 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 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;

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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

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 5:7-16

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts

is the house of Israel,

and the man of Judah

*is His* beloved plant;

I waited for *it* to produce justice,

and it brought forth lawlessness,

and not righteousness,

but a cry!

Woe *to those* who join house to house,

and add field to field,

so that they may take something from their neighbour!

Will you dwell alone upon the land?

For these things have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts;

for though many houses should be built, many and fair houses will be desolate,

and there will be no inhabitants in them.

For where ten yoke of oxen will work,

that land will yield one jarful,

and he that sows six bushels

will produce three measures.

Woe *to those* who rise early in the morning,

and follow strong drink,

who continue *at it till* evening,

for the wine will inflame them.

For they drink wine with harp, and lyre,

and drums, and pipes,

but they do not regard the works of the Lord,

or consider the works of his hands!

Therefore, my people have been taken captive,

because they know not the Lord;

they have become a multitude of corpses,

because of famine and of thirst for water.

Hades has enlarged its appetite

and opened its mouth without ceasing;

and her glorious ones, and great ones,

and her rich and her pestilent men shall go down *into it*.

A person will be brought low,

and a man will be dishonoured,

and the lofty eyes will be brought low.

But the Lord of hosts will be exalted in judgement,

and the holy God will be glorified in righteousness.

Isaiah 5:17-25

And those who have been plundered will be fed like bulls

and lambs will feed on the wastelands of those who are taken away.

Woe *to those* who draw sins to themselves as with a long rope,

and lawlessness as with a strap of the cow’s yoke:

who say, “Let him quickly hasten what he will do,

that we may see *it*:

and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel come,

that we may know *it*!”

Woe *to those* who call evil good

and good evil,

who make darkness light,

and light darkness,

who make bitter sweet,

and sweet bitter!

Woe *to those* who are wise in their own eyes,

and knowledgeable in their own sight.

Woe to the your strong ones that drink wine,

and the mighty *ones* who mix strong drink,

who justify the ungodly for a bribe,

and take away the righteousness of the righteous!

Therefore, as stubble will be burnt by a coal of fire,

and will be consumed by a violent flame,

their root will be like fine dust,

and their flower will go up like dust:

for they rejected the law of the Lord of hosts,

and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

And the Lord of hosts was furious against His people,

and He laid His hand upon them, and struck them;

the mountains were provoked,

and their carcasses became like dung

in the midst of the road.

For all this His anger has not been turned away,

but His hand is still raised high.

Isaiah 6:1-12

In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the house was full of His glory. Seraphim stood around Him; each one had six wings: with two they covered their face, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one cried unto another, and said, “Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of his glory.” And the door post was moved by the voice of whose who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said, “Woe *is* me! I am pierced to the heart; because I *am* a man, and have unclean lips, and I live among people of unclean lips, and I have seen the King, the LORD of hosts with my eyes!”

Then one of the seraphim was sent to me, and he had a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken from the altar with the tongs. And he touched my mouth, and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips. Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin are purified.” I Also heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?” Then said I, “Here I *am*, send me!” And He said, “Go, and tell this people,

You will indeed hear, but you will not understand,

and you will indeed see, but you will not perceive.

For the heart of this people has become insensitive,

and their ears hear with difficulty.

They have shut their eyes,

so that they might not see with their eyes,

and hear with their ears,

and understand with their heart,

and turn—and I would heal them.

Then I said, “how long,

O Lord?” And he answered,

“Until the cities are laid waste,

And without inhabitant,

and the houses are without people,

and the land is left desolate,

And after these things, God will send the people far away,

and those left land will multiply on the land.

Isaiah 7:1-14

And it happened in the days of Achaz *the son* of Joatham, the son of Ozias, king of Judah, that King Rason of Syria, and Phakee son of Romelias, king of Israel, came up against Jerusalem to war against it, but they could not take it. And it was reported to the house of David, saying, “Syria’s forces have conspired with Ephraim.” And [Achaz’s] soul and the soul of his people were agitated, as a tree in the woods is shaken by the wind. And the Lord said to Esaias, “Go out to meet Achaz, you and the one who is left, Jasub your son, to the pool on the upper road of the Fuller’s Field. And you will say to him, ‘Take care to be quiet, and do not fear, or let your soul be discouraged because of these two logs of smoking firebrands, for when My fierce anger is over, I will heal again. And *as for* the son of Syria, and the son of Romelias, because as they have plotted evil against you, *saying*, “We will go up against Judah, and having talked with them, we will turn them to our side, and we will make the son of Tabeel king of it;” thus says the Lord of hosts, “This counsel will not remain, nor will it come to pass. But the head of Syria is Damascus; and yet within sixty-five years the kingdom of Ephraim will cease from *being* a people. And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria the son of Romelias. But if you do not believe this, neither will you understand.”‘“

And the Lord again spoke to Achaz, saying, “Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God, in the depth or in the height.” And Achaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord.” And Esias said, “Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to provoke a fight with men? How then do you provoke a fight with the Lord? Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold! The virgin will conceive, and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Emmanuel.

Isaiah 8:13-9:7

Sanctify the Lord Himself, and He will be your fear. And if you trust in Him, He will be a sanctuary for you, and you will not come against *Him* as a stumbling caused by a stone, or a falling caused by a rock, but the houses of Jacob lies in wait with a snare, and those of Jerusalem with a trap. Therefore, many among them will become weak, and fall, and be crushed, and those is safety will draw near, and be captured.

Then those who seal the law so they may not learn it will be made manifest. And *One* will say, “I will wait for God, who has turned away His face from the house of Jacob, and I will trust in Him. Look, here am I and the children that God has given me, and they will be signs and wonders in the house of Israel from the Lord of Hosts, who dwells in mount Zion.” And if people say to you, “Seek those who call from the earth, and the ventriloquists, who speak from their belly,” should not a nation seek their God? Why do they seek to the dead on behalf of the living? For He has given the Law to help them, that they should not speak a word like this one, concerning which there are no gifts to give. And famine will come upon you, and it will come to pass, *that* when you become hungry, you will be distressed, and will speak badly of your ruler and the idols. And they will look up to heaven above, and on the earth below, and see affliction, and distress, and darkness—dire straits, and darkness so that *they cannot* see—and the one who is in distressed will not be distressed, but only for a time.

*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!

The multitude of the people

whom you have brought down in your joy,

will also rejoice before your

like those who rejoice at the harvest,

and as those who divide the plunder.

For the yoke laid upon them,

and the rod on their neck is taken away,

for the Lord has broken the rod of the exactors,

as in the day of Madiam.

For they will repay every robe and garment

that has been acquired by deceit,

and they will be willing to do so,

*even* if they have been burnt with fire.

For a child is born to us,

and a son is given to us,

whose sovereignty is upon His shoulder,

and His name is, “the Angel of great counsel,”

for I will bring peace upon the rulers,

and peace and health by Him.

His sovereignty will be great,

and His peace has no end.

*His peace will be* upon the throne of David, and *upon* His kingdom,

to establish it, and to support *it*

with righteousness and with judgement,

from that time forward and unto ages of ages.

The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.

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 9:8-10:4

And all the people of Ephraim,

and those who dwelt in Samaria will know it,

who say in pride and arrogance of heart,

“The bricks have fallen down,

but come, let us hew stones,

and cut down sycamores and cedars,

and we will build ourselves a tower.”

And God will strike down those who rise up against them on mount Zion,

and He will scatter their enemies:

Syria from the rising of the sun,

and the Greeks from the setting of the sun,

those who devour Israel with open mouth.

For all this, *His* anger is not turned away,

but His hand is still uplifted.

But the people did not turn back until they were struck,

yet they did not seek the Lord.

So the Lord took away head and tail from Israel,

great and small in one day—

the elder, and those who admire persons, this is the head;

and the prophet who teaches unlawful things, he is the tail.

And those who bless this people lead them astray;

and they mislead them in order to destroy them.

Therefore, God will not take pleasure in their young men,

nor have mercy on their orphans and widows.

For they are all lawless and evil,

and every mouth speaks injustices.

For all this *His* anger has not turned away,

but *His* hand is still uplifted.

And the transgression will burn like a fire,

and will be consumed like dry grass,

and it will burn in the thickets of the forest,

and devour everything around the hills.

The whole land is burned up

because of the fierce anger of the Lord,

and the people will be completely burned by fire.

No man will have compassion on his brother,

but *will* turn aside to the right because he is hungry,

and he will eat on the left,

but no man will be satisfied,

even by eating the flesh of his own arm.

For Manasseh will devour Ephraim,

and Ephraim Manasseh,

for they will besiege Judah together.

For all this *His* anger is not turned away,

but *His* hand is still uplifted.

“Woe to those who write evil!

For when they write, they write trouble,

turning aside the cause of the poor,

and robbing judgement from the needy of My people,

so that a widow may be their prey,

and an orphan a spoil.

What will they do in the day of visitation?

For affliction will come to you from far away,

and to whom will you flee for help,

and where will you leave your glory,

that you may not fall into captivity?”

For all this *His* and is not turned away,

but *His* hand is still uplifted.

Isaiah 10:12-20

And it shall happen, when the Lord has finished doing all things on Mount Zion and Jerusalem, *that* He will bring His wrath against the arrogant of heart, upon the ruler of the Assyrians, and upon his boastful haughty looks. For he said,

“I will act in my strength,

and by the wisdom of *my* understanding

I will remove the boundaries of nations,

and will plunder their strength.

And I will shake inhabited cities

and I will take with my hand the whole world like a nest

and I will take them like eggs that have been forsaken,

and there is no one that will escape me, or contradict me.”

Shall an axe glorify itself without the one who cuts with it?

Or will the saw exalt itself without the one who pulls it?

It is likewise if one should lift a rod, or a piece of wood.

But it will not be so!

Rather the Lord of hosts

will send dishonour upon your honour,

and burning fire will be kindled on your glory.

And the light of Israel will become a fire,

and He will sanctify him with burning fire,

and it will devour the wood like grass.

On that day the mountains, the hills, and the forests will be consumed,

and *fire* will consume *both* soul and body,

and he who flees will be

like one fleeing from burning flame.

And those who are left from them will be a *small* number,

and a child will write them down.

And it will happen in that day, *that* the remnant of Israel, and those of Jacob who were saved, will never again trust in those who harmed them; but they will trust in God, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Isaiah 11:10-12:2

And in that day there will be a Root of Jesse, the One Who will arise to rule the nations; the nations will trust in Him, and His rest will be glorious.” And it will come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord will again show His hand to be zealous for the remnant that is left of the people: left by the Assyrians, and *by* Egypt, Babylon, and Ethiopia, and by the Elamites, and from where the sun rises, and out of Arabia.

And He will lift up a sign for the nations,

and He will gather the lost ones of Israel,

and He will gather the dispersed of Judah

from the four corners of the earth.

And the envy of Ephraim will be taken away,

and the enemies of Judah will perish;

Ephraim will not envy Judah,

and Judah will not afflict Ephraim.

But they will all fly away in the ships of foreigners,

and together they will plunder the sea,

and those *who come* from the east, and Edom.

And they will lay their hands on Moab first,

but the children of Ammon will obey *them* first.

And the Lord will make the sea of Egypt desolate,

and He will lay his hand on the river with a violent wind,

and He will strike the seven channels,

so that men might pass across it in sandals.

And there will be a passage

for the remnant of My people in Egypt,

and it will be for Israel

as the day when he came out of the land of Egypt.

And in that day, you will say,

“I *will* bless You, O Lord,

for You were angry with me,

and You turned away Your wrath,

and had mercy on me.

Behold, the Lord is my God, my Saviour;

I will trust in Him, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord is my glory and my praise,

and He has become my salvation.”

Isaiah 13:2-13

Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain;

Lift up your voice to them; do not fear;

encourage them with your hand;

open *the gates*, O you rulers.

I command, and I lead them.

They are consecrated, and I lead them.

Mighty ones come to fulfil My anger,

rejoicing and insulting at the same time.

A voice of many nations on the mountains,

like *that* of many nations!

a voice of kings

and of nations gathered together!

The Lord of hosts has commanded

a heavily armed nation

to come from a distant land,

from the end of heaven—

the Lord and His warriors*—*

to destroy the whole world.

Wail, for the day of the Lord is near,

and destruction will come from God.

Therefore, every hand will become weakened,

and every man’s soul will be afraid.

The elders will be troubled,

and pangs will seize them, as of a woman in labour.

And they will wail one to another, and will be amazed,

and will change their face like a flame.

For behold! The day of the Lord is coming,

A day which cannot be averted

*a day* of wrath and anger,

to make the whole world desolate,

and to destroy the sinners from it.

For the stars of heaven, and Orion,

and all the ornament of heaven

will not give light,

and it will be dark at sunrise,

and the moon will not give her its.

And I will command evils for the whole world,

and *for the* ungodly, because of their sins,

and I will destroy the pride of transgressors,

and will bring low the pride of the arrogant.

And those that are left will be more precious than gold tried in the fire,

and a man will be more precious than the stone from Souphir.

For the heaven will be enraged,

and the earth will be shaken from its foundations

because of the fierce anger of the Lord of hosts,

in the day His wrath comes *upon it*.

Isaiah 14:24-32

This is what the Lord of hosts says,

“As I have said,

so it shall be,

and as I have planned,

so *it* shall remain:

to destroy the Assyrians from my land, and from my mountains.

And they will be trampled,

and their yoke will be removed from them,

and their renown will be removed from their shoulders.”

This is the purpose the Lord has purposed upon the whole earth,

and this the hand that is raised up

against all the nations of the world.

For what the Holy God has purposed, who will frustrate?

And who will turn back His uplifted hand?

In the King Ahaz died, this word came,

“Do not rejoice, all you foreigners,

for the yoke of him who struck you is broken,

for out of the seed of serpents will come forth the young asps,

and their offspring will come forth as flying serpents.

And the poor will be fed by him,

and the poor men will rest in peace,

but he will destroy your offspring with famine,

and will destroy your remnant.

Wail, O city gates;

let the troubled cities cry out, *even* all the foreigners,

for smoke is coming from the north, and there is no *way to live*.”

And what will the kings of the nations answer?

For the Lord has founded Zion,

and the humble of the people will be saved by Him.

Isaiah 25:1-26:9a

O Lord my God,

I will glorify You; I will sing hymns to Your Name,

for You have done wonderful things—

an ancient *and* true counsel. May it be so, O Lord!

For You have made cities a heap,

fortified cities, so their foundations might fall;

the city of the ungodly will not be built forever.

Therefore, the poor people will bless You,

and the cities of the wronged will bless You.

For You have been a helper to every humble city,

and a shelter to those who are disheartened because of poverty;

You will deliver them from evil men,

and be a shelter for the thirsty, and a breath to the wronged,

like faint-hearted men thirsting in Zion,

because of the ungodly,

to whom You delivered us.

And the Lord of hosts will make *a feast* for all the nations on this mount:

they will drink gladness;

they will drink wine;

they will anoint themselves with ointment in this mountain.

Deliver all these things to the nations,

for this is *God’s* counsel for all the nations.

Death has prevailed and swallowed *then* up,

but the Lord God has taken away every tear from every face;

He has taken away the disgrace of *His* people from all the earth;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

And on that day they will say,

“See, this is our God, in whom we have hoped,

and we rejoiced; and we will be glad in our salvation.”

God will give us rest on this mountain,

and the Moabites will be trampled down,

as they tread a threshing floor with wagons.

And He will spread forth his hands,

even as He also brings down *man* to destroy *him*,

and He will bring low his pride*—*

*things* on which he has laid his hands.

And He will bring down the height of the refuge of your wall,

and it will come down all the way to the ground.

On that day they will sing this song in the land of Judah:

“See a strong city;

and We will make salvation

*its* wall and its outer wall.

Open the gates;

let a people enter that keeps righteousness,

and that keeps truth,

that lays hold of truth,

and that keeps peace,

for in You, O Lord,

they have hoped forever—

the great, the eternal God,

Who has humbled and brought down

those who dwell in lofty places;

You will cast down strong cities,

and bring them to the ground,

And the feet of the meek and humble

will trample them.

The way of the godly is made straight;

the way of the godly has also prepared.

For the way of the Lord is judgement;

we have hoped in Your Name,

and in the remembrance *of You*,

which our soul longs for.

Isaiah 26:21-27:9

For look, the Lord is bringing wrath

from *his* holy place upon those who dwell on the earth;

the earth will disclose its blood,

and will not cover the slain.

In that day God will bring *His* holy and great and strong sword upon the dragon, the fleeing serpent—upon the dragon, the crooked serpent, and He will destroy the dragon.

In that day *there will be*

a beautiful vineyard,

*and* a desire to begin *a hymn* about it.

I am a strong city, a besieged city;

I will water it in vain,

for it will be taken by night,

and by day the wall will fall.

There is no city that has not taken hold of it;

who will set me to watch stubble in the field?

I have rejected it because of this enemy.

The Lord has done all that He appointed on for that very reason.

I am burned up.

Those who dwell in it will cry out,

“Let us make peace with Him,

let us make peace!”

Those who are coming are the children of Jacob;

Israel will bud and blossom,

and the world will be filled with its fruit.

Will he not be struck even as himself has struck;

will he not be killed even as he himself has killed?

Fighting and reviling, he will send them away.

Did you not think with a harsh spirit

to kill them in a spirit of anger?

Therefore, the iniquity of Jacob will be taken away;

and this is his blessing, when I remove his sin,

when they make all the stones of the altars

beaten like fine dust,

and their trees will not remain,

and their idols will be cut down, like a distant forest.

Isaiah 28:14-22

Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men,

and you rulers of this people that is in Jerusalem.

Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with Hades,

and agreements with death,

if a rushing storm passes through,

it will not come upon us;

we have made falsehood our hope,

and by falsehood we will be protected.”

Therefore, this is what the Lord is saying,

“See I lay a costly stone for the foundations of Zion,

a choice and precious cornerstone for its foundations,

and whoever believes *in him* will not be put to shame.

And I will turn judgementinto hope,

and my mercy to be for *a* standard measure,

and you that trust vainly in falsehood*,*

a tempest will by no means pass you by,

except it also take away your covenant of death.

And your hope in Hades will not stand;

if a rushing storm comes,

you will be beaten down by it.

When it passes by, it will take you;

For morning by morning it will pass by in the day,

and by night there will be an evil hope.

Learn to hear,

you who are distressed.

We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together.

The Lord will rise up as a mountain of ungodly *men*,

and will be in the valley of Gabaon;

He will perform His works with wrath, a work of bitterness,

And His wrath will deal strangely,

and His bitterness shall be strange.

So do not be glad,

nor let your bonds become strong,

for I have heard from the Lord of hosts

of works finished and cut short,

which He will perform upon the whole earth.

Isaiah 29:13-23

And the Lord said,

“These people draw near to Me

and honour Me with their lips,

but their heart is far from Me,

and they worship Me in vain,

teaching the commandments and doctrines of men.

Therefore look, I will proceed

to remove this people.

I will remove them and I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and I will hide the discernment of the wise.

Woe to those who deepen their counsel,

but not through the Lord!

Woe to those who take counsel in secret,

and whose works are in darkness!

And they say, “Who has seen us?

And who will know us or what we do?”

Will you not be regarded as the clay of the potter?

Will what is formed say to the one that formed it,

“You did not form me?”

Or what is made to the one who made it,

“You did not make me wisely?”

*Is it* not yet a little while,

and Lebanon will be changed like Mount Chermel,

and Mount Chermel will be considered a forest?

On that day the deaf will hear

the words of the book,

and those who are in darkness,

and those who are in a fog,

the eyes of the blind will see.

And the poor will rejoice with joy because of the Lord,

and those who had no hope among men will be filled with joy.

The lawless has failed,

and the arrogant has perished,

and those who transgress wickedly have been utterly destroyed:

even those who cause men to sin by a word.

And they will make all those who condemn at the gates an offence,

because they have turned aside the righteous with the unrighteous.

Therefore this is what Lord is saying concerning the house of Jacob, which He set apart from Abraham,

Now Jacob will not be ashamed,

neither will Israel now change his face.

But when their children see my works,

they will sanctify My Name for My sake,

and will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob,

and will fear the God of Israel.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Be glad, O thirsty desert!

Let the desert be glad,

and blossom like a lily!

The deserts of the 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.

Look, 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;

because water has burst forth in the desert,

and a channel *of water* in a thirsty land.

And the dry land will become marshlands,

and there will be a spring of water in the thirsty land.

The joy of birds will be there,

a dwelling 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 animal 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 37:33-38:6

Therefore, this is what the Lord is saying concerning the king of the Assyrians, “He will not enter into this city, nor cast a weapon against it, nor bring a shield against it, nor make a rampart around it. But by the way he came, by the same he will return” This is what the Lord is saying, “I will protect this city, to save it for My own sake, and for My servant David’s sake.”

And the Angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and they arose in the morning and discovered all the dead bodies. And Sennacherim, king of the Assyrians departed and returned to Nineveh, and dwelt there. And while he was worshipping in the house of Nasarach, his country’s god, his sons Adramelech and Sarasar killed him with swords; and they escaped into Armenia, and his son Asoradan reigned instead of him.

And it happened at that time, *that* Ezekias was sick and near. And Esaias the prophet, the son of Amos went to him, and said to him, “This is what the Lord is saying, ‘Make arrangements concerning your house, for you will die, and not live.’” And Ezekias turned his face towards the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, “Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before You in truth, with a true heart, and have done what was pleasing in Your sight.” And Ezekias wept bitterly. And the word of the Lord came to Esaias, saying, “Go, and say to Ezekias, ‘This is what the Lord is saying, the God of David your father, “I have heard your prayer, and seen your tears. Look, I *will* add fifteen years to your time. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of the Assyrians, and I will defend this city.”’”

Isaiah 40:1-8

“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;

and all the crooked *ways* will become straight,

and the rough *places* will become plains.

And the glory of the Lord will appear,

and all flesh will see the salvation of God,

for the Lord has spoken.”

The voice of one saying, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all the glory of man like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, and the flower fades,

but the word of our God remains forever.

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;

and all the crooked *ways* will become straight,

and the rough *places* will become plains.

And the glory of the Lord will appear,

and all flesh will see the salvation of God,

for the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 41:4-14

Who has worked and done these things?

He has called *righteousness,* He who called it from the generations of old;

I God, am the first,

and I AM into to *all* the future.

The nations saw, and feared;

the ends of the earth drew near and came together,

each one judging for his neighbor,

to assist his brother.

And one will say,

“The artisan has become strong,

and the metalworker who strikes with the hammer,

at the time of forging.”

Sometimes he will say, “It is well joined,

they have fastened it with nails;

they will set them up, and they shall not be moved.”

But you, Israel, are My servant,

Jacob, whom I have chosen,

the offspring of Abraham, whom I have loved,

whom I have taken you from the ends of the earth,

and I have called you from the high places of it,

and said to you, “You are My servant;

I have chosen you, and I have not forsaken you.”

Do not fear, for I am with you;

do not go astray, for I am your God,

Who has strengthened you,

and I have helped you,

and established you

with My righteous right hand.

See, all your adversaries

will be put to shame and disgraced,

for they will be as though they did not exist,

and all your adversaries will perish.

You will seek them,

but you will not find

the men who rage against you,

for they will be as though they did not exist,

and those who war against you will not be.

For I am your God,

Who holds your right hand,

Who says to you, “Do not fear,

O Jacob, *and O* Israel, few in number,

I have helped you,” says God,

Who redeems you, O Israel.

Isaiah 42:5-16

This is what the Lord,

Who made the heaven, and established it,

Who made the earth firm, and the things in it,

and Who gives breath to the people on it,

and spirit to those who walk on it, is saying,

“I the Lord God have called You in righteousness,

and will hold Your hand, and will strengthen You:

and I have given You as the covenant for a race,

for a light to the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,

to bring the prisoners out from bonds,

and those who sit in darkness out of the prison house.

I am the Lord God; this is My Name.

I will not give My glory to another,

nor my praises to engraved images.

Look, the ancient things have come to pass,

and *so will* the new things which I declare;

yes, before they spring forth*,*

I will tell you of them.”

Sing a new song to the Lord,

you, His dominion!

Glorify His Name from the end of the earth,

you who go down to the sea, and sail upon it,

you islands, and those who inhabit them.

Rejoice, O desert, and its villages,

the homesteads, and those inhabiting Kedar.

Those who dwell in Petra will rejoice,

they will shout from the tops of the mountains.

They will give glory to God,

*and* proclaim His praises in the islands.

The Lord God of powers will go forth,

and crush the war;

He will stir up jealousy,

and will shout mightily against His enemies.

“I have been silent,

will I always be silent and hold back?

I have endured like a woman in labour.

I will amaze and wither at once.

I will turn rivers into islands,

and will dry up the marshlands;

And I will lead the blind

by a road that they did not know,

and I will make them walk paths

that they have not known.

I will turn darkness into light for them,

and make crooked places straight.

I will do these things,

and will not forsake them.”

Isaiah 43:1-9

And now this is what Lord God

Who made you, O Jacob,

Who formed you, O Israel, is saying,

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,

I have called you *by* your name; you are Mine.

And if you should pass through water, I am with you,

and the rivers will not overflow you,

and if you should go through fire, you will not be burned;

the flame will not consume you,

for I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, Who saves you.

I have made Egypt and Ethiopia your ransom,

and *given* Soene for on your behalf.

Because you have become precious in My sight,

you have become glorious, and I have loved you;

and I will give many men on your behalf,

and rulers for your life.

Do not fear not, for I am with you:

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and will gather you from the west.

I will say to the north, “Bring them,”

and to the south, “Do not keep them back,

bring My sons from a faraway *land*,

and My daughters from the ends of the earth—

all who are called by My Name.

For I have prepared him for My glory,

and I have formed him and made him.

And I have brought forth the blind people,

for *their* eyes are likewise blind,

and they are deaf, though they have ears!

All the nations are gathered together,

and the rulers will be gathered from among them.

Who will declare these things?

Or who will declare to you

things from the beginning?

Let them bring forth their witnesses,

and be justified, and let them speak the truth.

Isaiah 43:10-28

“Be My witnesses,

and I *too am* a witness,” says the Lord God,

“and My servant whom I have chosen,

that you may know, and believe,

and understand that I am *He*.

Before Me there was no other God,

and there will be none after Me.

I am God, and besides Me there is no one who saves.

I have declared, and have saved; I have reproached,

and there was no foreign *god* among you.

You are My witnesses,

and I too am a witness”, says the Lord God.

“Even from the beginning

there is no one that can deliver from My hands;

I will work, and who will reverse it?”

This is what Lord God Who redeems you,

the Holy One of Israel, is saying,

“for your sakes I will send to Babylon,

and I will stir up all those who are fleeing,

and the Chaldeans will be bound in ships.

I am the Lord God, your Holy One,

Who has appointed your king, O Israel.”

This is what the Lord is saying,

Who provides a way in the sea,

and a path in the mighty water,

Who has brought out chariots and horse,

and a mighty multitude together;

but they have lain down, and will not rise;

they have been extinguished, quenched like a wick.

“Do not remember the former things,

or consider the ancient things.

Look, I *will* do new things, that will now spring forth,

and you will know them,

and I will make a way in the desert

and rivers in the dry land.

The wild animals of the field will bless Me,

the sirens and the daughters of ostriches,

for I have given water in the desert,

and rivers in the dry land,

to give drink to My chosen race,

My people whom I have preserved to declare My praises.

I have not called on 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 hast you purchased incense for Me with silver,

nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices,

but you have stood before Me

in your sins, and in your iniquities.

I, *even* I, am

He Who blots out your transgressions,

and I will not remember *them*.

But remember, and let us judge *together*;

you confess your transgressions first, that you may be justified.

Your fathers first,

and your rulers have transgressed against Me.

And the rulers have defiled my sanctuaries,

so I gave Jacob to destroy him,

and Israel for reproach.

Isaiah 43:16-44:6 (overlaps completely with preceding and following)

This is what the Lord is saying,

Who provides a way in the sea,

and a path in the mighty water,

Who has brought out chariots and horse,

and a mighty multitude together;

but they have lain down, and will not rise;

they have been extinguished, quenched like a wick.

“Do not remember the former things,

or consider the ancient things.

Look, I *will* do new things, that will now spring forth,

and you will know them,

and I will make a way in the desert

and rivers in the dry land.

The wild animals of the field will bless Me,

the sirens and the daughters of ostriches,

for I have given water in the desert,

and rivers in the dry land,

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My people whom I have preserved to declare My praises.

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nor have I made you weary, O Israel.

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nor have I wearied you with frankincense,

nor hast you purchased incense for Me with silver,

nor have I desired the fat of your sacrifices,

but you have stood before Me

in your sins, and in your iniquities.

I, *even* I, am

He Who blots out your transgressions,

and I will not remember *them*.

But remember, and let us judge *together*;

you confess your transgressions first, that you may be justified.

Your fathers first,

and your rulers have transgressed against Me.

And the rulers have defiled my sanctuaries,

so I gave Jacob to destroy him,

and Israel for reproach.

But hear now, O Jacob my servant,

and Israel, whom I have chosen.

This is what Lord God Who made you,

and Who formed you from the womb, is saying,

“You will yet be helped; do not fear, Jacob My servant,

and 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 on your offspring,

and My blessings on your children.

And they will spring up like grass in the midst of water,

and like willows by running water.

One will say, ‘I am God’s,’

and another 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.”

This is what God, the King of Israel,

and the God of hosts Who delivered him, is saying,

“I am the first, and I am after these things;

besides Me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:1-8

But hear now, O Jacob my servant,

and Israel, whom I have chosen.

This is what Lord God Who made you,

and Who formed you from the womb, is saying,

“You will yet be helped; do not fear, Jacob My servant,

and 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 on your offspring,

and My blessings on your children.

And they will spring up like grass in the midst of water,

and like willows by running water.

One will say, ‘I am God’s,’

and another 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.”

This is what God, the King of Israel,

and the God of hosts Who delivered him, is saying,

“I am the first, and I am after these things;

besides Me there is no God.

Who is like Me? Let him stand, and call,

and prepare for Me,

as I have made man forever;

and let them declare to you

the things that are coming

before they arrive.

Do not hide yourselves,

have you not paid attention from the beginning,

and I declared it to you?

You are witnesses

whether there is a god beside me,

who was not formerly.

Isaiah 44:21-28

Remember these things, O Jacob

and Israel, for you are My servant;

I have formed you as my servant,

and you, Israel, do not forget Me.

For see, I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud,

and your sins like darkness;

return to Me, and I will redeem you.

Rejoice, O heavens, for God has had mercy on Israel;

sound the trumpet, O foundations of the earth;

shout for joy, O mountains,

the hills, and all the trees upon them,

for God has redeemed Jacob,

and Israel will be glorified!

This is what the Lord, Who redeems you,

and Who formed you from the womb, is saying,

“I am the Lord, Who accomplishes all things;

I alone stretched out the heaven,

and established the earth.

Who else will scatter the signs of ventriloquists,

and divinations from their heart?

turning the wise back,

and making their counsel foolishness?

Who else establishes the word of His servant,

and proves the counsel of his messengers?

Who else says to Jerusalem, “You will be inhabited,”

and to the cities of Judea, “You will be built,”

and her desert places will spring forth?

Who else says to the deep, “You will be dried up,

and I will dry up your rivers?”

Who else tells Cyrus be wise,

and he will perform all My will, who says to Jerusalem,

You will be built, and I will lay the foundation of My holy house’?”

Isaiah 45:1-10

This is what the Lord God is saying to Cyrus, My anointed,

whose right hand I have held,

so that nations will be obedient before him,

and I will break through the strength of kings;

I will open doors before him,

and cities will not be closed.

“I will go before you,

and level mountains;

I will break to pieces doors of bronze,

and break off bars of iron,

and I will give you the treasures of darkness;

I will open to you hidden, unseen *treasures*,

so that you may know that I am the Lord your God,

the God of Israel, Who calls you by name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob,

and Israel My elect,

I will call you by My Name,

and receive you, though you have not known me,

for I am the Lord God,

and there is no other god beside Me;

I strengthened you, and you have not known Me,

that they who *come* from the east

and they who *come* from the west

may know that there is no god but Me.

I am the Lord God, and there is no other.

I am He Who prepared light, and formed darkness;

Who makes peace, and creates evil;

I am the Lord God, Who does all these things.

Let the heaven rejoice from above,

and let the clouds rain righteousness;

let the earth bring forth, and blossom *with* mercy,

and *let it* bring forth righteousness as well;

I am the Lord Who created you.

What better thing have I formed, like clay of the potter?

Will the ploughman plough the earth all day?

Will the clay say to the potter, “What are you doing

since you are not working, nor have hands?”

will the formed thing answer He Who formed it?

It is like one who says to *his* father, ‘What will you beget?’

And to his mother, ‘What are you bringing forth?’”

Isaiah 45:11-17

This is what the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,

Who has formed the things that are to come, is saying,

“Ask Me concerning My sons and My daughters,

and command Me concerning the works of My hands.

I have made the earth,

and man upon it;

I have established the heaven with My hand;

I have commanded all the stars.

I have raised him up *to be* a king with righteousness,

and all his paths are straight;

he will build My city,

and will turn back the captivity of my people,

not will ransoms, or with gifts,”

says the Lord of hosts.

This is what Lord of hosts is saying,

“Egypt has laboured *for you*;

and the commerce of the Ethiopians,

and the lofty men of Sabeans will pass over to you,

and will be your servants;

they will follow after you bound in handcuffs.

They will pass over to you, and will do obeisance to you,

and will make supplication to you,

because God is in you;

and they will say ‘there is no God besides You.

For You are God, yet we did not know *it*,

O God of Israel, the Saviour.’

All who oppose Him will be ashamed and disgraced,

and will walk in shame.

Be restored to Me, you islands!

Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation;

they will not be ashamed or disgraced forever.”

Isaiah 48:17-49:4

This is what the Lord Who delivered You,

the Holy One of Israel, is saying,

“I am your God;

I have shown You how to find

the way in which you should walk.

And if you had listened to My commandments,

your peace would have been like a river,

and your righteousness like a wave of the sea;

Your offspring would have been like the sand,

and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground.

Neither would you now be utterly destroyed,

nor would your name perish before Me.”

Go out from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans;

proclaim a voice of joy, and let this be made known,

proclaim it to the end of the earth;

say, “The Lord has delivered his servant Jacob!”

And if they are thirsty, He will lead them through the desert;

He will bring forth water out of the rock for them;

the rock will be split, and the water will flow,

and my people will drink.

“There is no rejoicing,” says the Lord, “for the ungodly.”

“Listen to me, O islands,

and pay attention, O nations!

After a long time it will happen,”

says the Lord.

“From My mother’s womb He called My Name

and made My mouth like a sharp sword,

and hidden Me under the shadow of His hand;

He has made Me like a chosen arrow,

and covered Me in His quiver.

And He said to me, ‘You are My servant,

O Israel, and I will be glorified in You.’

Then I said, ‘I have laboured in vain,

And I have given my strength vain and for nothing;

Therefore, My judgement is with the Lord,

and My labour before My God.’”

Isaiah 49:6b-10

And he said to Me,

\*[“It is a great thing for You to be called My servant,

to establish the tribes of Jacob,

and to restore the dispersion of Israel.]\*

Look, I have given You as the covenant of a race,

and as a light of the Gentiles,

that You should be for salvation to the end of the earth.”

This is what the Lord Who delivered you,

the God of Israel, is saying,

“Sanctify Him Who despises His own soul,

Who is abhorred by the nations, *by* the servants of rulers;

kings will see Him, and rulers will stand up,

and will worship Him for the Lord’s sake,

because the Holy One of Israel is faithful,

and I have chosen you.”

This is what the Lord is saying,

“In an acceptable time have I heard You,

and on a day of salvation have I help You;

I gave You as a covenant of the nations,

to establish the earth,

and to inherit the inheritance of the desert;

saying to those who are in bonds, ‘Go forth,’

and *bidding* those who are in darkness to reveal themselves.

They will feed along all their roads,

and their pasture will be along all the paths.

They will not hunger, nor will they thirst;

nor will the burning heat or the sun strike them down;

but He Who has mercy on them will comfort *them*,

and He will lead them by springs of water.

Isaiah 58:1-11

“Cry aloud with strength, and do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet,

and declare to my people their sins,

and to the house of Jacob their iniquities.

They seek Me day by day,

and desire to know My ways,

like a people who practiced righteousness,

and did not forsake the judgment of their God,

they now ask of Me righteous judgment,

and desire to draw near to God,

saying, ‘Why have we fasted, but You did not see?

*Why* have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?’

No, in the days of your fasts you seek your desires,

and mistreat those who are under your power.

If you fast for quarrels and fights,

and strike the humble with *your* fists,

why do you fast to Me as *you do* today,

so that your voice may be heard in crying?

I have not chosen this fast,

nor *such* a day for a man to humble his soul;

though you should bow down your neck like a ring,

and sackcloth and ashes under yourself,

you could not call such a fast acceptable.

‘I have not chosen such a fast,’” says the Lord;

“Rather, loose every bond of iniquity;

untie the knots of violent dealings;

set the oppressed free;

and tear up every unjust contract.

Break your bread for the hungry,

and bring the homeless into your house;

if you see one naked, clothe *him*,

and you will not neglect

any of the relatives of your offspring.

Then your light will break forth as the morning,

and your health will rise quickly,

and your righteousness will go before you,

and the glory of God will cover you.

Then you will cry, and God will listen to you;

while you are still speaking, He will say, ‘Look, here I am’.

If you remove from yourself the bond,

and the stretching of the hands *to vote*,

and grumbling speech,

and *if* you give bread to the hungry from your soul,

and satisfy the humbled soul,

then your light will rise in darkness,

and your darkness *will be* as midday.

And your God will be with you continually,

and you will be satisfied as your soul desires.

And your bones will be enriched,

andwill be like a well-watered garden,

and like a spring of water that never fails.

Isaiah 65:8-16a

This is what the Lord is saying,

“As a grape will be found in the cluster,

and they will say, ‘Do not destroy it

because the blessing of the Lord is in it,’

so will I do for the sake of the one who serves Me.

For his sake I will not destroy *them* all.

And I will bring forth the seed of Jacob and of Judah,

and they will inherit My holy mountain,

and My elect and My servants

will inherit it, and will live there.

And there will be folds of flocks in the forest,

and the valley of Achor *will* become a resting place of herds

for My people, who have sought Me.

But you are those who have forsaken Me,

and forgotten My holy mountain,

and prepare a table for the devil,

and fill a drink-offering to Fortune.

I will deliver you up to the sword,

and all of you will fall in the slaughter,

for I called you, and you did not listen;

I spoke, but refused to hear,

and you did evil in My sight,

and chose the things I did not desire.”

Therefore, this is what the Lord says,

“Look, My servants will eat,

but you will hunger;

look, My servants will drink,

but you will thirst;

look, My servants will rejoice,

but you will be ashamed;

look, My servants will rejoice with joy,

but you will cry out because of the pain in your heart,

and will wail for the crushing of your spirit.

For you will leave your name to the disgust of my chosen,

and the Lord will destroy you.

But My servants will be called by a new name,

which will be blessed on the earth;

for they will bless the true God.

Isaiah 66:10-24

Rejoice, O Jerusalem,

and celebrate a festival in her, all you who love her,

rejoice greatly with joy,

all you who *now* mourn over her,

that you may nurse and be satisfied

from her consoling breast,

that with much nursing you may take delight

in the entrance to her glory.

For this is what the Lord says,

“Look, I Myself turn to them like a river of peace,

and like a brook flooding the glory of the Nations;

their children will be carried on shoulders and comforted on knees.

As a mother comforts one,

so will I also comfort you,

and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.

And you will see, and your heart will rejoice,

and your bones will grow like grass,

and the hand of the Lord will be known to those who fear Him,

and He will threaten those who disobey Him.

For, look, the Lord will come like fire,

and His chariots like a storm,

to render vengeance with wrath,

and rebuke with a flame of fire.

For all the earth will be judged by the fire of the Lord,

and all flesh by His sword;

many shall be wounded by the Lord.

Those who sanctify and purify themselves in the gardens, and eat swine’s flesh or any abomination in the porches, or any abominations, or the mouse, will be consumed together,” says the Lord.

“And I *know* their works and their reasonings. I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they will come, and see My glory. And I will leave signs upon them, and I will send forth those who are saved of them to the nations, to Tharsis, Phoud, Lud, Mosoch, to Thobel, and to Greece, and to the far off islands, to those who have not heard My Name, nor seen My glory; and they will declare My glory among the Nations. And they will bring your brethren out of all nations as a gift to the Lord with horses and chariots, in litters *drawn by* mules with sunshades, into the holy city Jerusalem,” said the Lord,” just as the children of Israel would bring Me their sacrifices with psalms into the house of the Lord. And I will take for Myself some of them as priests and Levites,” says the Lord.

“For as the new heaven and the new earth,

which I am making, remain before me,” says the Lord,

so will your offspring and your name endure.

And it will happen from month to month,

and from Sabbath to Sabbath,

*that* all flesh will come to worship before Me in Jerusalem,”

says the Lord.

“And they will go forth and see the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me, for their worm will not die, and their fire will not be extinguished; and they will be a spectacle to all flesh.

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 thsoe 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.

Daniel 6:1-27

And it pleased Darius, and he set one hundred and twenty governors over the kingdom, so that they might be throughout his kingdom, and over them three administrators, one of whom was Daniel, so the governors might give account to them, so that the king might not be troubled. And Daniel was over them, for *there was* an excellent spirit in him, and the king set him over his entire kingdom. Then the administrators and governors sought to find some charge against Daniel, but they did not find any charge against him, nor wrongdoing, nor fault, because he was faithful. And the administrators said, “We will not find a charge against Daniel, except in the laws of his God.”

Then the administrators and governors approached the king, and said to him, “King Darius, live forever! All who preside over your kingdom, captains and governors, chiefs and local governors, have counseled together, to establish a royal statue and a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, will be thrown into the den of lions. Now then, O king, establish the decree, and publish it in writing, so the decree of the Persians and Medes cannot be changed.” Then king Darius commanded the decree to be written.

And when Daniel knew that the decree had been published, he entered his house, and his windows facing Jerusalem were open in his upper rooms, and he knelt down on his knees three times a day, and prayed to and gave confession to his God, just as he had done before. Then those men watched, and found Daniel praying and making supplication to his God. And they came and said to the king, “O king, have you not made a decree, that any man who asks a petition from any god or man for thirty days, except from you, O king, will be thrown into the den of lions?” And the king said, “The word is true, and the decree of the Medes and Persians will not pass away.” Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel one of the sons of the captivity of Judea, has not submitted to your decree, and he makes his requests of his God three times a day.” Then the king, when he heard the charge, was greatly grieved for Daniel, and he agonized himself for Daniel to deliver him, and until the evening he kept agonizing himself to deliver him. Then those men said to the king, “Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians says that we must not change any decree of statue which the king makes.” Then the king spoke, and they brought Daniel, and threw him into the den of lions. But the king said to Daniel, “Your God, whom you continually serve, He will deliver you!” And they brought a stone, and laid it on the mouth of the pit, and the king sealed *it* with his ring, and with the ring of his nobles, so that the case might not be changed against Daniel. And the king went to his house, and slept, fasting, and they brought him no food, and sleep fled from him. But God shut the mouths of the lions, and they did not trouble Daniel.

Then the king arose early in the morning, at daybreak, and hurried to the den of lions. And as he came near to the den, he cried with a loud voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to deliver you from the mouth of the lions?” And Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God has sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not hurt me, because uprightness was found in me before Him, and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” Then the king was rejoiced greatly over him, and he said to bring Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was brought up out of the den, and there not any harm found on him, because he believed in his God. And the king commanded, and they brought the men that had accused Daniel, and they were thrown into the den of lions, they and their children and their wives. And they did not reach the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones to pieces.

Then king Darius wrote to all nations, tribes, *and* languages, who inhabit all the earth, *“*Peace be multiplied to you! A decree has been established by me in every dominion of my kingdom, that *people should* tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

for He is the living God and endures unto ages of ages.

And His kingdom will not be destroyed,

and his dominion will continue unto the end.

He helps and rescues,

and He works signs and wonders in the heaven and on earth;

He rescued Daniel

from the power of the lions.”

Daniel 14:2-42

And Daniel was a confidant of the king, and was honoured above all his friends.

Now the Babylonians had an idol, whose name was Bel, and they spent twelve great bushels of fine flour, forty sheep, and six vessels of wine on him every day. And the king adored it and went daily to worship it; but Daniel worshipped his own God. And the king said to him, “Why do you not worship Bel?” Daniel answered and said, “Because I do not worship idols made with hands, but the living God Who created heaven and earth, and has dominion over all flesh.”

Then the king said to him, “Do you not think that Bel is a living God? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?” Then Daniel smiled, and said, “O king, do not deceived, for it is but clay inside and bronze outside, and has never eaten or drunk anything.”

So the king was very angry, and called for his priests, and said to them, “If you do not tell me who it is that devours these provisions, you will die. But if you can prove to me that Bel devours them, then Daniel will die, for he has spoken blasphemy against Bel.” And Daniel said unto the king, “Let it be according to your word.”

Now there were seventy priests of Bel, beside their wives and children, and the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel. Then Bel’s priests said, “Look, we will go out, but you, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine, then shut the door and seal it with your own signet. And tomorrow when you come in, if you do not find that Bel has eaten it all, we will suffer death—or else Daniel will die, who speaks lies against us.” They were unconcerned, for they had made a secret entrance under the table through which they always came in and consumed the provisions.

So when they had all gone, the king set out the food before Bel. Now Daniel had commanded his servants to bring ashes, and they scattered them throughout the temple in the presence of the king alone. Then went they out, and shut the door, and sealed it with the king’s signet, and departed. During the night came the priests with their wives and children, as they usually did, and ate and drank everything.

The king arose early in the morning, and Daniel with him. And the king said, “Daniel, are the seals unbroken?” And he said, “Yes, O king, they are whole.” And as soon as he had opened the door, the king looked at the table, and cried with a loud voice, “You are great, O Bel, and there is no deceit with you at all.”

Then laughed Daniel, and restrained the king from going in, and said, “Look at the floor, and notice whose footprints these are.” And the king said, “I see the footprints of men, women, and children.” And then the king was angry, and took the priests with their wives and children, who showed him the secret doors, where they came in and consumed such things as were set on the table. Therefore the king killed them, and gave Bel over into Daniel’s power, who destroyed him and his temple.

And there was a great serpent which the people of Babylon worshipped. And the king said to Daniel, “Will you also say that this is made of bronze? Look, he lives, eats and drinks—you cannot say that he is not a living god. Therefore, worship him.”

Then said Daniel to the king, “I will worship the Lord my God: for He is the living God. But give me permission, O king, and I will slay this serpant without sword or staff.” The king said, “I give you permission.” Then Daniel took pitch, fat, and hair, and boiled them together, and made cakes, and he put them in the serpent’s mouth. And after eating them, the serpent open, and Daniel said, “Look, these are the things you worship.”

When the people of Babylon heard what had happened, they were indignant and conspired against the king, saying, “The king is become a Jew; he hath destroyed Bel, slain the serpent, and put the priests to death.” So they came to the king, and said, “Deliver Daniel to us, or else we will destroy you and your house.” Now when the king saw that they pressed him hard, he handed Daniel over to them under compulsion. They throw him into the lions’ den, where he stayed for six days. And there were seven lions in the den, and they had given to them two carcasses and two sheep every day, which were then not given to them, so that they might devour Daniel.

Now there was a prophet named Habakkuk in Judea, who had made stew and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going to the field to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said to Habakkuk, “Go, carry the dinner that you have to Babylon, to Daniel, who is in the lions’ den.” And Habakkuk said, “O Lord, I have never seen Babylon, and I do not know where the den is.” Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown of his head, and carried him by the hair of his head, and with the speed of the wind set him in Babylon over the den. And Habakkuk cried out, saying, “O Daniel, Daniel, take the meal that God has sent you.” And Daniel said, “You have remembered me, O God, and You have not forsaken those who and love You.” So Daniel arose and ate. And the angel of the Lord immediately returned Habakkuk to his own place again.

Now on the seventh day, the king went to mourn Daniel, and when he came to the den, he looked in, and there was Daniel, sitting. Then the king cried with a loud voice, saying, “You are great, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is no other besides You.” And he drew him out, and cast those who were responsible for attempting his destruction into the den, and they were devoured in a moment before his face.