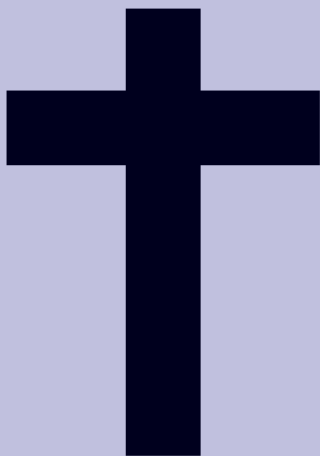


Unlocked Literal Bible



The Holy Bible in English, Unlocked Literal Bible
translation

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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

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Contents

Matthew	1
Mark	41
Luke	66
John	109
Acts	140
Romans	183
1 Corinthians	201
2 Corinthians	218
Galatians	229
Ephesians	235
Philippians	241
Colossians	245
1 Thessalonians	249
2 Thessalonians	253
1 Timothy	255
2 Timothy	260
Titus	264
Philemon	266
Hebrews	267
James	281
1 Peter	285
2 Peter	290
1 John	293
2 John	298
3 John	299
Jude	300
Revelation	302
Psalms	324

Matthew

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. ⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. ⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse. ⁶ Jesse was the father of David the king,

David the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa. ⁸ Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram an ancestor of Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah was an ancestor of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² After the deportation to Babylon, Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel was an ancestor of Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor. ¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. ¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷ All the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus Christ happened in the following way. His mother, Mary, was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband, Joseph, was a righteous man, and he did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to secretly end his engagement with her. ²⁰ As he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, because the one who is conceived in her is conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying,

²³ "Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call his name Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

²⁴ Joseph woke up from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and he took her as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Then he called his name Jesus.

2

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, learned men from the east arrived in Jerusalem saying, ² "Where is he who was born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Herod brought together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, and he asked them, "Where is the Christ to be born?" ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what was written by the prophet,

⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the leaders of Judah, for from you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'

⁷ Then Herod secretly called the learned men to ask them exactly what time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the young child. When you have found him, bring me word, so that I also may come and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star that they had seen in the east went before them until it came and stood still over where the young child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with very great joy. ¹¹ They went into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother. They fell down and worshiped him. They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ After they had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the young child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Remain there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." ¹⁴ That night Joseph rose and took the young child and his mother and departed into Egypt. ¹⁵ He remained there until the death of Herod. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been mocked by the learned men, was very angry. He sent and killed all the male children that were in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old and under, according to the time that he had determined exactly from the learned men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet,

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because they were no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After God warned him in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee

²³ and went and lived in a city called Nazareth. This fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

3

¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea saying, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying,

"The voice of one calling out in the wilderness,

'Make ready the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan River went out to him.

⁶ They were baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him for baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath that is coming? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not think of saying among yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham even out of these stones. ¹⁰ Already the ax has been placed against the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance. But he who comes after me is mightier than I, and I am not worthy even to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly clear off his threshing floor and to gather his wheat into the storehouse. But he will burn up the chaff with fire that can never be put out."

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John kept trying to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus responded and said to him, "Permit it now, for it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John permitted him. ¹⁶ After he was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting upon him. ¹⁷ Behold, a voice came out of the heavens saying, "This is my beloved Son. I am very pleased with him."

4

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread." ⁴ But Jesus answered and said to him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him into the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple building, ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
'He will command his angels to take care of you,'
and,

"They will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not hit your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him up to a very high hill and showed him all the kingdoms of the world along with all their splendor. ⁹ He said to him, "All these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Go away from here, Satan! For it is written,

'You will worship the Lord your God, and you will serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and went and lived in Capernaum, which is by the Sea of Galilee, in the territories of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This happened to fulfill what was said by Isaiah the prophet,

¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
toward the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles!

¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and to those who sat in the region and shadow of death,
upon them has a light arisen."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ¹⁸ As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left the nets and followed him. ²¹ As Jesus was going on from there he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee, and John his brother. They were in the boat with Zebedee their father mending their nets. He called them, ²² and they immediately left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ The news about him went out into all of Syria, and the people brought to him all those who were sick, ill with various diseases and pains, those possessed by demons, and the epileptic and paralytic. Jesus healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

5

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain. When he had sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He opened his mouth and taught them, saying,

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will obtain mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely for my sake. ¹² Rejoice and be very glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For in this way people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

¹³ You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt has lost its taste, how can it be made salty again? It is never again good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but rather on the lampstand, and it shines for everyone in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before people in such a way that they see your good deeds and praise your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I have come not to destroy them, but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you that until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things have been accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever breaks the least one of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will in no way enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹ You have heard that it was said to them in ancient times, 'Do not kill,' and, 'Whoever kills will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be in danger of the judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'You worthless person!' will be in danger of the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has anything against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar, and go on your way. First be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your accuser quickly while you are with him on the way to court, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I say to you, you will never come out from there until you have paid the last bit of money you owe.

²⁷ You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you.

For it is better for you that one of your body parts should perish than that your whole body should be thrown into hell. ³⁰ If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. For it is better for you that one of your body parts should perish than that your whole body should go into hell. ³¹ It was also said, 'Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of sexual immorality, makes her an adulteress. Whoever marries her after she has been divorced commits adultery.

³³ Again, you have heard that it was said to those in ancient times, 'Do not swear a false oath, but carry out your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴ But I say to you, swear not at all, neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is the footstool for his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Neither swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your speech be 'Yes, yes,' or 'No, no.' Anything that is more than this is from the evil one.

³⁸ You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist one who is evil. Instead, whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wishes to go to court with you and takes away your coat, let that person also have your cloak. ⁴¹ Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to anyone who asks you, and do not turn away from anyone who wishes to borrow from you.

⁴³ You have heard that it was said, 'You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, * ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you get? Do not even the tax collectors do the same thing? ⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same thing? ⁴⁸ Therefore you must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

6

¹ Take heed that you do not do your acts of righteousness before people to be seen by them, or else you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² So when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before yourself as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may have the praise of people. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your gift may be given in secret. Then your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, so that they may be seen by people. Truly I say to you, they have received their

* **5:44** The best ancient copies omit Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you .

reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, enter your inner chamber. Shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. Then your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ When you pray, do not make useless repetitions as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Therefore, do not be like them, for your Father knows what things you need before you ask him. ⁹ Therefore pray like this:

'Our Father in heaven,

may your name be sanctified.

¹⁰ May your kingdom come.

May your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² Forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ Do not bring us into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.' *

¹⁴ For if you forgive people their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶ When you fast, do not have a mournful face as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces so that they may appear to people as fasting. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it would not appear to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on the earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Instead, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ²² The eye is the lamp of the body. Therefore, if your eye is good, the whole body is filled with light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body is full of darkness. Therefore, if the light that is in you is actually darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵ Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink—or about your body, what you will wear. For is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds in the air. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they are? ²⁷ Which one of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his lifespan? ²⁸ Why are you anxious about clothing? Think about the lilies in the fields, how they grow. They do not work, and they do not spin cloth. ²⁹ Yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ If God so clothes the grass in the fields, which exists today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he

* **6:13** The best ancient copies omit For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen .

clothe you, you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious and say, 'What will we eat?' or, 'What will we drink?' or, 'What clothes will we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles search for these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you. ³⁴ Therefore, do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day has enough evil of its own.

7

¹ Do not judge, and you will not be judged. ² For with the judgment you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure that you measure, it will be measured out to you. ³ Why do you look at the tiny piece of straw that is in your brother's eye, but you do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take out the piece of straw that is in your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the piece of straw that is in your brother's eye. ⁶ Do not give what is holy to the dogs, and do not throw your pearls in front of the hogs. Otherwise they may trample them underfoot, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

⁷ Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives; everyone who seeks, finds; and to the person who knocks, it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ Therefore, if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him? ¹² Therefore, whatever things you want people to do to you, you should also do to them, for this is the law and the prophets.

¹³ Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many people who go through it. ¹⁴ But the gate is narrow and the way is difficult that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but are truly ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruits you will know them. Do people gather grapes from a thornbush or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but the bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will recognize them by their fruits. ²¹ Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many people will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, in your name drive out demons, and in your name do many mighty deeds?' ²³ Then will I openly declare to them, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you evildoers!'

²⁴ Therefore, everyone who hears my words and obeys them will be like a wise man who built his house upon a rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house,

but it did not fall down, for it was built on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears my words and does not obey them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and struck that house, and it fell, and its destruction was complete."

²⁸ It came about that when Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were astonished by his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

8

¹ When Jesus had come down from the hill, large crowds followed him. ² Behold, a leper came to him and bowed before him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be clean." Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. ⁴ Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to any man. Go on your way, and show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."

⁵ When Jesus had entered into Capernaum, a centurion came to him and asked him, ⁶ saying, "Lord, my servant lies in the house paralyzed and in terrible pain." ⁷ Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, only say the word and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man who is placed under authority, and I have soldiers under me. I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another one, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those who were following him, "Truly I say to you, I have not found anyone with such faith in Israel. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from the east and the west, and they will recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." ¹³ Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! As you have believed, so may it be done for you." And the servant was healed at that very hour.

¹⁴ When Jesus had come into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵ Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and started serving him. ¹⁶ When evening had come, the people brought to Jesus many who were possessed by demons. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷ In this way was fulfilled that which had been spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "He himself took our sickness and bore our diseases."

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave instructions to leave for the other side of the Sea of Galilee. ¹⁹ Then a scribe came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." ²⁰ Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ²¹ Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father." ²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

²³ When Jesus had entered a boat, his disciples followed him into it. ²⁴ Behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But Jesus was asleep. ²⁵ The disciples came to him and woke him up, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are about to die!" ²⁶ Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea. Then there was a great calm. ²⁷ The men marveled and said, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

²⁸ When Jesus had come to the other side and to the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They were coming out of the tombs and were very violent, so that no traveler could pass that way. ²⁹ Behold, they cried out and said, "What do we have to do with you, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the set time?" ³⁰ Now a herd of many pigs was there feeding, not too far away from them. ³¹ The demons kept imploring Jesus and saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into that herd of pigs." ³² Jesus said to them, "Go!" The demons came out and went into the pigs; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep hill into the sea and they died in the water. ³³ Those who had been tending the pigs ran away and they went into the city and reported everything, especially what had happened to the men who had been possessed by demons. ³⁴ Behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus. When they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

9

¹ Jesus entered a boat, crossed over, and came into his own city. ² Behold, they brought to him a paralyzed man lying on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Son, be of good cheer. Your sins have been forgiven." ³ Behold, some of the scribes said among themselves, "This man is blaspheming." ⁴ Jesus knew their thoughts and said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, ... " he said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your mat, and go to your house." ⁷ Then the man got up and went away to his house. ⁸ When the crowds saw this, they were amazed and praised God, who had given such authority to people. ⁹ As Jesus passed by from there, he saw a man named Matthew, who was sitting at the tax collection's tent. He said to him, "Follow me." He got up and followed him.

¹⁰ As Jesus sat down to eat in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinful people came and dined with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw it, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinful people?" ¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, "People who are strong in body do not need a physician, only those who are sick. ¹³ You should go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous to repent, but sinners."

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees often fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ Jesus said to

them, "Can wedding attendants be sorrowful while the bridegroom is still with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No man puts a piece of new cloth on an old garment, for the patch will tear away from the garment, and a worse tear will be made. ¹⁷ Neither do people put new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will be spilled, and the wineskins will be destroyed. Instead, they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both will be preserved."

¹⁸ While Jesus was saying these things to them, behold, an official came and bowed down to him. He said, "My daughter has just now died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Then Jesus got up and followed him, and so did his disciples. ²⁰ Behold, a woman who suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his garment. ²¹ For she had said to herself, "If only I touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²² But Jesus turned and saw her, and said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." And the woman was healed from that hour. ²³ When Jesus came into the official's house, he saw the flute players and the crowds making much noise. ²⁴ He said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead, but she is asleep." But they laughed at him in mockery. ²⁵ When the crowd had been put outside, he entered the room and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ The news about this spread into all that region.

²⁷ As Jesus passed by from there, two blind men followed him. They kept shouting and saying, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" ²⁸ When Jesus had come into the house, the blind men came to him. Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." ²⁹ Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done to you according to your faith," ³⁰ and their eyes were opened. Then Jesus strictly commanded them and said, "See that no one knows about this." ³¹ But the two men went out and spread the news about this throughout that region.

³² As those two men were going away, behold, a mute man possessed by a demon was brought to Jesus. ³³ When the demon had been driven out, the mute man spoke. The crowds were astonished and said, "This has never been seen before in Israel!" ³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, "By the ruler of the demons, he drives out demons."

³⁵ Jesus went about all the cities and the villages. He continued teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of disease and all kinds of sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were troubled and discouraged. They were like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore urgently pray to the Lord of the harvest, so that he may send out laborers into his harvest."

10

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out, and to heal all kinds of disease and all kinds of sickness. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles were

these. The first, Simon (whom he also called Peter), and Andrew his brother; James son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who would betray him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out. He instructed them and said, "Do not go to any place where Gentiles live, and do not enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel; ⁷ and as you go, preach and say, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹ Do not carry any gold, silver, or copper in your purses. ¹⁰ Do not take a traveling bag for your journey, or an extra tunic, or sandals, or a staff, for a laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ Whatever city or village you enter, find who is worthy in it, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter into the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace come back to you. ¹⁴ As for those who do not receive you or listen to your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. ¹⁵ Truly I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

¹⁶ See, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ Watch out for people! They will deliver you up to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ Then you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you up, do not be anxious about how or what you will speak, for what to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who will speak, but the Spirit of your Father who will speak in you. ²¹ Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But whoever endures to the end, that person will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this city, flee to the next, for truly I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man has come.

²⁴ A disciple is not greater than his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple that he should be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much worse would be the names they call the members of his household! ²⁶ Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the darkness, say in the daylight, and what you hear softly in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul. Instead, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Do not fear. You are more valuable than many sparrows. ³² Therefore everyone who confesses me before men, I will also confess before my

Father who is in heaven. ³³ But he who denies me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

³⁴ Do not think that I came to bring peace upon the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ A man's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ He who does not pick up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it. But he who loses his life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰ He who welcomes you welcomes me, and he who welcomes me also welcomes him who sent me. ⁴¹ He who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and he who welcomes a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² Whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple, truly I say to you, he will in no way lose his reward."

11

¹ It came about that when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he departed from there to teach and preach in their cities.

² Now when John heard in the prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent a message by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you see and hear. ⁵ Blind people are receiving sight, lame people are walking, lepers are being cleansed, deaf people are hearing again, people who have died are being raised back to life, and needy people are being told the good news. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who is not offended by me."

⁷ As these men went on their way, Jesus began to say to the crowds about John, "What did you go out in the desert to see—a reed being shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see—a man dressed in soft clothing? Really, those who wear soft clothing live in kings' houses. ⁹ But what did you go out to see—a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and much more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it was written, 'See, I am sending my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ I say to you truly, among those born of women no one is greater than John the Baptist. Yet the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and men of violence take it by force. ¹³ For all the prophets and the law have been prophesying until John; ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him listen. ¹⁶ To what should I compare this generation? It is like children playing in the marketplace, who sit and call to one another ¹⁷ and say, 'We played a flute for you, and you did not dance. We mourned, and you did not weep.' ¹⁸ For John came not eating bread or drinking wine, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say,

'Look, he is a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her deeds."

²⁰ Then Jesus began to rebuke the cities in which most of his mighty deeds were done, because they had not repented. ²¹ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the mighty deeds had been done in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you. ²³ You, Capernaum, do you think you will be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if in Sodom there had been done the mighty deeds that were done in you, it would still have remained until today. ²⁴ But I say to you that it shall be easier for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you concealed these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight. ²⁷ All things have been entrusted to me from my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke on you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

12

¹ At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath day through the grainfields. His disciples were hungry and began to pluck heads of grain and eat them. ² But when the Pharisees saw that, they said to Jesus, "See, your disciples do what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath." ³ But Jesus said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was hungry, and the men who were with him? ⁴ He went into the house of God and ate the bread of the presence, which was unlawful for him to eat and unlawful for those who were with him, but lawful only for the priests. ⁵ Have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath but are guiltless? ⁶ But I say to you that one greater than the temple is here. ⁷ If you had known what this meant, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁹ Then Jesus left from there and went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ Behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" so that they might accuse him of sinning. ¹¹ Jesus said to them, "What man would there be among you, who, if he had just one sheep, and if this sheep fell into a deep hole on the Sabbath, would not grasp hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable, then, is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored to health, just like the other hand. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted against him. They were seeking how they might put him to death.

¹⁵ As Jesus perceived this, he withdrew from there. Many people followed him, and he healed them all. ¹⁶ He commanded them not to make him known to others, ¹⁷ that it might come true, what had been said through Isaiah the prophet, saying,

¹⁸ "See, my servant whom I have chosen;
my beloved one, in whom my soul is well pleased.

I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ He will not strive nor cry aloud;
neither will anyone hear his voice in the streets.

²⁰ He will not break any bruised reed;
he will not quench any smoking flax,
until he leads justice to victory, ²¹ and in his name the Gentiles will
have certain hope."

²² Then someone blind and mute, possessed by a demon, was brought to Jesus. He healed him, with the result that the mute man spoke and saw. ²³ All the crowds were amazed and said, "Can this man be the Son of David?" ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard of this miracle, they said, "This man does not cast out demons except by Beelzebul, the prince of the demons." ²⁵ But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is made desolate, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? For this reason they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ How can anyone enter the house of the strong man and steal his belongings without tying up the strong man first? Then he will steal his belongings from his house. ³⁰ The one who is not with me is against me, and the one who does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks any word against the Son of Man, that will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, that will not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in that which is to come. ³³ Make a tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You offspring of vipers, since you are evil, how can you say good things? For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good man from the good treasure of his heart produces what is good, and the evil man from the evil treasure of his heart produces what is evil. ³⁶ I say to you that in the day of judgment people will give an account for every idle word they will have said. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

³⁸ Then certain scribes and Pharisees answered Jesus and said, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign. But no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the stomach of the big fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of

the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation of people and will condemn it. For they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and see, someone greater than Jonah is here. ⁴² The Queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them. She came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and see, someone greater than Solomon is here. ⁴³ When an unclean spirit has gone away from a man, it passes through waterless places and looks for rest, but does not find it. ⁴⁴ Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' Having returned, it finds that house swept out and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all come in to live there. Then the final condition of that man becomes worse than the first. It will be just like that with this evil generation."

⁴⁶ While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, seeking to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers stand outside, seeking to speak to you." ⁴⁸ But Jesus answered and said to him who told him, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ Then he stretched out his hand toward his disciples and said, "See, here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, that person is my brother, and sister, and mother."

13

¹ On that day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² A very large crowd gathered around him, so he got into a boat and sat in it, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ Then Jesus said many things to them in parables. He said, "Behold, a farmer went out to sow seed. ⁴ As he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil. Immediately they sprang up, because the soil had no depth. ⁶ But when the sun had risen, they were scorched because they had no root, and they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among the thorn plants. The thorn plants grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him listen."

¹⁰ The disciples came and said to Jesus, "Why do you talk to the crowd in parables?" ¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "You have been given the privilege of understanding mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. ¹² For whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ This is why I talk to them in parables: Though they are seeing, they do not see; and though they are hearing, they do not hear, or understand. ¹⁴ To them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, that which says, 'While hearing you will hear, but you will in no way understand; while seeing you will see, but you will in no way perceive. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become dull, and they are hard of hearing,

and they have closed their eyes,
so they should not see with their eyes,
or hear with their ears,
or understand with their hearts,
so they would turn again,
and I would heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear.
¹⁷ Truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see the things that you see, and did not see them. They desired to hear the things that you hear, and did not hear them. ¹⁸ Listen then to the parable of the farmer who sowed his seed. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom but does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown beside the road. ²⁰ What was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself and he endures for a while. When tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²² What was sown among the thorn plants, this is the person who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ What was sown on the good soil, this is the person who hears the word and understands it. He bears fruit and makes a crop, some yielding one hundred times as much as was planted, some sixty, and some thirty times as much."

²⁴ Jesus presented another parable to them. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while people slept, his enemy came and also sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ When the blades sprouted and then produced their crop, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How does it now have weeds?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'So do you want us to go and pull them out?' ²⁹ The landowner said, 'No. Because while you are pulling out the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First pull out the weeds and tie them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³¹ Then Jesus presented another parable to them. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. ³² This seed is indeed the smallest of all seeds. But when it has grown, it is greater than the garden plants. It becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." ³³ Jesus then told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until all the dough had risen."

³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; and he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was in order that what had been said through the prophet might come true, when he said, "I will open my mouth in parables. I will say things that were hidden from the foundation of the world."

³⁶ Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ Jesus answered and said, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore, as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all the things that cause sin and those who commit iniquity. ⁴² They will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. ⁴³ Then will the righteous people shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him listen.

⁴⁴ The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. A man found it and hid it. In his joy he goes, sells everything he possesses, and buys that field. ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a merchant looking for valuable pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one pearl of very great value, he went and sold everything that he possessed and bought it.

⁴⁷ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea, and that gathered creatures of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was filled, the fishermen drew it up on the beach. Then they sat down and gathered the good things into containers, but the worthless things they threw away. ⁴⁹ It will be this way at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from among the righteous. ⁵⁰ They will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

⁵¹ Have you understood all these things?" The disciples said to him, "Yes." ⁵² Then Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple to the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is the owner of a house, who draws out old and new things from his treasure." ⁵³ Then it came about that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed from that place.

⁵⁴ Then Jesus entered his own region and taught the people in their synagogue. The result was that they were astonished and said, "Where does this man get his wisdom and these miracles from? ⁵⁵ Is not this man the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? Are not his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ Are not all his sisters with us? Where did he get all these things?" ⁵⁷ They were offended by him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own family." ⁵⁸ He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

14

¹ About that time, Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus. ² He said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead. Therefore these powers are at work in him." ³ For Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴ For John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her as your wife." ⁵ Herod would have put him to death,

but he feared the people, because they regarded him as a prophet. ⁶ But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced in the midst and pleased Herod. ⁷ In response, he promised with an oath to give her whatever she should ask. ⁸ After being instructed by her mother, she said, "Give me here, on a platter, the head of John the Baptist." ⁹ The king was very upset by her request, but because of his oath and because of all those at dinner with him, he ordered that it should be done. ¹⁰ He sent and beheaded John in the prison. ¹¹ Then his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl and she took it to her mother. ¹² Then his disciples came, took up the corpse, and buried it. After this, they went and told Jesus.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to an isolated place. When the crowds heard of it, they followed him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ Then Jesus came before them and saw the large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When the evening had come, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the day is already over. Dismiss the crowds, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "They have no need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They said to him, "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish." ¹⁸ Jesus said, "Bring them to me." ¹⁹ Then Jesus ordered the crowd to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. Looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowd. ²⁰ They all ate and were filled. Then they took up what remained of the broken pieces of food—twelve baskets full. ²¹ Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he sent away the crowds. ²³ After he had sent away the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat was now a long way from land, being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was blowing against them. ²⁵ In the fourth watch of the night Jesus approached them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, "It is a ghost," and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them right away and said, "Be brave! It is I! Do not be afraid." ²⁸ Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out from the boat and walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the wind, he became afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out and said, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² Then when Jesus and Peter went into the boat, the wind ceased blowing. ³³ Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵ When the men in that place recognized Jesus, they sent messages everywhere into the surrounding area, and they brought to him everyone who was sick. ³⁶ They begged him that they might just touch the edge of his garment, and as many as touched it were healed.

15

¹ Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem. They said, ² “Why do your disciples violate the traditions of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” ³ He answered and said to them, “Then why do you violate the commandment of God for the sake of your traditions? ⁴ For God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and ‘He who speaks evil of his father or mother, will surely die.’ ⁵ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother “Whatever help you would have received from me is now a gift given to God,” ⁶ that person does not need to honor his father. In this way you have made void the word of God * for the sake of your traditions. ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said, ⁸ ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

⁹ They worship me in vain,

because they teach as their doctrines the commandments of people.”

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to himself and said to them, “Listen and understand— ¹¹ Nothing that enters into the mouth defiles a person. Instead, what comes out of the mouth, this is what defiles a person.”

¹² Then the disciples came and said to Jesus, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?” ¹³ Jesus answered and said, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone, they are blind guides. If a blind person guides another blind person, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ Peter responded and said to Jesus, “Explain this parable to us.”

¹⁶ Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is then passed out into the latrine? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart. They are the things that defile a person. ¹⁹ For from the heart proceed evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, and slander. ²⁰ These are the things that defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a person.”

²¹ Then Jesus went away from there and withdrew toward the regions of the cities of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Behold, a Canaanite woman came out from that region. She shouted out and said, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” ²³ But Jesus answered her not a word. His disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is shouting after us.” ²⁴ But Jesus answered and said, “I was not sent to anyone except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and bowed down before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered and said, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, but even the little dogs eat some of the crumbs that fall from their masters’ tables.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, “Woman, great is your faith; let it be done for you just as you wish.”

At that hour her daughter was healed.

* **15:6** The best ancient copies have the word of God some other ancient copies have the commandment. It is difficult to choose the better reading.

²⁹ Jesus left that place and went near to the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up a hill and sat there. ³⁰ Large crowds came to him. They brought with them lame, blind, mute, and crippled people, and many others who were sick. They presented them at Jesus' feet, and he healed them. ³¹ So the crowd marveled when they saw the mute persons speak, the crippled made well, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. They praised the God of Israel.

³² Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have stayed with me for three days already and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away without eating, or they may faint on the way." ³³ The disciples said to him, "Where can we get enough loaves of bread in such a deserted place to satisfy so large a crowd?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." ³⁵ Then Jesus commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground. ³⁶ He took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks, he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave them to the crowd. ³⁷ The people all ate and were satisfied. Then they gathered up seven baskets full of the broken pieces that were left over. ³⁸ Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹ Then Jesus sent the crowds away and got into the boat and went into the region of Magadan.

16

¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from the sky. ² But he answered and said to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ³ When it is morning, you say, 'It will be foul weather, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴ An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." Then Jesus left them and went away.

⁵ When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. ⁶ Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷ The disciples reasoned among themselves and said, "It is because we took no bread." ⁸ Jesus was aware of this and said, "You of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves and say that it is because you have taken no bread? ⁹ Do you not yet perceive or remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered up? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up? ¹¹ How is it that you do not understand that I was not speaking to you about bread? Take heed and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to beware of yeast in bread, but to beware of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the regions near Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They said, "Some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Answering, Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ,

the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. The gates of Hades will not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then Jesus commanded the disciples that they should tell no one that he was the Christ.

²¹ From that time Jesus started to tell his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things at the hand of the elders and chief priests and scribes, be killed, and be raised back to life on the third day.²² Then Peter took him aside and rebuked him, saying, “May this be far from you, Lord; may this never happen to you.”²³ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you do not care for the things of God, but for the things of people.”²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.²⁶ For what does it profit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? What can a person give in exchange for his life?²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels. Then he will reward every person according to what he has done.²⁸ Truly I say to you, there are some of you standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

17

¹ Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them up a high mountain by themselves.² He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his garments became as brilliant as the light.³ Behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with him.⁴ Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you desire, I will make here three shelters—one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, there was a voice out of the cloud, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.”⁶ When the disciples heard it, they fell on their face and were very afraid.⁷ Then Jesus came and touched them and said, “Get up and do not be afraid.”⁸ Then they looked up but saw no one except Jesus only.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Report this vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”¹⁰ His disciples asked him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”¹¹ Jesus answered and said, “Elijah will indeed come and restore all things.¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come, but they did not recognize him. Instead, they did whatever they wanted to him. In the same way, the Son of Man will also suffer at their hands.”¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

¹⁴ When they had come to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic and suffers severely. For he often falls into the fire or the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said, "Unbelieving and corrupt generation, how long will I have to stay with you? How long must I bear with you? Bring him here to me." ¹⁸ Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed from that hour.

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ Jesus said to them, "Because of your small faith. For I truly say to you, if you have faith even as small as a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ *

²² While they stayed in Galilee, Jesus said to his disciples, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of people, ²³ and they will kill him, and the third day he will be raised up." The disciples became very upset.

²⁴ When they had come to Capernaum, the men who collected the half-shekel tax came to Peter and said, "Does not your teacher pay the half-shekel tax?" ²⁵ He said, "Yes." When Peter came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first and said, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect tolls or taxes? From their sons or from others?" ²⁶ When he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free." ²⁷ But so that we do not cause the tax collectors to sin, go to the sea, throw in a hook, and draw in the fish that comes up first. When you have opened its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take it and give it to the tax collectors for me and you."

18

¹ In that same time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² Jesus called to himself a little child, set him among them, ³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like little children, you will in no way enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name receives me. ⁶ But whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in me to sin, it would be better for him that a great millstone should be hung about his neck, and that he should be sunk into the depths of the sea.

⁷ Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! For it is necessary that those stumbling blocks come, but woe to the person through whom those stumbling blocks come! ⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into life maimed or lame than to be thrown into the eternal fire having two hands or two feet. ⁹ If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye than to be thrown into the eternal fire having both eyes. ¹⁰ See that you do not despise any of these little ones. For

* **17:21** The best ancient copies omit v. 21, But this kind of demon does not go out except with prayer and fasting .

I say to you that in heaven their angels always look on the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹ * ¹² What do you think? If anyone has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go off seeking the one that went astray? ¹³ If he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴ In the same way, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵ If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you will have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen to you, take one or two others along with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word might be verified. ¹⁷ And if he refuses to listen to them, tell the matter to the church. If he also refuses to listen to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I say to you, whatever things you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst."

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Until seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not tell you seven times, but until seventy times seven. ²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is similar to a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settling, one servant was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But since he had not the means to repay, his master commanded him to be sold, together with his wife and children and everything that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell down, bowed down before him, and said, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ So the master of that servant, since he was moved with compassion, released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants, who owed him one hundred denarii. He grasped him, took him by the throat, and said, 'Pay me what you owe.' ²⁹ But his fellow servant fell down and implored him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you.' ³⁰ But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he should pay him what he owed. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very upset. They came and told their master everything that had happened. ³² Then that servant's master called him, and said to him, 'You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt because you implored me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, even as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the torturers until he would pay all that was owed. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

19

¹ It came about that when Jesus had finished these words, he

* **18:11** The best ancient copies omit the sentence that some versions include at v. 11. For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost .

departed from Galilee, and came to the region of Judea that is beyond the Jordan River. ² Great crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ Pharisees came to him, testing him, saying to him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?" ⁴ Jesus answered and said, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female? ⁵ He who made them also said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and join to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one tear apart." ⁷ They said to him, "Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of divorce and then to send her away?" ⁸ He said to them, "For your hardness of heart, Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not that way. ⁹ I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and the man who marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery." ¹⁰ The disciples said to Jesus, "If that is the case of a man with his wife, it is not good to marry." ¹¹ But Jesus said to them, "Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those who are allowed to accept it. ¹² For there are eunuchs who were that way from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to receive this teaching, let him receive it."

¹³ Then some little children were brought to him so that he would lay his hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, "Permit the little children, and do not forbid them to come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such ones." ¹⁵ He placed his hands on the children, and then he went away from there.

¹⁶ Behold, a man came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, what good thing must I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷ Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is good, but if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ The man said to him, "Which commandments?" Jesus said, "Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, ¹⁹ honor your father and your mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁰ The young man said to him, "All these things I have obeyed. What do I still need?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² But when the young man heard what Jesus said, he went away sorrowful, for he had many possessions.

²³ Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When the disciples heard it, they were very astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." ²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, in the new age when the Son

of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ Every one who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or land for my name's sake, will receive one hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

20

¹ For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² After he had agreed with the workers for one denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ He went out again about the third hour and saw other workers standing idle in the marketplace. ⁴ To them he said, 'You also, go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went to work. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth hour and again the ninth hour, and did the same. ⁶ Once more about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle. He said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all the day long?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.' ⁹ When the workers who had been hired at the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ When the first workers came, they thought that they would receive more, but they also received one denarius each. ¹¹ When they received their wages, they complained about the landowner. ¹² They said, 'These last workers have spent only one hour in work, but you have made them equal to us, we who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But the owner answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I do you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for one denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go your way. I choose to give to these last hired workers just the same as to you. ¹⁵ Do I not have the right to do as I want with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last." *

¹⁷ As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will deliver him to the Gentiles for them to mock, to flog, and to crucify him. But on the third day he will be raised up."

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons. She bowed down before him and asked for something from him. ²¹ Jesus said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to him, "Command that these my two sons may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left hand, in your kingdom." ²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "My cup you will indeed drink. But to sit at my right hand and at my left hand is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been

* **20:16** The best ancient copies omit Many are called, but few are chosen .

prepared by my Father.”²⁴ When the other ten disciples heard this, they were very angry with the two brothers.²⁵ But Jesus called them to himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles subjugate them, and their important men exercise authority over them.²⁶ But it must not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your servant,²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

²⁹ As they went out from Jericho, a great crowd followed him.³⁰ There were two blind men sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us.”³¹ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be quiet, but they cried out even more loudly, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us.”³² Then Jesus stood still and called to them and said, “What do you wish me to do for you?”³³ They said to him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.”³⁴ Then Jesus, being moved with compassion, touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

21

¹ As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,² saying to them, “Go into the next village, and you will immediately find a donkey tied up there, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me.³ If anyone says anything to you about that, you will say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and that person will immediately send them with you.”⁴ Now this came about that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled. He said,

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
'See, your King is coming to you,
Humble and riding on a donkey—
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'”

⁶ Then the disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them.⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat upon the cloaks.⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them in the road.⁹ Then the crowds that went before Jesus and those that followed him were shouting,

“Hosanna to the son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁰ When Jesus had come into Jerusalem, all the city was stirred and said, “Who is this?”¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

¹² Then Jesus entered the temple. He cast out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and turned over the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.¹³ He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”¹⁴ Then the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the

scribes saw the marvelous things that he did, and when they heard the children shouting in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became very angry. ¹⁶ They said to him, "Do you hear what they are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes! But have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of little children and nursing infants you have prepared praise?'" ¹⁷ Then Jesus left them and went out of the city to Bethany and spent the night there.

¹⁸ Now in the morning as he returned to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹ Seeing a fig tree along the roadside, he went to it and found nothing on it except leaves. He said to it, "May there be no fruit from you ever again," and immediately the fig tree withered. ²⁰ When the disciples saw it, they marveled and said, "How did the fig tree immediately wither away?" ²¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to this fig tree, but you will even say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and it will be done. ²² Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing, you will receive."

²³ When Jesus had come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority do you do these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question. If you tell me, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John—from where did it come? From heaven or from men?" They discussed among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the crowd, because they all view John as a prophet." ²⁷ Then they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." He also said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸ But what do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' ²⁹ The son answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ Then the man went to the second son and said the same thing. He answered and said, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two sons did his father's will?" They said, "The first one." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes will enter the kingdom of God before you do. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. But you, even when you saw this, you did not repent afterward and believe him.

³³ Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner. He planted a vineyard, set a hedge about it, dug a winepress in it, built a watchtower, and rented it out to vine growers. Then he went into another country. ³⁴ When the time of the fruit harvest approached, he sent some servants to the vine growers to get his fruit. ³⁵ But the vine growers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned still another. ³⁶ Again, the owner sent other servants, more than the first, but the vine growers treated them in the same way. ³⁷ After that, the owner sent his own son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the vine growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and take over the

inheritance.' ³⁹ So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine growers?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will destroy those miserable men in the most severe way, and will then rent out the vineyard to other vine growers, men who will give him his share of crops at the harvest time." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the scriptures,

'The stone which the builders rejected
has been made the cornerstone.
This was from the Lord,
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

⁴³ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and will be given to a nation that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces. But anyone on whom it falls will be crushed." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they understood he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ Seeking to arrest him, they were afraid of the crowd, because the people regarded him as a prophet.

22

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, ² "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a marriage feast for his son. ³ He sent out his servants to call those who had been invited to come to the marriage feast, but they would not come. ⁴ Again the king sent other servants, saying, 'Tell them who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened calves have been killed, and all things are ready. Come to the marriage feast."' ⁵ But they paid no attention and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. ⁶ The others seized the king's servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his soldiers and they killed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹ Therefore go to the highway crossings and invite as many people to the marriage feast as you can find.' ¹⁰ The servants went out to the highways and gathered together all the people they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² The king said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' But the man was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind this man hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and the grinding of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many people are called, but few are chosen."

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and planned how they might entrap Jesus in his own talk. ¹⁶ Then they sent to him their disciples, together with the Herodians. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, we know that you are truthful, and that you teach God's way in truth. You care for no one's opinion, and you do not show partiality between people. ¹⁷ So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus understood their wickedness and said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." Then they brought

a denarius to him. ²⁰ Jesus said to them, "Whose image and name are these?" ²¹ They said to him, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard it, they marveled. Then they left him and went away.

²³ On that day some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him. They asked him, ²⁴ saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies, having no children, his brother must marry his wife and have children for his brother.' ²⁵ There were seven brothers. The first married and then died. Having left no children, he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ Then the second brother did the same thing, then the third, all the way to the seventh brother. ²⁷ After them all, the woman died. ²⁸ Now in the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven brothers? For they all had married her." ²⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage. Instead, they are like angels in heaven. ³¹ But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." ³³ When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. ³⁵ One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him— ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second commandment is like it—'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets."

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were still gathered together, Jesus asked them a question. ⁴² He said, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ Jesus said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool"?"

⁴⁵ If David then calls the Christ 'Lord,' how is he David's son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to answer him a word, and no man dared ask him any more questions from that day on.

23

¹ Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. ² He said, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³ Therefore whatever they command you to do, do these things and observe them. But do not imitate their deeds, for they say things but then do not do them. ⁴ Yes, they bind heavy burdens that are difficult to carry, and then they put them on people's shoulders. But they themselves will not move a finger to carry them. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by people. For they make their phylacteries wide, and they enlarge the edges of

their garments. ⁶ They love the chief places at feasts and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and special greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi' by people. ⁸ But you must not be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all you are brothers. ⁹ And call no man on earth your father, for you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. ¹⁰ Neither must you be called 'teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ But he who is greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

¹³ But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven against people. For you do not enter it yourselves, and neither do you allow those about to enter to do so. ¹⁴ * ¹⁵ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you go over sea and land to make one convert, and when he has become one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you.

¹⁶ Woe to you, you blind guides, you who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing. But whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound to his oath.' ¹⁷ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold or the temple that makes the gold holy? ¹⁸ And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing. But whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is bound to his oath.' ¹⁹ You blind people! Which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift holy? ²⁰ Therefore, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ The one who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who lives in it. ²² And the one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits on it.

²³ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, but you have left undone the weightier matters of the law—justice and mercy and faith. But these you ought to have done and not to have left the other undone. ²⁴ You blind guides, you who strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!

²⁵ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! Clean first the inside of the cup and of the plate, so that the outside may become clean also.

²⁷ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

²⁹ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous. ³⁰ You say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been participants with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹ Therefore you testify against yourselves that you are sons of those who killed the prophets. ³² You also fill up the measure of your fathers. ³³ You serpents, you offspring of vipers, how will you escape

* **23:14** The best ancient copies omit verse 14 (some copies add the verse after verse 12). Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, while you make a show of long prayers. You will therefore receive greater condemnation .

the judgment of hell? ³⁴ Therefore, see, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes. Some of them you will kill and crucify, and some you will whip in your synagogues and drive them out from city to city. ³⁵ The result is that upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel, to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you killed between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁷ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often did I long to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I say to you, You will not see me from now on until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

24

¹ Jesus went out from the temple and was going on his way. His disciples came to him to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² But he answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone will be left on another that will not be torn down."

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name. They will say, 'I am the Christ,' and will lead many astray. ⁶ You will hear of wars and reports of wars. See that you are not troubled, for these things must happen; but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ But all these things are only the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you. You will be hated by all the nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ Then many will stumble, and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will rise up and lead many astray. ¹² Because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations. Then the end will come.

¹⁵ Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ "let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, ¹⁷ let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house, ¹⁸ and let him who is in the field not return to take his cloak. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are with child and to those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever will be again. ²² Unless those days are shortened, no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!'

or, 'There is the Christ!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will come and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time. ²⁶ Therefore, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out to the wilderness. Or, 'See, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning shines out from the east and flashes all the way to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever a dead animal is, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹ But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹ He will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

³² Learn a lesson from the fig tree. As soon as the branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you should know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all of these things will have happened. ³⁵ Heaven and the earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³⁶ But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away—so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in a field—one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a mill—one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Therefore be on your guard, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what time of night the thief was coming, he would have been on guard and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour that you do not expect.

⁴⁵ So who is the faithful and wise servant whom his master has set over his household in order to give them their food at the right time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find doing that when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly I say to you that the master will set him over everything that he owns. ⁴⁸ But if an evil servant says in his heart, 'My master has been delayed,' ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ then the master of that servant will come on a day that the servant does not expect and at an hour that he does not know. ⁵¹ His master will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

25

¹ Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were

foolish and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish virgins took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them. ⁴ But the wise virgins took containers of oil along with their lamps. ⁵ Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all got sleepy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the bridegroom! Go out and meet him.' ⁷ Then all those virgins rose up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise answered and said, 'Since there will not be enough for us and you, go instead to those who sell and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ While they went away to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins also came and said, 'Master, master, open for us.' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Watch therefore, for you do not know the day or the hour.

¹⁴ For it is like when a man was about to go into another country. He called his own servants and gave over to them his wealth. ¹⁵ To one of them he gave five talents, to another he gave two, and to yet another he gave one talent. Each one received an amount according to his own ability, and that man went on his journey. ¹⁶ The one who received the five talents went at once and invested them and made another five talents. ¹⁷ Likewise the one who had received two talents made another two. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The servant who had received the five talents came and brought another five talents. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things. I will put you in charge over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² The servant who had received two talents came and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things. I will put you in charge over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the servant who had received one talent came and said, 'Master, I know that you are a strict man. You reap where you did not sow, and you harvest where you did not scatter. ²⁵ I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have here what belongs to you.' ²⁶ But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sowed and harvest where I have not scattered. ²⁷ Therefore you should have given my money to the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ Therefore take away the talent from him and give it to the servant who has ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who possesses, more will be given—even more abundantly. But from anyone who does not possess anything, even what he does have will be taken away. ³⁰ Throw the worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be

gathered all the nations, and he will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you cared for me; I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and take you in? Or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and come to you?' ⁴⁰ Then the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, what you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those on his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² because I was hungry, but you did not give me food; I was thirsty, but you did not give me a drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger, but you did not take me in; naked, but you did not clothe me; sick and in prison, but you did not care for me.' ⁴⁴ Then they will also answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not serve you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them and say, 'Truly I say to you, what you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' ⁴⁶ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

26

¹ It came about that when Jesus had finished all these words, he said to his disciples, ² "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." ³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the palace of the high priest, who was named Caiaphas. ⁴ They plotted together to arrest Jesus stealthily and kill him. ⁵ For they were saying, "Not during the feast, so that a riot does not arise among the people."

⁶ Now while Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ as he was reclining at table, a woman came to him having an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, and she poured it upon his head. ⁸ But when his disciples saw it, they became angry and said, "What is the reason for this waste? ⁹ This could have been sold for a large amount and given to the poor." ¹⁰ But Jesus, knowing this, said to them, "Why are you troubling this woman? For she has done a beautiful thing for me. ¹¹ You always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² For when she poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. ¹³ Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, who was named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver

him to you?" They weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him. ¹⁶ From that moment he sought an opportunity to deliver him to them.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"" ¹⁹ The disciples did as Jesus directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When evening came, he sat down to eat with the twelve disciples. ²¹ As they were eating, he said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray me." ²² They were very sorrowful, and each one began to ask him, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "The one who dips his hand with me in the dish is the one who will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go, just as it is written about him. But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Judas, who would betray him said, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said it yourself."

²⁶ As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it. He gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat. This is my body." ²⁷ He took a cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them and said, "Drink it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is my blood of the covenant that is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away tonight because of me, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

³² But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

³³ But Peter said to him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." ³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you." All the other disciples said the same thing.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane and said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him and began to become sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch with me." ³⁹ He went a little farther, fell on his face, and prayed. He said, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "What, could you not watch with me for one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² He went away a second time and prayed. He said, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ He came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed a third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then Jesus came to the

disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Look, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Arise, let us go. Look, the one who is betraying me is near."

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came. A large crowd came with him from the chief priests and elders of the people. They came with swords and clubs. ⁴⁸ Now the man who was going to betray Jesus had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, he is the one. Seize him." ⁴⁹ Immediately he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and he kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come to do." Then they came, laid hands on Jesus, and seized him. ⁵¹ Behold, one of those who was with Jesus stretched out his hand, drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back in its place, for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I could not call upon my Father, and he would send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, that this must happen?" ⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to seize me like a robber? Every day I sat teaching in the temple, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

⁵⁷ Those who had seized Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered together. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him from a distance to the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death. ⁶⁰ They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² The high priest stood up and said to him, "Do you have no answer? What is it that they are testifying against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus was silent. The high priest said to him, "I command you by the living God, tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus replied to him, "You have said it yourself. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we still need witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is worthy of death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and beat him, and struck him with the palms of their hands, ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophecy to us, you Christ. Who is it that struck you?"

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him and said, "You were also with Jesus of Galilee." ⁷⁰ But he denied it in front of them all, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." ⁷¹ When he went out to the gateway, another servant girl saw him and said to those there, "This man was also with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² He again denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" ⁷³ After a little while those who were standing by came and

said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, for the way you speak gives you away." ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man," and immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Peter remembered the words that Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." Then he went outside and wept bitterly.

27

¹ Now when morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put him to death. ² They bound him, led him away, and delivered him to Pilate the governor.

³ Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus had been condemned, he repented and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself." ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went out and hanged himself. ⁶ The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put this into the treasury, because it is the price of blood." ⁷ They discussed the matter together and with the money bought the potter's field in which to bury strangers. ⁸ For this reason that field has been called, "The Field of Blood" to this day. ⁹ Then that which had been spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, ¹⁰ and they gave it for the potter's field, as the Lord had directed me."

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "You say so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear all the charges against you?" ¹⁴ But he did not answer even one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵ Now at the feast it was the custom of the governor to release one prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Who do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ He knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him and said, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man. For I have suffered much today because of a dream I had about him." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas, and have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "What should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all answered, "Crucify him." ²³ Then he said, "Why, what crime has he done?" But they cried out even louder, "Crucify him." ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could not do anything, but instead a riot was starting, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this innocent man. See to it yourselves." ²⁵ All the people said, "May his blood be on us and our children." ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them, but he scourged Jesus and handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the government headquarters and gathered the whole company of soldiers. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹ They made a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and placed a staff in his right hand. They knelt down before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on him, and they took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ When they had mocked him, they took the robe off him and put his own garments on him, and led him away to crucify him.

³² As they came out, they found a man from Cyrene named Simon, whom they forced to go with them so that he might carry his cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of a Skull." ³⁴ They gave him wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he tasted it, he would not drink. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his garments by casting lots, ³⁶ and they sat and kept guard over him. ³⁷ Above his head they put the charge against him, which read "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." ³⁸ Two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right of him and one on the left. ³⁹ Those who passed by insulted him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests were mocking him, along with the scribes and elders, and said, ⁴² "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel. Let him come down off the cross, and then we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God, let God rescue him now, if God consents to release him. For he even said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also spoke insults to him.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice and said, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ When some of those who were standing there heard it, they said, "He is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a reed staff, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest of them said, "Leave him alone. Let us see whether Elijah comes to save him." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ Behold, the curtain of the temple was split in two from the top to the bottom, and the earth shook, and the rocks split apart. ⁵² The tombs were opened, and the bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after his resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those who were watching Jesus saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they became very afraid and said, "Truly this was the Son of God." ⁵⁵ Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for him were there looking on from a distance. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He approached

Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut into the rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, which was the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together with Pilate. ⁶³ They said, "Sir, we remember that when that deceiver was alive, he said, 'After three days will I rise again.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, otherwise his disciples may come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "Take a guard. Go and make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and placing the guard.

28

¹ Now late on the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, came and rolled away the stone, and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel addressed the women and said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, but is risen, just as he said. Come see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. See, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you." ⁸ The women quickly left the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" The women came, took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee. There they will see me."

¹¹ Now while the women were going, behold, some of the guards went into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. ¹² When the priests had met with the elders and discussed the matter with them, they gave a large amount of money to the soldiers ¹³ and told them, "Say to others, 'Jesus' disciples came by night and stole his body while we were sleeping.' ¹⁴ If this report reaches the governor, we will persuade him and take any worries away from you." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they had been instructed. This report spread widely among the Jews and continues even today.

¹⁶ But the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came to them and spoke to them and said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them into the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey all the things that I have commanded you. See, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark

¹ This is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Look, I am sending my messenger before your face,
the one who will prepare your way.

³ The voice of one calling out in the wilderness,
‘Make ready the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ John came, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole country of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁶ John was wearing a coat of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and he was eating locusts and wild honey.

⁷ He proclaimed, “One will come after me who is more powerful than I; the strap of his sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. ¹¹ A voice came out of the heavens, “You are my beloved Son. I am very pleased with you.”

¹² Then the Spirit compelled him to go out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels served him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. ¹⁵ He said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶ When he was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ Then immediately they left the nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As Jesus was walking on a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and John his brother; they were in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰ He called them and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and they followed him.

²¹ Then they came into Capernaum, and on the Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as someone who has authority and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who had an unclean spirit cried out, ²⁴ saying, “What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ Jesus rebuked the demon and said, “Be quiet and come out of him!” ²⁶ The unclean spirit threw him down and went out from him while crying out with a loud voice. ²⁷ All the people were amazed, so they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority? He even commands the unclean spirits and

they obey him!" ²⁸ The news about him went out everywhere into the whole region of Galilee.

²⁹ After coming out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, along with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he came, took her by the hand, and raised her up; the fever left her, and she started serving them.

³² That evening, after the sun had set, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³ The whole city gathered together at the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, but he did not allow the demons to speak because they knew him.

³⁵ He got up very early, while it was still dark; he left and went out into a solitary place and there he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and those who were with him searched for him. ³⁷ They found him and they said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸ He said, "Let us go elsewhere, out into the surrounding towns, so that I may preach there also. That is why I came out here." ³⁹ He went throughout all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

⁴⁰ A leper came to him. He was begging him; he knelt down and said to him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, saying to him, "I am willing. Be clean." ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ Jesus strictly warned him and sent him away. ⁴⁴ He said to him, "Be sure to say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to spread the news widely, so much that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but he stayed out in remote places. Yet people were still coming to him from everywhere.

2

¹ When he came back to Capernaum after a few days, it was heard that he was at home. ² So many gathered there that there was no more space, not even at the door, and Jesus spoke the word to them. ³ Then some men came to him who were bringing a paralyzed man; four people were carrying him. ⁴ When they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof that was above Jesus, and after they made an opening, they lowered the bed the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, and they reasoned in their hearts, ⁷ "How can this man speak this way? He blasphemes! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit what they were thinking among themselves. He said to them, "Why are you thinking this in your hearts? ⁹ What is easier to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say 'Get up, take up your bed, and walk'? ¹⁰ But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I say to you, get up, take up your mat, and go to your house." ¹² He got up and immediately took up the mat, and went

out of the house in front of everyone, so that they were all amazed and they gave glory to God, and they said, "We never saw anything like this."

¹³ He went out again by the lake, and all the crowd came to him, and he taught them. ¹⁴ As he passed by, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's tent and he said to him, "Follow me." He got up and followed him.

¹⁵ Jesus was having a meal in Levi's house and many tax collectors and sinful people were dining with him and his disciples, for there were many and they followed him. ¹⁶ When the scribes, who were Pharisees, saw that Jesus was eating with the sinful people and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinful people?" ¹⁷ When Jesus heard this he said to them, "People who are strong in body do not need a physician; only people who are sick need one. I did not come to call righteous people, but sinful people."

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding attendants fast while the bridegroom is still with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and in those days, they will fast. ²¹ No man sews a piece of new cloth on an old garment, otherwise the patch will tear away from it, the new from the old, and there will be a worse tear. ²² No man puts new wine into old wineskins, otherwise the wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the wineskins will be lost. Instead, put new wine into fresh wineskins."

²³ On the Sabbath day Jesus went through some grainfields, and his disciples began to pick heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing something that is not lawful on the Sabbath day?" ²⁵ He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry—he and the men who were with him—²⁶ how he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the presence, which it is unlawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he even gave some to those who were with him?" ²⁷ Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for mankind, not mankind for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath."

3

¹ Again Jesus walked into the synagogue and there was a man with a withered hand. ² Some people watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath so that they could accuse him. ³ Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and stand here in the middle of everyone." ⁴ Then he said to the people, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath day or to do harm; to save a life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ He looked around at them with anger, and he was grieved by their hardness of heart, and he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees

went out and immediately began to plot with the Herodians as to how they might put him to death.

⁷ Then Jesus, with his disciples, went to the sea, and a great crowd of people followed from Galilee and from Judea ⁸ and from Jerusalem and from Idumea and beyond the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. When they heard about the things he was doing, a great crowd came to him. ⁹ He asked his disciples to have a small boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him. ¹⁰ For he healed many, so that everyone who had afflictions eagerly approached him in order to touch him. ¹¹ Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, and they said, "You are the Son of God." ¹² He strictly ordered them not to make him known.

¹³ He went up on the mountain, and he called for those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed the twelve (whom he named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them to proclaim the message, ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ Then he appointed the twelve: Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter; ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; ¹⁸ and Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who would betray him.

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat bread. ²¹ When his family heard about it, they went out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." ²² The scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul" and "By the ruler of the demons he drives out demons." ²³ Jesus called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he is not able to stand, but has come to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter into the house of a strong man and steal his belongings without tying up the strong man first, and then he will plunder his house. ²⁸ Truly I say to you, all sins of the sons of men will be forgiven, even all the blasphemies which they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin." ³⁰ Jesus said this because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came and stood outside. They sent for him, summoning him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, and they are looking for you." ³³ He answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ He looked around at those who were sitting in a circle around him and said, "See, here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, that person is my brother, and sister, and mother."

4

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea, and a large crowd gathered

around him. He stepped into a boat that was on the sea, and he sat down in it. The whole crowd was on the shore beside the sea. ² He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching, this is what he said to them. ³ "Listen, the farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell on the road, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on the rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately it sprang up, because it did not have deep soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, the plants were scorched, and because they had no root, they dried up. ⁷ Other seed fell among the thorn plants. The thorn plants grew up and choked it, and it did not produce a crop. ⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and it produced a crop growing up and increasing thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times." ⁹ Then he said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!"

¹⁰ When Jesus was alone, those who were close to him and with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He said to them, "To you is given the mystery of the kingdom of God. But to those outside everything is in parables,

¹² so that when they look, yes they look, but do not see, and so that when they hear, yes they hear, but do not understand, or else they would turn and God would forgive them."

¹³ Then he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the other parables? ¹⁴ The farmer who sows his seed is the one who sows the word. ¹⁵ These are the ones that fall beside the road, where the word was sown, but when they hear it, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ These are the ones that are sown on rocky ground, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ They have no root in themselves, but endure for a short time. Then tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, and immediately they stumble. ¹⁸ The others are the ones that were sown among the thorns. They hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires of other things enter in and choke the word, and it does not produce a crop. ²⁰ Then those that were sown in the good soil are the ones who hear the word and receive it, and they produce crops—thirty, sixty, or a hundred times what was sown."

²¹ Jesus said to them, "Do you bring a lamp inside the house to put it under a basket, or under the bed? You bring it in and you put it on a lampstand. ²² For nothing is hidden that will not be known, and nothing is secret that will not come out into the open. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!" ²⁴ He said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear, for the measure you use will be measured to you, and more will be added to you. ²⁵ Because whoever has, to him will be given more, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken."

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who sows his seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth bears grain by itself: First the blade, then the ear, then the mature grain in the ear. ²⁹ When the crop is ripe, he immediately sends in the sickle because the harvest has come."

³⁰ Again he said, "To what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to explain it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed

which, when it is sown, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. ³² Yet, when it is sown, it grows and becomes greater than all the garden plants, and it forms large branches, so that the birds of heaven can make their nests in its shade."

³³ With many parables like this he spoke the word to them, as much as they were able to understand, ³⁴ and he did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone, he explained everything to his own disciples.

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ So they left the crowd, taking Jesus with them, just as he was, in the boat. There were other boats going along with him. ³⁷ Just then a violent windstorm arose and the waves were breaking into the boat so that the boat was almost full of water. ³⁸ But Jesus himself was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him up, saying, "Teacher, do you not care that we are about to die?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still not have faith?" ⁴¹ They were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, because even the wind and the sea obey him?"

5

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus was getting out of the boat, immediately there came up to him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ The man lived in the tombs. No one could restrain him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ He had been bound many times with shackles and with chains. He tore the chains apart and his shackles were shattered. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Every night and day in the tombs and in the mountains, he cried out and cut himself with sharp stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran to him and bowed down before him. ⁷ He cried out with a loud voice, "What do I have to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you by God himself, do not torment me." ⁸ For he had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit." ⁹ He asked him, "What is your name?" He answered him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ He begged him again and again not to send them out of the region. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was there feeding on the hill, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us into the pigs; let us enter into them." ¹³ So he allowed them; the unclean spirits came out and entered into the pigs, and they rushed down the steep hill into the sea, and about two thousand pigs drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ Then those who were feeding the pigs ran away and reported what had happened in the city and in the countryside, and so people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ Then they came to Jesus and they saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what happened to the demon-possessed man told them about it in detail, and they also told about the pigs. ¹⁷ Then they started to beg him to leave their region. ¹⁸ When he was getting into the boat, the

demon-possessed man begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go to your house and to your people and tell them what the Lord has done for you, and how he has shown you mercy." ²⁰ So he went away and began to proclaim the great things that Jesus had done for him in the Decapolis, and everyone was amazed.

²¹ Now when Jesus had crossed over again to the other side, in the boat, a great crowd gathered around him, as he was beside the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came, and when he saw him, fell at his feet. ²³ He begged again and again, saying, "My little daughter is near death. I beg you, come and lay your hands on her that she may be made well and live." ²⁴ So he went with him, and a great crowd followed him and pressed close around him.

²⁵ Now a woman was there who had a flow of blood for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered much from many doctors and had spent everything that she had, but instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she had heard the reports about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch just his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ When she touched him, the bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed from her affliction. ³⁰ Jesus immediately realized in himself that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹ His disciples said to him, "You see this crowd pressed around you, and you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² But Jesus looked around to see who had done it. ³³ The woman, knowing what had happened to her, feared and trembled. She came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed from your disease."

³⁵ While he was speaking, some people came from the leader of the synagogue, saying, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any longer?" ³⁶ But when Jesus overheard what they said, he said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid. Just believe." ³⁷ He did not permit anyone to accompany him, except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the leader of the synagogue and he saw there people making a lot of noise; they were weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he entered the house, he said to them, "Why are you upset and why do you weep? The child is not dead but sleeps." ⁴⁰ They laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the father of the child and the mother and those who were with him, and he went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took the hand of the child and said to her, "Talitha, koum!" which being translated would be, "Little girl, I say to you, get up." ⁴² Immediately the child got up and walked (for she was twelve years of age). They were immediately astonished with overwhelming amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know about this. Then he told them to give her something to eat.

6

¹ He went out from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² When the Sabbath came, he taught in the synagogue. Many people heard him and they were amazed. They

said, "Where did he get these teachings?" "What is this wisdom that has been given to him?" "What are these miracles that he does with his hands?"³ "Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are his sisters not here with us?" They were offended by Jesus.⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household."⁵ He was unable to do any mighty work, except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.⁶ He was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went around the villages teaching.

⁷ Then he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and he gave them authority over the unclean spirits,⁸ and instructed them to take nothing for their journey, except a staff—no bread, no bag, and no money in their belts—⁹ but to wear sandals, and not to wear two tunics.¹⁰ He said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, remain until you go away from there.¹¹ If any town will not receive you or listen to you, when you leave that place, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony to them."¹² They went out and proclaimed that people should turn away from their sins.¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

¹⁴ King Herod heard this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him."¹⁵ Some others said, "He is Elijah." Still others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets in ancient times."¹⁶ But when Herod heard this he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."¹⁷ For Herod sent to have John arrested and he had him bound in prison on account of Herodias (his brother Philip's wife), because he had married her.¹⁸ For John told Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."¹⁹ But Herodias held on to anger against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not,²⁰ for Herod feared John; he knew that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. Listening to him made him greatly upset, yet he heard him gladly.²¹ Then the opportunity came when Herod had his birthday and he made a dinner for his officials, and his commanders, and leaders of Galilee.²² The daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced for them, and she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you."²³ He swore to her saying, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask him for?" She said, "The head of John the Baptist."²⁵ She immediately hurried back to the king, and she asked, saying, "I want you to give me, right now, the head of John the Baptist on a wooden platter."²⁶ Though this deeply grieved the king, he could not refuse her request because of the oath he had made and because of his dinner guests.²⁷ So the king sent a soldier from his guard and commanded him to bring him John's head. The guard went and beheaded him in the prison.²⁸ He brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.²⁹ When his disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ Then he said to them, "Come away by yourselves into a deserted place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. ³² So they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ But they saw them leaving and many recognized them, and they ran there together on foot from all the towns, and they arrived there before them. ³⁴ When they came ashore, he saw a great crowd and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When the hour was late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. ³⁶ Send them away so that they may go into the nearby countryside and villages to buy something to eat for themselves." ³⁷ But he answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Can we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five loaves and two fish." ³⁹ He commanded all the people to sit down in groups upon the green grass. ⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven he blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate until they were satisfied. ⁴³ They took up broken pieces of bread, twelve baskets full, and also pieces of the fish. ⁴⁴ There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he sent the crowd away. ⁴⁶ When they were gone, he went up the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ Evening came, and the boat was now in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw that they straining against the oars, for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea, and he wanted to pass by them. ⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought he was a ghost and cried out, ⁵⁰ because they saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said to them, "Be courageous! It is I! Do not be afraid!" ⁵¹ He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased blowing. They were completely amazed. ⁵² For they had not understood what the loaves meant. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and anchored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they came out of the boat, the people recognized him immediately, ⁵⁵ and they ran throughout the whole region and began to bring the sick on their mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ Wherever he entered into villages, or cities, or into the country, they would put the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch the edge of his garment, and as many as touched him were healed.

7

¹ The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him. ² They saw that some of his disciples ate bread with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (For

the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, because they hold to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When the Pharisees come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they bathe themselves, and they hold fast to many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pots, copper vessels, and the couches upon which they eat.) ⁵ The Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, for they eat their bread with unwashed hands?" ⁶ But he said to them, "Isaiah prophesied well about you hypocrites. He wrote, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

⁷ Empty worship they offer me, teaching the rules of men as their doctrines.'

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold fast to the tradition of men." ⁹ He also said to them, "How well you reject the commandment of God so you may keep your tradition! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of his father or mother will surely die.' ¹¹ But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever help you would have received from me is Corban"' (that is to say, 'Given to God'), ¹² then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother. ¹³ You are making the commandment of God void by your tradition which you have handed down. And many similar things you do." ¹⁴ He called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing from outside of a person that can defile him when it enters into him. It is what comes out of the person that defiles him." ¹⁶ ¹⁷ Now when Jesus left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever enters into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ because it cannot go into his heart, but it goes into his stomach and then passes out into the latrine?" With this statement Jesus declared all foods clean. ²⁰ He said, "It is that which comes out of the person that defiles him. ²¹ For from within a person, out of the heart, proceed evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evils come from within, and they are what defile a person."

²⁴ He got up from there and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. There he went into a house and he wanted no one to know where he was, but he could not be hidden. ²⁵ In fact †, as soon as a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him, she came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by descent. She begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children first be fed. For it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered and said to him, "Yes, Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ He said to her, "Because you have said this, you are free to go. The demon has gone out of your

* **7:16** The best ancient copies omit vs. 16. If any man has ears to hear, let him hear .

† **7:25** Some ancient copies have the word, But as an alternative reading.

daughter.”³⁰ She went back to her house and found the child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

³¹ Then he went out again from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee up into the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him someone who was deaf and had difficulty speaking, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside from the crowd privately, and he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting, he touched his tongue.³⁴ He looked up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is to say, “Open!”³⁵ At once his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he began to speak plainly.³⁶ Jesus ordered them to tell no one. But the more he ordered them, the more abundantly they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were extremely astonished, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

8

¹ In those days, there was again a great crowd, and they had nothing to eat. Jesus called his disciples and said to them,² “I have compassion on the crowd, because they continue to be with me already for three days and have nothing to eat.³ If I send them away to their home without eating, they may faint on the way. Some of them have come a long way.”⁴ His disciples answered him, “Where can we get enough loaves of bread in such a deserted place to satisfy these people?”⁵ He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.”⁶ He commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground. He took the seven loaves, gave thanks, and broke them. He gave them to his disciples to set before them, and they set them before the crowd.⁷ They also had a few small fish, and after he gave thanks for them, he commanded the disciples to serve these as well.⁸ They ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the remaining broken pieces, seven large baskets.⁹ There were about four thousand people. Then he sent them away.¹⁰ Immediately he got into the boat with his disciples, and they went into the region of Dalmanutha.

¹¹ Then the Pharisees came out and began to argue with him. They sought from him a sign from heaven, to test him.¹² He sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.”¹³ Then he left them, got into a boat again, and went away to the other side.

¹⁴ Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread with them. They had no more than one loaf of bread in the boat.¹⁵ He warned them and said, “Keep watch and be on guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.”¹⁶ The disciples reasoned with each other, “It is because we have no bread.”¹⁷ Jesus was aware of this, and he said to them, “Why are you reasoning about not having bread? Do you not yet perceive? Do you not understand? Have your hearts become so dull?¹⁸ You have eyes, do you not see? You have ears, do you not hear? Do you not remember?¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves among the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces of bread did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.”²⁰ “When I broke the seven loaves among the four thousand, how many basketfuls did you

take up?" They said to him, "Seven." ²¹ He said, "Do you not yet understand?"

²² They came to Bethsaida. The people there brought to him a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ Jesus took hold of the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the village. When he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ He looked up, and said, "I see men who look like walking trees." ²⁵ Then he again laid his hands upon his eyes, and the man opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw all things clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him away to his home and said, "Do not enter the town."

²⁷ Jesus went out with his disciples into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do the people say that I am?" ²⁸ They answered him and said, "John the Baptist. Others say, 'Elijah,' and others, 'One of the prophets.'" ²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and would be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and would be killed, and after three days rise up. ³² He said this clearly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But Jesus turned and looked at his disciples and then he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of people." ³⁴ Then he called the crowd and his disciples together, and he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ What does it profit a person to gain the whole world and then forfeit his life? ³⁷ What can a person give in exchange for his life? ³⁸ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

9

¹ He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of you who are standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power." ² Six days later, Jesus took Peter and James and John with him up a high mountain, alone by themselves. Then he was transfigured before them. ³ His garments became radiantly brilliant, extremely white, whiter than any bleacher on earth could bleach them. ⁴ Then Elijah with Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here, and so let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ (For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.) ⁷ A cloud came and overshadowed them. Then a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he commanded them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from

the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept the matter to themselves, but they discussed among themselves what "rising from the dead" could mean. ¹¹ They asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹² He said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be despised?" ¹³ But I say to you that Elijah has come, and they did whatever they wanted to him, just as scripture says about him."

¹⁴ When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them and scribes were arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as they saw Jesus, the whole crowd was amazed and as they ran up to him they greeted him. ¹⁶ He asked his disciples, "What are you arguing with them about?" ¹⁷ Someone in the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. ¹⁸ It seizes him and it throws him down and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and he becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out of him, but they could not." ¹⁹ He answered them, "Unbelieving generation, how long will I have to stay with you? How long will I bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ They brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw him into a convulsion. The boy fell on the ground and foamed at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked his father, "How long has he been like this?" The father said, "Since childhood. ²² It has often thrown him into the fire or into the waters and tried to destroy him. If you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us." ²³ Jesus said to him, "If you are able? All things are possible for the one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe! Help my unbelief!" ²⁵ When Jesus saw the crowd running to them, he rebuked the unclean spirit and said, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter into him again." ²⁶ It cried out and convulsed the boy greatly and then came out. The boy looked like one who was dead, so that many said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and the boy stood up. ²⁸ When Jesus came into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹ He said to them, "This kind cannot be cast out except by prayer."

³⁰ They went out from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will put him to death. When he has been put to death, after three days he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum. After he entered the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent. For they had been arguing with one with another on the way about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, he called the twelve together and he said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ He took a little child and placed him in their midst. He took him in his arms and said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives such a child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, does not receive me but the one who sent me." ³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we

stopped him, because he does not follow us.”³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for there is no one who will do a mighty work in my name and can soon afterwards say anything bad about me.”⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us.⁴¹ Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.⁴² Whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea.⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than to have two hands and to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire.⁴⁴ *⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life lame than to have your two feet and be thrown into hell.⁴⁶ †⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out. It is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,⁴⁸ where their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out.⁴⁹ For everyone will be salted with fire.⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

10

¹ Jesus left that place and went to the region of Judea and to the area beyond the Jordan River, and the crowds came to him again. He was teaching them again, as he was accustomed to do.² Then Pharisees came to him to test him and asked, “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?”³ He answered, “What did Moses command you?”⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and then to send her away.”⁵ “It was because of your hard hearts that he wrote you this law,” Jesus said to them.⁶ “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’

⁷ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’

So they are no longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no man tear apart.”¹⁰ When they were in the house, the disciples asked him again about this.¹¹ He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.¹² If she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.”

¹³ Then they brought their little children to him so that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.¹⁴ But when Jesus noticed it, he was very displeased and said to them, “Permit the little children to come to me, and do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like them.¹⁵ Truly I say to you, whoever will not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will definitely not enter it.”¹⁶ Then he took the children into his arms and blessed them as he placed his hands on them.

¹⁷ When he began his journey, a man ran up to him and knelt before him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

* **9:44** The best ancient copies omit this phrase from verses 44 and 46, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out. † **9:46** The best ancient copies omit this phrase from verses 44 and 46, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out.

¹⁸ Jesus said, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not testify falsely, do not defraud, honor your father and mother'." ²⁰ The man said, "Teacher, all these things I have obeyed from the time I was a youth." ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. He said to him, "One thing you lack. You must sell all that you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² But because of this statement he looked very sad and he went away distressed, because he had many possessions.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it is for those who are rich to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ The disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter into the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ They were greatly astonished and said to each other, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." ²⁸ Peter began to speak to him, "Look, we have left everything and have followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or mother, or father, or children, or lands, for my sake, and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundred times as much now in this world: houses, and brothers, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

³² They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going ahead of them. The disciples were amazed, and those who were following behind were afraid. Then Jesus took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what would soon happen to him. ³³ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death and deliver him to the Gentiles. ³⁴ They will mock him, spit on him, whip him, and put him to death. But after three days he will rise."

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask you." ³⁶ He said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ They said, "Allow us to sit with you in your glory, one at your right hand and the other at your left." ³⁸ But Jesus replied to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup which I will drink or endure the baptism with which I will be baptized?" ³⁹ They said to him, "We are able." Jesus said to them, "The cup that I will drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you also will be baptized. ⁴⁰ But who is to sit at my right hand or at my left hand is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." ⁴¹ When the other ten disciples heard about this, they began to be very angry with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them to himself and said, "You know those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles dominate them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be this way among you. Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among

you must be the slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he left Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, the son of Timaeus, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, sat by the road. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout and to say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many rebuked the blind man, telling him to be quiet. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and commanded him to be called. They called the blind man, saying, "Be brave! Get up! He is calling for you." ⁵⁰ He threw aside his coat, sprang up, and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Jesus answered him and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to receive my sight." ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go. Your faith has healed you." Immediately he could see again, and he followed him on the road.

11

¹ Now as they came to Jerusalem, they were close to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, and Jesus sent out two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village opposite us. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' you should say, 'The Lord has need of it and will immediately send it back here.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied at a door outside on the open street, and they untied it. ⁵ Some people were standing there and said to them, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They spoke to them as Jesus told them, and the people let them go their way. ⁷ The two disciples brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it so Jesus could ride it. ⁸ Many people spread their garments on the road, and others spread branches they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those who went before him and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹ Then Jesus entered into Jerusalem and went into the temple and looked around at everything. Now, the time being late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. ¹² The next day, when they returned from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³ Seeing from far away a fig tree that had leaves, he went to see if he could find any fruit on it, and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ He spoke to it, "No one will ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

¹⁵ They came to Jerusalem, and he entered the temple and began to cast out the sellers and the buyers in the temple. He turned over the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹⁶ He did not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple that could be sold. ¹⁷ He taught them and said, "Is it not written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

¹⁸ The chief priests and the scribes heard what he had said, and they looked for a way to kill him. For they feared him because the entire

crowd was amazed at his teaching. ¹⁹ When evening came, they left the city.

²⁰ As they walked by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹ Peter remembered and said, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered away." ²² Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. ²³ Truly I say to you that whoever says to this mountain, 'Get up and cast yourself into the sea,' and if he does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he said will happen, that is what God will do. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you: Everything you pray and ask for, believe that you received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ When you stand and pray, you must forgive whatever you have against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your trespasses."
²⁶ *

²⁷ They came to Jerusalem again. As Jesus was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him. ²⁸ They said to him, "By what authority do you do these things, and who gave you the authority to do them?" ²⁹ Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question. Tell me and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰ The baptism of John, was it from heaven or from men? Answer me." ³¹ They discussed between themselves and argued and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ³² But if we say, 'From men,'" They were afraid of the people, for everyone was convinced that John was a prophet. ³³ Then they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." Then Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

12

¹ Then Jesus began to teach them in parables. He said, "A man planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, and dug a pit for a winepress. He built a watchtower and then leased the vineyard to vine growers. Then he went away on a journey. ² At the right time, he sent a servant to the vine growers to receive from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ But they took him, beat him, and sent him away with nothing. ⁴ Again he sent to them another servant, and they wounded him in the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ He sent yet another, and this one they killed. They treated many others in the same way, beating some and killing others. ⁶ He had still one more person to send, a beloved son. He was the last one he sent to them. He said, 'They will respect my son.' ⁷ But the vine growers said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸ They seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹ Therefore, what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine growers and will give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Have you not read this scripture?

"The stone which the builders rejected has been made the cornerstone.

¹¹ This was from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

* **11:26** The best ancient copies omit this verse (See: Mt. 6:15) Mk. 11:26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses .

¹² They sought to arrest Jesus, but they feared the crowd, for they knew that he had spoken this parable against them. So they left him and went away.

¹³ Then they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to him to trap him with words. ¹⁴ When they came, they said to him, "Teacher, we know that you care for no one's opinion, and you do not show partiality between people. You truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or not?" ¹⁵ But Jesus knew their hypocrisy and said to them, "Why do you test me? Bring me a denarius so I can look at it." ¹⁶ They brought one to Jesus. He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." ¹⁷ Jesus said, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." They marveled at him.

¹⁸ Then Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him. They asked him, saying, ¹⁹ "Teacher, Moses wrote for us, 'If a man's brother dies and leaves a wife behind him, but no child, the man should take the brother's wife, and raise up a descendant for his brother.' ²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first took a wife and then died, leaving no children. ²¹ Then the second took her and died, leaving no children, and the third likewise. ²² The seven left no children. Last of all, the woman also died. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For all seven brothers had her as their wife." ²⁴ Jesus said, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, because you do not know the scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ But concerning the dead that are raised, have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account about the bush, how God spoke to him and said, 'I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob'? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite mistaken."

²⁸ One of the scribes came and heard their discussion; he saw that Jesus answered them well. He asked him, "What commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second commandment is this, 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other greater commandment than these." ³² The scribe said, "Good, Teacher! You have truly said that God is one, and that there is no other besides him. ³³ To love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is even more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had given a wise answer, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he said, "How is it that the scribes say the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, in the Holy Spirit, said,
"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.”

³⁷ David himself calls him 'Lord,' so how can the Christ be David's son?" The large crowd gladly listened to him.

³⁸ In his teaching Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk in long robes and they like the greetings they receive in the marketplaces ³⁹ and they like to have the chief seats in the synagogues and chief places at feasts. ⁴⁰ They also devour widows' houses, and they pray long prayers for people to see. These men will receive greater condemnation."

⁴¹ Then Jesus sat down across from an offering box in the temple area; he was watching people as they dropped their money into the box. Many rich people put in large amounts of money. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and put in two mites, worth about a penny. ⁴³ He called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them who contributed to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For all of them gave out of their abundance. But this widow, out of her poverty, put in all of the money which she had to live on. "

13

¹ As Jesus was walking away from the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Teacher, look at the wonderful stones and wonderful buildings!" ² He said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left on another which will not be torn down."

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the sign when all these things are about to happen?" ⁵ Jesus began to say to them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he,' and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not worry; these things must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many places, and famines. These are the beginnings of birth pains.

⁹ Be on your guard. They will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand before both governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰ But the gospel must first be proclaimed to all the nations. ¹¹ When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry about what you should say. For in that hour, what you should say will be given to you; it will not be you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. ¹³ You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But whoever endures to the end, that person will be saved.

¹⁴ When you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be standing (let the reader understand), let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, ¹⁵ let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house or take anything out of it, ¹⁶ and let him who is in the field not return to take his cloak. ¹⁷ But woe to those who are with child and to those who are nursing infants in those days! ¹⁸ Pray that it might not occur in the winter. ¹⁹ For there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning, when God created the world,

until now, no, nor ever will be again. ²⁰ Unless the Lord had shortened the days, no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those whom he chose, he cut short the days. ²¹ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. ²² For false Christs and false prophets will appear and will give signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ Be on guard! I have told you all these things ahead of time.

²⁴ But after the tribulation of those days,

the sun will be darkened,

the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,

and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send his angels and he will gather together his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

²⁸ Learn a lesson from the fig tree. As soon as the branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things happening, you know that he is near, close to the gates. ³⁰ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all of these things occur. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father.

³³ Be alert! Watch, because you do not know what time it is. *
³⁴ It is like a man who goes on a journey—he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge of the house, each one with his work, and he commands the watchman to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay alert, because you do not know when the master of the house will come home; it could be in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the morning. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you I say to everyone: Watch!"

14

¹ It was now two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were considering how they might stealthily arrest Jesus and then kill him. ² For they were saying, "Not during the feast, so that a riot does not arise among the people."

³ While Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came to him having an alabaster jar of very costly liquid, which was pure nard. She broke the jar and poured it on his head. ⁴ But there were some who were angry. They spoke among themselves and said, "What is the reason for this waste? ⁵ This perfume could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor." Then they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why are you troubling her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷ You always have the poor with you, and whenever you desire you can do good to them, but you will not always

* **13:33** Some ancient authorities read: Be alert! Watch and pray .

have me. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has anointed my body for burial. ⁹ Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be spoken of, in memory of her.”

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went away to the chief priests so that he might deliver him over to them. ¹¹ When the chief priests heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. He began looking for an opportunity to deliver him to them.

¹² On the first day of unleavened bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go to prepare, so you may eat the Passover meal?” ¹³ He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man bearing a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Where he enters a house, follow him in and say to the owner of that house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room where I will eat the Passover with my disciples?’” ¹⁵ He will show you a large furnished upper room that is ready. Make the preparations for us there.” ¹⁶ The disciples left and went to the city. They found everything as he had said to them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ As they were lying down at the table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, one of you eating with me will betray me.” ¹⁹ They were all very sorrowful, and one by one they said to him, “Surely not I?” ²⁰ Jesus answered and said to them, “It is one of the twelve, the one now dipping bread with me in the bowl. ²¹ For the Son of Man will go the way that the scripture says about him. But woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born.”

²² As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it. He gave it to them and said, “Take this. This is my body.” ²³ He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, the blood that is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I say to you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ Jesus said to them, “All of you will fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.’

²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” ²⁹ Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰ Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you, today—yes, this very night—before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times.” ³¹ But Peter said, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” They all made the same promise.

³² They came to the place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took Peter, James, and John with him and began to be distressed and deeply troubled. ³⁴ He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to the point of death. Remain here and watch.” ³⁵ Going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible with you. Remove this cup from me. But not my will, but yours.” ³⁷ He came back and found

them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ Again he went away and prayed, and he used the same words. ⁴⁰ When he came back again, he found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹ He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come. Look! The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up; let us go. Look, the one who is betraying me is near." ⁴³ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, and a large crowd was with him with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now his betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, he is the one. Seize him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ When Judas arrived, immediately he came up to Jesus and said, "Rabbi," and he kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of them who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ Jesus said to them, "Do you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ When I was daily with you and I was teaching in the temple, you did not arrest me. But this was done that the scriptures might be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ All those with Jesus left him and ran away.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing only a linen garment that was wrapped around him, was following Jesus. When the men seized him ⁵² he left the linen garment and ran away naked.

⁵³ They led Jesus to the high priest. There were gathered with him all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. ⁵⁴ Now Peter followed him from a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He sat among the guards, who were near a fire to keep warm. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the entire Jewish council were seeking testimony against Jesus so they might put him to death. But they did not find any. ⁵⁶ For many brought false testimony against him, but even their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ Some stood up and brought false testimony against him; they said, ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" ⁵⁹ Yet even their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ The high priest stood up among them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it these men testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest questioned him and said, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² Jesus said, "I am; and you will see the Son of Man

when he sits at the right hand of power
and comes with the clouds of heaven."

⁶³ The high priest tore his garments and said, "Do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard the blasphemy. What is your decision?" They all condemned him as one who deserved death. ⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him and to cover his face and strike him and say to him, "Prophesy!" The officers took him and beat him.

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came to him. ⁶⁷ She saw Peter warming himself, and

she looked closely at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are talking about." Then he went out into the courtyard. * ⁶⁹ But the servant girl there saw him and began to say again to those who stood there, "This man is one of them!" ⁷⁰ But he denied it again. After a little while those who stood there were saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you also are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to put himself under curses and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷² The rooster immediately crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the words that Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times," and he broke down and wept.

15

¹ Early in the morning, the chief priests met together with the elders and scribes and the entire Jewish council. Then they bound Jesus and led him away. They handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³ The chief priests were presenting many charges against Jesus. ⁴ Pilate again asked him, "Do you give no answer? See how many charges they are bringing against you!" ⁵ But Jesus no longer answered Pilate, and that amazed him.

⁶ Now at the time of the feast, Pilate usually released to them one prisoner, a prisoner they requested. ⁷ There with the rebels in prison, among the murderers held for their part in the rebellion, was a man named Barabbas. ⁸ The crowd came to Pilate and began to ask him to do for them as he had done in the past. ⁹ Pilate answered them and said, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to cry out that Barabbas should be released instead. ¹² Pilate answered them again and said, "What then should I do with the King of the Jews?" ¹³ They shouted again, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴ Pilate said to them, "What wrong has he done?" But they shouted more and more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He scourged Jesus and then handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ The soldiers led him inside the courtyard (which is the government headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on Jesus, and they twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. ¹⁸ They began to salute him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed staff and they spat on him. They bent their knees before him to pretend to worship him. ²⁰ When they had mocked him, they took off of him the purple robe and put his own garments on him, and then led him out to crucify him. ²¹ A certain man, Simon of Cyrene, was coming in from the country (he was the father of Alexander and Rufus), and they forced him to carry his cross.

* **14:68** Some ancient copies add, "Then the rooster crowed," but the best ancient copies do not have this phrase.

²² The soldiers brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which interpreted means, "Place of a Skull"). ²³ They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not drink it. ²⁴ They crucified him and divided up his garments by casting lots to determine what piece each soldier would take. ²⁵ It was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ On a sign they wrote the charge against him, "The king of the Jews." ²⁷ With him they crucified two robbers, one on the right of him and one on his left. ²⁸ * ²⁹ Those who passed by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests were mocking him with each other, along with the scribes, and said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe," and those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³ At the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is interpreted, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ Some of those standing by heard his words and said, "Look, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ Someone ran, put sour wine on a sponge, put it on a reed staff, and gave it to him to drink. The man said, "Let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice and died. ³⁸ The curtain of the temple was split in two from the top to the bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion who stood and faced Jesus saw that he had died in this way, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God." ⁴⁰ There were also women who looked on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joses), and Salome. ⁴¹ When he was in Galilee they followed him and served him. Many other women also came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² When evening had come, because it was the Day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea came there. He was a respected member of the council, who was waiting for the kingdom of God. He boldly went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate was amazed that Jesus was already dead; he called the centurion and asked him if Jesus was dead. ⁴⁵ When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Joseph had bought a linen cloth. He took him down from the cross, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of a rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw the place where Jesus was buried.

16

¹ When the Sabbath day was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices that they might come and anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb when the sun came up. ³ They were saying to one another, "Who

* **15:28** The best ancient copies omit Mrk. 15:28, The scripture was fulfilled that says, 'He was counted with the lawless ones,' (compare LUK 22:37) .

will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, for it was very large. ⁵ They entered the tomb and saw a young man dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ He said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. Look at the place where they had laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸ They went out and ran from the tomb; they were trembling and amazed. They said nothing to anyone because they were so afraid. ⁹ * Early on the first day of the week, after he arose, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who were with him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ They heard that he was alive and that he had been seen by her, but they did not believe.

¹² † After these things he appeared in a different form to two of them, as they were walking out into the country. ¹³ They went and told the rest of the disciples, but they did not believe them.

¹⁴ ‡ Jesus later appeared to the eleven as they were reclining at the table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who saw him after he rose from the dead. ¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the entire creation. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved, and he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ § These signs will go with those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons. They will speak in new languages. ¹⁸ They will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well."

¹⁹ * After the Lord had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ The disciples left and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the signs that went with them.

* **16:9** The best ancient copies omit Mrk. 16:9-20. † **16:12** The best ancient copies omit Mrk. 16:9-20. ‡ **16:14** The best ancient copies omit Mrk. 16:9-20. § **16:17** The best ancient copies omit Mrk. 16:9-20. * **16:19** The best ancient copies omit Mrk. 16:9-20.

Luke

¹ Many have taken on the work of putting together an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were passed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ So it seemed good to me also, because I have accurately investigated everything from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you might know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zechariah, from the division of Abijah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ They were both righteous before God, obeying all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both very old by this time.

⁸ Now it came about that Zechariah was in God's presence, carrying out the priestly duties in the order of his division. ⁹ According to the customary way of choosing which priest would serve, he had been chosen by lot to enter into the temple of the Lord to burn incense. ¹⁰ The whole crowd of people was praying outside at the hour when the incense was burned. ¹¹ Now an angel of the Lord appeared to him and stood at the right side of the incense altar. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified and fear fell on him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You will call his name John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will be turned to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will go before the face of the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him."

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is very old." ¹⁹ The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. I was sent to speak to you, to bring you this good news. ²⁰ Behold! You will be silent, unable to speak, until the day these things take place. This is because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at the right time." ²¹ Now the people were waiting for Zechariah. They were surprised that he was spending so much time in the temple. ²² But when he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized that he had seen a vision while he was in the temple. He kept on making signs to them and remained silent. ²³ It came about that when the days of his service were over, he went to his house.

²⁴ After these days, his wife Elizabeth conceived and for five months she kept herself hidden. She said, ²⁵ "This is what the Lord has done

for me when he looked at me with favor in order to take away my shame before people.”

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph. He belonged to the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ He came to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was very confused by his words and she wondered what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ See, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son. You will call his name 'Jesus.' ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen, since I have not slept with any man?” ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will come over you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ See, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age. This is the sixth month for her, she who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible for God.” ³⁸ Mary said, “See, I am the female servant of the Lord. Let it be for me according to your message.” Then the angel left her.

³⁹ Then Mary arose in those days and quickly went into the hill country, to a city in Judea. ⁴⁰ She went into the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ Now it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb jumped, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She raised her voice and said loudly, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ Why has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For see, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of the things that were told her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶ Mary said,

“My soul praises the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit has rejoiced in God my savior.

⁴⁸ For he has looked at the low condition of his female servant. For see, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and his name is holy.

⁵⁰ His mercy lasts from generation to generation for those who fear him.

⁵¹ He has displayed strength with his arm; he has scattered those who were proud about the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has thrown down princes from their thrones and he has raised up those of low condition.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has given help to Israel his servant, so as to remember to show mercy

⁵⁵ (as he said to our fathers) to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her house.

⁵⁷ Now the time had come for Elizabeth to deliver her baby and she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ Now it happened on the eighth day that they came to circumcise the child. They would have called him “Zechariah,” after the name of his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother answered and said, “No. He will be called John.” ⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” ⁶² They made signs to his father as to how he wanted him to be named. ⁶³ His father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” They all were astonished at this. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was freed. He spoke and praised God. ⁶⁵ Fear came on all who lived around them. All these matters were spread throughout all the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them stored them in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child become?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Praised be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has come to help and he has accomplished redemption for his
people.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷² He will do this to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he spoke to Abraham our father.

⁷⁴ He swore to grant to us that we, having been delivered out of the
hand of our enemies,

would serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ Yes, and you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his paths,
to prepare people for his coming,

⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ This will happen because of the tender mercy of our God,
because of which the sunrise from on high will come to help us,

⁷⁹ to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.
He will do this to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

⁸⁰ Now the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

2

¹ Now in those days, it came about that Caesar Augustus sent out a decree ordering that a census be taken of all the people living in the world. ² This was the first census made while Quirinius was governor

of Syria. ³ So everyone went to his own city to be registered for the census. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. ⁵ He went there to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. ⁶ Now it came about that while they were there, the time came for her to deliver her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to a son, her firstborn child, and she wrapped him in long strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ There were shepherds in that region who were staying in the fields, guarding their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, because I bring you the good news that will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹ Today a savior was born for you in the city of David! He is Christ the Lord! ¹² This is the sign that will be given to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly there was together with the angel a great, heavenly army praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and may there be peace on earth among people
with whom he is pleased."

¹⁵ It came about that when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let us now go to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ They hurried there and found Mary and Joseph, and saw the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After they had seen him, they made known what had been said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what was spoken to them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept thinking about all the things she had heard, treasuring them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for everything that they had heard and seen, just as it had been spoken to them.

²¹ When it was the end of the eighth day, when he was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name he had been given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the required number of days for their purification had passed, according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary * brought him up to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³ As it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb will be set apart to the Lord." ²⁴ So they offered a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout. He was looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple. When the parents brought in the infant Jesus, to do

* **2:22** The proper names Joseph and Mary were not in the original text, and are supplied for the reader from the third person plural verb.

for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him into his arms and praised God and he said,

²⁹ "Now let your servant depart in peace, Lord, according to your word.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:

³² A light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel."

³³ His father and mother † were amazed at what was said about him. ³⁴ Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the downfall and rising up of many people in Israel and for a sign that is rejected— ³⁵ and a sword will pierce your own soul—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ A prophetess named Anna was there. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her virginity, ³⁷ and was a widow for eighty-four years. She never left the temple but was serving with fastings and prayers, night and day. ³⁸ At that very hour she came near to them and began giving thanks to God and she spoke about the child to everyone who had been waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything they were required to do according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, increasing in wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

⁴¹ His parents went every year to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they again went up at the customary time for the feast. ⁴³ After they had stayed the full number of days for the feast, they began to return home. But the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ They assumed that he was with the group that was traveling with them, so they traveled a day's journey. Then they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem and started looking for him there. ⁴⁶ It came about that after three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the middle of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When they saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Listen, your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I had to be about my Father's business? ‡ ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he meant by those words. ⁵¹ Then he went back home with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² But Jesus continued to grow in wisdom and stature, and increased in favor with God and people.

† **2:33** Some ancient copies add to the text the name of his father, Joseph ; and some omit the mention of the mother. The most reliable copies have his father and mother . ‡ **2:49** Some scholars translate "about my Father's business" as in my Father's house .

3

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "A voice of one calling out in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low, and the crooked roads will be made straight, and the uneven places will be built into roads,

⁶ and all flesh will see the salvation of God."

⁷ So John said to the crowds who were coming out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to run away from the wrath that is coming?" ⁸ Therefore, produce fruits that are worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say within yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father;' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹ Even now the ax is set against the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ Then the crowds kept asking him, saying, "What then are we to do?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "If someone has two tunics, he should share it with a person who has none, and the one having food should do the same." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what must we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Do not collect more money than you have been ordered to collect." ¹⁴ Some soldiers also asked him, saying, "What about us? What must we do?" He said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, and do not accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your wages."

¹⁵ Now as the people were eagerly expecting the Christ to come, everyone was wondering in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered by saying to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy even to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly clear off his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his storehouse. But he will burn up the chaff with fire that can never be put out."

¹⁸ With many other exhortations also, John preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ When Herod the tetrarch had been reproved for marrying his brother's wife Herodias, and for all the other evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ he added this to them all, that he locked John up in prison.

²¹ Now it came about, when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized, and while he was praying, the heavens opened, ²² and

the Holy Spirit in bodily form came down on him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with you."

²³ When Jesus began his ministry, he was about thirty years of age. He was the son (as it was assumed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph. ²⁵ Joseph was the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda. ²⁷ Joda was the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, the son of Neri, ²⁸ the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, ²⁹ the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi. ³⁰ Levi was the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, ³¹ the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, ³² the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon. ³³ Nahshon was the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, ³⁴ the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, ³⁵ the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah. ³⁶ Shelah was the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, ³⁷ the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, ³⁸ the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

4

¹ Then Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River, and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of that time he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" ⁵ Then the devil led Jesus up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant of time. ⁶ The devil said to him, "I will give to you all this authority and all their splendor, for they have been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. ⁷ So then, if you will bow down and worship me, it will be yours." ⁸ But Jesus answered and said to him, "It is written, 'You will worship the Lord your God, and you will serve only him.'" ⁹ Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem and put him on the very highest point of the temple building, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written,

'He will give orders to his angels regarding you, to protect you,'

¹¹ and, 'They will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Answering him, Jesus said, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³ When the devil had finished testing Jesus, he went away and left him until another time.

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread throughout the entire surrounding region. ¹⁵ Then he began to teach in their synagogues and he was praised by all.

¹⁶ He came into Nazareth, where he had been raised, and as was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and he stood up to read aloud. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He opened the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he anointed me to tell good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives,
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ He began to speak to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² Everyone there spoke well of him and they were amazed at the gracious words which were coming out of his mouth, and they asked, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" ²³ He said to them, "Surely you will say this proverb to me, 'Doctor, heal yourself. Whatever we heard that you did in Capernaum, do the same in your hometown.'" ²⁴ But he said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is received in his own hometown. ²⁵ But in truth I tell you that there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, and a great famine came upon all the land. ²⁶ But Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath in Sidon, to a widow living there. ²⁷ There were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet, but none of them were healed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. ²⁹ They got up, forced him out of the town, and led him to the cliff of the hill on which their town was built, so they might throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the middle of them and he went to another place.

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and he began to teach them on the Sabbath. ³² They were astonished at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. ³³ Now in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Ah! What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" ³⁵ Jesus rebuked the demon, saying, "Do not speak! Come out of him!" When the demon had thrown the man down in the middle of them, he came out of him, and did not harm him in any way. ³⁶ All the people were very amazed, and they kept talking about it with one another. They said, "What kind of words are these? He commands the unclean spirits with authority and power and they come out." ³⁷ So news about him began to spread into every part of the surrounding region.

³⁸ Then Jesus left the synagogue and entered into the house of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering with a high fever, and they pleaded with him on her behalf. ³⁹ So he stood over her and rebuked

the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and started serving them.

⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, people brought to Jesus everyone who was sick with various kinds of diseases. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ Demons also came out from many of them, crying out and saying, "You are the Son of God!" Jesus rebuked the demons and would not let them speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴² When daybreak came, he went out into a solitary place. Crowds of people were looking for him and came to the place where he was. They tried to keep him from going away from them. ⁴³ But he said to them, "I must also preach the good news about the kingdom of God to many other cities, because this is the reason I was sent here."

⁴⁴ Then he continued to preach in the synagogues throughout Judea.

5

¹ Now it happened, while the people were crowding around Jesus and listening to the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. ² He saw two boats pulled up by the edge of the lake. The fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Jesus got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put it out in the water a short distance from the land. Then he sat down and taught the people out of the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat out into the deeper water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked all night, and caught nothing, but at your word, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they gathered a very large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ So they motioned to their partners in the other boat that they should come and help them. They came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord." ⁹ For he was amazed, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken. ¹⁰ This included James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid, because from now on you will catch men." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

¹² It came about that while he was in one of the cities, a man full of leprosy was there. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ¹³ Then Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be clean." Immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴ He instructed him to tell no one, but told him, "Go on your way, and show yourself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for your cleansing, according to what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them." ¹⁵ But the report about him spread even farther, and large crowds of people came together to hear him teach and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But he often withdrew into the deserted places and prayed.

¹⁷ It came about on one of those days that he was teaching, and there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there who had come from many different villages in the regions of Galilee and Judea,

and also from the town of Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ Now some men came, carrying on a mat a man that was paralyzed, and they looked for a way to bring him inside in order to lay him down in front of Jesus. ¹⁹ They could not find a way to bring him in because of the crowd, so they went up to the housetop and let the man down through the tiles, on his mat, into the midst of the people, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰ Seeing their faith, Jesus said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ The scribes and the Pharisees began to question this, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² But Jesus, perceiving what they were thinking, answered and said to them, "Why are you questioning this in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you' or to say 'Get up and walk?' ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—he said to the paralysed man—"I tell you, get up, pick up your mat and go to your house." ²⁵ Immediately he got up in front of them and picked up the mat on which he was lying. Then he went away to his house, glorifying God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and they glorified God. They were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

²⁷ After these things happened, Jesus went out from there and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax collector's tent. He said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ So Levi got up and followed him, leaving everything behind.

²⁹ Then Levi gave a big banquet in his house for Jesus. There were many tax collectors there and other people who were reclining at the table and eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and other sinful people?" ³¹ Jesus answered them, "People who are well do not need a physician; only those who are sick. ³² I did not come to call righteous people to repentance, but to call sinners to repentance."

³³ They said to him, "The disciples of John often fast and pray, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same. But your disciples eat and drink." ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "Can anyone make the wedding attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is still with them? ³⁵ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then in those days they will fast." ³⁶ Then Jesus also spoke a parable to them. "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to mend an old garment. If he did that, he would tear the new garment, and the piece of cloth from the new garment would not fit with the cloth of the old garment. ³⁷ No one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does that, the new wine would burst the skins, and the wine would be spilled, and the wineskins would be destroyed. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. ³⁹ No one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.'"

6

¹ Now it happened on a Sabbath that Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them between their hands, and eating the grain. ² But some of the

Pharisees said, "Why are you doing something that is not lawful to do on the Sabbath day?" ³ Answering them, Jesus said, "Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and the men who were with him? ⁴ He went into the house of God, and took the bread of the presence and ate some of it, and also gave some to the men who were with him to eat, even though it was only lawful for the priests to eat it." ⁵ Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁶ It happened on another Sabbath that he went into the synagogue and taught the people there. A man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ The scribes and the Pharisees were watching him closely to see whether he would heal someone on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. ⁸ But he knew what they were thinking and he said to the man whose hand was withered, "Get up, and stand here in the middle of everyone." So the man got up and stood there. ⁹ Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ Then he looked around at them all and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹ But they were filled with anger and they talked to each other about what they might do to Jesus.

¹² It happened in those days that he went out to the mountain to pray. He continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³ When it was day, he called his disciples to him, and he chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles. ¹⁴ The names of the apostles were Simon (whom he also named Peter) and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. ¹⁷ Then Jesus came down the mountain with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. People who were troubled with unclean spirits were also healed. ¹⁹ Everyone in the crowd kept trying to touch him because power to heal was coming out from him, and he healed them all.

²⁰ Then he looked at his disciples, and said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because you will surely have a great reward in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. ²⁴ But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry later. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep later. ²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ But I say to you who are listening, love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer him also the other. If someone takes away your coat, do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you. If someone takes

away something that belongs to you, do not ask him to give it back to you. ³¹ As you want people to do to you, you should do the same to them. ³² If you only love people who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good only to people who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you only lend to people from whom you expect to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies and do good to them. Lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind toward unthankful and evil people. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A generous amount—pressed down, shaken together and spilling over—will pour into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

³⁹ Then he also told them a parable. “Can a blind person guide another blind person? If he did, they would both fall into a pit, would they not? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you look at the tiny piece of straw that is in your brother's eye, but you do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the piece of straw that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not even see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the piece of straw that is in your brother's eye. ⁴³ For there is no good tree that produces rotten fruit, nor is there a rotten tree that produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by the kind of fruit it produces. For people do not gather figs from a thornbush, nor do they gather grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ The good man from the good treasure of his heart produces what is good, and the evil man from the evil treasure of his heart produces what is evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⁴⁶ Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and yet you do not obey the things that I say? ⁴⁷ Every person who comes to me and hears my words and obeys them, I will tell you what he is like. ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep in the ground and built the house's foundation on solid rock. When a flood came, the torrent of water flowed against that house, but could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the person who hears my words and does not obey them, he is like a man who built a house on top of the ground without a foundation. When the torrent of water flowed against that house, it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was complete.”

7

¹ After Jesus had finished everything he was saying in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.

² Now a centurion had a slave who was highly regarded by him, and he was sick and about to die. ³ When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they had come to Jesus, they asked him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵ because he loves our nation, and he is the one who built the synagogue for us." ⁶ So Jesus continued on his way with them. But when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, because I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. ⁷ For this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you, but just say a word and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man who is under authority, with soldiers under me. I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another one, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him said, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰ When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant was well.

¹¹ Soon after that, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹² As he came near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother (who was a widow), and a rather large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, he was deeply moved with compassion for her and said to her, "Do not cry." ¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the wooden frame on which they carried the body, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ Then fear overcame all of them, and they kept praising God, saying, "A great prophet has been raised among us" and "God has looked upon his people." ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout the whole of Judea and all the neighboring regions.

¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. ¹⁹ Then John called two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to say, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" ²⁰ When they had come near to Jesus, the men said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to say, 'Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for another?'" ²¹ In that hour he healed many people from sicknesses and afflictions and from evil spirits, and to many blind people he gave sight. ²² Jesus answered and said to them, "After you have gone on your way, report to John what you have seen and heard. Blind people are receiving sight, lame people are walking, lepers are being cleansed, deaf people are hearing, people who have died are being raised back to life, and needy people are being told the good news. ²³ The person who does not stop believing in me because of my actions is blessed."

²⁴ After John's messengers had gone away, Jesus began to say to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? Look, those who wear expensive clothing and who live in luxury are in kings' palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

²⁸ I say to you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he is."

²⁹ (When all the people heard this, including the tax collectors, they declared that God is righteous, because they had been baptized with the baptism of John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the experts in Jewish law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.) ³¹ "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? ³² They are like children playing in the marketplace, who sit and call to one another and say, 'We played a flute for you, and you did not dance. We sang a funeral song, and you did not cry.' ³³ For John the Baptist came eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, he is a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵ But wisdom is justified by all her children."

³⁶ Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. So after Jesus entered into the Pharisee's house, he reclined at the table to eat. ³⁷ Behold, there was a woman in the city who was a sinner. When she found out that he was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfumed oil. ³⁸ As she stood behind him near his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and she wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with perfumed oil. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he thought to himself, saying, "If this man were a prophet, then he would know who and what type of woman is touching him, that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus responded and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." He said, "Say it, Teacher!" ⁴¹ Jesus said, "A certain moneylender had two debtors. The one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay him, he forgave them both. Therefore, which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered him and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave the most." Jesus said to him, "You have judged correctly." ⁴⁴ Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "You see this woman. I have entered into your house. You gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but from the time I came in she did not stop kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfumed oil. ⁴⁷ Therefore I say to you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven—for she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Those reclining together began to say among themselves, "Who is this that even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

8

¹ It happened soon afterward that Jesus began traveling around to different cities and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ² as well as

certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had been driven out; ³ Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's manager; Susanna; and many others, who, out of their possessions, provided for their needs.

⁴ While a large crowd of people was gathering, and people were coming to him from town after town, he told a parable: ⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell beside the road and it was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the sky devoured it. ⁶ Some fell on the rock, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up together with the seed and choked it. ⁸ But some fell on good soil and produced a crop that was a hundred times greater." After Jesus had said these things, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but for others I speak in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹ Now this is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard, but then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But they have no root; they believe for a while, and in a time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns are people who hear the word, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed that fell on the good soil, these are the ones who, hearing the word with an honest and good heart, hold it securely and bear fruit with patient endurance.

¹⁶ No one lights a lamp and covers it with a bowl or puts it under a bed. Rather, he puts it on a lampstand so that everyone who enters may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is hidden that will not be made known, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come into the light. ¹⁸ So listen carefully, for to the one who has, more will be given to him, but the one who does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him."

¹⁹ Then his mother and brothers came to him, but they could not get near him because of the crowd. ²⁰ He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." ²¹ But Jesus answered and said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

²² Now one day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." They set sail. ²³ But as they sailed he fell asleep. A terrible windstorm came down on the lake, and their boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ Then Jesus' disciples came over to him and woke him up, saying, "Master! Master! We are about to die!" He awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Where is your faith?" and they were afraid. While they were afraid they were also amazed, and they asked

one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

²⁶ They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped on the land, he was met by a certain man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and he said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For many times it had seized him, and though he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and he would be driven by the demon into the wilderness. ³⁰ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" and he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered into him. ³¹ They kept begging him not to send them into the abyss. ³² Now a large herd of pigs was there feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. ³³ So the demons came out of the man and went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep slope into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and told about it in the city and countryside. ³⁵ So the people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out. He was sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶ Then those who had seen it told them how the man who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to depart from them, for they were overwhelmed with great fear. So he got into the boat so they could start back. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged him to let him go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home and give a full account of what God has done for you." The man went on his way, proclaiming throughout the whole city what Jesus had done for him.

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. ⁴¹ Behold, a man named Jairus, who was one of the leaders of the synagogue, came and fell down at Jesus' feet, and he begged him to come to his house, ⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve years of age, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds of people pressed together around him.

⁴³ Now a woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years and had spent all her money ^{*}, and could not be healed by anyone. ⁴⁴ She came behind Jesus and touched the edge of his coat, and immediately her bleeding stopped. ⁴⁵ Jesus said, "Who was it who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds of people are all around you and they are pressing in against you." ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone did touch me, for I know that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ When the woman saw that she could not escape notice, she came trembling and fell down before him. In the presence of all

* **8:43** Scholars are divided whether the phrase [she] had spent all her money should be included here.

the people she declared why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house, saying, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the teacher any longer." ⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard this, he answered Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be healed." ⁵¹ When he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father of the child and her mother. ⁵² Now all were mourning and wailing for her, but he said, "Do not weep; she is not dead but asleep." ⁵³ But they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and called out, saying, "Child, get up!" ⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately. He ordered them to get her something to eat. ⁵⁶ Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

9

¹ He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to cure diseases. ² He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³ He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey—no staff, no wallet, no bread, no money, and no extra tunic. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave. ⁵ Wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town, shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." ⁶ Then they departed and went through the villages, proclaiming the good news and healing everywhere.

⁷ Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, ⁸ and others said that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had risen. ⁹ Herod said, "I beheaded John. Who is this about whom I hear such things?" And so he tried to see him.

¹⁰ When the apostles returned, they told him everything they had done. Then he took them with him, and they went away privately to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹ But when the crowds heard about this, they followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and he cured those who needed healing. ¹² Now the day was about to come to an end, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and food, because we are here in an isolated place." ¹³ But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴ (There were about five thousand men.) He said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ So they did this, and made the people sit down. ¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, he blessed them and broke them into pieces, and he gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and what was left over was picked up—twelve baskets of broken pieces.

¹⁸ It came about while Jesus was praying by himself, the disciples were with him. He questioned them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" ¹⁹ They answered, "John the Baptist. But others say Elijah, and others say that one of the prophets from long ago has risen." ²⁰ Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." ²¹ But he strongly warned them to tell this to no one, ²² saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and he will be killed and on the third day be raised." ²³ Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for a person to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit himself? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his own glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I say to you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

²⁸ Now about eight days after Jesus said these words, he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the form of his face was changed, and his clothes became brilliant white. ³⁰ Behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glorious splendor. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to completion in Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who were standing with him. ³³ As they were going away from Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) ³⁴ As he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the one who is chosen; listen to him." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

³⁷ Now on the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. ³⁸ Behold, a man from the crowd cried out, saying, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ You see, a spirit takes control over him and he suddenly screams; it causes him to have convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It hardly ever leaves him and it bruises him badly. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to force it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and depraved generation, how long must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and shook him with convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ Then they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While they all were marveling at everything he was doing, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ "Let these words go deeply into your ears: The Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of men." ⁴⁵ But

they did not understand this statement. It was hidden from them, so they could not know its meaning, and yet they were afraid to ask about this statement.

⁴⁶ Then an argument started among them about which of them would be the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning in their hearts, took a little child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. For whoever is least among you all is the one who is great."

⁴⁹ John answered, "Master, we saw someone forcing out demons in your name and we prevented him, because he does not follow along with us." ⁵⁰ "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "because whoever is not against you is for you."

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² He sent messengers on ahead of him, and they went and entered into a Samaritan village to prepare everything for him. ⁵³ But the people there did not welcome him, because he had set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶ and they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds in the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ Then he said to another, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim far and wide the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Then someone else said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say goodbye to those in my home." ⁶² Jesus replied to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

10

¹ Now after these things, the Lord appointed seventy * others, and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Do not carry a money bag, or a traveler's bag, or sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'May peace be on this house!' ⁶ If a person of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him, but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in that same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not move around from house to house. ⁸ Whatever town you enter, and they receive you, eat what is set before you, ⁹ and heal the sick that are there. Say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come close to you.' ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust from your town that clings to our feet we

* **10:1** Many of the best ancient copies read "seventy" but some read "seventy-two"

wipe off against you! But know this: The kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I say to you that on the judgment day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town. ¹³ Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ You, Capernaum, do you think you will be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. ¹⁶ The one who listens to you listens to me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submitted to us in your name." ¹⁸ Jesus said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven as lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will in any way hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice only in this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice even more that your names are engraved in heaven."

²¹ At that same time he rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you concealed these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to those who are untaught, like little children. Yes, Father, for so it was well pleasing in your sight." ²² "All things have been entrusted to me from my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." ²³ Then he turned around to the disciples and said privately, "Blessed are those who see the things that you see. ²⁴ I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see the things you see, and they did not see them, and to hear the things that you hear, and they did not hear them."

²⁵ Behold, a certain teacher of the Jewish laws stood up so that he might test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ He gave an answer and he said, "You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But the teacher, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus answered him and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He fell among robbers, who stripped him of his belongings, and beat him, and left him half dead. ³¹ By chance a certain priest was going down that way, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Similarly a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was. When he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He approached him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He set him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, and gave them to the host, and said, 'Take care of him and whatever extra you spend, when

I return, I will repay you.' ³⁶ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ The teacher said, "The one who showed mercy to him." Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

³⁸ Now as they were traveling along, he entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and heard his word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was overly busy with preparing to serve a meal. She came up to Jesus, and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, which will not be taken away from her."

11

¹ It happened when Jesus was praying in a certain place, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." ² Jesus said to them, "When you pray say, 'Father, may your name be sanctified.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us our daily bread each day.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive everyone

who is in debt to us.

Do not lead us into temptation."

⁵ Jesus said to them, "Which of you will have a friend, and will go to him at midnight, and say to him, 'Friend, lend to me three loaves of bread, ⁶ since a friend of mine just came in from the road, and I do not have anything to set before him'? ⁷ Then the one inside who answered him may say, 'Do not bother me. The door is already shut, and my children, along with me, are in bed. I am not able to get up and give bread to you.' ⁸ I say to you, even if he does not get up and give bread to you because you are his friend, yet because of your shameless persistence, he will get up and give you as many loaves of bread as you need. ⁹ I also say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For every asking person receives; and the seeking person finds; and to the person who knocks, it will be opened. ¹¹ Which father among you, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? * ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will you give a scorpion to him? ¹³ Therefore, if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father from heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

¹⁴ Now Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. ¹⁵ But some of the people said, "By Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, he is driving out demons." ¹⁶ Others tested him and sought from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But Jesus knew their

* **11:11** The best ancient copies have the shorter reading, which we follow here. Some ancient copies have a longer reading, which also is found in Matthew 7:9: Which father among you, if your son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? Or a fish, will give him a snake?

thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is made desolate, and a house divided against itself falls. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ If I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? Because of this, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. ²¹ When a strong man who is fully armed guards his own house, his goods are safe, ²² but when a stronger man overcomes him, the stronger man takes away the armor from the man, and plunders the man's possessions. ²³ The one who is not with me is against me, and the one who does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴ When an unclean spirit has gone away from a man, it passes through waterless places and looks for rest. Finding none, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵ Having returned, it finds that house swept out and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more evil than itself and they all come in to live there. Then the final condition of that man becomes worse than the first."

²⁷ It happened that, as he said these things, a certain woman raised her voice above the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you." ²⁸ But he said, "Rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it."

²⁹ As the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, though no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so too the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation. ³¹ The Queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and see, someone greater than Solomon is here. ³² The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation of people and will condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and see, someone greater than Jonah is here.

³³ No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it in a hidden place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is good, the whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore, be careful that the light in you is not darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, then your whole body will be like when a lamp shines its brightness on you."

³⁷ When he had finished speaking, a Pharisee asked him to eat with him at his house, so Jesus went in and reclined. ³⁸ The Pharisee was surprised that Jesus first did not wash before dinner. ³⁹ But the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of cups and bowls, but the inside of you is filled with greed and evil. ⁴⁰ You senseless men! Did not the one who made the outside also make the inside? ⁴¹ Give to the poor what is inside, and then all things will be clean for you.

⁴² But woe to you Pharisees, because you tithe mint and rue and every other garden herb, but you neglect justice and the love of God.

It is necessary to act justly and love God, without failing to do the other things also. ⁴³ Woe to you Pharisees, for you love the front seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴ Woe to you, for you are like unmarked graves that people walk over without knowing it."

⁴⁵ One of the teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, what you say insults us too." ⁴⁶ Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the law! For you put people under burdens that are hard to carry, but you do not touch the burdens with one of your own fingers. ⁴⁷ Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. ⁴⁸ So you are witnesses and you consent to the works of your ancestors, for they indeed killed them and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹ For this reason also, God's wisdom said, 'I will send to them prophets and apostles, and they will persecute and kill some of them.' ⁵⁰ This generation, then, will be held responsible for all the blood of the prophets shed since the world began, ⁵¹ from Abel's blood to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I say to you, this generation will be held responsible. ⁵² Woe to you teachers of Jewish laws, because you have taken away the key of knowledge; you do not enter in yourselves, and you hinder those who are entering."

⁵³ After Jesus left there, the scribes and the Pharisees opposed him and argued with him about many things, ⁵⁴ trying to trap him in his own words.

12

¹ In the meantime, when many thousands of the people were gathered together, so much that they trampled on each other, he began to say to his disciples first of all, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² But there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be known. ³ So whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops. ⁴ I say to you my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that they have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you about whom to fear. Fear the one who, after he has killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I say to you, fear him. ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God. ⁷ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear. You are more valuable than many sparrows. ⁸ I say to you, everyone who confesses me before men, the Son of Man will also confess before the angels of God, ⁹ but he who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. ¹⁰ Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him, but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven. ¹¹ When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you will speak in your defense, or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that hour what you should say."

¹³ Then someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ Jesus said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or a mediator over you?” ¹⁵ He said to them, “Watch that you keep yourselves from all greedy desires, because a person’s life does not consist of the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a parable, saying, “The field of a rich man yielded abundantly, ¹⁷ and he reasoned with himself, saying, ‘What will I do, because I do not have a place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all of my grain and other goods. ¹⁹ I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Rest easy, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Foolish man, tonight your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ That is what someone is like who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

²² Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat—or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens, that they do not sow or reap. They have no storeroom or barn, but God feeds them. How much more valuable you are than the birds! ²⁵ Which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his lifespan? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do such a very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies—how they grow. They do not labor, neither do they spin. Yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ If God so clothes the grass in the field, which exists today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ Do not look for what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not be anxious. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world look for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² Do not fear, little flock, because your Father is very pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make for yourselves purses which will not wear out—treasure in the heavens that does not run out, where no thief comes near, and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ Let your long clothing be tucked in at your belt, and let your lamps be kept burning, ³⁶ and be like people looking for their master when he returns from the marriage feast, so that when he comes and knocks, they may immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master will find watching when he comes. Truly I say to you, he will tuck in his long clothing at his belt, and have them sit down at the table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If the master comes in the second watch of the night, or if even in the third watch, and finds them ready, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ But understand this, that if the master of the house had known the hour the thief was coming he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ Be ready also, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man comes.”

⁴¹ Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable only to us, or also to everyone?” ⁴² The Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise

manager whom his lord will set over his other servants to give them their portion of food at the right time? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his lord finds doing that when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his property. ⁴⁵ But if that servant says in his heart, 'My lord delays his return,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink, and to become drunk, ⁴⁶ the lord of that servant will come in a day when he does not expect, and in an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and appoint a place for him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷ That servant, having known his lord's will, and not having prepared or done according to his will, will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating, he will be beaten with a few blows. But everyone who has been given much, from them much will be required, and the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be asked.

⁴⁹ I came to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled. ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am distressed until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on there will be five in one house divided—three people against two, and two people against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ Jesus was saying to the crowds also, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ When a south wind is blowing, you say, 'There will be a scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites, you know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the heavens, but how is it that you do not know how to interpret the present time? ⁵⁷ Why do you not judge what is right for yourselves? ⁵⁸ For when you go with your adversary before the magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the matter with him so that he does not drag you to the judge, and so that the judge does not deliver you to the officer, and the officer does not throw you into prison. ⁵⁹ I say to you, you will never come out from there until you have paid the very last bit of money."

13

¹ At that time, some people there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate mixed with their own sacrifices. ² Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you think that these Galileans were more sinful than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you. But if you do not repent, all of you will perish in the same way. ⁴ Or those eighteen people in Siloam on whom a tower fell and killed them, do you think they were worse sinners than other men in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I say. But if you do not repent, all of you will also perish."

⁶ Jesus told this parable, "Someone had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came and looked for fruit on it but found none. ⁷ The man said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years I came and tried to find fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down. Why let it waste

the ground?' ⁸ The gardener answered and said, 'Leave it alone this year while I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, good; but if it does not, cut it down!'"

¹⁰ Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues during the Sabbath. ¹¹ Behold, a woman was there who for eighteen years had a spirit of weakness. She was bent over and was not able to straighten up completely. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your weakness." ¹³ He placed his hands on her, and immediately she was straightened up and she glorified God. ¹⁴ But the synagogue ruler was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. So the ruler answered and said to the crowd, "There are six days in which it is necessary to work. Come and be healed then, not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ The Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Does not each of you untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead it to drink on the Sabbath? ¹⁶ So too this daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, should her bonds not be untied on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ As he said these things, all those who opposed him were ashamed, but the whole crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things he did.

¹⁸ Then Jesus said, "What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed that a man took and threw into his garden, and it grew into a big tree, and the birds of heaven built their nests in its branches."

²⁰ Again he said, "To what can I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until it spread through all the flour."

²² Then Jesus traveled through the towns and villages, teaching and making his way toward Jerusalem. ²³ Someone said to him, "Lord, are only a few people to be saved?" So he said to them, ²⁴ "Struggle to enter through the narrow door, because, I say to you, many will want to enter, but will not be able to enter. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and locks the door, then you will stand outside and pound the door and say, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you or where you are from.' ²⁶ Then you will say, 'We ate and drank in front of you and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ But he will reply, 'I say to you, I do not know where you are from. Get away from me, you evildoers!' ²⁸ There will be crying and the grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in God's kingdom, but you are thrown out. ²⁹ They will come from the east, west, north, and south, and be seated at a table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Know this, those who are least important will be first, and those who are most important will be last."

³¹ Shortly after, some Pharisees came and said to him, "Go and leave here because Herod wants to kill you." ³² Jesus said, "Go and tell that fox, 'Look, I cast out demons and perform healings today and tomorrow, and the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³ In any case, it is necessary for me to continue on today, tomorrow, and the following day, since it is not acceptable to kill a prophet away from Jerusalem. ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to you. How often I desired to gather your children the way a hen

gathers her brood under her wings, but you did not desire this. ³⁵ See, your house is abandoned. I say to you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

14

¹ It happened one Sabbath, when he went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees to eat bread, that they were watching him closely. ² Behold, there in front of him was a man who was suffering from edema. ³ Jesus asked the experts in the Jewish law and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴ But they kept silent. So Jesus took hold of him, healed him, and sent him away. ⁵ He said to them, "Which of you who has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶ They were not able to give an answer to these things.

⁷ When Jesus noticed how those who were invited chose the seats of honor, he spoke a parable, saying to them, ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the place of honor, because someone may have been invited who is more honored than you. ⁹ When the person who invited both of you arrives, he will say to you, 'Give this other person your place,' and then in shame you will proceed to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹² Jesus also said to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your rich neighbors, as they may also invite you in return, and you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the just."

¹⁵ When one of them who sat at the table with Jesus heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is he who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶ But Jesus said to him, "A certain man prepared a large dinner and invited many. ¹⁷ When the dinner was prepared, he sent his servant to say to those who were invited, 'Come, because everything is now ready.' ¹⁸ They all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have bought five pairs of oxen, and I am going to try them out. Please excuse me.' ²⁰ Then another man said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹ The servant came and told his master these things. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in here the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² The servant said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and yet there is still room.' ²³ The master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that

my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I say to you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.”

²⁵ Now large crowds were going with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you who desires to build a tower does not first sit down and count the cost to calculate if he has what he needs to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take advice about whether he is able with ten thousand men to fight the other king who comes against him with twenty thousand men? ³² If not, while the other army is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for conditions of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not give up all that he has cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its taste, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is of no use for the soil or even for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

15

¹ Now all the tax collectors and other sinners were coming to Jesus to listen to him. ² Both the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled to each other, saying, “This man welcomes sinners, and even eats with them.”

³ Jesus spoke this parable to them, saying, ⁴ “Which one of you, if he has a hundred sheep and then loses one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ Then when he has found it, he lays it across his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ When he comes to the house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I say to you that even so, there will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸ Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she were to lose one coin, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and seek diligently until she has found it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I lost.’ ¹⁰ Even so, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons, ¹² and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of the wealth that falls to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he owned and went to a country far away, and there he wasted all his wealth by living recklessly. ¹⁴ Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine spread through that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have eaten the carob pods that the pigs ate, because no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when

the young son came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough food, and I am here, dying from hunger! ¹⁸ I will leave here and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants."' ²⁰ So the young son left and came toward his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² The father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet. ²³ Then bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us celebrate with a feast! ²⁴ For my son was dead, and now he is alive. He was lost, and now he is found.' Then they began to celebrate. ²⁵ Now his older son was out in the field. As he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called to one of the servants and asked what these things might be. ²⁷ The servant said to him, 'Your brother has come home and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has returned safely.' ²⁸ The older son was angry and would not go in, and his father came out and begged him. ²⁹ But the older son answered and said to his father, 'Look, these many years I slaved for you, and I never broke a rule of yours, and yet you never gave me a young goat that I might celebrate with my friends, ³⁰ but when your son came, who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed for him the fattened calf.' ³¹ The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But it was proper for us to feast and be happy, for this brother of yours was dead, and is now alive; he was lost, and has now been found.'"

16

¹ Jesus also said to the disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a manager, and it was reported to him that this manager was wasting his possessions. ² So the rich man called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³ The manager said to himself, 'What should I do, since my master is taking away my management job? I do not have strength to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my management job, people will welcome me into their houses.' ⁵ Then the manager called for each one of his master's debtors, and he asked the first one, 'How much do you owe to my master?' ⁶ He said, 'A hundred baths of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write fifty.' ⁷ Then the manager said to another, 'How much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred cors of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸ The master then commended the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own people than are the children of light. ⁹ I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ He who is faithful in very

little is also faithful in much, and he who is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. ¹¹ If you have not been faithful in using unrighteous wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? ¹² If you have not been faithful in using other people's property, who will give you money of your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts. That which is exalted among men is detestable in the sight of God. ¹⁶ The law and the prophets were in effect until John came. From that time on, the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone tries to force their way into it. ¹⁷ But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the law to become invalid.

¹⁸ Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

¹⁹ Now there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and was enjoying every day his great wealth. ²⁰ A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² It came about that the beggar died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ So he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things. But now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, a great chasm has been put in place, so that those who want to cross over from here to you cannot, and no one can cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ The rich man said, 'I beg you, Father Abraham, that you would send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that it may not be that they come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone would go to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ But Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

17

¹ Jesus said to his disciples, "It is certain there will be things that can cause us to sin, but woe to that person through whom they come! ² It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³ Watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ If he sins against you seven times

in the day, and seven times returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him!"

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." ⁶ The Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. ⁷ But which of you, who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and put a belt around your clothes and serve me until I have finished eating and drinking. Then afterward you will eat and drink'? ⁹ He does not thank the servant because he did the things that were commanded, does he? ¹⁰ Even so you also, when you have done everything that you are commanded, should say, 'We are unworthy servants. We have only done what we ought to do.'"

¹¹ It came about that as he traveled to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered into a certain village, there he was met by ten men who were lepers. They stood far away from him ¹³ and they lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." As they went away they were cleansed. ¹⁵ When one of them saw that he was healed, he turned back, with a loud voice glorifying God. ¹⁶ He fell down at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. He was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said, "Were not the ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Were there no others who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ He said to him, "Arise, and go. Your faith has made you well."

²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with careful observing. ²¹ Neither will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For look, the kingdom of God is within you."

²² He said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. ²³ Then they will say to you, 'Look, there! Look, here!' But do not go out or run after them, ²⁴ for as the lightning shines brightly when it flashes from one part of the sky to another part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in his day. ²⁵ But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ As it happened in the days of Noah, even so will it also happen in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married, and they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark—and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise, even as it happened in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹ But in the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ After the same manner it will be in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ In that day, do not let him who is on the housetop go down to get his goods out of the house; and do not let him who is in the field return. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will save it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two people in one bed. One will be taken, and the other will be left. ³⁵ There will be two

women grinding together. One will be taken, and the other will be left.”
 36 * 37 They asked him, “Where, Lord?” and he said to them, “Where there is a body, there will the vultures also be gathered together.”

18

1 Then he spoke a parable to them about how they should always pray and not become discouraged, 2 saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect people. 3 Now there was a widow in that city, and she came often to him, saying, ‘Help me get justice against my opponent.’ 4 For a long time he was not willing to help her, but after a while he said to himself, ‘Though I do not fear God or respect man, 5 yet because this widow causes me trouble, I will help her get justice, so that she does not wear me out by her constant coming.’” 6 Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 Now will not God also bring justice to his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I say to you that he will bring justice to them speedily. Even so, when the Son of Man comes, will he indeed find faith on the earth?”

9 Then he also spoke this parable to some who were persuaded in themselves that they were righteous and who despised other people, 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray—the one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed these things about himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, unrighteous people, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast two times every week. I give tithes of all that I get.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but hit his breast, saying, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 I say to you, this man went back down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.”

15 The people were also bringing to him their infants so that he might touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Permit the little children to come to me, and do not forbid them. For the kingdom of God belongs to such ones. 17 Truly I say to you, whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a child will definitely not enter it.”

18 A certain ruler asked him, saying, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good, except God alone. 20 You know the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not testify falsely, honor your father and mother.” 21 The ruler said, “All these things I have obeyed from the time I was a youth.” 22 When Jesus heard that, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. You must sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven—and come, follow me.” 23 But when the ruler heard these things, he became extremely sad, for he was very rich. 24 Then Jesus, seeing him, became very sad * and said, “How difficult it is for those who are rich

* **17:36** Luke 17:36 the best ancient copies omit, vs. 36 There will be two in the field; one will be taken and the other left .

* **18:24** Scholars are divided whether the phrase: [he] became very sad should be included here. Compare vs 23.

to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ Those hearing it said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus answered, "The things which are impossible with people are possible with God." ²⁸ Peter said, "Well, we have left everything that is our own and have followed you." ²⁹ Jesus then said to them, "Truly, I say to you that there is no one who has left house, or wife, or brothers, or parents, or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive much more in this world, and in the world to come, eternal life."

³¹ After he gathered the twelve to himself, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all the things that have been written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² For he will be given over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked, and shamefully treated, and spit upon. ³³ After whipping him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." ³⁴ They understood none of these things, and this word was hidden from them, and they did not understand the things that were said.

³⁵ It came about that, as Jesus approached Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the road begging, ³⁶ and hearing a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ So the blind man cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." ³⁹ The ones who were walking ahead rebuked the blind man, telling him to be quiet. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me." ⁴⁰ Jesus stood still and commanded that the man be brought to him. Then when the blind man was near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, I want to receive my sight." ⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you." ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God. All the people, when they saw this, gave praise to God.

19

¹ Jesus entered and was passing through Jericho. ² Behold, there was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but could not see over the crowd, because he was small in height. ⁴ So he ran on ahead of the people and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, because Jesus was about to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." ⁶ So he hurried and came down and welcomed him joyfully. ⁷ When everyone saw this, they all complained, saying, "He has gone in to visit a man who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I will restore four times the amount." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the people who are lost."

¹¹ As they heard these things, he continued speaking and told a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and they thought that the kingdom of God was about to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore,

"A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then to return. ¹³ He called ten of his servants, and gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Conduct business until I come back.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man rule over us.' ¹⁵ It happened when he came back again, having received the kingdom, he commanded the servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what profit they had made by doing business. ¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' ¹⁷ The nobleman said to him, 'Well done, good servant. Because you were faithful in very little, you will have authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ The second came, saying, 'Your mina, lord, has made five minas.' ¹⁹ The nobleman said to him, 'You take charge over five cities.' ²⁰ Another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept safely in a cloth, ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are a demanding person. You take up what you did not put in, and you reap what you did not sow.' ²² The nobleman said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I am a demanding person, that I take up what I did not put in, and that I reaped what I did not sow. ²³ Then why did you not put my money in the bank, so that when I returned I would have collected it with interest?' ²⁴ The nobleman said to them that stood by, 'Take away from him the mina, and give it to him that has the ten minas.' ²⁵ They said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas.' ²⁶ 'I say to you, that everyone who has will be given more, but from him that has not, even that which he has will be taken away. ²⁷ But these enemies of mine, those who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and kill them before me.'"

²⁸ When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ It came about that when he came near to Bethphage and Bethany, to the hill that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the next village. As you enter, you will find a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² Those who were sent went and found the colt just as Jesus had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, the owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their cloaks upon the colt and set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the place where the Mount of Olives descends, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works which they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ Jesus answered and said, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would cry out."

⁴¹ When Jesus approached the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If only you had known in this day, even you, the things which bring you peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build a barricade around you,

and surround you, and press in on you from every side. ⁴⁴ They will strike you down to the ground and your children with you. They will not leave one stone upon another, because you did not recognize it when God was trying to save you.”

⁴⁵ Jesus entered the temple and began to cast out those who were selling, ⁴⁶ saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house will be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”

⁴⁷ So Jesus was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the leaders of the people wanted to kill him, ⁴⁸ but they could not find a way to do it, because all the people were listening to him intently.

20

¹ It came about one day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came to him with the elders. ² They spoke, saying to him, “Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is who gave you this authority.” ³ He answered and said to them, “I will also ask you a question, and you tell me. ⁴ The baptism of John: was it from heaven or from men?” ⁵ They reasoned with themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ ⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet.” ⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it came from. ⁸ Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

⁹ He told the people this parable, “A man planted a vineyard, rented it out to vine growers, and went into another country for a long time. ¹⁰ At the appointed time he sent a servant to the vine growers, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vine growers beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ He then sent yet another servant and they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² He also sent yet a third and they also wounded him, and threw him out. ¹³ So the lord of the vineyard said, ‘What will I do? I will send my beloved son. Maybe they will respect him.’ ¹⁴ But when the vine growers saw him, they discussed among themselves, saying, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.’ ¹⁵ They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the lord of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy these vine growers, and will give the vineyard to others.” When they heard it, they said, “May it never be!” ¹⁷ But Jesus looked at them, and said, “What is the meaning of that which is written:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?

¹⁸ Every one who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces. But on whomever it falls, it will crush.”

¹⁹ So the scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him in that very hour, for they knew that he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people. ²⁰ Watching him carefully, they sent out spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might find fault with his speech, so as to deliver him up to the rule and to the authority of the governor. ²¹ They asked him, saying, “Teacher,

we know that you say and teach rightly, and are not influenced by anyone's position, but you teach the truth about the way of God. ²² Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ²³ But Jesus understood their craftiness, and said to them, ²⁴ "Show me a denarius. Whose image and name is on it?" They said, "Caesar's." ²⁵ He said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²⁶ They were not able to find fault with what he had said in front of the people, but marveling at his answer, they were silent.

²⁷ When some of the Sadducees came to him, the ones who say that there is no resurrection, ²⁸ they asked him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife, and being childless, the man should take the brother's wife, and have a child for his brother. ²⁹ There were seven brothers and the first took a wife, and died childless, ³⁰ and the second as well. ³¹ The third took her, and likewise the seven also left no children, and died. ³² Afterward the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection then, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as their wife." ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "The sons of this world marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are regarded as worthy in that age to receive the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. ³⁶ Neither can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷ But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the place concerning the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is not the God of the dead, but of the living, because all live to him." ³⁹ Some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have answered well." ⁴⁰ For they did not dare ask him any more questions.

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "How do they say that the Christ is David's son?

⁴² For David himself says in the Book of Psalms,

The Lord said to my Lord,

'Sit at my right hand,

⁴³ until I make your enemies your footstool.'

⁴⁴ David therefore calls the Christ 'Lord', so how is he David's son?"

⁴⁵ In the hearing of all the people he said to his disciples, ⁴⁶ "Beware of the scribes, who desire to walk in long robes, and love special greetings in the marketplaces, and chief seats in the synagogues, and chief places at feasts. ⁴⁷ They also devour widows' houses, and for a show they make long prayers. Men like this will receive greater condemnation."

21

¹ Jesus looked up and saw the rich men who were putting their gifts into the treasury. ² He saw a certain poor widow putting in two mites. ³ So he said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them. ⁴ All of these gave gifts out of their abundance. But this widow, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on."

⁵ As some spoke of the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and offerings, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left on another which will not be torn down." ⁷ So they asked him, saying, "Teacher, when will

these things happen? What will be the sign when these things are about to happen?" ⁸ Jesus answered, "Be careful that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and riots, do not be terrified, for these things must happen first, but the end will not happen immediately."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues. There will be terrifying events and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all of these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you over to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore resolve in your hearts not to prepare your defense ahead of time, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and wisdom that all your adversaries will not be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ But you will be delivered up also by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by everyone because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ In your endurance you will gain your souls.

²⁰ When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its destruction is near. ²¹ Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the city leave it, and those who are out in the country must not enter the city. ²² For these are days of vengeance, so that all the things that are written will be fulfilled. ²³ Woe to them who are pregnant and to them who are nursing in those days! For there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword, and they will be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵ There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars, and on the earth. The nations will be in distress, anxious because of the roar of the sea and waves. ²⁶ There will be men fainting from fear and from expectation of the things which are coming upon the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your deliverance is coming near."

²⁹ Jesus told them a parable, "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout buds, you see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ But pay attention to yourselves, so that your hearts are not burdened with the effects of drinking and intoxication, and the worries of life, and then that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon everyone living on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But be alert at all times, praying that you may be strong enough to escape

all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

³⁷ So during the days he was teaching in the temple, and at night he went out and stayed on the Mount of Olives. ³⁸ All of the people came early in the morning to hear him in the temple.

22

¹ Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread was approaching, which is called the Passover. ² The chief priests and the scribes discussed how they could put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve. ⁴ Judas went to the chief priests and captains and discussed with them how he would betray Jesus to them. ⁵ They were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and looked for an opportunity to deliver him to them away from the crowd.

⁷ Then came the day of unleavened bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare for us the Passover meal, so that we may eat it.” ⁹ They said to him, “Where do you want us to make preparations?” ¹⁰ He answered them, “Listen, when you have entered the city, a man bearing a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he goes into. ¹¹ Then say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room, where I will eat the Passover with my disciples?’” ¹² He will show you a large furnished upper room. Make the preparations there.” ¹³ So they went, and found everything as he had said to them. Then they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁴ When the time came, he sat down with the apostles. ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I say to you, I will not eat it again, until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ Then Jesus took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he said, “Take this, and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ Then he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. ²¹ But pay attention. The one who betrays me is with me at the table. ²² For the Son of Man indeed goes as it has been determined. But woe to that man through whom he is betrayed!” ²³ They began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who would do this.

²⁴ Then there arose also a quarrel among them about which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles are masters over them, and the ones who have authority over them are referred to as those who do good to their people. ²⁶ But it must not be like this with you. Instead, let the one who is the greatest among you become like the youngest, and let the one who is the most important become like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who sits at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ But you are

the ones who have continued with me in my temptations. ²⁹ I give to you a kingdom, even as my Father has given a kingdom to me, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ Simon, Simon, be aware, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. After you have turned back again, strengthen your brothers."

³³ Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, before you deny three times that you know me."

³⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, a bag of provisions, or shoes, did you lack anything?" They answered, "Nothing." ³⁶ Then he said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse, let him take it, and also a bag of provisions. The one who does not have a sword should sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷ For I say to you, what is written about me must be fulfilled, 'He was counted with the lawless ones.' For what is predicted about me is being fulfilled."

³⁸ Then they said, "Lord, look! Here are two swords." He said to them, "It is enough."

³⁹ Jesus went, as he often did, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ When they arrived, he said to them, "Pray that you do not enter into temptation." ⁴¹ He went away from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ Being in agony, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. ⁴⁵ When he rose up from his prayer, he came to the disciples, and found them sleeping because of their sorrow, ⁴⁶ and asked them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray, that you may not enter into temptation."

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, behold, a crowd appeared, with Judas, one of the twelve, leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹ When those who were around Jesus saw what was happening, they said, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ Then one of them struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ Jesus said, "That is enough!" He touched his ear, and healed him. ⁵² Jesus said to the chief priests, to the captains of the temple, and to elders who came against him, "Do you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was daily with you in the temple, you did not lay your hands on me. But this is your hour, and the authority of darkness."

⁵⁴ Seizing him, they led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed from a distance. ⁵⁵ After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat in the midst of them. ⁵⁶ A certain female servant saw him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looked straight at him and said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ After a little while someone else saw him, and said,

"You are also one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ After about an hour another man insisted and said, "Truly this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." Immediately, while he was speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ Turning, the Lord looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, when he said to him, "Before a rooster crows today you will deny me three times." ⁶² Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

⁶³ Then the men guarding Jesus mocked and beat him. ⁶⁴ They put a cover over him and asked him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who hit you?" ⁶⁵ They spoke many other things against Jesus, blaspheming him.

⁶⁶ As soon as it was day, the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. They led him into the council ⁶⁷ and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." ⁷⁰ They all said, "Then you are the Son of God?" Jesus said to them, "You say that I am." ⁷¹ They said, "Why do we still need a witness? For we ourselves have heard from his own mouth."

23

¹ The whole company of them rose up and brought Jesus before Pilate. ² They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." ³ Pilate asked him, saying, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him and said, "You say so." ⁴ Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes, "I find no fault in this man." ⁵ But they were insisting, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee even to this place." ⁶ So when Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he discovered that he was under Herod's authority, he sent Jesus to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem in those days.

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, because he had wanted to see him for a long time. He had heard about him and he hoped to see some miracle done by him. ⁹ Herod questioned Jesus in many words, but Jesus answered him nothing. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood, violently accusing him. ¹¹ Herod with his soldiers insulted Jesus and they mocked him. Then they dressed him in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. ¹² For Herod and Pilate had become friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been enemies with each other.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the crowd of people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought to me this man like a man who is leading the people to act badly, and see, I, having questioned him before you, find no fault in this man concerning those things of which you accuse him. ¹⁵ No, nor does Herod, for he sent him back to us, and see, nothing worthy of death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish him, and release him." ¹⁷ * ¹⁸ But they cried out

* **23:17** The best ancient copies omit Luk. 23:17, Now Pilate was obligated to release to the Jews one prisoner at the feast .

all together, saying, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!"¹⁹ Barabbas was a man who had been put into prison for a certain rebellion in the city and for murder.²⁰ Pilate addressed them again, desiring to release Jesus.²¹ But they shouted, saying, "Crucify him, crucify him."²² He said to them a third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found nothing deserving the death penalty in him. Therefore after punishing him, I will release him."²³ But they were insistent with loud voices, demanding for him to be crucified. Their voices convinced Pilate.²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand.²⁵ He released the one they asked for who had been put in prison for rioting and murder. But he delivered up Jesus to their will.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him to carry, following Jesus.

²⁷ A great crowd of the people, and of women who grieved and mourned for him, were following him.²⁸ But turning to them, Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.²⁹ For see, the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that did not bear, and the breasts that did not nurse.'³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.'³¹ For if they do these things while the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Other men, two criminals, were led away with him to be put to death.

³³ When they came to the place that is called "The Skull," there they crucified him, and the criminals—one on his right and one on his left.³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Then they cast lots, dividing up his garments.³⁵ The people stood watching while the rulers also were mocking him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, the chosen one."³⁶ The soldiers also ridiculed him, approaching him, offering him vinegar,³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself."³⁸ There was also a sign over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who was hanging there insulted him by saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence?⁴¹ We indeed are here justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds. But this man did nothing wrong."⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."⁴³ Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour⁴⁵ as the sun's light failed. Then the curtain of the temple was split in two.⁴⁶ Crying with a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, he died.⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, "Surely this was a righteous man."⁴⁸ When all the multitudes who came together to witness this sight saw the things that were done, they returned beating their breasts.⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, and the

women who followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰ Behold, there was a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council. He was a good and righteous man. ⁵¹ This man had not agreed with the decision of the Council and their action. He was from the Judean town of Arimathea; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man, approaching Pilate, asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ He took it down, wrapped it in fine linen, and placed it in a tomb that was cut in stone, where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the Day of the Preparation, and the Sabbath was about to begin. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus out of Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ They returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

Then on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

24

¹ Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ They entered in, but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ It happened that, while they were confused about this, suddenly, two men stood by them in bright shining robes. ⁵ As the women were filled with fear and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said to the women, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" ⁶ He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ The women remembered his words, ⁹ and returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven and all the rest. ¹⁰ Now Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them reported these things to the apostles. ¹¹ But this message seemed like idle talk to the apostles, and they did not believe the women. ¹² Yet Peter rose up and ran to the tomb, and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves. Peter then departed to his home, wondering what had happened.

¹³ Behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was sixty stadia from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They discussed with each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵ It happened that, while they discussed and questioned together, Jesus himself approached and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "What are the two of you talking about as you walk?" They stood there looking sad. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only person in Jerusalem who does not know the things which have happened there these days?" ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "What things?" They answered him, "The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had confidence that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. Yes, and what is more, it is now the third day since all these things happened. ²² But also, some women of our

company amazed us, having been at the tomb early in the morning. ²³ When they did not find his body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some men who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said. But they did not see him.” ²⁵ Jesus said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning from Moses and through all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things concerning himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as though he were going further. ²⁹ But they compelled him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is almost over.” So Jesus went in to stay with them. ³⁰ It happened that, when he had sat down with them to eat, he took the bread, blessed it, and breaking it, he gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they knew him, and he vanished out of their sight. ³² They said one to another, “Was not our heart burning within us, while he spoke to us on the way, while he opened to us the scriptures?” ³³ They rose up that very hour, and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven gathered together, and those who were with them, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ So they told the things that happened on the way, and how Jesus was shown to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ As they spoke these things, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace be to you.” ³⁷ But they were terrified and filled with fear, and supposed that they saw a spirit. ³⁸ Jesus said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do questions arise in your heart? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see me having.” ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ They still could not believe it because of joy, and they were amazed. Jesus said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of a broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it before them.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “When I was with you, I told you that all that was written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead on the third day. ⁴⁷ Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ See, I am sending you what my Father promised. But remain in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then Jesus led them out until they were near Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ It happened that, while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ They were continually in the temple, blessing God.

John

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² This one was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him there was not one thing made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man who was sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ John was not the light, but came that he might testify about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to all men, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. ¹² But to as many as received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ These were not born of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory, glory as of the one and only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testified about him and cried out, saying, "This was the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than I am, for he was before me.'" ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received grace after grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The one and only God, who is at the side of the Father, he has made him known.

¹⁹ This is the testimony of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed—he did not deny, but confessed—"I am not the Christ." ²¹ So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." They said, "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said,

"I am a voice, crying in the wilderness:

'Make the way of the Lord straight,'

just as Isaiah the prophet said." ²⁴ Now some from the Pharisees were sent, ²⁵ and they asked him and said to him, "Why do you baptize then if you are not the Christ nor Elijah nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water. But among you stands someone you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things were done in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Look, there is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one of whom I said, 'The one who comes after me is more than me, for he was before me.'" ³¹ I did not know him, but it was so that he could be revealed to Israel that I came baptizing with water." ³² John testified, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending like a dove from heaven, and it stayed upon him. ³³ I did not recognize him, but he who sent

me to baptize in water said to me, 'Upon whom you shall see the Spirit descending and remaining on him, he is the one baptizing in the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have both seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

³⁵ Again, the next day, as John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ they saw Jesus walking by, and John said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ His two disciples heard him say this and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What do you want?" They replied, "Rabbi (which translated means teacher), where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." Then they came and saw where he was staying; they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and then followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated is: Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus, and Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day, when Jesus wanted to leave to go to Galilee, he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "He of whom Moses wrote in the law, and the prophets, we have found him: Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathaniel said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him and said about him, "See, a true Israelite, in whom is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathaniel said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathaniel replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus replied and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than this." ⁵¹ Then he said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

2

¹ Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why do you come to me? My time has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it." ⁶ Now there were six stone water pots there used for the Jewish ceremonial washing, each containing two to three metretes. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ Then he told the servants, "Take some out now and take it to the head waiter." So they did. ⁹ The head waiter tasted the water that had become wine, but he did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew). Then he called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first and then the cheaper wine when they are drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This first sign Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and he revealed his glory, and his disciples

believed in him. ¹² After this Jesus, his mother, his brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and they stayed there for a few days.

¹³ Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He found sellers of oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers were sitting there. ¹⁵ So he made a whip of cords and drove all of them out from the temple, including both the sheep and the oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overthrew their tables. ¹⁶ To the pigeon sellers he said, "Take these things away from here. Stop making the house of my Father a marketplace." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ Then the Jewish authorities responded and said to him, "What sign will you show us, since you are doing these things?" ¹⁹ Jesus replied, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ Then the Jewish authorities said, "This temple was built in forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" ²¹ However, he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he said this, and they believed the scripture and this statement that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he did. ²⁴ But Jesus did not trust in them because he knew them all, ²⁵ because he did not need anyone to testify to him about man, for he knew what was in man.

3

¹ Now there was a Pharisee whose name was Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. ² This man came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher that came from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus replied to him, "Truly, truly, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus replied and said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. Yet you do not accept our testimony. ¹² If I told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that all who believe in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For

God did not send the Son into the world in order to condemn the world, but in order to save the world through him. ¹⁸ He who believes in him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is already condemned because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the reason for the judgment: The light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. ²¹ However, he who practices the truth comes to the light so that it may be plainly seen that his deeds have been done in God.”

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Judea. There he spent some time with them and baptized. ²³ Now John was also baptizing in Aenon near to Salim because there was much water there. People were coming to him and were being baptized, ²⁴ for John had not yet been thrown in prison. ²⁵ Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and a Jew about ceremonial washing. ²⁶ They went to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River, about whom you have testified, look, he is baptizing, and they are all going to him.” ²⁷ John replied, “A man cannot receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but instead, ‘I have been sent before him.’ ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. Now the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the voice of the bridegroom. This, then, is my joy made complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth is from the earth and speaks about the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³ He who has received his testimony has confirmed that God is true. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God. For he does not give the Spirit by measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God stays on him.”

4

¹ Now when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that he was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), ³ he left Judea and went back again to Galilee. ⁴ But it was necessary for him to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria, called Sychar, near the piece of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ The well of Jacob was there. Jesus was tired from his journey and sat by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me some water to drink.” ⁸ For his disciples had gone away into the town to buy food. ⁹ Then the Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, being a Jew, are asking me, being a Samaritan woman, for something to drink?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you had known the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’

you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not have a bucket and the well is deep. Where then do you have the living water?”¹² You are not greater, are you, than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his cattle?”¹³ Jesus replied and said to her, “Everyone who drinks from this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. Instead, the water that I will give him will become a fountain of water in him, springing up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I may not become thirsty and not have to come here to draw water.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back here.”¹⁷ The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus replied, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is the place where people have to worship.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, that an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”²² You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”²³ However, the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to be his worshipers.”²⁴ God is Spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming (the one called Christ). When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking to you.”

²⁷ At that moment his disciples returned. Now they were wondering why he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ So the woman left her water pot, went back to the town, and said to the people,²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything that I have ever done. This could not be the Christ, could it?”³⁰ They left the town and came to him.³¹ In the meantime, the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to each other, “No one has brought him anything to eat, have they?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are four more months and then the harvest comes’? I am saying to you, look up and see the fields, for they are already ripe for harvest!³⁶ He who is harvesting receives wages and gathers fruit for everlasting life, so that he who sows and he who harvests may rejoice together.”³⁷ For in this the saying, ‘One sows, and another harvests,’ is true.”³⁸ I sent you to harvest what you have not worked for. Others have worked, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans in that city believed in him because of the report of the woman who was testifying, “He told me everything that I have done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ Many more believed

because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard, and we know that this one is indeed the savior of the world."

⁴³ After those two days, he departed from there for Galilee. ⁴⁴ For Jesus himself declared that a prophet has no honor in his own country. ⁴⁵ When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all the things that he had done in Jerusalem at the festival, for they had also gone to the festival.

⁴⁶ Now he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. There was a certain royal official whose son in Capernaum was ill. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Jesus and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was about to die. ⁴⁸ Jesus then said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." ⁴⁹ The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go. Your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went away. ⁵¹ While he was going down, his servants met him, saying that his son was living. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to improve. They replied to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ Then the father realized that it was at that hour that Jesus had said to him, "Your son lives." So he himself and his whole household believed. ⁵⁴ This was the second sign that Jesus did when he came out of Judea to Galilee.

5

¹ After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now in Jerusalem by the sheep gate, there is a pool, which in Hebrew is called Bethesda, and it has five roofed porches. ³ A large number of people who were sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed were lying there. * ⁴ † ⁵ A certain man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and after he realized that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healthy?" ⁷ The sick man replied, "Sir, I do not have anyone to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up. When I come, another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹ Immediately the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was a Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to him who was healed, "It is the Sabbath and you are not permitted to carry your mat." ¹¹ He replied, "He who made me healthy said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" ¹² They asked him, "Who is the man that said to you, 'Pick it up and walk?'" ¹³ However, the one who was healed did not know who it was because Jesus had gone away secretly, for there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have become healthy! Do not sin anymore, so that something worse will not happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him healthy.

* **5:3** The best ancient copies omit the phrase, waiting for the moving of the water . † **5:4** The best ancient copies omit vs. 4, For an angel of the Lord went down and stirred up the water at certain times and whoever stepped in while the water was stirring was healed from whatever disease he suffered from .

¹⁶ Now because of these things the Jews persecuted Jesus, because he did these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ Jesus replied to them, "My Father is working even now, and I, too, am working." ¹⁸ Because of this, the Jews sought even more to kill him because he not only broke the Sabbath, but also called God his own Father, making himself equal to God.

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, the Son can do nothing of himself, except only what he sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father is doing, the Son does these things also. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and he shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater things than these so that you will be amazed. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. ²² For the Father judges no one, but he has given all judgment to the Son ²³ so that everyone will honor the Son just as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. ²⁴ Truly, truly, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, but he has passed from death to life. ²⁵ Truly, truly, I tell you the time is coming, and is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has also given to the Son so that he has life in himself, ²⁷ and the Father has given the Son authority to carry out judgment because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not be amazed at this, for there is a time coming in which everyone who is in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and will come out. Those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

³⁰ I can do nothing from myself. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is righteous because I am not seeking my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³¹ If I should testify about myself, my testimony would not be true. ³² There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony that he gives about me is true. ³³ You have sent to John, and he has testified the truth. ³⁴ But the testimony that I receive is not from man. I say these things that you might be saved. ³⁵ John was a lamp that was burning and shining, and you were willing to rejoice in his light for a while. ³⁶ Yet the testimony that I have is greater than that of John, for the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, testify about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ The Father who sent me has himself testified about me. You have neither heard his voice nor seen his form at any time. ³⁸ You do not have his word remaining in you, for you are not believing in the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and these same scriptures testify about me, ⁴⁰ and you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive praise from men, ⁴² but I know that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another should come in his own name, you would receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, you who accept praise from one another but are not seeking the praise that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I myself will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have put

your hope. ⁴⁶ If you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷ If you do not believe his writings, how are you going to believe my words?"

6

¹ After these things, Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A great crowd was following him because they saw the signs that he was doing on those who were sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ (Now the Passover, the Jewish festival, was near.) ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where are we going to buy bread so that these may eat?" ⁶ (But Jesus said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do.) ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be sufficient for each one to have even a little." ⁸ One of the disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to Jesus, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five bread loaves of barley and two fish, but what are these among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." (Now there was a lot of grass in the place.) So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves and after giving thanks, he gave it to those who were sitting. He did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When the people were filled, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the broken pieces which remain, so that nothing will be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ Then, when the people saw this sign that he did, they said, "This truly is the prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and seize him by force to make him king, he withdrew again up the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When it became evening, his disciples went down to the sea. ¹⁷ They got into a boat, and were going over the sea to Capernaum. It was dark by this time, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing, and the sea was getting rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were afraid. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I! Do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were willing to receive him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land where they were going.

²² The next day, the crowd that had been standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there except the one, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ However, there were some boats that came from Tiberias close to the place where they had eaten the bread loaves after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ When the crowd discovered that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum seeking Jesus. ²⁵ After they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus replied to them, saying, "Truly, truly, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate some of the bread loaves

and were filled. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but work for the food that endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give you, for God the Father has set his seal on him.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, so that we may do the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus replied and said to them, “This is the work of God: That you believe in the one whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign then will you do, so that we may see and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Then Jesus replied to them, “Truly, truly, it was not Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but it is my Father who is giving you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ So they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But I told you that indeed you have seen me, and you do not believe. ³⁷ Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me, and he who comes to me I will certainly not throw out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ This is the will of him who sent me, that I would lose not one of all those whom he has given me, but will raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him would have eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.”

⁴¹ Then the Jews grumbled about him because he had said, “I am the bread that has come down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is not this Jesus son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³ Jesus replied and said to them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, ‘Everyone will be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from God—he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, he who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, so that a person may eat some of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats some of this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

⁵² The Jews became angry among themselves and began to argue, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and as I live because of the Father, so he who eats me, he will also live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that has come down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. He who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ But Jesus said

these things in the synagogue while he was teaching in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ Then many of his disciples who heard this said, "This is a difficult teaching; who can accept it?" ⁶¹ Jesus, because he knew in himself that his disciples were grumbling at this, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you should see the Son of Man going up to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who makes alive; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and they are life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones that would not believe and who it was who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He said, "It is because of this that I said to you that no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by the Father."

⁶⁶ Because of this, many of his disciples went away and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed and come to know that you are the Holy One of God." * ⁷⁰ Jesus said to them, "Did not I choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" ⁷¹ Now he spoke of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he, one of the twelve, who would betray Jesus.

7

¹ After these things Jesus traveled about in Galilee, for he did not want to go into Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill him. ² Now the Jewish Festival of Shelters was near. ³ His brothers therefore said to him, "Leave this place and go to Judea, so that your disciples also may see the works that you do. ⁴ No one does anything in secret if he himself wants to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵ For even his brothers did not believe in him. ⁶ Jesus therefore said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. ⁸ You go up to the festival; I am not going to this festival because my time has not yet been fulfilled." ⁹ After he said these things to them, he stayed in Galilee.

¹⁰ But when his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not publicly but in secret. ¹¹ The Jews were looking for him at the festival and said, "Where is he?" ¹² There was much discussion among the crowds about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others said, "No, he leads the crowds astray." ¹³ Yet no one spoke openly about him for fear of the Jews.

¹⁴ When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. ¹⁵ Then the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this man know so much? He has never been educated." ¹⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not mine, but is of him who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone wishes to do his will, he will know about this teaching, whether it comes from God, or whether I speak from myself. ¹⁸ Whoever speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but whoever seeks the glory of him who sent him, that person is true,

* **6:69** The phrase the Holy One of God is in the best ancient copies. Some later copies add an additional description and they read: the Christ, the Holy One of God .

and there is no unrighteousness in him. ¹⁹ Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon. Who seeks to kill you?" ²¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel because of it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the ancestors), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. ²³ If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses is not broken, why are you angry with me because I made a man completely healthy on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Do not judge according to appearance, but judge righteously."

²⁵ Some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is not this the one they seek to kill? ²⁶ See, he speaks openly, and they say nothing to him. It cannot be that the rulers indeed know that this is the Christ, can it? ²⁷ Yet we know where this one is from. But when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from." ²⁸ Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know me and know where I come from. I have not come of myself, but he who sent me is true, and you do not know him. ²⁹ I know him because I come from him and he sent me." ³⁰ They were trying to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ But many in the crowd believed in him, and they said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more signs than what this one has done?" ³² The Pharisees heard the crowds whispering these things about Jesus, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. ³³ Jesus then said, "I am still with you for a short amount of time, and then I go to him who sent me. ³⁴ You will seek me but you will not find me; where I go, you will not be able to come." ³⁵ The Jews therefore said among themselves, "Where will this man go that we will not be able to find him? Will he go to the dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What is this word that he said, 'You will seek me but will not find me; where I go, you will not be able to come'?"

³⁷ Now on the last, great day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in me, just as the scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his stomach." ³⁹ But he said this about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him would receive; the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus was not yet glorified. ⁴⁰ Some of the crowd, when they heard these words, said, "This is indeed the prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Does the Christ come from Galilee? ⁴² Have the scriptures not said that the Christ will come from the descendants of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ So there arose a division in the crowds because of him. ⁴⁴ Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him.

⁴⁵ Then the officers came back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "Never has anyone spoken like this." ⁴⁷ So the Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? ⁴⁸ Have any of the rulers believed in him, or any of the Pharisees? ⁴⁹ But this crowd that does not know the law, they are cursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus (one of the Pharisees, who came to him earlier) said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man before

hearing from him and knowing what he does?" ⁵² They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and see that no prophet comes from Galilee."

⁵³ * [Then everyone went to his own house.

8

¹ * Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came to the temple again, and all the people came; he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in the act of adultery. They placed her in the middle. ⁴ † Then they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such people; what do you say about her?" ⁶ They said this in order to trap him so that they might have something to accuse him about, but Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger. ⁷ ‡ When they continued asking him questions, he stood up and said to them, "The one among you who has no sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground with his finger. ⁹ § When they heard it, they left one by one, beginning with the oldest. Finally Jesus was left alone, with the woman who had been in the middle. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."]

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." ¹³ The Pharisees said to him, "You bear witness about yourself; your witness is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness about myself, my witness is true. I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I came from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet if I judge, my judgment is true because I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ Yes, and in your law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ I am he who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." ¹⁹ They said to him, "Where is your father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father; if you had known me, you would have known my Father also." ²⁰ He said these words in the treasury as he taught in the temple, and no one arrested him because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ So again he said to them, "I am going away; you will seek me and will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." ²² The Jews said, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" ²³ Jesus said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins. For unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." ²⁵ They said therefore to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I have said to you from the beginning.

* **7:53** The best ancient copies omit Jhn. 7:53-8:11 * **8:1** See the note about Jhn. 7:53-8:11 above † **8:4** See the note about John 7:53-8:11 above ‡ **8:7** See the note about Jhn. 7:53-8:11 above § **8:9** See the note about Jhn. 7:53-8:11 above

²⁶ I have many things to speak and to judge about you. However, he who sent me is true; and the things that I heard from him, these things I say to the world.” ²⁷ They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then will you know that I AM, and that I do nothing of myself. As the Father taught me, I speak these things. ²⁹ He who sent me is with me, and he has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him.” ³⁰ As Jesus was saying these things, many believed in him.

³¹ Jesus said to those Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves of anyone; how can you say, ‘You will be set free?’” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you will be truly free. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; you seek to kill me because my word has no place in you. ³⁸ I say what I have seen with my Father, and you also do what you heard from your father.” ³⁹ They answered and said to him, “Our father is Abraham.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰ Yet, now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹ You do the works of your father.” They said to him, “We were not born in sexual immorality; we have one Father: God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; for neither have I come of myself, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand my words? It is because you cannot hear my words. ⁴⁴ You are of your father, the devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature because he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet, because I speak the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears the words of God; you do not hear them because you are not of God.” ⁴⁸ The Jews answered and said to him, “Do we not truly say that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I do not seek my glory; there is one seeking and judging. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham and the prophets died; but you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³ You are not greater than our father Abraham who died, are you? The prophets also died. Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing; it is my Father who glorifies me—about whom you say that he is your God. ⁵⁵ You have not known him, but I know him. If I would say, ‘I do not know him,’ I would be like you, a liar. However, I know him and keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at seeing my day; he saw it

and was glad.” ⁵⁷ The Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” ⁵⁹ Then they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

9

¹ Now as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, so that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither did this man sin, nor his parents, but so that the works of God would be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one will be able to work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After Jesus said these things, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on his eyes. ⁷ He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam,” (which is translated “Sent”). So the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. ⁸ Then the man’s neighbors and those who had seen him previously as a beggar were saying, “Is not this the man that used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” But he said, “It is me.” ¹⁰ They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He replied, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ Now it was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then again the Pharisees asked him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I now can see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” So there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they asked the blind man again, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?” The blind man said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ Now the Jews still did not believe about him that he was blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. ¹⁹ They asked the parents, “Is this your son whom you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ So his parents answered them, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ How he now sees, we do not know, and who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him, he is an adult. He can speak for himself.” ²² His parents said these things, because they were afraid of the Jews. For the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess him to be the Christ, he would be thrown out of the synagogue. ²³ Because of this, his parents said, “He is an adult, ask him.” ²⁴ So for a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ Then that man replied, “I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see.” ²⁶ Then they said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already, and you did not listen! Why do you want to hear it again? You do not want

to become his disciples too, do you? ²⁸ They insulted him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." ³⁰ The man answered and said to them, "This is remarkable, that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if someone is devout and does his will, he listens to him. ³² Since the world began it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and you are teaching us?" Then they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out of the synagogue. He found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He replied and said, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is the one who is speaking with you." ³⁸ The man said, "Lord, I believe" and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world so that those who do not see may see and so that those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things and asked him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin, but now you say, 'We see,' so your sin remains."

10

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter through the gate into the sheep pen, but climbs up some other way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² He who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens for him. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger but instead they will avoid him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what these things were that he was saying to them.

⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the gate of the sheep. ⁸ Everyone who came before me is a thief and a robber, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. If anyone enters in through me, he will be saved; he will go in and out and will find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come if he would not steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they will have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired servant is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming and abandons the sheep and escapes, and the wolf carries them off and scatters them. ¹³ He runs away because he is a hired servant and does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and I know my own, and my own know me. ¹⁵ The Father knows me, and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice so that there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me: I lay down my life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one

takes it away from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

¹⁹ A division again occurred among the Jews because of these words.

²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of a demon-possessed man. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

²² Then it was time for the Festival of the Dedication in Jerusalem.

²³ It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the porch of Solomon. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded him and said to him, “How long will you hold us doubting? If you are the Christ, tell us openly.”

²⁵ Jesus replied to them, “I told you, but you do not believe. The works that I do in the name of my Father, these testify concerning me. ²⁶ Yet you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life; they will never die, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My

Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all others, and no one is able to snatch them out of the hand of the Father. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.” ³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

³² Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of those works are you stoning me?” ³³ The Jews answered him, “We are not stoning you for any good work, but for blasphemy, because you, a man, are making yourself God.” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods”’?

³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say to him whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, do not believe me. ³⁸ But if I am doing them, even if you do not believe me, believe in the works so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and that I am in the Father.” ³⁹ They tried to seize him again, but he went away out of their hand.

⁴⁰ He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John had first been baptizing, and he stayed there. ⁴¹ Many people came to him and they said, “John indeed did no signs, but all the things that John has said about this man are true.” ⁴² Many people believed in him there.

11

¹ Now a certain man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with myrrh and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ The sisters then sent for Jesus, saying, “Lord, see, he whom you love is sick.” ⁴ When Jesus heard it, he said, “This sickness is not to death, but instead it is for the glory of God so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.” ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, Jesus stayed two more days in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this, he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, right now the Jews are trying to stone you, and you are going

back there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of light in a day? If someone walks in the daytime, he will not stumble, because he sees by the light of this world. ¹⁰ However, if he walks at night, he will stumble because the light is not in him." ¹¹ He said these things, and after these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I may wake him out of sleep." ¹² The disciples therefore said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he was speaking about the sleep of resting. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ I am glad, for your sakes, that I was not there so that you may believe. Let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go so that we may die with Jesus."

¹⁷ When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away. ¹⁹ Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to comfort them about their brother. ²⁰ Then Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now, I know that whatever you ask from God, he will give to you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, will live; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went away and called her sister Mary privately. She said, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ When she heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ So when the Jews, who were with her in the house and who were comforting her, saw Mary getting up quickly and going out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came to the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell down at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and was troubled; ³⁴ he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how much he loved Lazarus!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of a blind man, also have made this man not die?" ³⁸ Then Jesus again, being deeply moved in himself, went to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of Lazarus, the one who had died, said to Jesus, "Lord, by this time the body will be decaying, for he has been dead for four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that, if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you listened to me. ⁴² I knew that you always

listen to me, but it is because of the crowd that is standing around me that I said this, so that they may believe that you have sent me.”

⁴³ After he had said this, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out; his feet and hands were bound with cloths, and his face was bound about with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things that Jesus had done.

⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council together and said, “What will we do? This man does many signs. ⁴⁸ If we leave him alone like this, all will believe in him; the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” ⁴⁹ However, a certain man among them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing. ⁵⁰ You do not consider that it is better for you that one man dies for the people than that the whole nation perishes.” ⁵¹ Now this he said not from himself. Instead, being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation; ⁵² and not only for the nation, but so that the children of God who are scattered would be gathered together into one. ⁵³ So from that day onward they planned how to put Jesus to death.

⁵⁴ No longer did Jesus walk openly among the Jews, but he departed from there into the country near to the wilderness into a town called Ephraim. There he stayed with the disciples. ⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem from the country before the Passover in order to purify themselves. ⁵⁶ They were looking for Jesus, and speaking one with another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the festival?” ⁵⁷ Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given an order that if anyone knew where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might seize him.

12

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, was. ² So they made him a dinner there, and Martha was serving, but Lazarus was one of those who was lying down at the table with Jesus. ³ Then Mary took a litra of perfume made of very precious pure nard, anointed the feet of Jesus with it, and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, the one who would betray him, said, ⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ Now he said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. He had the moneybag and would steal from what was put in it. ⁷ Jesus said, “Allow her to keep what she has for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor with you. But you will not always have me.”

⁹ Now a large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, and they came, not only for Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ The chief priests conspired together so that they might also put Lazarus to death; ¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

¹² On the next day a great crowd came to the festival. When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ they took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet him and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel." ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it was written, ¹⁵ "Do not fear, daughter of Zion; see, your King is coming, sitting on the colt of a donkey." ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, they remembered that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. ¹⁷ Now the crowd testified that they had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him up from the dead. ¹⁸ It was also for this reason that the crowd went out to meet him, because they heard that he had done this sign. ¹⁹ The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "Look, you can do nothing; see, the world has gone after him."

²⁰ Now certain Greeks were among those who were going up to worship at the festival. ²¹ These went to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip, and they told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them and said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it will bear much fruit. ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it; but he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, let him follow me; and where I am, there will my servant also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷ Now my soul is troubled and what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven and said, "I have glorified it and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ Then the crowd that stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for me, but for you. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world: Now will the ruler of this world be thrown out. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate what kind of death he would die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ will stay forever. How can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵ Jesus then said to them, "The light will still be with you for a short amount of time. Walk while you have the light, so that darkness does not overtake you. He who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may be sons of light."

Jesus said these things and then departed and hid from them. ³⁷ Although Jesus had done so many signs before them, yet they did not believe in him ³⁸ so that the word of Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled, in which he said:

"Lord, who has believed our report,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah had also said,

40 "He has blinded their eyes, and he has hardened their hearts; otherwise they would see with their eyes and understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them."

41 Isaiah said these things because he saw the glory of Jesus and spoke of him. 42 But despite that, many of the rulers believed in Jesus; but because of the Pharisees, they did not admit it so that they would not be banned from the synagogue. 43 They loved the praise that comes from people more than the praise that comes from God.

44 Jesus cried out and said, "The one who believes in me, believes not only in me but also in him who sent me, 45 and the one who sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness. 47 If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and who does not receive my words, has one who judges him. The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day. 49 For I did not speak for myself, but it is the Father who sent me, who has given me the command about what to say and what to speak. 50 I know that his command is eternal life, so that is what I say—just as the Father has spoken to me, so I speak."

13

1 Now it was before the Festival of the Passover. Jesus knew that his hour had come to go out of this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 Now the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 He knew that the Father had given everything over into his hands and that he had come from God and was going back to God. 4 He got up from dinner and took off his outer clothing. Then he took a towel and wrapped it around himself. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples and dry them with the towel that he had put around himself. 6 He came to Simon Peter, and Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will understand this later." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, do not only wash my feet, but also my hands and my head." 10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed has no need, except to wash his feet, but he is completely clean; you are clean, but not everyone." 11 (For Jesus knew who would betray him; that is why he said, "Not all of you are clean.")

12 So when Jesus had washed their feet and taken his garments and sat down again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? 13 You call me 'teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are speaking correctly, because so I am. 14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash the feet of one another. 15 For I have given you an example so that you should also do just as I did for you.

¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is a messenger greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking about all of you; I know those whom I have chosen—but this so that the scripture will be fulfilled: 'He who eats my bread lifted up his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I tell you this now before it happens so that when it happens, you may believe that I AM. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I sent, receives me, and he who receives me, receives him who sent me."

²¹ When Jesus said this, he was troubled in spirit. He testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you that one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at each other, wondering of whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was lying down at the table against Jesus' side. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him who he is speaking about." ²⁵ So he leaned back against the side of Jesus and said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Then Jesus answered, "It is the one for whom I will dip the piece of bread and give it him." So when he had dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after the bread, Satan entered into him, so Jesus said to him, "What you are doing, do it quickly." ²⁸ Now no one who was lying down at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, since Judas had the moneybag, Jesus said to him, "Buy what we need to have for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ After Judas received the bread, he went out immediately. It was night.

³¹ When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² God will glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him immediately. ³³ Little children, I am with you for still a short amount of time. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' Now I also say this to you. ³⁴ I am giving you a new commandment, that you should love one another; as I have loved you, so also you should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another."

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later." ³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow before you have denied me three times."

14

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. ² In the house of my Father are many rooms. If it were not so, I would have told you, for I am going to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am you will also be. ⁴ You know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father

except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “I have been with you for so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from my own authority, but the Father living in me is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me, or else believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will do the works that I do, and he will do greater works than these because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father will be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ If you love me, you will keep my commandments, ¹⁶ and I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Comforter so that he will be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive him because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you alone; I will come back to you. ¹⁹ Yet a short amount of time and the world will no longer see me, but you see me. Because I live, you will also live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and that you are in me, and that I am in you. ²¹ He who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me, and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and I will show myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Jesus, “Lord, why is it that you will show yourself to us and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and we will make our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love me does not keep my words. The word that you hear is not from me but from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ I have said these things to you, while I am staying with you. ²⁶ However, the Comforter—the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and he will remind you of everything that I said to you. ²⁷ I leave you peace; I give you my peace. I do not give it as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid. ²⁸ You heard that I said to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I am. ²⁹ Now I have told you before it happens so that, when it happens, you will believe. ³⁰ I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, ³¹ but in order that the world will know that I love the Father, I do just as the Father commanded me. Let us get up and go from here.”

15

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the message that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in

me, and I in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for without me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up, and they gather the branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned up. ⁷ If you remain in me, and if my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified in this, that you bear much fruit and so prove that you are my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, as I have kept the commandments of my Father and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have spoken these things to you so that my joy will be in you and so that your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this—that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do the things that I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain. This is so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you love one another. ¹⁸ If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. But because you are not of the world and because I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ They will do all these things to you because of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴ If I had not done the works that no one else did among them, they would have no sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But this is in order to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.' ²⁶ When the Comforter—whom I will send to you from the Father, that is, the Spirit of truth, who goes out from the Father—comes, he will testify about me. ²⁷ You are also testifying because you have been with me from the beginning.

16

¹ "I have spoken these things to you so that you will not fall away. ² They will throw you out of the synagogues. But the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think that he is offering a service to God. ³ They will do these things because they have not known the Father nor me. ⁴ I have spoken these things to you so that when their hour comes, you will remember that I told you about them. I did not tell you about these things in the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵ But now I go to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sadness has filled your heart. ⁷ But truly I tell you, it is better for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, the Comforter will prove the world to be wrong about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment— ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, and you will no longer see me; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. ¹² I have many things to say to you, but you would not understand them now. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak from himself. But he will say whatever he hears, and he will tell you things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and he will tell it to you. ¹⁵ Everything that the Father has is mine. Therefore, I said that the Spirit will take from what is mine and he will tell it to you. ¹⁶ In a short amount of time you will no longer see me, and after another short amount of time you will see me." ¹⁷ Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A short amount of time you will no longer see me and after another short amount of time you will see me,' and, 'Because I go to the Father'?" ¹⁸ Therefore they said, "What is this that he says, 'A short amount of time'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹ Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him, and he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?" ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will be glad. You will become full of sadness, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ When a woman gives birth she has sadness because her hour has come, but when she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers her pain because of her joy that a man has been born into the world. ²² So you have sadness now, but I will see you again, and your heart will be glad, and no one will be able to take away your joy from you. ²³ On that day you will not ask me anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked anything in my name. Ask, and you will receive so that your joy will be fulfilled.

²⁵ I have said these things to you in figures of speech, but the hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but instead I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ On that day you will ask in my name and I do not say to you that I will pray to the Father for you, ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and because you have believed that I came from the Father. ²⁸ I came from the Father, and I have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and I am going to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said, "See, now you are speaking plainly and you are not using figures of speech. ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things, and you do not need anyone to ask you questions. Because of this, we believe that you have come from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you believe now? ³² See, the hour is coming, yes, and has indeed come, when you will be scattered,

everyone to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. ³³ I have spoken these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have troubles, but have courage, I have conquered the world.”

17

¹ After Jesus said these things, he lifted up his eyes to the heavens and said, “Father, the hour has come, glorify your Son so that the Son will glorify you— ² just as you gave him authority over all flesh so that he would give eternal life to everyone whom you have given him. ³ This is eternal life: That they know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ. ⁴ I glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work that you have given me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify me along with yourself with the glory that I had with you before the world was made. ⁶ I revealed your name to the people whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me comes from you, ⁸ for I have given them all the words that you gave me. They received them and truly knew that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is mine is yours, and yours is mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ I am no longer in the world, but these people are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me so that they will be one, just as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I protected them, and not one of them was destroyed, except for the son of destruction, so that the scriptures would be fulfilled. ¹³ Now I am coming to you, but I am saying these things in the world so that they will have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask for you to take them away from the world, but for you to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Set them apart by the truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For their sakes I have set myself apart, so that they themselves may also be set apart in truth. ²⁰ I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word ²¹ so that they will all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world will believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you gave me, I have given to them, so that they will be one, just as we are one: ²³ I in them, and you in me—that they may be brought to complete unity, so that the world will know that you sent me, and that you have loved them just as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you gave me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world did not know you, but I know you; and these know that you sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to

them, and I will make it known so that the love with which you have loved me will be in them, and I will be in them.”

18

¹ After Jesus spoke these words, he went out with his disciples to the other side of the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden into which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who was going to betray him, also knew the place, for Jesus often went there with his disciples. ³ Then Judas, leading a group of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, who knew all the things that were happening to him, went forward and asked them, “Who are you looking for?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am.” Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with the soldiers. ⁶ So when he said to them, “I am,” they went backward and fell to the ground. ⁷ Then again he asked them, “Who are you looking for?” Again they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am. So if you are looking for me, let these go.” ⁹ This was in order to fulfill the word that he said: “Of those whom you have given me, I lost no one.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. Now the name of the servant was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword back into its sheath. Should I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

¹² So the group of soldiers and the captain, and the officers of the Jews, seized Jesus and tied him up. ¹³ They led him first to Annas, for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now Caiaphas was the one who had given the advice to the Jews that it would be better that one man die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest; ¹⁶ but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the female doorkeeper and he brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the female servant, the doorkeeper, said to Peter, “Are you not also one of the disciples of this man?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the servants and the officers were standing there, and they had made a charcoal fire, for it was cold, and they were warming themselves. Peter was also with them, standing there and warming himself.

¹⁹ The high priest then asked Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I was always teaching in synagogues and in the temple where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why did you ask me? Ask those who have heard me about what I said. Look, these people know what I said.” ²² When Jesus had said this, one of the officers standing there struck Jesus and said, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If I spoke wrongly, testify about the wrong, but if rightly, why do you hit me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him tied up to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. The people then said to him, "Are you not also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, who was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Peter then denied again, and immediately the rooster crowed.

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the government headquarters. It was early in the morning, and they did not enter the government headquarters so that they would not be defiled but would eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation are you bringing against this man?" ³⁰ They answered and said to him, "If this man was not an evildoer, we would not have given him over to you." ³¹ Pilate therefore said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." ³² They said this so that the word of Jesus would be fulfilled which he had spoken to indicate by what kind of death he would die.

³³ Then Pilate entered the government headquarters again and called Jesus and he said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you speak from yourself, or did others speak to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own people and the chief priests gave you over to me. What did you do?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, then my servants would fight so that I would not be given over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate then said to him, "Are you a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this purpose I have come into the world, so that I would bear witness to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" When he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in this man. ³⁹ But you have the custom that I release one person to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?" ⁴⁰ Then they cried out again and said, "Not this man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber.

19

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and whipped him. ² The soldiers weaved a crown of thorns. They put it on the head of Jesus and dressed him with a purple garment. ³ They came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and they struck him. ⁴ Then Pilate went outside again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him outside to you so that you will know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment. Pilate said to them, "Look, here is the man!" ⁶ When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw Jesus, they cried out and said, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he has to die because he claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he entered the government headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where

do you come from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Then Pilate said to him, "Are you not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You do not have any power over me except for what has been given to you from above. Therefore, he who gave me over to you has a greater sin." ¹² At this answer, Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." ¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place called "The Pavement," but in Hebrew, "Gabbatha." ¹⁴ Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover, at about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, "See, here is your king!" ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him, away with him; crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶ Then Pilate gave Jesus over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ Then they took Jesus, and he went out, carrying the cross for himself, to the place called "The Place of a Skull," which in Hebrew is called "Golgotha." ¹⁸ They crucified Jesus there, and with him two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a sign and put it on the cross. There it was written: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The sign was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This one said, "I am King of the Jews."'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, divided them into four shares, one for each of them; and also the tunic. Now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ Then they said to each other, "Let us not tear it, but instead let us cast lots for it to decide whose it will be." This happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled which said,

"They divided my garments among themselves
and cast lots for my clothing."

This is what the soldiers did. ²⁵ Now standing beside Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, see, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "See, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything was now completed and so that the scriptures would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A container full of sour wine was placed there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop staff and lifted it up to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had taken the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." He bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross during the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was especially important), asked Pilate to break their legs and

to remove them. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the second man who had been crucified with Jesus. ³³ When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they did not break his legs. ³⁴ However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that what he said is true so that you would also believe. ³⁶ For these things happened in order to fulfill scripture, "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷ Again, another scripture says, "They will look at him whom they pierced."

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, since he was a disciple of Jesus (but secretly for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission. So Joseph came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also came, he who at first had come to Jesus by night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about one hundred litras in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as was the custom of the Jews to bury bodies. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden was a new tomb in which no person had yet been buried. ⁴² Because it was the day of preparation for the Jews and because the tomb was close by, they laid Jesus in it.

20

¹ Now early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and she saw the stone rolled away from the tomb. ² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she said to them, "They took away the Lord out from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went to the tomb. ⁴ They both ran together, and the other disciple quickly ran ahead of Peter and arrived at the tomb first. ⁵ Then stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go inside. ⁶ Simon Peter then arrived after him and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there ⁷ and the cloth that had been on his head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, the one who first arrived at the tomb, also went in, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For until that time they still did not know the scripture that he should rise from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went back home again.

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she stooped down into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the foot of where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they took away my Lord, and I do not know where they have put him." ¹⁴ When she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought that he was the gardener, so she said to him, "Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned, and said to

him in Hebrew, "Rabboni" (which means "Teacher"). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet gone up to the Father, but go to my brothers and say to them that I will go up to my Father and your Father, and my God and your God." ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ When it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of where the disciples were, were closed for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the middle of them and said to them, "Peace to you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus then said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." ²² When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven; whoever's sins you keep back, they are kept back."

²⁴ Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples later said to him, "We have seen the Lord." He said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came while the doors were closed, and stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger and see my hands. Reach here with your hand and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God." ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, signs that have not been written in this book, ³¹ but these have been written so that you would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that believing, you would have life in his name.

21

¹ After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how he showed himself: ² Simon Peter was together with Thomas called Didymus, Nathaniel from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We, too, will come with you." They went and got into a boat, but they caught nothing during the whole night. ⁴ Now, when it was already early in the morning, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. ⁵ So Jesus said to them, "Young men, do you have anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they threw their net and were not able to draw it in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied up his outer garment (for he was undressed), and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat (for they were not far from the land, about two hundred cubits off), and they were pulling the net full

of fish. ⁹ When they got out upon the land, they saw a charcoal fire there and fish laid on it, with bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter then went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish; 153. There were so many, but the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them, and the fish also. ¹⁴ This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after he had risen from the dead.

¹⁵ After they ate breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Peter said to him, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter said to him, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ He said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was sad because Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" He said to him, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to clothe yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you become old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will clothe you and carry you where you will not want to go." ¹⁹ Now Jesus said this in order to indicate with what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After he had said this, he said to Peter, "Follow me." ²⁰ Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who had also leaned back against the side of Jesus at the dinner and who had said, "Lord, who is the one who will betray you?" ²¹ Peter saw him and then said to Jesus, "Lord, what will this man do?" ²² Jesus said to him, "If I want him to stay until I come, what is that to you? Follow me." ²³ So this statement spread among the brothers, that that disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to Peter that the other disciple would not die, but, "If I want him to stay until I come, what is that to you?"

²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies about these things, and who wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ There are also many other things that Jesus did. If each one were written down, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Acts

¹ The former book I wrote, Theophilus, told all that Jesus began to do and to teach, ² until the day that he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself alive to them with many convincing proofs. For forty days he appeared to them, and he spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ When he was meeting together with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, about which, he said, "You heard from me ⁵ that John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit in a few days."

⁶ When they were assembled together they asked him, "Lord, is this the time you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has determined by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When the Lord Jesus had said these things, as they were looking up, he was raised up, and a cloud hid him from their eyes. ¹⁰ While they were looking intensely to heaven as he went, suddenly, two men stood by them in white clothing. ¹¹ They said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into heaven? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will return in the same manner as you saw him going into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near to Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ When they arrived, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying. They were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They were all united as one, as they diligently continued in prayer. Included were the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers, about 120 people, and said, ¹⁶ "Brothers, it was necessary that the scripture should be fulfilled, that the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who guided the ones who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was one of us and received his share of the benefits of this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man bought a field with the earnings he received for his wickedness, and there he fell headfirst, and his body burst open, and all his intestines poured out. ¹⁹ All those living in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language "Akeldama," that is, "Field of Blood.") ²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

'Let his field be made desolate,
and do not let even one person live there';

'Let someone else take his position of leadership.'

²¹ It is necessary, therefore, that one of the men who accompanied us all the time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning

from the baptism of John to the day that he was taken up from us, must be a witness with us of his resurrection.”²³ They put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also named Justus, and Matthias.²⁴ They prayed and said, “You, Lord, know the hearts of all people, so reveal which of these two is the one whom you have chosen²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.”²⁶ They cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

2

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in the same place. ² Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ There appeared to them tongues like fire that were distributed, and they sat upon each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them to speak.

⁵ Now there were Jews who were living in Jerusalem, godly men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When this sound was heard, the multitude came together and was confused because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ They were amazed and marveled; they said, “Really, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Why is it that we are hearing them, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya toward Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our languages about the mighty works of God.” ¹² They were all amazed and perplexed; they said to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others mocked and said, “They are full of new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter stood with the eleven, raised his voice, and said to them, “Men of Judea and all of you who live at Jerusalem, let this be known to you; pay attention to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk as you assume, for it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'It will be in the last days,' God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people,
Your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Also on my servants and my female servants in those days
I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the sky above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, fire, and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the great and remarkable day of the Lord comes.

21 It will be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man accredited to you by God by the mighty deeds, the wonders, and the signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.

23 This man was handed over by God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and you, by the hand of lawless men, put him to death by nailing him to a cross. 24 But God raised him up, freeing him from the pains of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

25 For David says about him,

'I saw the Lord always before my face,
for he is beside my right hand so that I should not be moved.

26 Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.

Also, my flesh will live in certain hope.

27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
neither will you allow your Holy One to see decay.

28 You revealed to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your face.'

29 Brothers, I can speak to you confidently about the patriarch David, he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 Therefore, he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him, that he would set one of the fruit of his body upon his throne. 31 He saw what was to happen in the future and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ,

'He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see decay.'

32 This Jesus—God raised him up, of which we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out what you see and hear.

34 For David did not ascend to the heaven, but he says,

'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand,

35 until I make your enemies the stool for your feet."'

36 Therefore, let all the house of Israel certainly know that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced in their hearts, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, as many people as the Lord our God will call."

40 With many other words he testified and urged them; he said, "Save yourselves from this wicked generation." 41 Then they received his word and were baptized, and there were added in that day about three thousand souls. 42 They continued in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

43 Fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common, 45 and they sold their property and possessions and distributed them to all, according to the needs anyone had. 46 So day after day they continued with one purpose in the temple, and they

broke bread in homes, and they shared food with glad and humble hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people, and every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

3

¹ Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² Now a man lame from birth was being carried every day to the Beautiful gate of temple, so he could ask people who were going into the temple for a gift of money. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for a gift of money. ⁴ Peter, fastening his eyes upon him, with John, said, "Look at us." ⁵ The lame man looked at them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I will give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, Peter raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankle were made strong. ⁸ Leaping up, the lame man stood and began to walk; and he entered with Peter and John into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ They noticed that it was the man who had been asking people for a gift of money at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement because of what had happened to him.

¹¹ As he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly marveling. ¹² When Peter saw this, he answered the people, "You men of Israel, why do you marvel? Why do you fix your eyes on us, as if we had made him to walk by our own power or godliness? ¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. He is the one whom you delivered up and rejected before the face of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected the Holy and Righteous One, and you asked instead for a murderer to be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the Founder of life, whom God raised from the dead—and we are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ Now, by faith in his name—this man whom you see and know—this same name made him strong. The faith that is through Jesus gave to him this complete health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷ Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But the things which God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he has now fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent, therefore, and turn, so that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come periods of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰ and that he may send the Christ who has been appointed for you, Jesus. ²¹ He is the One heaven must receive until the time of the restoration of all things, about which God spoke long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets. ²² Moses indeed said, 'The Lord God will raise up a prophet like me from among your brothers. You shall listen to everything that he will speak to you. ²³ It will happen that every person who does not listen to that prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people.' ²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who came after him, they spoke out and announced these days. ²⁵ You are

the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors, as he said to Abraham, 'In your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' ²⁶ After God raised up his servant, he sent him to you first, in order to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

4

¹ As Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them. ² They were deeply troubled because Peter and John were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ They arrested them and put them in jail until the next morning, since it was now evening. ⁴ But many of the people who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men who believed was about five thousand.

⁵ It came about on the next day that their rulers, elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and all who were relatives of the high priest. ⁷ When they had set Peter and John in their midst, they asked them, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "You rulers of the people, and elders, ⁹ if we this day are being questioned concerning a good deed done to a sick man, by what means was this man made well? ¹⁰ May this be known to you all and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands here before you healthy. ¹¹ Jesus Christ is the stone which you as builders despised but which has been made the head cornerstone. ¹² There is no salvation in any other person, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and realized that they were ordinary, uneducated men, they were surprised, becoming aware that Peter and John had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ Because they saw the man who was healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against this. ¹⁵ But after they had commanded the apostles to leave the council meeting, they talked among themselves. ¹⁶ They said, "What shall we do to these men? For the fact that a remarkable miracle has been done through them is known to everyone who lives in Jerusalem; we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it spreads no further among the people, let us warn them not to speak anymore to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ They called Peter and John in and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to obey you rather than him, you judge. ²⁰ We are not able to stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." ²¹ After further warning Peter and John, they let them go. They were unable to find any excuse to punish them, because all of the people were praising God for what had been done. ²² The man who had experienced this miracle of healing was more than forty years old.

²³ After they were set free, Peter and John came to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

²⁴ When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, "Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David,

'Why did the Gentile nations rage,
and the peoples imagine useless things?'

²⁶ You said,

'The kings of the earth set themselves together,
and the rulers gathered together
against the Lord, and against his Christ.'

²⁷ Indeed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They gathered together to do all that your hand and your plan had decided in advance would happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look upon their warnings and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal, and to give signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ When they finished praying, the place where they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

³² The great number of those who believed were of one heart and soul. No one said that anything he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ With great power the apostles were proclaiming their testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was no person among them who lacked anything, for all who owned title to lands or houses sold them and brought the money of the things that were sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each one according to their need.

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite, a man from Cyprus whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷ sold a field and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5

¹ Now a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property, ² and he kept back part of the sale money (his wife also knew it), and brought the other part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own, and after it was sold, was it not in your control? How is it that you thought of this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God." ⁵ Hearing these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard it. ⁶ The young men came forward and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him.

⁷ After about three hours, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." She said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹ Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and

they will carry you out.”¹⁰ She immediately fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in, they found her dead, and carried her out and buried her beside her husband.¹¹ Great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard these things.

¹² Many signs and wonders were taking place among the people through the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's Porch.¹³ But no one else had the courage to join them; however, they were held in high esteem by the people.¹⁴ Still more believers were being added to the Lord, multitudes of men and women,¹⁵ so that they even carried the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, so that as Peter came by, his shadow might fall on some of them.¹⁶ There also came together a great number of people from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees); and they were filled with jealousy¹⁸ and laid hands on the apostles, and put them in the public jail.¹⁹ Yet during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and led them out, and said,²⁰ “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”²¹ When they heard this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and taught. But the high priest came, and those who were with him, and called the council together, all the elders of the people of Israel, and sent to the jail to have the apostles brought.²² But the officers that went did not find them in the prison, and they returned and reported,²³ “We found the jail securely shut and the guards standing at the door, but when we had opened it, we found no one inside.”²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were much perplexed concerning them as to what would come of it.²⁵ Then someone came and told them, “The men whom you put in the jail are standing in the temple and teaching the people.”²⁶ So the captain went with the officers, and brought them back, but without violence, for they feared that the people might stone them.²⁷ When they had brought them, they set them before the council. The high priest interrogated them,²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and desire to bring this man's blood upon us.”²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.³¹ God exalted him to his right hand to be a prince and a savior; to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³ When the council members heard this, they were furious and wanted to kill the apostles.³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up and commanded the apostles to be taken outside for a little while.³⁵ Then he said to them, “Men of Israel, pay close attention to what you propose to do with these people.³⁶ For some time ago, Theudas rose up claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who had been obeying

him were scattered and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him. He also perished, and all who had been obeying him were scattered. ³⁸ Now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown. ³⁹ But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; you may even find that you are fighting against God." So they were persuaded. ⁴⁰ Then they called the apostles in and beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ They left the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. ⁴² Thereafter every day, in the temple and from house to house, they were continuously teaching and proclaiming Jesus as the Christ.

6

¹ Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint by the Grecian Jews began against the Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² The twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said, "It is not right for us to give up the word of God in order to serve tables. ³ You should therefore choose, brothers, seven men from among yourselves, men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴ As for us, we will always continue in prayer and in the ministry of the word." ⁵ Their speech pleased the whole multitude. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶ The believers brought these men before the apostles, who prayed and then placed their hands upon them.

⁷ So the word of God continued to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly, and a large number of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ But there arose some people who belonged to the synagogue called the synagogue of the Freedmen, of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia. These people were debating with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they were not able to stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. ¹¹ Then they bribed some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." ¹² They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, and they approached Stephen and seized him and brought him before the council. ¹³ They brought false witnesses, who said, "This man does not stop speaking words against this holy place and the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us." ¹⁵ Everyone who sat in the council fixed their eyes on him and saw his face was like the face of an angel.

7

¹ The high priest said, "Are these things true?" ² Stephen said,

“Brothers and fathers, listen to me: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran; ³ he said to him, 'Leave your land and your relatives, and go into the land that I will show you.' ⁴ Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran; from there, after his father died, God brought him into this land, where you live now. ⁵ He gave none of it as an inheritance to him, no, not even enough to set a foot on. But he promised—even though Abraham had no child yet—that he would give the land as a possession to him and to his descendants after him. ⁶ God was speaking to him like this, that his descendants would live for a while in a foreign land, and that the inhabitants there would bring them into slavery and treat them badly for four hundred years. ⁷ 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they will come out and worship me in this place.' ⁸ Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, so Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of the twelve patriarchs. ⁹ Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him into Egypt; but God was with him ¹⁰ and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who had made him governor over Egypt and over all his household. ¹¹ Now there came a famine over all Egypt and Canaan, and great suffering, and our fathers could find no food. ¹² But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first trip. ¹³ On their second trip Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh. ¹⁴ Joseph sent his brothers back to tell Jacob his father to come to Egypt, along with all his relatives, seventy-five persons in all. ¹⁵ So Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers. ¹⁶ They were carried over to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a price in silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem. ¹⁷ As the time of the promise approached, the promise that God had made to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, ¹⁸ until there arose another king over Egypt, a king who did not know about Joseph. ¹⁹ He deceived our people and forced our fathers to expose their newborn infants so they would not be kept alive. ²⁰ At that time Moses was born; he was very beautiful before God and was nourished for three months in his father's house. ²¹ When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. ²² Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and works. ²³ But when he was about forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. ²⁴ Seeing an Israelite being mistreated, Moses defended him and avenged him who was oppressed by striking the Egyptian: ²⁵ he thought that his brothers would understand that God by his hand was rescuing them, but they did not understand. ²⁶ On the next day he came to some Israelites as they were quarreling; he tried to put them at peace with each other; he said, 'Men, you are brothers; why are you hurting one another?' ²⁷ But the one who had wronged his neighbor pushed him away, and said, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?' ²⁸ Would you like to kill me, as you killed the

Egyptian yesterday?' ²⁹ Moses ran away after hearing this; he became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. ³⁰ When forty years were past, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. ³¹ When Moses saw the fire, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look at it, there came a voice of the Lord, saying, ³² 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.' Moses trembled and did not dare to look. ³³ The Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴ I have certainly seen the suffering of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them; now come, I will send you to Egypt.' ³⁵ This Moses whom they rejected, when they said, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?'— he was the one whom God sent as both a ruler and deliverer. God sent him by the hand of the angel who appeared to Moses in the bush. ³⁶ Moses led them out of Egypt, after doing miracles and signs in Egypt and at the Sea of Reeds, and in the wilderness during forty years. ³⁷ It is the same Moses who said to the people of Israel, 'God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brothers, a prophet like me.' ³⁸ This is the man who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel who had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. This is the man who was with our fathers; this is the man who received living words to give to us. ³⁹ This is the man whom our fathers refused to obey; they pushed him away from themselves, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt. ⁴⁰ At that time they said to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will lead us. As for this Moses, who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.' ⁴¹ So they made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced because of the work of their hands. ⁴² But God turned and gave them up to worship the stars in the sky, as it is written in the book of the prophets, 'Did you offer to me slain beasts and sacrifices for forty years in the wilderness, house of Israel? ⁴³ You accepted the tabernacle of Molech and the star of the god Rephan, and the images that you made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.' ⁴⁴ Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness, just as God commanded when he spoke to Moses, that he should make it like the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Later, our fathers, under Joshua, received the tabernacle and brought it with them when they took possession of the land. God took the land from the nations and drove them out before the face of our fathers. The tabernacle remained in the land until the time of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor in the sight of God, and he asked if he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built the house for God. ⁴⁸ However, the Most High does not live in houses made with hands, as the prophet says, ⁴⁹ 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is the footstool for my feet. What kind of house can you build for me? says the Lord, or what is the place for my rest? ⁵⁰ Did my hand not make all these things?'

⁵¹ You people who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit; you act just as your fathers acted. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed the prophets who appeared in advance of the coming of the Righteous One; and you have now become the betrayers and murderers of him also, ⁵³ you people who received the law that angels had established, but you did not keep it."

⁵⁴ Now when the council members heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up intently into heaven and saw the glory of God; and he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ Stephen said, "Look, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ At this the council members covered their ears, and shouting out with a loud voice, altogether they rushed at him. ⁵⁸ They dragged him out of the city where they began to stone him, and the witnesses laid down their outer clothing at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ As they were stoning Stephen, he was calling out to the Lord and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ He knelt down and called out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

8

¹ Saul was in agreement with his death.

So there began on that day a great persecution against the church that was in Jerusalem; and the believers were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul greatly harmed the church; he went into house after house and dragged out men and women, and put them into prison.

⁴ Yet the believers who had been scattered went about proclaiming the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ When multitudes of people heard and saw the signs that Philip did, they paid attention together to what he said. ⁷ Unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying out with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

⁹ But there was a certain man in the city named Simon, who had earlier been practicing sorcery; he used to astonish the people of Samaria, while claiming that he was an important person. ¹⁰ All the Samaritans, from the least to the greatest, paid attention to him; they said, "This man is that power of God which is called Great." ¹¹ They listened to him, because he had astonished them for a long time with his sorceries. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed, and after he was baptized he stayed with Philip constantly. When he saw signs and mighty deeds taking place, he was amazed.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John. ¹⁵ When they had come down, they prayed for them, that they might receive the

Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For until that time, the Holy Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money. ¹⁹ He said, "Give me this power, too, that whoever I place my hands on might receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish along with you, because you thought to obtain the gift of God with money. ²¹ You have no part or share in this matter, because your heart is not right with God. ²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord, so that he might perhaps forgive you for the intention of your heart. ²³ For I see that you are in the poison of bitterness and in the bonds of sin." ²⁴ Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

²⁵ When they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and said, "Arise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This road is in a desert.) ²⁷ He arose and went. Behold, there was a man from Cush, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Cushites. He was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁸ He was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and stay close to this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ The Cushite said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" He begged Philip to come up into the chariot and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture which the Ethiopian was reading was this,

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and like a lamb before his shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.

Who can fully describe his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ So the eunuch asked Philip, and said, "I beg you, who is the prophet speaking about, himself, or someone else?" ³⁵ Philip began to speak, and beginning with this scripture he proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went on the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water here. What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁷ * ³⁸ So the Ethiopian commanded the chariot to stop. They went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip appeared at Azotus and he

* **8:37** The best ancient copies omit Acts 8:37, Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The Ethiopian answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God"

went through that region, proclaiming the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

9

¹ But Saul, still speaking threats even of murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters for the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that as he came near to Damascus, suddenly there shone all around him a light out of heaven; ⁴ and he fell upon the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ Saul replied, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting; ⁶ but rise, enter into the city, and it will be told you what you must do." ⁷ The men who traveled with Saul stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul arose from the ground, and when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and he neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He said, "See, I am here, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² He has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might see again." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He has authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone here who calls upon your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine, to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for the cause of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias departed, and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road when you were coming, has sent me so that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he received his sight; he arose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and he ate and was strengthened.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. ²⁰ Right away he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying that he is the Son of God. ²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who destroyed those in Jerusalem who called on this name? He has come here to take them bound to the chief priests." ²² But Saul became more and more powerful, and he was causing distress among the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

²³ After many days, the Jews planned together to kill him. ²⁴ But their plan became known to Saul. They watched the gates day and night in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

²⁶ When he had come to Jerusalem, Saul attempted to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was

a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and he told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ He met with them as they were coming in and going out of Jerusalem. He spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus ²⁹ and debated with the Grecian Jews; but they kept trying to kill him. ³⁰ When the brothers learned of this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

³¹ So then, the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the church grew in numbers. ³² Now it came about that, as Peter went throughout the whole region, he came down also to the believers who lived in the town of Lydda. ³³ There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been in his bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. ³⁴ Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed," and right away he got up. ³⁵ So everyone who lived in Lydda and in Sharon saw the man and they turned to the Lord.

³⁶ Now there was in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated as "Dorcas." This woman was full of good works and merciful deeds that she did for the poor. ³⁷ It came about in those days that she fell sick and died; when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, begging him, "Come to us without delay." ³⁹ Peter arose and went with them. When he had arrived, they brought him to the upper room, and all the widows stood by him weeping, showing him the coats and garments that Dorcas had made while she had been with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put them all out of the room, knelt down, and prayed; then, turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ Peter then gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he called the believers and the widows, he presented her alive to them. ⁴² This matter became known throughout all Joppa, and many people believed on the Lord. ⁴³ It happened that Peter stayed for many days in Joppa with a man named Simon, a tanner.

10

¹ Now there was a certain man in the city of Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment. ² He was a devout man, one who worshiped God with all his household; he gave much money to those in need, and he constantly prayed to God. ³ About the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him. The angel said to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴ Cornelius stared at the angel and was very frightened and said, "What is it, sir?" The angel said to him, "Your prayers and your gifts to the poor have gone up as a memorial offering into God's presence. ⁵ Now send men to the city of Joppa to bring a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the seaside." ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had left, Cornelius called two of his house servants, and a devout soldier from among those who

served him. ⁸ Cornelius told them all that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

⁹ Now on the next day at about the sixth hour, as they were on their journey and were approaching the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray. ¹⁰ He then became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while the people were cooking some food, he was given a vision, ¹¹ and he saw the sky open and a certain container descending, something like a large sheet coming down to the earth, let down by its four corners. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals and things that crawled on the earth, and birds of the sky. ¹³ Then a voice spoke to him: "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that was defiled and unclean." ¹⁵ But the voice came to him again a second time: "What God has cleansed, do not call it defiled." ¹⁶ This happened three times; then the container was immediately taken back up into the sky.

¹⁷ Now while Peter was very confused about what the vision that he had seen could mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius stood before the gate, after they had asked their way to the house. ¹⁸ They called out and asked whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. * ²⁰ Arise and go down and go with them. Do not hesitate to go with them, because I have sent them." ²¹ So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am he whom you are seeking. Why have you come?" ²² They said, "A centurion named Cornelius, a righteous man and one who worships God, and is well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was told by a holy angel of God to send for you to come to his house, so he could listen to a message from you." ²³ So Peter invited them to come in and stay with him.

On the next morning he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ On the following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them; he had called together his relatives and his close friends. ²⁵ It came about that when Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet to worship him. ²⁶ But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up! I too am a man." ²⁷ While Peter was talking with him, he went in and found many people gathered together. ²⁸ He said to them, "You yourselves know that it is not lawful for a Jewish man to associate with or to visit someone from another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man defiled or unclean. ²⁹ That is why I came without arguing, when I was sent for. So I ask you why you sent for me." ³⁰ Cornelius said, "Four days ago at this very hour, I was praying at the ninth hour in my house; and see, a man stood before me in bright clothing. ³¹ He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard by God, and your gifts to the poor have reminded God about you. ³² So send someone to Joppa, and call to you a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of a tanner named Simon, by the seaside.' † ³³ So at once I sent

* **10:19** Some ancient copies have, two men are looking for you or some men are looking for you . † **10:32** Some ancient copies add: When he comes, he will speak to you .

for you. You are kind to have come. Now then, we are all here present in the sight of God, to hear everything that you have been instructed by the Lord to say.” † 34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said,

“Truly, I perceive that God does not take anyone's side. 35 Instead, in every nation anyone who worships and does righteous deeds is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message that he sent to the people of Israel, when he announced good news about peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all— 37 you yourselves know the events that took place, which occurred throughout all Judea, beginning in Galilee, after the baptism that John announced; 38 the events concerning Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses of all the things Jesus did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him up on the third day and caused him to be seen, 41 not by all the people, but to the witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to proclaim to the people and to testify that this is the one who has been chosen by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead. 43 It is to him that all the prophets bear witness, so that everyone who believes in him shall receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all of those who were listening to his message. 45 The people who belonged to the circumcision group of believers—all of those who came with Peter—were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out also on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard these Gentiles speak in other languages and praising God. Then Peter answered, 47 “Can anyone keep water from these people so they should not be baptized, these people who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?” 48 Then he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay with them for several days.

11

1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, they who belonged to the circumcision group criticized him; 3 they said, “You associated with uncircumcised men and ate with them!” 4 But Peter started to explain the matter to them in detail; he said, 5 I was praying in the city of Joppa, and I had a vision of a container coming down, like a large sheet let down from heaven by its four corners. It descended to me. 6 I gazed at it and I thought about it. I saw the four-legged animals of earth, wild beasts, creeping animals, and birds of the sky. 7 Then I heard a voice say to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat!” 8 I said, “Not so, Lord; for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.” 9 But the voice answered again from heaven, “What God has declared clean, do not call unclean.” 10 This happened three times, and then everything was

† 10:33 Instead of instructed by the Lord to say, some ancient copies have, instructed by God to say .

taken back up into heaven again. ¹¹ Behold, right away there were three men standing in front of the house where we were; they had been sent from Caesarea to me. ¹² The Spirit commanded me to go with them, and that I should make no distinction regarding them. These six brothers went with me, and we went into the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send men to Joppa and bring back Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will speak to you a message by which you will be saved—you and all your household." ¹⁵ As I began to speak to them, the Holy Spirit came on them, just as on us in the beginning. ¹⁶ I remembered the words of the Lord, how he said, "John indeed baptized with water; but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷ Then if God gave to them the same gift as he gave to us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could oppose God?" ¹⁸ When they heard these things, they said nothing in response, but they praised God and said, "Then God has given repentance for life to the Gentiles also."

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose over Stephen spread as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word only to Jews. ²⁰ But some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, came to Antioch and spoke also to Greeks, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The hand of the Lord was with them; a great number believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News about them came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas as far as Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with all their heart. ²⁴ For he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ Barnabas then went out to Tarsus to look for Saul. ²⁶ When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It came about, that for an entire year they gathered together with the church and taught many people. The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

²⁷ Now in these days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, Agabus by name, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that a great famine would occur over all the world. This happened in the days of Claudius. ²⁹ So, the disciples, as each one was able, decided to send help to the brothers in Judea. ³⁰ They did this; they sent money to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

12

¹ Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church so that he might mistreat them. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ After he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. That was during the days of unleavened bread. ⁴ After arresting him, he put him in prison, assigning him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him; he was intending to bring him to the people after the Passover. ⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer was made earnestly to God for him by those in the church. ⁶ On the night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over

the prison. ⁷ Behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared by him, and a light shone in the prison cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him and said, "Get up quickly," and his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ The angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." Peter did so. The angel said to him, "Put on your outer garment and follow me." ⁹ So Peter followed the angel and went out. He did not know that what was done by the angel was real. He thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed by the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate that led into the city; it opened for them by itself. They went out and went down a street, and the angel left him right away. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from everything the Jewish people were expecting." ¹² When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, out of joy she failed to open the door; instead, she came running into the room; she reported that Peter was standing at the door. ¹⁵ So they said to her, "You are insane." But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking, and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ Peter motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and he told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. He said, "Report these things to James and the brothers." Then he left and went to another place. ¹⁸ Now when it became day, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers over what had happened to Peter. ¹⁹ After Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he questioned the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

²⁰ Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. They went to him together. They persuaded Blastus, the king's assistant, to help them. They persuaded Blastus, the king's assistant, to help them. Then they asked for peace, because their country received its food from the king's country. ²¹ On a set day Herod dressed himself in royal clothing and sat on a throne; he made a speech to them. ²² The people shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory; he was eaten by worms and died.

²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

²⁵ So when Barnabas and Saul had completed their mission, they returned from * Jerusalem, bringing with them John, also called Mark.

13

¹ Now in the church in Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers. They were Barnabas, Simeon (who is called Niger), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch), and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul, to do the work to which I have

* **12:25** Some ancient copies read, they returned to Jerusalem .

called them.”³ After they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on these men, they sent them off.

⁴ So Barnabas and Saul obeyed the Holy Spirit and went down to Seleucia; from there they sailed to the island of Cyprus. ⁵ When they were in the city of Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John Mark as their assistant. ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island to Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, whose name was Bar Jesus. ⁷ This magician associated with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul, because he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas “the magician” (that is how his name is translated) opposed them; he tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, stared at him intensely. ¹⁰ and said, “You son of the devil, you are full of all kinds of deceit and wickedness. You are an enemy of every kind of righteousness. You will never stop twisting the straight paths of the Lord, will you? ¹¹ Now look, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will become blind. You will not see the sun for a while.” Immediately there fell on Elymas a mist and darkness; he started going around asking people to lead him by the hand. ¹² After the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, because he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

¹³ Now Paul and his friends set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. But John left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Paul and his friends traveled from Perga and came to Antioch of Pisidia. There they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading of the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message saying, “Brothers, if you have any message of encouragement for the people here, say it.” ¹⁶ So Paul stood up and motioned with his hand; he said, “Men of Israel and you who honor God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people numerous when they stayed in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. * ¹⁹ After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave our people their land for an inheritance. ²⁰ All these events took place over four hundred and fifty years. After all these things, God gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then the people asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, to be king for forty years. ²² After God removed him from the kingship, he raised up David to be their king. It was about David that God said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who does all I want him to do.’ ²³ From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus, as he promised to do. ²⁴ This began to happen when, before Jesus came, John first announced the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ As John was finishing his work, he said, ‘Who do you think I am? I am not the one. But listen, one is coming after me, the shoes of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’ ²⁶ Brothers, children of the line

* **13:18** Some ancient copies read, For about forty years he cared for them in the wilderness

of Abraham, and those among you who worship God, it is to us that the message about this salvation has been sent. ²⁷ For they who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, did not recognize him, and they fulfilled sayings of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him. ²⁸ Even though they found no good cause for death in him, they asked Pilate to kill him. ²⁹ When they had completed all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead. ³¹ He was seen for many days by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These people are now his witnesses to the people. ³² So we are telling you the good news that what God promised to our fathers ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

'You are my Son, today I have become your Father.'

³⁴ The fact that he raised him up from the dead so that his body would never decay, God has spoken in this way:

'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'

³⁵ This is why he also says in another Psalm,

'You will not allow your Holy One to see decay.'

³⁶ For when David had served the desires of God in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was laid with his fathers and his body experienced decay. ³⁷ But he whom God raised up experienced no decay. ³⁸ So let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man is proclaimed to you forgiveness of sins. ³⁹ By him every one who believes is justified from all the things which the law of Moses could not justify you. ⁴⁰ So then be careful that the thing the prophets spoke about does not happen to you:

⁴¹ 'Look, you despisers, and be astonished and then perish;

For I am doing a work in your days,

A work that you shall never believe, even if someone announces it to you.'"

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas left, the people begged them that they might speak these same words again the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the synagogue meeting ended, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath, almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and spoke against the things that were said by Paul and insulted him. ⁴⁶ But Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should first be spoken to you. Seeing you push it away from yourselves and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, see, we will turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so has the Lord commanded us, saying,

'I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles,

that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.'"

⁴⁸ As the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord. As many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ The word of the Lord was spread out through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews urged on the devout and important women, as well as the leading men

of the city. These stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and threw them out beyond the border of their city. ⁵¹ But Paul and Barnabas shook off the dust from their feet against them. Then they went to the city of Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

14

¹ It came about in Iconium that Paul and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed. ² But the Jews who were disobedient stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and made them bitter against the brothers. ³ So they stayed there for a long time, speaking boldly with the Lord's power, while he gave evidence about the message of his grace. He did this by granting signs and wonders to be done by the hands of Paul and Barnabas. ⁴ But the majority of the city was divided: some people sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. ⁵ When both Gentiles and Jews attempted to persuade their leaders to mistreat and stone Paul and Barnabas, ⁶ they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region, ⁷ and there they were proclaiming the gospel.

⁸ At Lystra a certain man sat, powerless in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. ⁹ This man heard Paul speaking. Paul fixed his eyes on him and saw that he had faith to be made well. ¹⁰ So he said to him in a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet." Then the man jumped up and walked around. ¹¹ When the multitude saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the dialect of Lycaonia, "The gods have come down to us in the form of men." ¹² They called Barnabas "Zeus," and Paul, "Hermes," because he was the main speaker. ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and wreaths to the gates; he and the multitudes wanted to offer sacrifice. ¹⁴ But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their clothing and quickly went out into the crowd, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are human beings with the same feelings as you. We bring you good news, that you should turn from these useless things to a living God, who made the heavens, the earth, and the sea and everything that is in them. ¹⁶ In the past ages, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ But still, he did not leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you the rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness." ¹⁸ Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas barely kept the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹ But some Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and persuaded the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. ²⁰ Yet as the disciples were standing around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day, he went to Derbe with Barnabas. ²¹ After they had proclaimed the gospel in that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch. ²² They kept strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must enter into the kingdom of

God through many sufferings.”²³ When they had appointed for them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.²⁵ When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.²⁶ From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now completed.²⁷ When they arrived in Antioch and gathered the church together, they reported all the things that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.²⁸ They stayed for a long time with the disciples.

15

¹ Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and taught the brothers, saying, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² This brought Paul and Barnabas into a sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas along with some others from among them were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and elders about this question.³ They therefore, being sent by the church, passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria and announced the conversion of the Gentiles. They brought great joy to all the brothers.⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all the things that God had done with them.⁵ But certain men who believed, who belonged to the group of Pharisees, stood up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”⁶ So the apostles and the elders gathered together to consider this matter.⁷ After much debate, Peter stood up and said to them,

“Brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.⁸ God, who knows the heart, witnesses to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us;⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, making their hearts clean by faith.¹⁰ Now therefore why do you test God, that you should put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?¹¹ But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they were.”

¹² All the multitude kept silent while they listened to Barnabas and Paul report the signs and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles through them.¹³ After they stopped speaking, James answered, saying,

“Brothers, listen to me.¹⁴ Simon has told how God first graciously helped the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his name.¹⁵ The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written,

¹⁶ ‘After these things I will return,

and I will build again the tent of David, which has fallen down;

I will set up and restore its ruins again,

¹⁷ so that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, including all the Gentiles called by my name.’

18 This is what the Lord says, who has done these things that have been known from ancient times. *

19 Therefore, my opinion is, that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God. 20 But we will write to them that they must keep away from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, and from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood. 21 For Moses has been proclaimed in every city from the ancient times and he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, who were leaders of the church, and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. 23 They wrote this: "From the apostles and elders, your brothers, to the Gentile brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings! 24 We have heard that certain men have gone out from us, with no orders from us, and have disturbed you with teachings that upset your souls. 25 This being so, all of us have agreed to choose men and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas, who will tell you the same thing themselves in their own words. 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29 that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, blood, things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, it shall be well with you. Farewell."

30 So they, when they were dismissed, came down to Antioch; after they gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced because of the encouragement. 32 Judas and Silas, also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many words and strengthened them. 33 After they had spent some time there, they were sent away in peace from the brothers to those who had sent them. 34 † 35 But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch along with many others, where they taught and proclaimed the word of the Lord.

36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return now and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." 37 Barnabas wanted to also take with them John who was called Mark. 38 But Paul thought it was not good to take Mark, who had left them in Pamphylia and did not go further with them in the work. 39 Then there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other; and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and left, after he was entrusted by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. 41 Then he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

16

1 Paul also came to Derbe and to Lystra; and behold, a certain disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who believed; his father was a Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brothers

* 15:18 Some older versions read, This is what the Lord says, to whom are known all his deeds from ancient times . † 15:34 The best ancient copies omit verse 34 (See: Acts 15:40), But it seemed good to Silas to remain there .

who were at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted him to travel with him; so he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to the churches the instructions for them to obey, the instructions that had been written by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

⁶ Paul and his companions went through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia, since they had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came near Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus prevented them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to the city of Troas. ⁹ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: A man of Macedonia was standing there, calling him and saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When Paul had seen the vision, immediately we set out to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the gospel to them.

¹¹ Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day we came to Neapolis. ¹² From there we went to Philippi, which is a city of Macedonia, the most important city in the district and a Roman colony, and we stayed in this city for several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we thought there would be a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, listened to us. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her house were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay in house." And she persuaded us. ¹⁶ It came about that, as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain young woman who had a spirit of divination encountered us. She brought her masters much gain by fortunetelling. ¹⁷ This woman followed after Paul and us and shouted, saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ She did this for many days. But Paul, being greatly annoyed by her, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out right away.

¹⁹ When her masters saw that their opportunity to make money was now gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are stirring up our city. They are Jews. ²¹ They proclaim customs that are not lawful for Romans to accept or practice." ²² Then the crowd rose up together against Paul and Silas; the magistrates tore their garments off them and commanded them to be beaten with rods. ²³ When they had laid many blows upon them, they threw them into prison and commanded the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ After he got this command, the jailer threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there

was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ The jailer was awakened from sleep and saw the open prison doors; he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, because we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights and rushed in and, trembling for fear, fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your house." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him, together with everyone in his house. ³³ Then the jailer took them at the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he and those in his entire house were baptized immediately. ³⁴ Then as he brought Paul and Silas up into his house and he set food before them, he rejoiced greatly with those of his house, that he had believed in God.

³⁵ Now when it was day, the magistrates sent word to the guards, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶ The jailer reported the words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent word to me to let you go. Now therefore come out, and go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have publicly beaten us without a trial, even through we are Romans citizens—and they threw us into prison. Do they now want to send us away secretly? No! Let them come themselves and lead us out." ³⁸ The guards reported these words to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Romans, they were afraid. ³⁹ The magistrates came and apologized to them and brought them out, asking them to go away from the city. ⁴⁰ So Paul and Silas went out of the prison and came to the house of Lydia. When Paul and Silas saw the brothers, they encouraged them and then departed from the city.

17

¹ Now when they had passed through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to the city of Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Paul, as his custom was, went to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the scriptures. ³ He was opening the scriptures and explaining that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise again from the dead. He said, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ." ⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the unbelieving Jews, being moved with jealousy, took certain wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd together, and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they wanted to bring Paul and Silas out to the people. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain other brothers before the officials of the city, crying, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also. ⁷ These men whom Jason has welcomed act against the decrees of Caesar; they say that there is another king—Jesus." ⁸ The crowd and the officials of the city were disturbed when they heard these things.

⁹ But after the officials made Jason and the rest pay money as security, then they let them go.

¹⁰ That night the brothers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived there, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ Now these people were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed, including some influential Greek women and many men. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God at Berea, they went there and stirred up and troubled the crowds. ¹⁴ Then immediately, the brothers sent Paul to go to the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed there. ¹⁵ Those who were leading Paul took him as far as the city of Athens. As they left Paul there, they received from him instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible.

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw the city full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and others who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ But also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. Some said, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others said, "He seems to be one who calls people to follow strange gods," because he was proclaiming Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ They took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know this new teaching which you were speaking?" ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean." ²¹ (Now all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time in nothing but either telling or listening about something new.) ²² So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said,

"You men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found an altar with this inscription, "To an Unknown God." What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I announce to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples built with hands. ²⁵ Neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives people life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made every nation of people to live on the surface of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their living areas, ²⁷ so that they should search for God and perhaps they may feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For in him we live and move and have our being, just as one of your own poets has said,

'For we also are his offspring.' ²⁹ Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the qualities of deity are like gold, or silver, or stone—images created by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ Therefore God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent. ³¹ This is because he has set a day when he will judge the world in righteousness by the man he

has chosen. God has given proof of this man to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

³² Now when the men of Athens heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked Paul; but others said, “We will listen to you again about this matter.” ³³ After that, Paul left them. ³⁴ But certain men joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

18

¹ After these things Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to them, ³ and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ So Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath. He persuaded both Jews and Greeks. ⁵ But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit to testify to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ When the Jews opposed and insulted him, Paul shook out his garment at them and said to them, “May your blood be upon your own heads; I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ Then he left from there and went to the house of Titius Justus, a man who worshiped God. His house was next to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with all those who lived in his house; and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized. ⁹ The Lord said to Paul in the night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will try to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” ¹¹ Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹² But when Gallio became governor of Achaia, the Jews rose up together against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat; ¹³ they said, “This man persuades people to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴ Yet when Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “You Jews, if indeed it were a matter of wrong or a crime, it would be reasonable to deal with you. ¹⁵ But since these are questions about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. I do not wish to be a judge of these matters.” ¹⁶ Gallio made them leave the judgment seat. ¹⁷ So they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio did not care what they did.

¹⁸ Paul, after staying there for many more days, left the brothers and sailed for Syria with Priscilla and Aquila. Before he left the seaport, Cenchrea, he had his hair cut off because of a vow he had taken. ¹⁹ When they came to Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked Paul to stay a longer time, he declined. ²¹ But taking his leave of them, he said, “I will return again to you if it is God's will.” He then set sail from Ephesus.

²² When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the Jerusalem church and then went down to Antioch. ²³ After having

spent some time there, Paul departed and went through the regions of Galatia and Phrygia and strengthened all the disciples.

²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, came to Ephesus. He was eloquent in speech and mighty in the scriptures. ²⁵ Apollos had been instructed in the teachings of the Lord. Being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, but he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ When he desired to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples in Achaia to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who believed by grace. ²⁸ Apollos powerfully refuted the Jews in public debate, showing by the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

19

¹ It came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to the city of Ephesus, and found certain disciples there. ² Paul said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They said to him, "No, we did not even hear about the Holy Spirit." ³ Paul said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ So Paul replied, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance. He told the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When the people heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in other languages and prophesied. ⁷ In all they were about twelve men.

⁸ Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some Jews were hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way before the crowd. So Paul left them and took the disciples from him, reasoning with them every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. ¹¹ God was doing mighty deeds by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick and their illnesses left them and the evil spirits came out of them. ¹³ But there were Jewish exorcists traveling through the area. They called on the name of the Lord Jesus so they could have power over evil spirits when they said, "By the Jesus whom Paul proclaims, I command you to come out." ¹⁴ The Jewish high priest, whose name was Sceva, had seven sons who were doing this. ¹⁵ An evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ¹⁶ The evil spirit in the man leaped on the exorcists and overpowered them and beat them up. Then they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus. They became very afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was honored. ¹⁸ Also, many of the believers came and confessed and admitted the evil things they had done. ¹⁹ Many who practiced magical arts brought their books together

and burned them in the sight of everyone. When they counted the value of them, it was fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord spread very widely in powerful ways.

²¹ Now after Paul completed his ministry in Ephesus, he decided in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia on his way to Jerusalem; he said, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

²² Paul sent to Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, who had helped him. But he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³ At about that time there was no small disturbance in Ephesus concerning the Way. ²⁴ A certain silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver statues of Artemis, brought in much business for the craftsmen. ²⁵ So he gathered together the workmen of that occupation and said, "Sirs, you know that in this business we make much money. ²⁶ You see and hear that, not only at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people. He is saying that there are no gods that are made with hands. ²⁷ Not only is there danger that our trade will no longer be needed, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be considered worthless. Then she would even lose her greatness, she whom all Asia and the world worships." ²⁸ When they heard this, they were filled with anger and cried out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." ²⁹ The whole city was filled with confusion, and the people rushed together into the theater. They had seized Paul's travel companions, Gaius and Aristarchus, who came from Macedonia. ³⁰ Paul wanted to enter in among the crowd of people, but the disciples prevented him. ³¹ Also, some of the officials of the province of Asia who were his friends sent him a message strongly requesting him not to enter the theater. ³² Some people were shouting one thing, and some another, for the crowd was in confusion. Most of them did not even know why they had come together. ³³ Some of the crowd informed Alexander, whom the Jews were pushing to the front, and so Alexander motioned with his hand, wanting to give an explanation to those who were assembled. ³⁴ But when they became aware that he was a Jew, they all cried out for about two hours with one voice, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." ³⁵ When the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men to this court who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ Therefore, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have an accusation against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything about other matters, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For indeed we are in danger of being accused concerning this day's riot. There is no cause for this disorder, and we will not be able to explain it." ⁴¹ When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

20

¹ After the uproar was over, Paul sent for the disciples and after he encouraged them, he said farewell and left to go into Macedonia. ² When he had gone through those regions and had spoken many words of encouragement to them, he came to Greece. ³ After he had spent three months there, a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to sail for Syria, so he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ Accompanying him as far as Asia were Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus, both from the Thessalonian believers; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia. ⁵ But these men had gone before us and were waiting for us at Troas. ⁶ We sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and in five days we came to them in Troas. There we stayed for seven days.

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul spoke to the believers. He was planning to leave the next day, so he kept speaking until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we had come together. ⁹ In the window was sitting a young man named Eutychus, who fell into a deep sleep. As Paul spoke even longer, this young man, still sleeping, fell down from the third story and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down, stretched himself out on him, and embraced him. Then he said, "Do not be upset any more, for he is alive." ¹¹ Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking with them much longer until dawn, he left. ¹² They brought back the boy alive and were greatly comforted.

¹³ We ourselves went ahead of Paul by ship and sailed away to Assos, where we planned to take Paul on board. This is what he himself desired to do, because he planned to go by land. ¹⁴ When he met us at Assos, we took him onto the ship and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵ Then we sailed from there and arrived the next day opposite the island of Chios. The following day we touched at the island of Samos, and the day after we came to the city of Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not spend any time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, if it were at all possible for him to do so.

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent men to Ephesus and called to himself the elders of the church. ¹⁸ When they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I always spent my time with you. ¹⁹ I kept serving the Lord with all lowliness of mind and with tears, and in sufferings that happened to me because of the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ You know how I did not keep back from declaring to you anything that was useful, and how I taught you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus. ²² Now look, I am going to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit warns to me in every city that chains and sufferings await me. ²⁴ But I do not consider my life is valuable to myself, if only I may finish the race and complete the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to

testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ Now look, I know that you all, among whom I went about proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of any man. ²⁷ For I did not hold back from declaring to you the whole will of God. ²⁸ Therefore be careful about yourselves, and about all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be careful to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. * ²⁹ I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ I know that from even among you some men shall come and distort the truth in order to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ So be on guard. Remember that for three years I did not stop instructing every one of you with tears night and day. ³² Now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are being sanctified. ³³ I coveted no man's silver, gold, or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands served my own needs and the needs of those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I gave you an example of how you should help the weak by working, and of how you should remember the words of the Lord Jesus, words that he himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

³⁶ After he had spoken in this way, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ There was a lot of crying and they embraced Paul and kissed him. ³⁸ They were sad most of all because of what he had said, that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

21

¹ When we had gone away from them and set sail, we took a straight course to the city of Cos, and the next day to the city of Rhodes, and from there to the city of Patara. ² When we found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³ After sighting Cyprus, leaving it on the left side of the boat, we sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴ After we found the disciples, we stayed there seven days. Through the Spirit they kept urging Paul not to go to Jerusalem. ⁵ When our days there were over, we left and went on our way, and they all, with their wives and children, accompanied out of the city. Then we knelt down on the beach, prayed, ⁶ and said farewell to each other. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

⁷ When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. There we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. ⁸ On the next day we left and went to Caesarea. We entered the house of Philip, the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and we stayed with him. ⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. ¹⁰ As we stayed there for some days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet named Agabus. ¹¹ He came to us and took Paul's belt. With it he tied his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews in Jerusalem tie up the man

* **20:28** Instead of with his own blood, some ancient copies read, with the blood of his own Son.

who owns this belt, and they will hand him over into the hands of the Gentiles.”¹² When we heard these things, both we and the people who lived in that place begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.¹³ Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be tied up, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”¹⁴ Since Paul did not wish to be persuaded, we stopped trying and said, “May the will of the Lord be done.”

¹⁵ After these days, we picked up our bags and went up to Jerusalem.¹⁶ There also went with us some of the disciples from Caesarea. They brought with them a man named Mnason, a man from Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay.

¹⁷ When we had arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly.¹⁸ The next day Paul went with us to James, and all the elders were present.¹⁹ When he had greeted them, he reported one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.²⁰ When they heard it, they praised God, and they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands have believed among the Jews. They are all determined to keep the law.²¹ They have been told about you, that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to abandon Moses, and that you tell them not to circumcise their children, and not to follow the old customs.²² What should we do? They will certainly hear that you have come.²³ So do what we say to you. We have four men who made a vow.²⁴ Take these men and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses for them, so that they may shave their heads. So everyone will know that the things they have been told about you are false. They will learn that you also follow the law.²⁵ But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote and gave the instructions that they should keep themselves from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality.”²⁶ Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself with them, went into the temple, announcing the period of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.

²⁷ When the seven days were almost finished, some Jews from Asia, seeing Paul in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd, and laid hands on him.²⁸ They were shouting, “Men of Israel, help us. This is the man who teaches all men everywhere things that are against the people, the law, and this place. Besides, he has also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they thought that Paul had brought him into the temple.³⁰ All the city was excited, and the people ran together and laid hold of Paul. They dragged him out of the temple, and the doors were immediately shut.³¹ As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the chief captain of the guard that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.³² Right away he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to the crowd. When the people saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.³³ Then the chief captain approached and laid hold of Paul, and commanded him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.³⁴ Some in the crowd were shouting one thing and others another. Since the captain could not tell anything because of all the

noise, he ordered that Paul be brought into the fortress. ³⁵ When he came to the steps, he was carried by the soldiers because of the crowd's violence. ³⁶ For the crowd of people followed after and kept shouting out, "Away with him!"

³⁷ As Paul was about to be brought into the fortress, he said to the chief captain, "May I say something to you?" The captain said, "Do you speak Greek? ³⁸ Are you not then the Egyptian, who previously led a rebellion and led the four thousand men of the 'Assassins' out into the wilderness?" ³⁹ Paul said, "I am a Jew, from the city of Tarsus in Cilicia. I am a citizen of an important city. I ask you, allow me to speak to the people." ⁴⁰ When the captain had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with the hand to the people. When there was a deep silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language. He said,

22

¹ "Brothers and fathers, listen to my defense which I will now make to you."

² When the crowd heard Paul speak to them in the Hebrew language, they became quiet. He said,

³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but educated in this city at the feet of Gamaliel. I was instructed according to the strict ways of the law of our fathers. I am zealous for God, just as all of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding up and delivering them to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and all the elders can bear witness. I received letters from them for the brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring them back in bonds to Jerusalem in order for them to be punished. ⁶ It happened that when I was traveling and nearing Damascus, about noon suddenly a great light from heaven began to shine around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' ⁸ I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' ⁹ Those who were with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. ¹⁰ I said, 'What should I do, Lord?' The Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus; there you will be told everything that you must do.' ¹¹ I could not see because of that light's brightness, and being led by the hands of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. ¹² There I met a man named Ananias, a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there. ¹³ He came to me, stood by me, and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' In that very hour I saw him. ¹⁴ Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice coming from his own mouth. ¹⁵ For you shall be a witness for him to all men about what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ Now why are you waiting? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.' ¹⁷ After I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, it happened that I was given a vision. ¹⁸ I saw him say to me, 'Hurry and leave Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' ¹⁹ I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you in every synagogue. ²⁰ When the

blood of Stephen your witness was spilled, I also was standing by and agreeing, and I was guarding the cloaks of those who killed him.' ²¹ But he said to me, 'Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

²² They listened to him until he said this. Then they shouted and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for it is not right that he should live." ²³ As they were shouting, throwing off their cloaks, and throwing dust into the air, ²⁴ the chief captain commanded Paul to be brought into the fortress. He ordered that he should be questioned with scourging, so that he himself might know why they were shouting against him like that. ²⁵ When they had tied him up with the thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and who has not been put on trial?" ²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the chief captain and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen." ²⁷ The chief captain came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" Paul said, "Yes." ²⁸ The chief captain answered, "It was only with a large amount of money that I acquired citizenship." But Paul said, "I was born a Roman citizen." ²⁹ Then the men who were going to question him left him immediately. The chief captain also was afraid, when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen, because he had tied him up.

³⁰ On the next day, the chief captain wanted to know the truth about the Jews' accusations against Paul. So he untied his bonds and ordered the chief priests and all the council to meet. Then he brought Paul down and placed him in their midst.

23

¹ Paul looked directly at the council members and said, "Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day." ² The high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³ Then said Paul to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall. Are you sitting to judge me by the law, yet order me to be struck, against the law?" ⁴ Those who stood by said, "Is this how you insult God's high priest?" ⁵ Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people."

⁶ When Paul saw that the one part of the council were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he spoke loudly in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is because I have the certain hope of the resurrection of the dead that I am being judged." ⁷ When he said this, an argument began between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the crowd was divided. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, no angels, and no spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge all of them. ⁹ So a large uproar occurred, and some of the scribes belonging to the Pharisees stood up and argued, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" ¹⁰ When there arose a great argument, the chief captain feared that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, so he commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among the council members, and bring him into the fortress.

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood beside him and said, "Do not be afraid, for as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome."

¹² When it became day, some Jews formed a conspiracy and called a curse down upon themselves with an oath not to eat nor drink anything until they had killed Paul. ¹³ There were more than forty men who formed this conspiracy. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have put ourselves under a great curse, to eat nothing until we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now, therefore, let the council tell the chief captain to bring him down to you, as if you would decide his case more precisely. As for us, we are ready to kill him before he comes here." ¹⁶ But Paul's sister's son heard that they were lying in wait, so he went and entered the fortress and told Paul. ¹⁷ Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the chief captain, for he has something to tell him." ¹⁸ So the centurion took the young man and brought him to the chief captain and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him, and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you." ¹⁹ The chief captain took him by the hand to a private place and asked him, "What is it that you have to tell me?" ²⁰ The young man said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring down Paul tomorrow to the council, as if they were going to ask more precisely about his case. ²¹ But do not give in to them, because there are more than forty men who are lying in wait for him. They have called a curse down on themselves, neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. Even now they are ready, waiting for consent from you." ²² So the chief captain let the young man go, after instructing him, "Tell no one that you have said these things to me." ²³ Then he called to him two of the centurions and said, "Get two hundred soldiers ready to go as far as Caesarea, and seventy horsemen also, and two hundred spearmen. You will leave at the third hour of the night." ²⁴ He also ordered them to provide animals which Paul could ride, and to take him safely to Felix the governor. ²⁵ Then he wrote a letter like this:

²⁶ "Claudius Lysias to the most excellent Governor Felix, greetings. ²⁷ This man was arrested by the Jews and was about to be killed by them, when I came upon them with soldiers and rescued him, since I learned that he was a Roman citizen. ²⁸ I wanted to know why they accused him, so I took him down to their council. ²⁹ I learned that he was being accused about questions concerning their own law, but that there was no accusation against him that deserved death or imprisonment. ³⁰ Then it was made known to me that there was a plot against the man, so I immediately sent him to you, and instructed his accusers also to bring their charges against him in your presence. Farewell."

³¹ So the soldiers obeyed their orders. They took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. ³² On the next day, most of the soldiers left the horsemen to go with him and they themselves returned to the fortress. ³³ When the horsemen reached Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him. ³⁴ When the governor read the letter, he asked what province Paul was from. When he learned that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵ he said, "I will hear you fully

when your accusers come here." Then he commanded him to be kept in Herod's government headquarters.

24

¹ After five days, Ananias the chief priest, certain elders, and an orator named Tertullus went there. These men brought charges against Paul before the governor. ² When Paul stood before the governor, Tertullus began to accuse him and said to the governor, "Because of you we have great peace, and your foresight brings good reform to our nation;

³ so with all thankfulness we welcome everything that you do, most excellent Felix. ⁴ So that I detain you no more, I ask you to briefly listen to me with kindness. ⁵ For we have found this man to be a pest and one who causes all the Jews throughout the world to rebel. He is a leader of the Nazarene sect. ⁶ He even tried to desecrate the temple, so we arrested him. * ⁷ † ⁸ When you question Paul about all these matters, you will be able to learn about these charges we are bringing against him." ‡ ⁹ The Jews also joined in the accusation, affirming that these charges were true.

¹⁰ But when the governor motioned for Paul to speak, Paul answered, "I understand that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, and so I gladly explain myself to you.

¹¹ You will be able to find out that it has not been more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem. ¹² When they found me in the temple, I did not argue with anyone, and I did not stir up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. ¹³ They cannot prove to you the accusations they are now making against me. ¹⁴ But I admit this to you, that according to the Way that they call a sect, in that same way I serve the God of our fathers. I am faithful to all that is in the law and the writings of the prophets. ¹⁵ I have the same confident hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶ So I always strive to have a clear conscience before God and human beings. ¹⁷ Now after many years I came to bring help to my nation and gifts of money. ¹⁸ When I did this, certain Jews from Asia found me in a purification ceremony in the temple, not with a crowd or an uproar. ¹⁹ These men ought to be before you now and say what they have against me, if they have anything. ²⁰ Or else, these same men should say what wrong they found in me when I stood before the Jewish council, ²¹ unless it is about this one thing that I shouted out when I stood among them, 'It is concerning the resurrection of those who have died that I am on trial before you today.'"

²² Then Felix, who was well informed about the Way, ajourned the hearing. He said, "When Lysias the commander comes down from Jerusalem, I will decide your case." ²³ Then he commanded the centurion that Paul should be kept under guard, but to have some freedom so that none of his friends would be prevented from attending to his needs.

* **24:6** Some ancient copies add, "We wanted to judge him according to our law." † **24:7** Some ancient copies have vs 7, But Lysias, the officer, came and took him by force out of our hands. ‡ **24:8** Some ancient copies add to the first part of vs 8, sending us to you.

²⁴ After some days, Felix returned with Drusilla his wife, a Jewess, and he sent for Paul and he heard from him about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ But when Paul reasoned with him about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for now. But when I have the opportunity later on, I will send for you." ²⁶ At the same time he wanted Paul to give money to him, so he often sent for him and spoke with him. ²⁷ But when two years passed, Porcius Festus became the governor after Felix, but Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jews, so he left Paul to continue under guard.

25

¹ Now, Festus entered the province, and after three days, he went from Caesarea up to Jerusalem. ² The chief priest and the prominent Jews brought accusations against Paul, and they urged him ³ and asked him for a favor that would put Paul in danger—that Festus might summon Paul to Jerusalem so that they could kill him along the way. ⁴ Festus answered that Paul was being held at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there soon. ⁵ "Therefore, those who can," he said, "should go there with us. If there is something wrong with the man, you should accuse him."

⁶ Festus stayed not more than eight or ten days and then he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he sat in the judgment seat and commanded Paul to be brought to him. ⁷ When he arrived, the Jews from Jerusalem stood nearby, and they brought many serious charges which they could not prove. ⁸ Paul defended himself and said, "I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar." ⁹ But Festus wanted to gain the favor of the Jews, and so he answered Paul and said, "Do you want to go up to Jerusalem and to be judged by me about these things there?" ¹⁰ Paul said, "I stand before the judgment seat of Caesar where I must be judged. I have wronged no Jews, just as you also very well know. ¹¹ Though if I have done wrong and if I have done what is worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if their accusations are nothing, no one may hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar." ¹² After Festus talked with the council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

¹³ Now after some days, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay an official visit to Festus. ¹⁴ After he had been there for many days, Festus presented Paul's case to the king; he said, "A certain man was left behind here by Felix as a prisoner. ¹⁵ When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against this man to me, and they asked for a sentence of condemnation against him. ¹⁶ I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had faced his accusers and had an opportunity to defend himself against the charges. ¹⁷ Therefore, when they came together here, I did not wait, but the next day I sat in the judgment seat and I ordered the man to be brought in. ¹⁸ When the accusers stood up and accused him, I thought that none of the charges that they brought against him were serious. ¹⁹ Instead, they had certain disputes with him about their own

religion and about a certain Jesus who was dead, whom Paul claims to be alive. ²⁰ I was not certain about how to investigate this matter, and so I asked him if he was willing to go to Jerusalem to stand trial there about these charges. ²¹ But when Paul appealed to be kept in custody while awaiting the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held in custody until I could send him to Caesar.” ²² Agrippa spoke to Festus, “I would also like to listen to this man.” “Tomorrow,” Festus said, “you will hear him.”

²³ So on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with much ceremony; they came into the hall with the military officers and with the prominent men of the city. When Festus spoke the command, Paul was brought to them. ²⁴ Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all you men who are here with us, you see this man; all the multitude of Jews consulted with me in Jerusalem and here also, and they shouted to me that he should no longer live. ²⁵ I learned that he had done nothing worthy of death; but because he appealed to the emperor, I decided to send him. ²⁶ But I do not have something definite to write to the emperor. For this reason, I have brought him to you, especially to you, King Agrippa, so that I might have something more to write about the case. ²⁷ For it seems unreasonable for me to send a prisoner and to not also state the charges against him.”

26

¹ So Agrippa said to Paul, “You may speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense.

² “I regard myself as happy, King Agrippa, to make my case before you today against all the accusations of the Jews; ³ especially, because you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and questions. So I ask you to hear me patiently. ⁴ Truly, all the Jews know how I lived from my youth in my own nation and at Jerusalem. ⁵ They knew me from the beginning and they should admit that I lived as a Pharisee, the strictest party of our religion. ⁶ Now I stand here to be judged because of my certain hope in the promise made by God to our fathers. ⁷ For this is the promise that our twelve tribes sought to receive as they earnestly worshiped God night and day. It is for this certain hope, King Agrippa, that the Jews accuse me. ⁸ Why should any of you think it is unbelievable that God raises the dead? ⁹ Now indeed, I myself thought that I should do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ I did these in Jerusalem. I locked up many of the saints in prison by the authority I received from the chief priests, and when they were killed, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ I punished them many times in all the synagogues and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was furiously enraged against them and I persecuted them even to foreign cities. ¹² While I was doing this, I went to Damascus with authority and orders from the chief priests; ¹³ and on the way there, at midday, King, I saw a light from heaven that was brighter than the sun and it shone around both me and the men who were traveling with me. ¹⁴ When we all fell to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me that said in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick a goad.’ ¹⁵ Then I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The Lord

replied, 'I am Jesus whom you persecute. ¹⁶ Now get up and stand on your feet; because for this purpose I appeared to you, to appoint you to be a servant and a witness concerning the things that you know about me now and the things that I will show to you later; ¹⁷ and I will rescue you from the people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive from God the forgiveness of sins and the inheritance that I give to them who are sanctified by faith in me.' ¹⁹ Therefore, King Agrippa, I did not disobey the heavenly vision; ²⁰ but, to those in Damascus first, and then at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, I gave them the message that that they should repent and turn to God, doing deeds worthy of repentance. ²¹ For this cause the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² God has helped me until now, so I stand and testify to the common people and to the great ones about nothing more than what the prophets and Moses said would happen— ²³ that Christ must suffer and that by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light to our own people and to the Gentiles."

²⁴ As Paul completed his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are insane; your great learning makes you insane." ²⁵ But Paul said, "I am not insane, most excellent Festus, but what I am declaring is true and rational. ²⁶ For the king knows about these things; and so, I speak freely to him, for I am persuaded that none of this is hidden from him; for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷ Do you believe the prophets, King Agrippa? I know that you believe." ²⁸ Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me and make me a Christian?" ²⁹ Paul said, "I pray to God, that whether in a short or long time, not you only, but also all that hear me today, would be like me, but without these prison chains."

³⁰ Then the king stood up, and the governor, and Bernice also, and those who were sitting with them; ³¹ when they left the hall, they talked to one another and said, "This man does nothing worthy of death or of bonds." ³² Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been freed if he had not appealed to Caesar."

27

¹ When it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they put Paul and some other prisoners under the charge of a centurion named Julius of the Imperial Regiment. ² We boarded a ship from Adramyttium, which was about to sail along the coast of Asia. So we went to sea. Aristarchus from Thessalonica in Macedonia went with us. ³ The next day we landed at the city of Sidon, where Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to go to his friends to receive their care. ⁴ From there we went to sea and sailed under the lee of Cyprus, close to the island, because the winds were against us. ⁵ Then we had sailed across the sea and were near the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra, a city of Lycia. ⁶ There, the centurion found a ship from Alexandria that was going to sail to Italy. He put us in it. ⁷ When we had sailed slowly for many days and had finally arrived with difficulty

near Cnidus, the wind no longer allowed us to go that way, so we sailed along the sheltered side of Crete, opposite Salmone. ⁸ We sailed along the coast with difficulty, until we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, which is near the city of Lasea.

⁹ We had now taken much time, the time of the Jewish fast also had passed, and it had now become dangerous to sail. So Paul warned them, ¹⁰ and said, "Men, I see that the voyage we are about to take will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." ¹¹ But the centurion paid more attention to the master and to the owner of the ship than to those things that were spoken by Paul. ¹² Because the harbor was not easy to spend the winter in, most of the sailors advised to sail from there, if by any means we could reach the city of Phoenix, to spend the winter there. Phoenix is a harbor in Crete, and it faces northeast and southeast. ¹³ When the south wind began to blow gently, the sailors thought that they had what they needed. So they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. ¹⁴ But after a short time a wind of hurricane force, called the northeaster, began to beat down from the island. ¹⁵ When the ship was caught by the storm and could no longer head into the wind, we had to give way to the storm and were driven along by the wind. ¹⁶ We sailed along the lee of a small island called Cauda, and with difficulty we were able to secure the lifeboat. ¹⁷ When they had hoisted the lifeboat up, they used its ropes to bind the hull of the ship. They were afraid that they should run upon the sandbars of Syrtis, so they lowered the sea anchor and were driven along. ¹⁸ We took such a violent battering by the storm that the next day they began throwing the cargo overboard. ¹⁹ On the third day the sailors threw overboard the ship's equipment with their own hands. ²⁰ When the sun and stars did not shine on us for many days, and the great storm still beat upon us, any more hope that we should be saved was abandoned. ²¹ When they had gone long without food, then Paul stood up among the sailors and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have set sail from Crete, so as to get this injury and loss. ²² Now I urge you to take courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only the loss of the ship. ²³ For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong, whom also I worship—his angel stood beside me ²⁴ and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and see, God in his kindness has given to you all those who are sailing with you.' ²⁵ Therefore be cheerful, men! For I trust God that it will happen just as it was told to me. ²⁶ But we must run aground upon some island."

²⁷ When the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven this way and that in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors thought that they were approaching some land. ²⁸ They took soundings and found twenty fathoms; after a little while, they took more soundings and found fifteen fathoms. ²⁹ They were afraid that we might crash on the rocks, so they lowered four anchors from the stern and prayed that morning would come soon. ³⁰ The sailors were looking for a way to abandon the ship and had lowered the lifeboat into the sea, and pretended that they would throw down the anchors from the bow. ³¹ But Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these

men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and let it drift away.³³ When daylight was coming on, Paul urged them all to take some food. He said, “This day is the fourteenth day that you wait and do not eat; you have eaten nothing.”³⁴ So I urge you to share some food, for this is necessary for you to survive. For not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.”³⁵ When he had said this, he took bread and he thanked God in the sight of everyone. Then he broke the bread and began to eat.³⁶ Then they were all encouraged and they also took food.³⁷ We were 276 people in the ship.³⁸ When they had eaten enough, they made the ship lighter by throwing out the wheat into the sea.³⁹ When it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a beach, and they discussed whether they could drive the ship onto it.⁴⁰ So they cut loose the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosed the ropes of the rudders and raised the foresail to the wind; and so they headed to the beach.⁴¹ But they came to a place where two currents met, and the ship ran into the ground. The bow of the ship stuck there and remained unmovable, but the stern began to break up because of the waves' violence.⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape.⁴³ But the centurion wanted to save Paul, so he stopped their plan; and he ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.⁴⁴ Then the rest of the men should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. In this way it happened that all of us came safely to land.

28

¹ When we were brought safely through, we learned that the island was called Malta. ² The native people offered to us not just ordinary kindness, but they lit a fire and welcomed us all, because of the constant rain and cold. ³ But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and placed them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened onto his hand. ⁴ When the native people saw the animal hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “This man certainly is a murderer who escaped from the sea, yet justice does not permit him to live.” ⁵ But then he shook the animal into the fire and suffered no harm. ⁶ They were waiting for him to become inflamed with a fever or to suddenly drop dead. But after they watched him for a long time and saw that nothing was unusual with him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

⁷ Now in a nearby place there were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, a man named Publius. He welcomed us and kindly provided for us for three days. ⁸ It happened that the father of Publius had been made ill with a fever and dysentery. When Paul went to him, he prayed, placed his hands on him, and healed him. ⁹ After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who were sick also came and were healed. ¹⁰ The people also honored us with many honors. When we were preparing to sail, they gave us what we needed.

¹¹ After three months we set sail in an ship that had spent the winter at the island, a ship of Alexandria, with “the twin gods” as it

figurehead. ¹² After we landed at the city of Syracuse, we stayed there three days. ¹³ From there we sailed and arrived at the city of Rhegium. After one day a south wind sprang up, and in two days we came to the city of Puteoli. ¹⁴ There we found some brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. In this way we came to Rome. ¹⁵ From there the brothers, after they heard about us, came to meet us as far as The Market of Appius and The Three Taverns. When Paul saw the brothers, he thanked God and took courage.

¹⁶ When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier who was guarding him.

¹⁷ Then it came about that after three days Paul called together those men who were the leaders among the Jews. When they had come together, he said to them, "Brothers, although I have done nothing wrong against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. ¹⁸ After they questioned me, they wished to set me free, because there was no reason in me for a death penalty. ¹⁹ But when the Jews spoke against their desire, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, although it is not as if I were bringing any accusation against my nation. ²⁰ Because of my appeal, then, I have asked to see you and to speak with you. It is because of the certain hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." ²¹ Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea about you, nor did any of the brothers come and report or say anything bad about you. ²² But we want to hear from you what you think about this sect, because it is known by us that it is spoken against everywhere."

²³ When they had set a day for him, more people came to him at his dwelling place. He presented the matter to them, and testified about the kingdom of God. He tried to persuade them about Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets, from morning until evening. ²⁴ Some were convinced about the things which were said, while others did not believe. ²⁵ When they did not agree with one another, they left after Paul had spoken this one word, "The Holy Spirit spoke well through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers. ²⁶ He said, 'Go to this people and say,

"By hearing you will hear, but not understand;
and seeing you will see, but will not perceive.

²⁷ For the heart of this people has become dull,
and with their ears they hardly hear,
and they have shut their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn again,
and I would heal them."

²⁸ Therefore, you should know that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen." ²⁹ *

³⁰ Paul lived for two whole years in his own rented house, and he welcomed all who came to him. ³¹ He was proclaiming the kingdom of

* **28:29** Acts 28:29 - Some ancient copies have vs. 29: When he had said these things, the Jews went away. They were having a great dispute among themselves .

God and was teaching the things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness. No one stopped him.

Romans

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand by his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ concerning his Son who was a descendant of David according to the flesh. ⁴ Through the Spirit of holiness he was declared with power to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience of faith among all the nations, for the sake of his name. ⁶ Among these nations, you also have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ This letter is to all who are in Rome, the beloved of God, who are called to be holy people. May grace be to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of his Son, of how continually I make mention of you. ¹⁰ I always request in my prayers that by any means I may at last be successful now by the will of God in coming to you. ¹¹ For I desire to see you, that I may give you some spiritual gift, in order to strengthen you. ¹² That is, I long to be mutually encouraged among you, through each other's faith, yours and mine. ¹³ Now I do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, that I often intended to come to you, (but I was hindered until now), in order to have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am a debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So, as for me, I am ready to proclaim the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, as it has been written, "The righteous will live by faith."

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people, who through unrighteousness hold back the truth. ¹⁹ This is because that which is known about God is visible to them. For God has enlightened them. ²⁰ For his invisible qualities, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ This is because, although they knew about God, they did not glorify him as God, nor did they give him thanks. Instead, they became foolish in their thoughts, and their senseless hearts were darkened. ²² They claimed to be wise, but they became foolish. ²³ They exchanged the glory of the imperishable God for the likenesses of an image of perishable man, of birds, of four-footed beasts, and of creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over to the lusts of their hearts for uncleanness, for their bodies to be dishonored among themselves. ²⁵ It is they who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and who worshiped

and served the creation instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to dishonorable passions, for their women exchanged natural relations for those that were unnatural. ²⁷ Likewise, the men also left their natural relations with women and burned in their lust for one another. These were men who committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the penalty they deserved for their error.

²⁸ Because they did not approve of having God in their awareness, he gave them up to a depraved mind, for them to do those things that are not proper. ²⁹ They have been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, and malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and evil intentions. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventing ways of doing evil; they are disobedient to parents. ³¹ They are senseless, faithless, heartless, and unmerciful. ³² They understand the regulations of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death. But not only do they do these things, they also approve of others who do them.

2

¹ Therefore you are without excuse, you person, you who judge, for what you judge in another you condemn in yourself. For you who judge practice the same things. ² But we know that God's judgment is according to truth when it falls on those who practice such things. ³ But consider this, you person, you who judge those who practice such things although you do the same things. Will you escape from the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you think so little of the riches of his goodness, his delayed punishment, and his patience? Do you not know that his goodness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But it is to the extent of your hardness and unrepentant heart that you are storing up for yourself wrath on the day of wrath, that is, the day of the revelation of God's righteous judgment. ⁶ He will pay back to every person according to his actions: ⁷ to those who according to consistent, good actions have sought praise, honor, and incorruptibility, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But to those who are self-seeking, who disobey the truth but obey unrighteousness, wrath and fierce anger will come. ⁹ God will bring tribulation and distress on every human soul that has practiced evil, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁰ But praise, honor, and peace will come to everyone who practices good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no favoritism with God. ¹² For as many as have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and as many as have sinned with respect to the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but it is the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, although they do not have the law. ¹⁵ By this they show that the actions required by the law are written in their hearts. Their conscience also bears witness to them, and their own thoughts either accuse or defend them to themselves ¹⁶ and also to God. That will happen on the day when God will judge the secrets of all people, according to my gospel, through Jesus Christ.

¹⁷ But if you call yourself a Jew and rest upon the law and boast in God, ¹⁸ and know his will and approve of what is excellent because you have been instructed from the law; ¹⁹ and if you are convinced that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of little children, and that you have in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth, then how does this affect the way you live your life? ²¹ You who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who hate idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴ For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," just as it has been written. ²⁵ For circumcision indeed benefits you if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ If, then, the uncircumcised person keeps the requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be considered as circumcision? ²⁷ And will not the one who is naturally uncircumcised condemn you if he keeps the law? This is because you have the written law and circumcision, yet you break the law! ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is merely one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is merely outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter. The praise of such a person comes not from people but from God.

3

¹ Then what advantage does the Jew have? And what is the benefit of circumcision? ² It is great in every way. First of all, the Jews were entrusted with revelation from God. ³ For what if some Jews were without faith? Will their unbelief abolish God's faithfulness? ⁴ May it never be. Instead, let God be found to be true, even though every man is a liar. As it has been written,

"That you might be shown to be righteous in your words, and that you might prevail when you come into judgment."

⁵ But if our unrighteousness shows the righteousness of God, what can we say? Can we say that God is unrighteous to bring his wrath upon us? (I am using a human argument.) ⁶ May it never be! For then how would God judge the world? ⁷ But if the truth of God through my lie provides abundant praise for him, why am I still being judged as a sinner? ⁸ Why not say, as we are falsely reported to say, and as some affirm that we say, "Let us do evil, so that good may come"? The judgment on them is just.

⁹ What then? Are we excusing ourselves? Not at all. For we have already accused both Jews and Greeks, all of them, of being under sin.

¹⁰ This is as it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not one.

¹¹ There is no one who understands.

There is no one who seeks after God.

¹² They have all turned away. They together have become useless.

There is no one who does good, no, not even one."

¹³ "Their throat is an open grave.

Their tongues have deceived.

The poison of snakes is under their lips.”

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to pour out blood.

16 Destruction and suffering are in their paths.

17 These people have not known a way of peace.”

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to the ones who are under the law. This is in order that every mouth may be shut, and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 This is because no flesh will be justified by the works of the law in his sight. For through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known. It was witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 that is, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe. For there is no distinction. 23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, 24 and they are freely justified by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 25 For God provided Christ Jesus as a propitiation through faith in his blood. He offered Christ as proof of his justice, because of his disregard of previous sins 26 in his patience. This all happened for the demonstration of his righteousness at this present time. This was so he could prove himself just, and to show that he justifies anyone because of faith in Jesus.

27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. On what grounds? Of works? No, but on the grounds of faith. 28 We conclude then that a person is justified by faith without works of the law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not also the God of Gentiles? Yes, of Gentiles also. 30 If, indeed, God is one, he will justify the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through faith.

31 Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! Instead, we uphold the law.

4

1 What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, found? 2 For if Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast, but not before God. 3 For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” 4 Now for him who works, what he is paid is not counted as a gift, but as what is owed. 5 But for him who does not work but instead believes in the one who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. 6 David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness without works. 7 He said, “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count sin.”

9 Then is this blessing pronounced only on those of the circumcision, or also on those of the uncircumcision? For we say, “Faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.” 10 So how was it counted? When Abraham was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? It was not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11 Abraham received the sign of circumcision. This was a seal of the righteousness of the faith that he had already

possessed when he was in uncircumcision. The result of this sign was that he became the father of all those who believe, even if they are in uncircumcision. This means that righteousness will be counted for them. ¹² This also meant that Abraham became the father of the circumcision for those who are not only circumcised but also for those who follow in the steps of faith of our father Abraham before he was circumcised.

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and to his descendants that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if those who live by the law are to be the heirs, faith is made empty, and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there is no trespass. ¹⁶ For this reason it is by faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all of Abraham's descendants—not only to those who are under the law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations." Abraham was in the presence of him whom he trusted, that is, God, who gives life to the dead and calls the things that do not exist into existence. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he would become the father of many nations, according to what he had been told, "So will your descendants be." ¹⁹ Without becoming weak in faith, he considered his own body as dead (because he was about a hundred years old)—and he considered the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ But because of God's promise, Abraham did not hesitate in unbelief. Instead, he was strengthened in faith and gave praise to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. ²² Therefore this was also counted to him as righteousness. ²³ Now it was not written only for his benefit, that it was counted for him. ²⁴ It was written also for us, for whom it will be counted, we who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ This is the one who was delivered up for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

5

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the certain hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings. We know that suffering produces endurance. ⁴ Endurance produces character, and character produces certain hope, ⁵ and that hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man. That is, perhaps someone would dare to die for a good person. ⁸ But God proves his own love toward us, because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more, then, now that we are justified by his blood, we will be saved by it from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, after having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ Not only this, but we also

rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we now have received this reconciliation.

¹² So then, as through one man sin entered into the world, in this way death entered through sin. And death spread to all people, because all sinned. ¹³ For until the law, sin was in the world, but there is no accounting for sin when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death ruled from Adam until Moses, even over those who did not sin like Adam's disobedience, who is a pattern of him who was to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if by the trespass of one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound for the many! ¹⁶ For the gift is not like the outcome of that one man's sin. The judgment followed one trespass and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one, death ruled through the one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ So then, by one trespass condemnation came to all people, so also one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one will the many be made righteous. ²⁰ But the law came in to increase the trespass. But where sin abounded, grace abounded even more. ²¹ This happened so that, as sin ruled in death, even so grace might rule through righteousness for everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6

¹ What then will we say? Should we continue in sin so that grace may abound? ² May it never be. We who died to sin, how can we still live in it? ³ Do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried, then, with him through baptism into death. This happened in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be united with his resurrection. ⁶ We know this, that our old man was crucified with him, in order that the body of sin might be destroyed. This happened so that we should no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ He who has died is declared righteous with respect to sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live together with him. ⁹ We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead he cannot die again; death no longer has authority over him. ¹⁰ For in regard to the death that he died to sin, he died once for all. However, the life that he lives, he lives for God. ¹¹ In the same way, you also must consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore do not let sin rule in your mortal body in order that you may obey its lusts. ¹³ Do not present the parts of your body to sin, to be tools used for unrighteousness. But present yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and present the parts of your body to God as tools to be used for righteousness. ¹⁴ Do not allow sin to rule over you. For you are not under law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? May it never be. ¹⁶ Do you not know that the one to whom you present yourselves as slaves is the one to which you are obedient, the one you must obey? This is true whether you are slaves to sin which leads to death, or slaves to obedience which leads to righteousness. ¹⁷ But thanks be to God! For you were slaves of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart the pattern of teaching that you were given. ¹⁸ You have been made free from sin, and you have been made slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak like a man because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented the parts of your body as slaves to uncleanness and to evil, in the same way now, present the parts of your body as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. ²¹ At that time, what fruit then did you have of the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been made free from sin and are enslaved to God, you have your fruit for sanctification. The result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

7

¹ Or do you not know, brothers (for I am speaking to people who know about law), that the law controls a person for as long as he lives? ² For the married woman is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³ So then, while her husband is living, if she lives with another man, she will be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so she is not an adulteress if she lives with another man. ⁴ Therefore, my brothers, you were also made dead to the law through the body of Christ. This is so that you could be joined to another, that is, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might produce fruit for God. ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the law. We have died to that by which we were held. This is so that we might serve in newness of the Spirit, and not in oldness of the letter.

⁷ What will we say then? Is the law itself sin? May it never be. However, I would never have known sin, if it were not through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law said, "You must not covet." ⁸ But sin took the opportunity through the commandment and brought about every lust in me. For without the law, sin is dead. ⁹ At one time I was alive without the law, but when the commandment came, sin regained life, and I died. ¹⁰ The commandment that was to bring life turned out to be death for me. ¹¹ For sin took the opportunity through the commandment and deceived me. Through the commandment it killed me. ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

¹³ So did what is good become death to me? May it never be. But sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin through what is good, brought about death in me. This was in order that through the commandment, sin might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴ For we know that the law

is spiritual, but I am of the flesh. I have been sold under slavery to sin. ¹⁵ For what I do, I do not really understand. For what I want to do, I do not do, and what I hate, I do. ¹⁶ But if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law that the law is good. ¹⁷ But now it is no longer I who do it, but the sin that lives in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me, that is in my flesh, lives no good thing. For the desire for good is with me, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For the good that I want I do not do, but the evil that I do not want, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, then it is no longer I who am acting, but rather sin that lives in me. ²¹ I find, then, the principle in me that I want to do what is good, but that evil is actually present in me. ²² For I rejoice in the law of God with the inner man. ²³ But I see a different principle in my body parts. It fights against that new principle in my mind. It takes me captive by the principle of sin that is in my body parts. ²⁴ I am a miserable man! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind. However, with the flesh I serve the principle of sin.

8

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was unable to do because it was weak through the flesh, God did. He sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be an offering for sin, and he condemned sin in the flesh. ⁴ He did this in order that the requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us, we who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh pay attention to the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit pay attention to the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God, for it is not subject to God's law, nor is it able to do so. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is true that God's Spirit lives in you. But if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, the body is dead with respect to sin, but the spirit is alive with respect to righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, but not to the flesh to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you are about to die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the body's actions, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ You did not receive a spirit that makes you slaves, so that you live in fear again; but you received the Spirit of adoption, by which we cry, "Abba, Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. ¹⁷ If we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God. And we are joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the eager expectation of the creation waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in the certain hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be delivered from slavery to decay, and that it will be brought into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors in pain together even now. ²³ Not only that, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit—even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for our adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For in this certain hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he can see? ²⁵ But if we have certain hope about what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit also helps in our weakness. For we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groans. ²⁷ He who searches the hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes on behalf of the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that for those who love God, he works all things together for good, * for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ Because those whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ Those whom he predestined, these he also called. Those whom he called, these he also justified. Those whom he justified, these he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but delivered him up on behalf of us all, how will he not also with him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any accusation against God's chosen ones? God is the one who justifies. ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written,

“For your benefit we are killed all day long.
We were considered as sheep for the slaughter.”

³⁷ In all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. ³⁸ For I have been convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor governments, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

9

¹ I tell the truth in Christ. I do not lie, and my conscience bears witness with me in the Holy Spirit, ² that for me there is great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself would be cursed and set apart from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites. They have

* **8:28** Instead of he works all things together for good, some older versions read, all things work together for good.

adoption, the glory, the covenants, the gift of the law, the worship of God, and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the ancestors from whom Christ has come with respect to the flesh—he who is God over all. May he be praised forever. Amen.

⁶ But it is not as though the promises of God have failed. For it is not everyone in Israel who truly belongs to Israel. ⁷ Neither are all Abraham's descendants truly his children. But, "It is through Isaac that your descendants will be called." ⁸ That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of God. But the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. ⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and a son will be given to Sarah." ¹⁰ Not only this, but after Rebekah also had conceived by one man, our father Isaac— ¹¹ for the children were not yet born and had not yet done anything good or bad, so that the purpose of God according to choice might stand, not because of actions, but because of him who calls— ¹² it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ It is just as had been written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴ What then will we say? Is there unrighteousness with God? May it never be. ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ¹⁶ So then, it is not because of him who wills, nor because of him who runs, but because of God, who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, so that I might demonstrate my power in you, and so that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then, God has mercy on whom he wishes, and whom he wishes, he makes stubborn.

¹⁹ You will say then to me, "Why does he still find fault? For who has ever withstood his will?" ²⁰ On the contrary, man, who are you who answers against God? Will what has been molded say to the one who molds it, "Why did you make me this way?" ²¹ Does the potter not have the right over the clay to make from the same lump a container for special use, and another container for daily use? ²² What if God, who is willing to show his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much patience containers of wrath prepared for destruction? ²³ What if he did this in order that he might make known the riches of his glory upon containers of mercy, which he had previously prepared for glory? ²⁴ What if he did this also for us, whom he also called, not only from among the Jews, but also from among the Gentiles? ²⁵ As he says also in Hosea:

"I will call my people who were not my people,
and her beloved who was not beloved.

²⁶ Then it will be that where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,'

there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

²⁷ Isaiah cries out concerning Israel,

"Though the number of the children of Israel were as the sand of the sea,

it will be a remnant that will be saved,

²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence on the earth,
completely and without delay."

²⁹ As Isaiah had said previously,

"If the Lord of hosts had not left us descendants,
we would be like Sodom,
and we would have become like Gomorrah."

³⁰ What will we say then? That the Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, obtained righteousness, the righteousness by faith. ³¹ But Israel, who did pursue a law of righteousness, did not arrive at it. ³² Why not? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but by works. They stumbled over the stone of stumbling, ³³ as it has been written,

"Look, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. He who believes in it will not be ashamed."

10

¹ Brothers, my heart's desire and my request to God is for them, for their salvation. ² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they do not know of God's righteousness, and they seek to establish their own righteousness. They did not submit to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes. ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the law: "The man who does the righteousness of the law will live by this righteousness." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says this, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); ⁷ and do not say, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart."

That is the word of faith, which we proclaim. ⁹ For if with your mouth you acknowledge Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believes for righteousness, and with the mouth he acknowledges for salvation. ¹¹ For scripture says, "Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Greek. For the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is rich to all who call upon him. ¹³ For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. ¹⁴ How then can they call on him in whom they have not believed? How can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? How can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ Then how can they preach, unless they are sent?—As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim glad tidings of good things!"

¹⁶ But they did not all listen to the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. ¹⁸ But I say, "Did they not hear?" Yes, most certainly.

"Their sound has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world."

¹⁹ Moreover, I say, "Did Israel not know?" First Moses says, "I will provoke you to jealousy by what is not a nation.

By means of a nation without understanding, I will stir you up to anger."

²⁰ Then Isaiah was very bold when he says,

"I was found by those who did not seek me.
I appeared to those who did not ask for me."

²¹ But to Israel he says, "All the day long I reached out my hands to a disobedient and stubborn people."

11

¹ I say then, did God reject his people? May it never be. For I also am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says about Elijah, how he pleaded with God against Israel? ³ "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have broken down your altars. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." ⁴ But what does God's answer say to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand men who have not bent the knee to Baal." ⁵ Even so then, at this present time also there is a remnant because of the choice of grace. ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer by works. Otherwise grace would no longer be grace. * ⁷ What then? The thing that Israel was seeking, it did not obtain, but the chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened. ⁸ It is just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of dullness, eyes so that they should not see, and ears so that they should not hear, to this very day." ⁹ Then David says, "Let their table become a net and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them." ¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened so that they may not see, and bend their backs continually."

¹¹ I say then, "Did they stumble so as to fall?" May it never be. Instead, by their failure, salvation has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy. ¹² Now if their failure is the riches of the world, and if their loss is the riches of the Gentiles, how much greater will their completion be? ¹³ But now I am speaking to you Gentiles, and as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry. ¹⁴ Perhaps I will provoke to jealousy those who are of my own flesh. Perhaps we will save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the firstfruits are reserved, so is the lump of dough. If the root is reserved, so are the branches. ¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, if you, a wild olive branch, were grafted in among them, and if you shared with them in the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast over the branches. But if you do boast, it is not you who supports the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." ²⁰ That is true. Because of their unbelief they were broken off, but you stand firm because of your faith. Do not think too highly of yourself, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²² Look at, then, the kind actions and the severity of God: severity came on the Jews who fell, but God's kindness comes on you, if you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in.

* **11:6** Some old copies read, But if it is by works, then is it no more grace; otherwise work is no more work .

For God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a good olive tree, how much more will these Jews, who are the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree?

²⁵ For I do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, of this mystery, in order that you will not be wise in your own thinking. This mystery is that a partial hardening has occurred in Israel, until the completion of the Gentiles come in. ²⁶ Thus all Israel will be saved, just as it is written:

“Out of Zion will come the Deliverer.
He will remove ungodliness from Jacob,
²⁷ and this will be my covenant with them,
when I will take away their sins.”

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake. But as far as election is concerned, they are beloved because of their forefathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the call of God are unchangeable. ³⁰ For you were formerly disobedient to God, but now you have received mercy because of their disobedience. ³¹ In the same way, now these Jews have been disobedient. The result was that by the mercy shown to you they may also now receive mercy. ³² For God has shut up all into disobedience, in order that he might show mercy on all.

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways beyond discovering!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has become his advisor?

³⁵ Or who has first given anything to God,
that God must repay him?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

12

¹ I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. This is your reasonable service. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Do this to know what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

³ For I say, because of the grace that was given to me, that everyone who is among you should not think more highly of themselves than they ought to think. Instead, they should think in a wise way, just as God has given out to each one a certain amount of faith. ⁴ For we have many members in one body, but not all the members have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, we who are many are one body in Christ, and are individually members of each other. ⁶ We have different gifts according to the grace that was given to us. If one's gift is prophecy, let it be done according to the proportion of his faith. ⁷ If one's gift is service, let him serve. If one has the gift of teaching, let him teach. ⁸ If one's gift is encouragement, let him encourage. If one's gift is giving, let him do it generously. If one's gift is leading, let it be done with care. If one's gift is in showing mercy, let it be done with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; hold on to that which is good. ¹⁰ Concerning love of the brothers, be affectionate to one another. Concerning honor, respect one another. ¹¹ Concerning diligence, do not be hesitant. Concerning the spirit, be eager. Concerning the Lord, serve him. ¹² Rejoice in certain hope, be patient in suffering, be faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share in the needs of the saints. Find many ways to show hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not think in proud ways, but accept lowly people. Do not be wise in your own thoughts. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Do good things in the sight of all people. ¹⁸ If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with all people. ¹⁹ Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but give way to the wrath of God. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay," says the Lord."

²⁰ "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him.

If he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For if you do this, you will heap coals of fire on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

13

¹ Let every soul be obedient to higher authorities, for there is no authority unless it comes from God. The authorities that exist have been appointed by God. ² Therefore he who resists that authority opposes the command of God; and those who oppose it will receive judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good deeds, but to evil deeds. Do you desire to be unafraid of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive his approval. ⁴ For he is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for he does not carry the sword for no reason. For he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath on the one who does evil. ⁵ Therefore you must obey, not only because of the wrath, but also because of conscience. ⁶ Because of this you pay taxes also. For authorities are servants of God, who attend to this very thing continually. ⁷ Pay to everyone what is owed to them. Tax to whom tax is due, toll to whom toll is due; fear to whom fear is due, honor to whom honor is due.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another. For he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments: "Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not covet," and if there is any other commandment also, it is summed up in this sentence: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does not harm one's neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

¹¹ Because of this, you know the time, that it is already time for you to awake out of sleep. For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night has advanced, and the day has come near. Let us therefore put aside the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk appropriately, as in the day, not in drunken celebrations or drunkenness; and let us not walk in sexual immorality or in uncontrolled lust, and not in strife or jealousy. ¹⁴ But

put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its lusts.

14

¹ Receive anyone who is weak in faith, without giving judgment about arguments. ² One person has faith to eat anything, another who is weak eats only vegetables. ³ May the one who eats everything not despise the one who does not; and may the one who does not eat everything not judge the other who eats everything. For God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you, you who judge a servant belonging to someone else? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. But he will be made to stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person values one day above another. Another values every day equally. Let each person be convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord; and he who eats, eats for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God. He who does not eat, refrains from eating for the Lord, he also gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for himself, and none dies for himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Then whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this purpose Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and those who are living. ¹⁰ But you, why do you judge your brother? And you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live," says the Lord, "to me every knee will bend, and every tongue will give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

¹³ Therefore, let us no longer judge one another, but instead decide this, that no one will place a stumbling block or a snare for his brother. ¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean by itself. Only for him who considers anything to be unclean, for him it is unclean. ¹⁵ If because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ So do not allow what you consider to be good to be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not about food and drink, but about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ For the one who serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and approved by people. ¹⁹ So then, let us pursue the things of peace and the things that build up one another. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God because of food. All things are indeed clean, but it is evil for that person who eats and causes him to stumble. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat, nor to drink wine, nor anything by which your brother takes offense. ²² The faith you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ He who doubts is condemned if he eats, because it is not from faith. And whatever is not from faith is sin.

15

¹ Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and ought not to please ourselves. ² Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, in order to build him up. ³ For even

Christ did not please himself. Instead, it was just as it is written, "The insults of those who insulted you fell on me." ⁴ For whatever was previously written was written for our instruction, in order that through patience and through encouragement of the scriptures we would have certain hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and of encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with each other according to Christ Jesus. ⁶ May he do this in order that with one mind you may praise with one mouth the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Therefore receive one another, even as Christ also received you, to the praise of God. ⁸ For I say that Christ has been made a servant of the circumcision on behalf of God's truth, in order to confirm the promises given to the fathers, ⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles and sing praise to your name."

¹⁰ Again it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹ And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples praise him."

¹² Again, Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come, the one who rises to rule over the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles will have hope."

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace for believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will have hope.

¹⁴ I myself am also convinced about you, my brothers. I am convinced that also you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge. I am convinced that you are also able to exhort one another. ¹⁵ But I am writing more boldly to you about some things in order to remind you again, because of the grace given me by God. ¹⁶ This gift was that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus sent to the Gentiles, to offer as a priest the gospel of God. I should do this so that the offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, consecrated by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus I have reason to boast of my service for God. ¹⁸ For I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me for the obedience of the Gentiles. These are things done by word and action, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. This was so that from Jerusalem, and round about as far as Illyricum, I might fully carry out the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ In this way, my desire has been to proclaim the gospel, but not where Christ is known by name, in order that I might not build upon another man's foundation. ²¹ It is as it is written:

"Those to whom no tidings of him came will see him, and those who have not heard will understand."

²² Therefore I was also hindered many times from coming to you. ²³ But now, I no longer have any place in these regions, and I have been longing for many years to come to you. ²⁴ I am hopeful that I will see you in passing when I go to Spain, and to be helped by you along my journey there, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

²⁵ But now I am going to Jerusalem, bringing aid to the believers. ²⁶ For it was the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution to the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ Yes, it was their good pleasure, and, indeed, they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they owe it to them also to serve them in material things. ²⁸ Therefore, when I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received what was collected, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰ Now I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. ³¹ Pray that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the believers. ³² Pray that I may come to you in joy through the will of God, and that I may, together with you, find rest. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

16

¹ I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church that is in Cenchrea, ² in order that you may receive her in the Lord. Do this in a manner worthy of the saints, and stand by her in whatever matter she may have need of you. For she herself as well has become a helper of many, and of myself as well.

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who for my life risked their own lives. I give thanks to them, and not only I, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. ⁵ Greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus my beloved, who is the firstfruit of Asia to Christ. ⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners. They are prominent among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. ⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. ¹⁰ Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. ¹¹ Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the household of Narcissus, who are in the Lord. ¹² Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who work hard in the Lord. Greet Persis the beloved, who has worked much in the Lord. ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. ¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. ¹⁵ Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the believers who are with them. ¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brothers, to think about those who are causing the divisions and stumbling. They are going beyond the teaching that you have learned. Turn away from them. ¹⁸ For people such as these do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own stomach. By their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent. ¹⁹ For your example of obedience reaches everyone. I rejoice, therefore, over you, but I want you to be wise as to that which is good, and innocent to that which is evil. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen. ²² I, Tertius, who write this epistle down, greet you in the Lord. ²³ Gaius, the host for me and for the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, with Quartus the brother. ²⁴ *

²⁵ Now to him who is able to make you stand according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret for long ages,

²⁶ but now has been revealed and made known through the prophetic writings to all nations, by the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.

²⁷ To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever. Amen.

* **16:24** The best ancient copies omit this verse. (See: Rom. 16:20). v. 24 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen .

First Corinthians

¹ Paul, called by Christ Jesus to be an apostle by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, ² to the church of God at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, who are called to be holy people. We are also writing to all who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, their Lord and ours. ³ May grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always give thanks to my God for you because of the grace of God that Christ Jesus gave to you. ⁵ He has made you rich in every way, in all speech and with all knowledge, ⁶ just as the testimony about Christ has been confirmed as true among you. ⁷ Therefore you lack no spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who called you into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁰ Now I urge you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and that there be no divisions among you. I urge that you be joined together with the same mind and by the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me, my brothers, by Chloe's people that there are factions among you. ¹² I mean this: Each one of you says, "I am with Paul," or "I am with Apollos," or "I am with Cephas," or "I am with Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius. ¹⁵ This was so that no one would say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶ (I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know if I baptized any others.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel. He did not send me to preach with words of human wisdom, so that the cross of Christ should not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are dying. But among those whom God is saving, it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise.

I will frustrate the understanding of the intelligent."

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this world? Has not God turned the wisdom of the world into foolishness? ²¹ Since the world in its wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for miraculous signs and Greeks seek wisdom. ²³ But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Greeks. ²⁴ But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, we preach Christ as the power and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than people, and the weakness of God is stronger than people.

²⁶ Look at your calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards. Not many of you were powerful. Not many of you were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to

shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame what is strong. ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world. He even chose things that are regarded as nothing, to bring to nothing things that are held as valuable. ²⁹ He did this so that no one would have a reason to boast before him. ³⁰ Because of what God did, now you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God. He became our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. ³¹ As a result, as scripture says, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

2

¹ When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence of speech or wisdom as I proclaimed hidden truths about God. * ² For I decided to know nothing when I was among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom. Instead, they were with the demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not be in the wisdom of humans, but in the power of God.

⁶ Now we do speak wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this world, or of the rulers of this age, who are passing away. ⁷ Instead, we speak God's wisdom in hidden truth, the hidden wisdom that God predestined before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written, "Things that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has imagined, the things that God has prepared for those who love him."

¹⁰ These are the things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of the person in him? So also, no one knows the deep things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² But we did not receive the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the things freely given to us by God. ¹³ We speak about these things in words that man's wisdom cannot teach, but which the Spirit teaches us. The Spirit interprets spiritual words with spiritual wisdom. ¹⁴ The unspiritual person does not receive the things that belong to the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. He cannot know them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The one who is spiritual judges all things, but he is not subject to the judgment of others.

¹⁶ "For who can know the mind of the Lord, that he can instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

3

¹ And I, brothers, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but instead as to fleshly people, as to little children in Christ. ² I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it; and even now you are not yet ready. ³ For you are still fleshly. For where jealousy and

* **2:1** Many other versions read, as I proclaimed the testimony about God .

strife exist among you, are you not living according to the flesh, and are you not walking by human standards? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," are you not living as human beings? ⁵ Who then is Apollos? Who is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, to each of whom the Lord gave tasks. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So then, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything. But it is God who gives the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own wages according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's garden, God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God that was given to me as a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation and another is building on it. But let each man be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than the one that has been laid, that is, Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ his work will be revealed, for the daylight will reveal it. For it will be revealed in fire. The fire will test the quality of what each one had done. ¹⁴ If anyone's work remains, he will receive a reward; ¹⁵ but if anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, as though escaping through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and so are you.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him become a "fool" that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness."

²⁰ And again,

"The Lord knows that the reasoning of the wise is futile."

²¹ For this reason, let no one boast in men. All things are yours, ²² whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All things are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

4

¹ This is how a person should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the hidden truths of God. ² Now what is required of stewards is that they are found to be trustworthy. ³ But for me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. For I do not even judge myself. ⁴ I am not aware of any charge being made against me, but that does not mean I am innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment about anything before the time, before the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his praise from God.

⁶ Now, brothers, I applied these principles to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that from us you might learn the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written."

This is so that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against the other. ⁷ For who sees any difference between you and others? What do you have that you did not freely receive? If you have freely received it, why do you boast as if you had not done so? ⁸ Already you have all you could want! Already you have become rich! You began to reign—and that quite apart from us! Indeed, I wish you did reign, so that we could reign with you. ⁹ For I think God has put us apostles on display as the last in line in a procession and like men sentenced to death. We have become a spectacle to the world—to angels, and to human beings. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we are held in dishonor. ¹¹ Up to this present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed, we are brutally beaten, and we are homeless. ¹² We work hard, working with our own hands. When we are reviled, we bless. When we are persecuted, we endure. ¹³ When we are slandered, we speak with kindness. We have become, and are still considered to be, the refuse of the world and the filthiest of all things.

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but to correct you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For even if you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ So I urge you to be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways in Christ, just as I teach them everywhere and in every church. ¹⁸ Now some of you have become arrogant, acting as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills. Then I will know not merely the talk of these who are so arrogant, but I will see their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹ What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod or with love and in a spirit of gentleness?

5

¹ We heard a report that there is sexual immorality among you, a kind of immorality that is not even permitted among the Gentiles. The report is that one of you is sleeping with his father's wife. ² You are so arrogant! Should you not mourn instead? The one who did this must be removed from among you. ³ For even though I am absent in body, I am present in spirit. I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as though I were there. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ⁵ hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole loaf? ⁷ Cleanse yourselves of the old yeast so that you may be new dough, so that you may be unleavened bread. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ So let us then celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of bad behavior and wickedness. Instead, let us celebrate with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ In no way did I mean the immoral people of this world, or the greedy, or swindlers, or idolaters, since to stay away from them you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother but who is living in sexual immorality, or who is greedy, or is an idolater, or is verbally abusive, or is a drunkard, or a swindler. Do not even eat a meal with such a person. ¹² For how am I involved with judging those who are outside the church? Instead, are you not to judge those who are inside the church? ¹³ But God judges those who are on the outside. “Remove the evil person from among you.”

6

¹ When one of you has a dispute with another, does he dare to go to the civil court before an unbelieving judge, rather than before the saints? ² Do you not know that the believers will judge the world? If then, you will judge the world, are you not able to settle matters of little importance? ³ Do you not know that we will judge the angels? How much more, then, can we judge matters of this life? ⁴ If then you have to make judgments that pertain to daily life, why do you lay such cases as these before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Is there no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between brothers? ⁶ But as it stands, one believer goes to court against another believer, and that case is placed before a judge who is an unbeliever! ⁷ The fact that there are any disputes at all between Christians is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer the wrong? Why not rather allow yourselves to be cheated? ⁸ But you have wronged and cheated others, and these are your own brothers! ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not believe lies. The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, those who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ thieves, the greedy, drunkards, slanderers, and swindlers—none of them will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ That is what some of you were like. But you have been cleansed, you have been sanctified, you have been made right with God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

¹² “Everything is lawful for me,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is lawful for me,” but I will not be mastered by any of them. ¹³ “Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food,” but God will do away with both of them. The body is not intended for sexual immorality. Instead, the body is for the Lord, and the Lord will provide for the body. ¹⁴ God both raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and join them to a prostitute? May it not be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one flesh with her? As scripture says, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Run away from sexual immorality! Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body

is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives within you, whom you have from God? Do you not know that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God with your body. *

7

¹ Now concerning the issues you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman." ² But because of temptations for many immoral acts, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. ³ The husband should give to the wife her sexual rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ It is not the wife who has authority over her own body, it is the husband. Likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive each other, except by mutual agreement and for a specific period of time. Do this so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then you should come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶ But I say these things to you as a concession and not as a command. ⁷ I wish that everyone were as I am. But each one has his own gift from God. One has this kind of gift, and another that kind. ⁸ To the unmarried and to widows I say that it is good for them if they remain unmarried, as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better for them to marry than to burn with passion. ¹⁰ Now to the married I give this command—not I, but the Lord—the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does separate from her husband, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. ¹² But to the rest I say—I, not the Lord—that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and if she is content to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If a woman has an unbelieving husband, and if he is content to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is set apart because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is set apart because of the brother. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but actually they are set apart. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner departs, let him go. In such cases, the brother or sister is not bound to their vows. God has called us to live in peace. ¹⁶ For how do you know, woman, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, man, whether you will save your wife? ¹⁷ Only let each one live the life the Lord has assigned him, each as God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone circumcised when he was called to believe? He should not try to appear uncircumcised. Was anyone uncircumcised when he was called to faith? He should not be circumcised. ¹⁹ For it is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision that matters. What matters is obeying the commandments of God. ²⁰ Each one should remain in the calling he was in when God called him to believe. ²¹ Were you a slave when God called you? Do not be concerned about it. But if you can become free, take advantage of it. ²² For someone who is called by the Lord as a slave is the Lord's freeman. Likewise, the one who was

* **6:20** Some older copies read, Therefore glorify God with your body and in your spirit, which belong to God. But the best copies do not have this reading.

free when he was called to believe is Christ's slave. ²³ You have been bought with a price, so do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ Brothers, in whatever life each of us was in when we were called to believe, let us remain like that.

²⁵ Now concerning those who never married, I have no commandment from the Lord. But I give my opinion as one who, by the Lord's mercy, is trustworthy. ²⁶ Therefore, I think that because of the disaster that is coming, it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you married to a wife? Do not seek a divorce. If you are unmarried, do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if an unmarried woman marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will have many kinds of worldly trouble, and I want to spare you from this. ²⁹ But this I say, brothers: The time is short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none. ³⁰ Those who weep should act as though they were not weeping, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they did not possess anything, ³¹ and those who use the world should not act as though they are using it to the full. For the world in its present form is coming to an end. ³² I would like you to be free from worries. The unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord, how to please him. ³³ But the married man is concerned about the things of the world, how to please his wife— ³⁴ he is divided. The unmarried woman or the virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, how to be set apart in body and in spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the things of the world, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, and not to put any constraint on you. I say this for what is right, so that you may be devoted to the Lord without any distraction. ³⁶ But if anyone thinks that he is not treating his fiancée with respect—if she is beyond the age of marriage and it must be so—he should do what he wants. He is not sinning. They should marry. ³⁷ But if he is standing firm in his heart, if he is not under pressure but can control his own will, and if he has decided in his own heart to do this, to keep his own fiancée a virgin, he will do well. ³⁸ So the one who marries his fiancée does well, and the one who chooses not to marry will do even better. ³⁹ A woman is bound to her husband for as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry whomever she wishes to marry, but only in the Lord. ⁴⁰ Yet in my judgment she would be happier if she lives as she is. And I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

8

¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone thinks he knows something, that person does not yet know as he should know. ³ But if anyone loves God, that person is known by him. ⁴ So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol in this world is nothing and that there is no God but one. ⁵ For maybe so-called gods do exist, either in heaven or on earth, just as there are many “gods” and many “lords.” ⁶ Yet for us there is only one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we live, and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom all things exist, and through whom we exist.

⁷ However, this knowledge is not in everyone. Instead, some previously practiced idol worship, and they eat this food as if it were something sacrificed to an idol. Their conscience is thereby corrupted because it is weak. ⁸ But food will not present us to God. We are not worse if we do not eat, nor better if we do eat it. ⁹ But take care that your freedom does not become a reason for someone who is weak in faith to stumble. ¹⁰ For suppose that someone sees you, who have knowledge, eating a meal in an idol's temple. Is not his weak conscience emboldened to eat what is offered to idols? ¹¹ So because of your understanding about the true nature of idols, the weaker one, the brother for whom Christ died, is destroyed. ¹² Thus, when you sin against your brothers and wound their weak consciences, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to fall.

9

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my workmanship in the Lord? ² If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you. For you are the proof of my apostleship in the Lord. ³ This is my defense to those who examine me: ⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to take along with us a wife who is a believer, as do the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who must work? ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink milk from it? ⁸ Do I say these things based on human authority? Does not the law also say this? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, "Do not put a muzzle on an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it really the oxen that God cares about? ¹⁰ Is he not speaking about us? It was written for us, because the one who plows should plow in hope, and the one who threshes should thresh in the expectation of sharing in the harvest. ¹¹ If we sowed spiritual things among you, is it too much for us to reap material things from you? ¹² If others exercised this right from you, do we not have even more? But we did not claim this right. Instead we endured everything rather than be a hindrance to the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do you not know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple? Do you not know that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living from the gospel. ¹⁵ But I have not claimed any of these rights. And I do not write this so something might be done for me. I would rather die than anyone deprive me of this boast. ¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have no reason for boasting, because I must do this. And woe be to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this willingly, I have a reward. But if not willingly, I still have a responsibility that was entrusted to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That when I preach, I may offer the gospel without charge and so not take full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I became a servant to all, in order that I might win more. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law,

I became like one under the law in order to win those under the law. I did this even though I myself was not under the law. * ²¹ To those outside the law, I became like one outside the law, although I was not outside the law of God myself, but under the law of Christ. I did this so that I may win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I may win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. ²³ I do all things for the gospel's sake, so that I may participate in its blessings. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run the race, but that only one receives the prize? So run to win the prize. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a wreath that is perishable, but we do it to receive one that is imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run without purpose or box by beating the air. ²⁷ But I subdue my body and make it a slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself may not be disqualified.

10

¹ I do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. ² All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food. ⁴ All drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ But God was not well pleased with most of them, and their corpses were scattered about in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things were examples for us, so we would not long for evil things as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were. This is as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." ⁸ Let us not commit sexual immorality, as many of them did. In one day, twenty-three thousand people died because of it. ⁹ Neither let us put Christ to the test, as many of them did and were destroyed by snakes. ¹⁰ Also do not grumble, as many of them did and were destroyed by an angel of death. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as examples for us. They were written for our instruction—for us on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to all humanity. Instead, God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability. With the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my loved ones, run away from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak to you as people who have understanding, so you may judge what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf of bread, we who are many are one body. We all take of one loaf of bread together. ¹⁸ Look at the people of Israel. Are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? ¹⁹ What am I saying then? That an idol is anything? Or that food sacrificed to an idol is anything? ²⁰ But I say about the things the Gentile pagans sacrifice, that they offer these things to demons and

* **9:20** The ULB and UDB read, I did this even though I was not under the law myself . Some older versions leave this passage out.

not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons! ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot have fellowship at the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he is?

²³ "Everything is lawful," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is lawful," but not everything builds people up. ²⁴ No one should seek his own good. Instead, each one should seek the good of his neighbor. ²⁵ You may eat whatever is sold in the market, without questions of conscience. ²⁶ For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness of it." ²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to eat a meal, and you wish to go, eat whatever is set before you without asking questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— * ²⁹ the conscience of the other man, I mean, and not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? ³⁰ If I partake of the meal with gratitude, why am I being insulted for that for which I gave thanks? ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks, or to the church of God. ³³ I try to please all people in all things. I do not seek my benefit, but that of the many. I do this so that they may be saved.

11

¹ Be imitators of me, just as I am an imitator of Christ.

² Now I praise you because you remember me in everything. I praise you because you hold fast to the traditions just as I delivered them to you. ³ Now I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, that a man is the head of a woman, and that God is the head of Christ. ⁴ Any man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵ But any woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head. For it is the same thing as if her head were shaved. ⁶ For if a woman will not cover her head, she should cut her hair short. If it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or for her to shave her head, let her cover her head. ⁷ For a man should not have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God. But the woman is the glory of the man. ⁸ For man was not made from woman. Instead, woman was made from man. ⁹ For neither was man created for woman. Instead, woman was created for man. ¹⁰ This is why the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. ¹¹ Nevertheless, in the Lord, the woman is not independent from the man, nor is the man independent from the woman. ¹² For as the woman comes from the man, so does the man come from the woman. And all things come from God. ¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace for him? ¹⁵ Does not nature teach you that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair has been given to

* **10:28** Some older copies add, For the earth and everything in it belong to the Lord . But the best copies do not have this.

her as a covering. ¹⁶ But if anyone wants to argue about this, we do not have any other practice, nor do the churches of God.

¹⁷ But in the following instructions, I do not praise you. For when you come together, it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For in the first place, I hear that when you come together in the church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ For when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper that you eat. ²¹ When you eat, each one eats his own food before the others have their meal. One is hungry, and another becomes drunk. ²² Do you not have houses to eat and to drink in? Do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I will not praise you for this! ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread. ²⁴ After he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup after supper, and he said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me." ²⁶ For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself first, and in this way let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment to himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and ill, and some of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we examine ourselves, we will not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined, so that we may not be condemned along with the world. ³³ Therefore, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. And about the other things you wrote, I will give directions when I come.

12

¹ About spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to idols who could not speak, in whatever ways you were led by them. ³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who speaks by the Spirit of God can say, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ministries, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are different kinds of work, but it is the same God who makes them possible in everyone. ⁷ Now to each one is given the outward display of the Spirit for the benefit of all. ⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, and to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. ⁹ To another is given faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit. ¹⁰ To another is given deeds of power, and to another prophecy. To another is given the ability to distinguish between spirits,

to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, giving the gifts to each one individually, as he chooses.

¹² For as the body is one and has many members and all are members of the same body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bound or free, and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body is not a single member, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "Since I am not the hand, I am not part of the body," it is not any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body," it is not any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But God arranged each part of the body as he designed it. ¹⁹ If they were all the same member, where would the body be? ²⁰ So now they are many members, but only one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you." Nor does the head say to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² But the members of the body that appear to be weaker are essential, ²³ and the parts of the body that we think are less honorable, we give them greater honor, and our unpresentable members have more dignity. ²⁴ Now our presentable members have no need to be treated with dignity, for they already have dignity. But God has joined all the members together, and he gave more honor to those that lacked it. ²⁵ He did this so there may be no division within the body, but that the members should care for one another with the same affection. ²⁶ So when one member suffers, all the members suffer together; or when one member is honored, all the members rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then those who do powerful deeds, then gifts of healing, those who provide helps, those who do the work of administration, and those who have various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all of them apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all of them have gifts of healing? Do all of them speak with tongues? Do all of them interpret tongues? ³¹ Zealously seek the greater gifts. But I will show you a more excellent way.

13

¹ Suppose that I speak with the tongues of men and of angels. But if I do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² Suppose that I have the gift of prophecy and understand all hidden truths and knowledge, and that I have all faith so as to remove mountains. But if I do not have love, I am nothing. ³ Suppose that I give all I own to feed the poor, and that I give my body to be burned. But if I do not have love, I gain nothing. ^{*} ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It is not self-serving. It is not easily angered, nor does it keep a count of wrongs. ⁶ It does not rejoice in unrighteousness. Instead, it rejoices in

^{*} **13:3** The ULB and UDB, together with most versions, read, I give my body to be burned. Some older versions read, I give my body so that I might boast.

the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. If there are prophecies, they will pass away. If there are tongues, they will cease. If there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when the perfect comes, that which is incomplete will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see indirectly in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I have been fully known. ¹³ But now these three remain: faith, future confidence, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

14

¹ Pursue love and be zealous for spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. For no one understands him because he speaks hidden things in the Spirit. ³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people to build them up, to encourage them, and to comfort them. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues. But even more than that, I wish that you would prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues (unless someone interprets so that the church may be built up). ⁶ But now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you? I cannot, unless I speak to you with revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy, or teaching. ⁷ If lifeless instruments are producing sounds—like the flute or the harp—and they do not produce different tones, how will anyone know what tune the flute or harp is playing? ⁸ For if the trumpet is played with an uncertain sound, how will anyone know when it is time to prepare for battle? ⁹ So it is with you. If you utter speech that is unintelligible, how will anyone understand what you have said? You will be speaking, and no one will understand you. ¹⁰ There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning. ¹¹ But if I do not know the meaning of a language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker will be a foreigner to me. ¹² So it is with you. Since you are eager for the manifestations of the Spirit, try to excel in the gifts that build up the church. ¹³ So the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, and I will also sing with my mind. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you praise God with the spirit, how will the outsider say “Amen” when you are giving thanks if he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you certainly give thanks well enough, but the other person is not built up. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ But in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding so that I might instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Rather, in regard to evil, be like infants. But in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the law it is

written,

“By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers
I will speak to this people.

Even then they will not hear me,”

says the Lord. ²² So then, tongues are a sign, not to believers, but to unbelievers. But prophesying is for a sign, not for unbelievers, but for believers. ²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders and unbelievers come in, would they not say that you are insane? ²⁴ But if you all were prophesying and an unbeliever or an outsider came in, he would be convicted by all he hears. He would be judged by all that is said. ²⁵ The secrets of his heart would be revealed. As a result, he would fall on his face and worship God. He would declare that God is really among you.

²⁶ What is next then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Do everything so that you build up the church. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at most three, and each one in turn, then someone should interpret what is said. ²⁸ But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in the church. Let each one speak to himself alone and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others listen with discernment to what is said. ³⁰ But if an insight is given to one who is sitting in the service, let the one who had been speaking be silent. ³¹ For each of you can prophesy one by one so that each one may learn and all may be encouraged. ³² For the spirits of the prophets are under the control of the prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

This is the rule in all the churches of the saints. ³⁴ The women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak. Instead, they should be in submission, as also the law says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. ³⁶ Did the word of God come from you? Are you the only ones it has reached?

³⁷ If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I write to you are a command of the Lord. ³⁸ But if anyone does not recognize this, let him not be recognized. *

³⁹ So then, brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid anyone from speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But let all things be done properly and in order.

15

¹ Now I remind you, brothers, of the gospel I proclaimed to you, which you received and on which you stand. ² It is by this gospel that you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures. ⁵ Christ appeared to Cephas, and then to the twelve; ⁶ then he appeared to more than five hundred

* **14:38** Most versions, including the ULB and UDB, read, But if anyone does not recognize this, let him not be recognized. Some older versions read, But if anyone is ignorant of this, let him be ignorant.

brothers at once. Most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, he appeared to me, as if to a child born at the wrong time. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles. I am unworthy to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace in me was not in vain. Instead, I worked harder than all of them. Yet it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Therefore whether it is I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith also is in vain. ¹⁵ Also, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we testified against God, saying he raised up Christ when he did not. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those who have died in Christ have also perished. ¹⁹ If only in this life we have hope in Christ, of all people we are most to be pitied.

²⁰ But now Christ, who is the firstfruits of those who died, has been raised from the dead. ²¹ For since death came by a man, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ, who is the firstfruits, and then those who belong to Christ will be made alive at his coming. ²⁴ Then will be the end, when Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. This is when he will abolish all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "he has put everything under his feet." But when it says "he has put everything," it is clear that this does not include the one who put everything in subjection to himself. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subjected to him who put all things into subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

²⁹ Or else what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are they baptized for them? ³⁰ Why then, are we in danger every hour? ³¹ Every day I face death! This is as sure as my boasting in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² What do I gain, from a human point of view, if I fought with beasts at Ephesus, if the dead are not raised? "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³ Be not deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." ³⁴ Sober up! Live righteously! Do not keep sinning. For some of you have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised, and with what kind of body will they come?" ³⁶ You are so ignorant! What you sow will not start to grow unless it dies. ³⁷ What you sow is not the body that will be, but a bare seed. It may become wheat or something else. ³⁸ But God will give it a body as he chooses, and to each seed its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same. Instead, there is one flesh of human beings, and another flesh for animals, and another flesh for birds, and

another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly body is one kind and the glory of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars. For one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, and what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first man Adam became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But the spiritual did not come first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, made of dust. The second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ Just as the one made from dust is, so also are those who are made of the dust, and as the man of heaven is, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Neither does what is perishable inherit what is imperishable. ⁵¹ Look! I tell you a secret truth: We will not all die, but we will all be changed. ⁵² We will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on what is imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable body has put on what is imperishable, and when this mortal body has put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Death, where is your victory?

Death, where is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always abound in the work of the Lord, because you know that your work in the Lord is not in vain.

16

¹ Now concerning the collection for the believers, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you are to do. ² On the first day of the week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up as you are able. Do this so that there will be no collections when I come. ³ When I arrive, whomever you approve, I will send with letters to deliver your offering to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it is appropriate for me to go also, they will go with me. ⁵ But I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia. For I will pass through Macedonia. ⁶ Perhaps I may stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not wish to see you now for only a passing visit. For I am looking forward to spending more time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ for a wide door has opened for me, and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰ Now when Timothy comes, see that he is with you unafraid, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am doing. ¹¹ Let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me. For I am expecting him to come along with the brothers. ¹² Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly encouraged him to visit you with the brothers. But it was not at all his will that he come now. However, he will come when the time is right.

¹³ Be watchful, stand fast in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵ You know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have set themselves to the service of the believers. Now I urge you, brothers, ¹⁶ to be in submission to such people and to everyone who helps in the work and labors with us. ¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus. They have made up for your absence. ¹⁸ For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. So then, recognize people like this.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia send greetings to you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you in the Lord, with the church that is in their home. ²⁰ All the brothers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand. ²² If anyone does not love the Lord, may he be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. *

* **16:24** Some older versions add, Amen . But many newer versions, including the ULB and UDB, leave it out.

Second Corinthians

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, and to all the believers in the entire region of Achaia. ² May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised. He is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. ⁴ God comforts us in all our affliction, so that we can comfort those who are in any affliction. We comfort others with the same comfort that God used to comfort us. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ abound for our sake, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort. Your comfort is working effectively when you patiently share in the same sufferings that we also suffer. ⁷ Our expectation concerning you is unshaken, for we know that as you share the sufferings, you also share our comfort. ⁸ For we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the troubles we had in Asia. We were so completely crushed beyond our strength that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, we had the sentence of death on us. But that was to make us not put our trust in ourselves, but instead in God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He rescued us from such a deadly peril, and he will rescue us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. ¹¹ He will do this as you also help us by your prayer. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor given to us through the prayers of many.

¹² We are proud of this: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world with holiness and godly sincerity, not relying on fleshly wisdom but on the grace of God. ¹³ We write to you nothing that you cannot read and understand. I expect that, ¹⁴ as you have understood us in part, we will be your reason for boasting on the day of our Lord Jesus, just as you will be our reason to boast.

¹⁵ Because I was confident about this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might receive the benefit of two visits. ¹⁶ I was planning to visit you on my way to Macedonia. Then I wanted to visit you again on my trip from Macedonia, and then for you to send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ When I was thinking this way, was I hesitating? Do I plan things according to human standards, so that I say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? ¹⁸ But just as God is faithful, we do not say both "Yes" and "No." ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom Silvanus, Timothy and I proclaimed among you, is not "Yes" and "No." Instead, he is always "Yes." ²⁰ For all the promises of God are "Yes" in him. So also through him we say "Amen" to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who confirms us with you in Christ, and he appointed us, ²² he set his seal on us and he gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee of what is to come.

²³ Instead, I call God to bear witness for me that the reason I did not come to Corinth was so that I might spare you. ²⁴ This is not because

we are trying to control what your faith should be. Instead, we are working with you for your joy, as you stand in your faith.

2

¹ So I decided for my own part that I would not again come to you in painful circumstances. ² If I caused you pain, who could cheer me up but the very one who was hurt by me? ³ I wrote as I did in order that when I came to you I might not be hurt by those who should have made me rejoice. I have confidence about all of you that my joy is the same joy you all have. ⁴ For I wrote to you from great affliction, with anguish of heart, and with many tears. I did not want to cause you pain. Instead, I wanted you to know the depth of the love that I have for you.

⁵ If anyone has caused pain, he has not caused it only to me, but in some measure—not to put it too harshly—to all of you. ⁶ This punishment of that person by the majority is enough. ⁷ So now rather than punishment, you should forgive and comfort him. Do this so that he is not overwhelmed by too much sorrow. ⁸ So I encourage you to publicly affirm your love for him. ⁹ This was the reason I wrote, so that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ If you forgive anyone, I forgive that person as well. What I have forgiven—if I have forgiven anything—it is forgiven for your sake in the presence of Christ. ¹¹ This is so that Satan will not trick us. For we are not ignorant of his plans.

¹² A door was opened to me by the Lord when I came to the city of Troas to preach the gospel of Christ there. ¹³ I had no relief in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I left them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴ But may thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph. Through us he spreads the sweet aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ, both among those who are saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the people who are perishing, it is an aroma from death to death. To the ones being saved, it is an aroma from life to life. Who is worthy of these things? ¹⁷ For we are not like so many people who sell the word of God for profit. Instead, with purity of motives, we speak in Christ, as we are sent from God, in the sight of God.

3

¹ Are we beginning to praise ourselves again? We do not need letters of recommendation to you or from you, like some people, do we? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, known and read by all people. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, delivered by us. It was written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God. It was not written on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴ And this is the confidence that we have through Christ before God. ⁵ We are not competent in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us. Instead, our competence is from God. ⁶ It is God who made us able to be servants of a new covenant. This is a covenant not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit

gives life. ⁷ Now the service that produced death—engraved in letters on stones—came in such glory that the people of Israel could not look directly at Moses' face. This is because of the glory of his face, a glory that was fading. ⁸ How much more glorious will be the service that the Spirit does? ⁹ For if the service of condemnation had glory, how much more does the service of righteousness abound in glory! ¹⁰ For indeed, that which was once made glorious is no longer glorious in this respect, because of the glory that exceeds it. ¹¹ For if that which was passing away had glory, how much more will what is permanent have glory!

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the people of Israel were not able to look directly at the ending of a glory that was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were closed. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ But even today, whenever Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But when a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ Now all of us, with unveiled faces, see the glory of the Lord. We are being transformed into the same glorious likeness from one degree of glory into another, just as from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

4

¹ Therefore, because we have this ministry, and just as we have received mercy, we do not become discouraged. ² Instead, we have rejected secret and shameful ways. We do not live by craftiness, and we do not mishandle the word of God. By presenting the truth, we recommend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case, the god of this world has blinded their unbelieving minds. As a result, they are not able to see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God is the one who said, "Light will shine out of darkness." He has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the presence of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, so that it is clear that the exceedingly great power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not overwhelmed. We are perplexed but not filled with despair. ⁹ We are persecuted but not forsaken. We are struck down but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be shown in our bodies. ¹¹ We who are alive are always carrying around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be shown in our body. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. ¹³ But we have the same spirit of faith according to that which was written: "I believed, and so I spoke." We also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ Everything is for your sake so

that, as grace is spread to many people, thanksgiving may increase to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not become discouraged. Even though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this momentary, light affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory that exceeds all measurement. ¹⁸ For we are not watching for things that are seen, but for things that are unseen. The things that we can see are temporary, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

5

¹ We know that if the earthly dwelling that we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God. It is a house not made by human hands, but an eternal house, in heaven. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling. ³ We long for this because by putting it on we will not be found to be naked. ⁴ For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened. We do not want to be unclothed. Instead, we want to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ The one who prepared us for this very thing is God, who gave us the Spirit as a guarantee of what is to come. ⁶ Therefore always be confident. Be aware that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ So we have confidence. We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal, whether we are at home or away, to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for the things done in the body, whether for good or for bad.

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people. What we are is clearly seen by God. I expect that it is also clear to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to persuade you again to view us as sincere. Instead, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you may have an answer for those who boast about appearances but not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are out of our minds, it is for God; and if we are in our right minds, it is for your sake. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we are certain of this: That one person died for all, and that therefore all have died. ¹⁵ He died for all, so that those who live should live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ For this reason, from now on we do not judge anyone according to human standards, even though we once regarded Christ in this way. But now we do not judge anyone in this way any longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. See, they have become new. ¹⁸ All these things are from God. He reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, in Christ God is reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. He is entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ So we are appointed as representatives of Christ, as though God were making his appeal through us. We plead with you, for the sake of Christ: "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ He made Christ become the sacrifice for our sin. He is the one who never sinned. He did this so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

6

¹ Working together with him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,
 “In a favorable time I paid attention to you,
 and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

Look, now is the favorable time. Look, now is the day of salvation. ³ We do not place a stumbling block in front of anyone, for we do not wish our ministry to be discredited. ⁴ Instead, we prove ourselves by all our actions, that we are God’s servants. We are his servants in much endurance, affliction, distress, hardship, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in hunger, ⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love. ⁷ We are his servants in the word of truth, in the power of God. We have the armor of righteousness for the right hand and for the left. ⁸ We work in honor and dishonor, in slander and praise. We are accused of being deceitful and yet we are truthful. ⁹ We work as if we were unknown and we are still well known. We work as dying and—see!—we are still living. We work as being punished for our actions but not as condemned to death. ¹⁰ We work as sorrowful, but we are always rejoicing. We work as poor, but we are making many rich. We work as having nothing and yet as possessing all things.

¹¹ We have spoken the whole truth to you, Corinthians, and our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own hearts. ¹³ Now in fair exchange—I speak as to children—open yourselves wide also. ¹⁴ Do not be tied together with unbelievers. For what association does righteousness have with lawlessness? For what fellowship does light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What agreement can Christ have with Beliar? Or what share does a believer have together with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said:

“I will dwell among them and walk among them.

I will be their God,
 and they will be my people.”

¹⁷ Therefore,
 “Come out from among them,
 and be set apart,” says the Lord.
 “Touch no unclean thing,
 and I will welcome you.

¹⁸ I will be a Father to you,
 and you will be my sons and daughters,”
 says the Lord Almighty.

7

¹ Loved ones, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves of everything that makes us unclean in our body and spirit. Let us pursue holiness in the fear of God.

² Make room for us! We have not wronged anyone. We have not harmed anyone or taken advantage of anyone. ³ It is not to condemn you that I say this. For I have already said that you are in our hearts, for us to die together and to live together. ⁴ I have great confidence in

you, and I am proud of you. I am filled with comfort. I overflow with joy even in all our afflictions.

⁵ When we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest. Instead, we were troubled in every way by conflicts on the outside and fears on the inside. ⁶ But God, who comforts the discouraged, comforted us by the arrival of Titus. ⁷ It was not only by his arrival that God comforted us. It was also by the comfort that Titus had received from you. He told us of your great affection, your sorrow, and your deep concern for me. So I rejoiced even more. ⁸ Even though my letter made you sad, I do not regret it. But I did regret it when I saw that my letter made you sad. But you were sad just for a little while. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not because you were distressed, but because your sadness brought you to repentance. You experienced a godly sorrow, so you suffered no loss because of us. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow brings about repentance that accomplishes salvation without regret. Worldly sorrow, however, brings about death. ¹¹ See what great determination this godly sorrow produced in you. How great was the determination in you to prove you were innocent. How great was your indignation, your fear, your longing, your zeal, and your desire to see that justice should be done! In everything you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹² Although I wrote to you, I did not write for the sake of the wrongdoer, nor for the one who suffered the wrong, but so that your good will toward us should be made known to you in the sight of God. ¹³ It is by this that we are encouraged.

In addition to our own comfort, we also rejoiced even more because of Titus' joy, because his spirit was refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴ For if I boasted to him about you, I was not embarrassed. On the contrary, just as everything we said to you was true, our boasting about you to Titus proved to be true. ¹⁵ His affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of all of you, how you welcomed him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶ I rejoice because I have complete confidence in you.

8

¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia. ² During a great test of affliction, the abundance of their joy and the extremity of their poverty have produced great riches of generosity. ³ For I bear witness that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond what they were able, and of their own free will, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the believers. ⁵ This did not happen as we had expected. Instead, they first gave themselves to the Lord. Then they gave themselves to us by the will of God. ⁶ So we urged Titus, who had already begun this task, to complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us. So also make sure that you excel in this act of grace. * ⁸ I say this not as a command. Instead, I say this in order to test the sincerity of your

* **8:7** The ULB and UDB, together with many other versions, read, and in your love for us . Some other versions read, and in our love for you .

love by comparing it to the eagerness of other people. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was rich, for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰ In this matter I will give you advice that will help you. One year ago, you not only started to do something, but you desired to do it. ¹¹ Now finish it. Just as there was an eagerness and desire to do it then, may you also bring it to completion, as much as you can. ¹² For if you are eager to do this deed, it is a good and acceptable thing. It must be based on what a person has, not on what he does not have. ¹³ For this task is not in order that others may be relieved and you may be burdened. Instead, there should be fairness. ¹⁴ Your abundance at the present time will supply what they need. This is also so that their abundance may supply your need, and so that there may be fairness. ¹⁵ It is as it is written:

“The one with much did not have anything left over,
and the one who had little did not have any lack.”

¹⁶ But thanks be to God, who put into Titus' heart the same earnest care that I have for you. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal, but he was also very earnest about it. He came to you of his own free will. ¹⁸ We have sent with him the brother who is praised among all of the churches for his work in proclaiming the gospel. ¹⁹ Not only this, but he also was selected by the churches to travel with us in our carrying out this act of grace. This is for the honor of the Lord himself and for our eagerness to help. ²⁰ We are avoiding the possibility that anyone should complain about us concerning this generosity that we are carrying out. ²¹ We take care to do what is honorable, not only before the Lord, but also before people. ²² We are also sending another brother with them. We have tested him in many ways and found him diligent for many tasks. He is even more eager now because of the great confidence he has in you. ²³ As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for you. As for our brothers, they are sent by the churches. They are an honor to Christ. ²⁴ So show them your love, and show to the churches the reason for our boasting about you.

9

¹ Concerning the ministry for the believers, it is not necessary for me to write to you. ² I know about your desire, which I boasted about to the people of Macedonia. I told them that Achaia has been getting ready since last year. Your eagerness has motivated most of them to action. ³ Now I have sent the brothers so that our boasting about you may not be futile, and so that you would be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴ Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we would be ashamed—I say nothing about you—for being so confident in you. ⁵ So I thought it was necessary to urge the brothers to come to you and to make arrangements in advance for the gift you have promised. This is so that it might be ready as a blessing, and not as something extorted.

⁶ The point is this: The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows for the purpose of a blessing will also reap a blessing. ⁷ Let each one give as he has planned in his

heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace overflow for you, so that, always, in all things, you may have all you need. This will be so that you may multiply every good deed. ⁹ It is as it is written:

“He has distributed his riches and given them to the poor.

His righteousness lasts forever.”

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the farmer who sows and bread for food, will also supply and multiply your seed for sowing. He will increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so you can be generous. This will bring about thanksgiving to God through us. ¹² For carrying out this service not only meets the needs of the saints but is also overflowing into many acts of thanksgiving to God. ¹³ Because of your being tested and proved by this service, you will also glorify God by obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ. You will also glorify God by the generosity of your gift to them and to everyone. ¹⁴ They long for you, and they are praying for you. They do this because of the very great grace of God that is on you.

¹⁵ May thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

10

¹ I, Paul, myself appeal to you, by the humility and gentleness of Christ. I am meek when I am in your presence, but I am bold toward you when I am away. ² I beg of you that, when I am present with you, I will not need to be bold with self-confidence. But I think I will need to be bold when I oppose those who assume that we are living according to the flesh. ³ For even though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons we fight with are not fleshly. Instead, they have divine power to destroy strongholds. They bring to nothing misleading arguments. ⁵ We also destroy every high thing that rises up against the knowledge of God. We take every thought captive into obedience to Christ. ⁶ And we are getting ready to punish every act of disobedience, as soon as your obedience is complete. ⁷ Look at what is clearly in front of you. If anyone is convinced that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. ⁸ For even if I boast a little too much about our authority, which the Lord gave for us to build you up and not to destroy you, I will not be ashamed. ⁹ I do not want it to appear that I am terrifying you by my letters. ¹⁰ For some people say, “His letters are serious and powerful, but physically he is weak. His words are not worth listening to.” ¹¹ Let such people be aware that what we are in the words of our letters when we are absent is what we will be in our actions when we are there. ¹² We do not go so far as to group ourselves or compare ourselves with those who praise themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with each other, they have no insight. ¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond limits. Instead, we will do so only within the limits of what God has assigned to us, limits that reach as far as you. ¹⁴ For we did not overextend ourselves when we reached you. We were the first to reach as far as you with the gospel of Christ. ¹⁵ We have not boasted beyond limits about the labors of others. Instead, we expect that as your faith continues to grow, our

work among you will greatly expand. ¹⁶ We hope for this, so that we may preach the gospel even in regions beyond you. We will not boast about the work being done in another's area.

¹⁷ "But let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

¹⁸ For it is not the one who recommends himself who is approved. Instead, it is the one whom the Lord recommends.

11

¹ I wish that you could put up with me in some foolishness. But you are indeed putting up with me! ² For I am jealous about you. I have a godly jealousy for you, since I promised you in marriage to one husband. I promised to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. ³ But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts might be led astray away from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For suppose that someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we preached. Or suppose that you receive a different spirit than what you received. Or suppose that you receive a different gospel than the one you received. You put up with these things well enough! ⁵ For I think that I am not in the least inferior to those so-called super-apostles. ⁶ But even if I am untrained in giving speeches, I am not untrained in knowledge. In every way and in all things we have made this known to you. ⁷ Did I sin by humbling myself so you might be exalted? For I freely preached the gospel of God to you. ⁸ I robbed other churches by accepting support from them so that I could serve you. ⁹ When I was with you and I was in need, I did not burden anyone. For my needs were met by the brothers who came from Macedonia. In everything I have kept myself from being a burden to you, and I will continue to do that. ¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the parts of Achaia. ¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows. ¹² And what I do I will keep doing, in order that I may take away the claim for criticizing me and the claim for which they want to boast—that they are found to be doing the same work that we are doing. ¹³ For such people are false apostles and deceitful workers. They disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And this is no surprise, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is no great surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their fate will be what their deeds deserve.

¹⁶ I say again: Let no one think I am a fool. But if you do, receive me as a fool so I may boast a little. ¹⁷ What I am saying with this boastful confidence—I am not talking the way the Lord would—I am saying as a fool. ¹⁸ Since many people boast according to the flesh, I will also boast. ¹⁹ For you gladly put up with fools. You are wise yourselves! ²⁰ For you put up with someone if he enslaves you, if he consumes you, if he takes advantage of you, if he considers himself better than you, or if he slaps you in the face. ²¹ I will say to our shame that we were too weak to do that. Yet if anyone boasts—I am speaking like a fool—I too will boast. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as though I were out of my mind.) I am more. I have

been in even more hard work, in far more prisons, in beatings beyond measure, in facing many dangers of death. ²⁴ From Jews I received five times the “forty lashes minus one.” ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day on the open sea. ²⁶ I have been on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from my own people, in danger from the Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in danger at sea, in danger from false brothers. ²⁷ I have been at hard work and in hardship, in many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often in fasting, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸ Apart from everything else, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who has been caused to stumble, and I do not burn? ³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast about what shows my weaknesses. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, the one who is praised forever, knows that I am not lying!

³² At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus to arrest me. ³³ But I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall, and I escaped from his hands.

12

¹ I must boast, but nothing is gained by it. But I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago who—whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know, God knows—was caught up into the third heaven. ³ And I know that this man—whether in the body, or out of the body, I do not know, God knows—⁴ was caught up into paradise and heard things too sacred for anyone to say. ⁵ On behalf of such a person I will boast. But on behalf of myself I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ If I should choose to boast, I will not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I will keep from boasting, so that no one will think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷ To keep me from boasting because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger from Satan to afflict me—so I would not become overly proud. ⁸ Three times I begged the Lord about this, for him to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is enough for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So I would much rather boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ might reside on me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content for Christ’s sake in weaknesses, in insults, in troubles, in persecutions and distressing situations. For whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

¹¹ I have become a fool! You forced me to this, for I should have been praised by you. For I was not at all inferior to the so-called super-apostles, even though I am nothing. ¹² The true signs of an apostle were performed among you with complete patience, signs and wonders and mighty deeds. ¹³ For how were you less important than the rest of the churches, except that I was not a burden to you? Forgive me for this wrong!

¹⁴ Look! I am ready to come to you a third time. I will not be a burden to you, for I do not want what is yours. I want you. For children should not save up for the parents. Instead, the parents should save up for

the children. ¹⁵ I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? ¹⁶ But as it is, I did not burden you. But, since I am so crafty, I am the one who caught you by deceit. ¹⁷ Did I take advantage of you by anyone I sent to you? ¹⁸ I urged Titus to go to you, and I sent the other brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same way? Did we not walk in the same steps?

¹⁹ Do you think all of this time we have been defending ourselves to you? In the sight of God, we have in Christ been saying everything for your strengthening. ²⁰ For I fear that when I come I may not find you as I wish. I fear that you might not find me as you wish. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, rivalries, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder. ²¹ I fear that when I come back, my God might humble me before you. I fear that I might be grieved by many of those who have sinned before now, and who did not repent of the impurity and sexual immorality and lustful indulgence that they practiced.

13

¹ This is the third time that I am coming to you. “Every accusation must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.” ² I have already said to those who sinned before and to all the rest when I was there the second time, and I say it again: When I come again, I will not spare them. ³ I tell you this because you are looking for evidence that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak toward you. Instead, he is powerful in you. ⁴ For he was crucified in weakness, but he is alive by God’s power. For we also are weak in him, but we will live with him by the power of God among you. ⁵ Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize this about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless you have failed the test. ⁶ And I trust that you will recognize that we have not failed the test. ⁷ Now we pray to God that you may not do any wrong. I do not pray that we may appear to have passed the test. Instead, I pray that you may do what is right, although we may seem to have failed the test. ⁸ For we are not able to do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹ For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. We also pray that you may be made complete. ¹⁰ I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I am with you I do not have to deal harshly with you in the use of my authority—which the Lord gave to me, so that I may build you up, and not tear you down.

¹¹ Finally, brothers, rejoice! Work for restoration, be encouraged, agree with one another, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet each other with a holy kiss.

¹³ All of the believers greet you. *

¹⁴ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

* **13:13** Some translations combine verse 13 with verse 12 and number verse 14 as verse 13.

Galatians

¹ Paul, an apostle—not an apostle from men nor by human agency, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers with me, to the churches of Galatia:
³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
⁴ who gave himself for our sins so that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am amazed that you are turning away so quickly from him who called you by the grace of Christ. I am amazed that you are turning to a different gospel. ⁷ This is not to say that there is another gospel, but there are some men who cause you trouble and want to change the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel other than the one we proclaimed to you, let him be cursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, “If someone proclaims to you a gospel other than the one you received, let him be cursed.” ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of men or God? Am I seeking to please men? If I am still trying to please men, I am not a servant of Christ.

¹¹ For I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I proclaimed is not man's gospel. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it. Instead, it was by revelation of Jesus Christ to me. ¹³ You have heard about my former life in Judaism, how I was persecuting the church of God beyond measure and that I was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴ I advanced in Judaism beyond many of those who were my own age, from out of my own people. That is how extremely zealous I was for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who had set me apart from my mother's womb, and who called me through his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I would proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me. Instead, I went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ In what I write to you, I assure you before God, that I am not lying. ²¹ Then I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was still not personally known to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard it being said, “The man who once persecuted us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴ So they glorified God because of me.

2

¹ Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ² I went up because of a revelation and set before them the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles. I spoke privately to those who seemed to be important, in order to make sure that I was not running—or had not run—in vain.

³ But not even Titus, who was with me and who was a Greek, was forced to be circumcised. ⁴ The false brothers came in secretly to spy on the liberty we have in Christ Jesus. They desired to make us slaves, ⁵ but we did not yield in submission to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you. ⁶ But those who seemed to be important (whatever they were does not matter to me, God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed important added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to those who are uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to those who are circumcised. ⁸ For God, who worked in Peter for the apostleship to those who are circumcised, also worked in me to the Gentiles. ⁹ When James, Cephas, and John, who were recognized as those who built up the church, understood the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me. They did this so that we should go to the Gentiles, and so that they should go to those who are circumcised. ¹⁰ They requested only that we remember the poor, the very thing that I was eager to do.

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he was declared to be in the wrong. ¹² Before certain men came from James, Cephas was eating with the Gentiles. But when these men came, he stopped and kept away from the Gentiles. He was afraid of those who were demanding circumcision. ¹³ Also the rest of the Jews joined in this hypocrisy. Even Barnabas was led astray with them by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that their behavior was not following the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, "If you are a Jew but are living like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?" ¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that no person is justified by the works of the law but through faith in Christ Jesus. We also came to faith in Christ Jesus so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law. For by the works of the law no flesh will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we too, were found to be sinners, does Christ then promote sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild those things I once destroyed, I prove myself to be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, then Christ died for nothing!

3

¹ Foolish Galatians! Who has put a spell on you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly displayed as crucified. ² This is the only thing I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now going to finish by the flesh? ⁴ Have you suffered so many things for nothing—if indeed it was for nothing? ⁵ Does he who gives the Spirit to you and works

miracles among you do so by the works of the law, or by hearing with faith? ⁶ Just as Abraham “believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness,” ⁷ in the same way, understand, then, that those of faith are the children of Abraham. ⁸ The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you all the nations will be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ All who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; and so it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all the things written in the book of the law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because “the righteous will live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather, “The person who does the works of the law must live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”— ¹⁴ so that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

¹⁵ Brothers, let me speak in human terms. In a man-made contract, no one can set it aside or add to it, once it is established by law. ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his descendant. It does not say, “to descendants,” referring to many, but instead to only one, “and to your descendant,” who is Christ. ¹⁷ Now what I mean is this: The law, which came 430 years afterward, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, then it no longer comes by promise. But God gave it to Abraham by a promise. ¹⁹ What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of trespasses, until the descendant of Abraham would come to whom the promise had been made. The law was put into force through angels by a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator implies more than one person, but God is one. ²¹ So is the law against the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But the scripture imprisoned everything under sin. God did this so that the promise to save us by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ So then the law became our guardian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ Then if you are Christ's, you are Abraham's descendants, and heirs according to promise.

4

¹ I am saying that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is owner of the entire estate. ² But he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by his father. ³ So also, when

we were children, we were enslaved to the elemental principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent out his Son, born of a woman, born under the law. ⁵ He did this to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then you are also an heir through God.

⁸ But at that time, when you did not know God, you were made to be slaves to those who are, by their natural powers, not gods at all. ⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather that you are known by God, how is it that you are turning back to the weak and worthless elemental principles? Do you want to be enslaved all over again? ¹⁰ You observe days and new moons and seasons and years! ¹¹ I am afraid for you that somehow my work with you may have been for nothing.

¹² I beg you, brothers, become like me, for I also have become like you. You did me no wrong. ¹³ But you know that it was because of a physical illness that I proclaimed the gospel to you the first time. ¹⁴ Though my physical condition put you to the test, you did not despise or reject me. Instead you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵ Where, then, is your blessing now? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have torn out your own eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ So then, have I become your enemy because I am telling you the truth? ¹⁷ They are zealous to win you over, but for no good. They want to shut you out, so you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ It is always good to be zealous for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹ My little children, again I am in the pains of childbirth for you until Christ is formed in you. ²⁰ I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave girl and one by the free woman. ²³ One was born by the slave girl according to the flesh, but the other was born by the free woman through promise. ²⁴ These things may be interpreted as an allegory, for these women represent two covenants. One of them is from Mount Sinai and she gives birth to children who are slaves. This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar represents Mount Sinai in Arabia; and she represents the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written,

"Rejoice, you barren one who does not give birth;
cry out and shout for joy, you who are not suffering the pains of
childbirth;

because the children of the abandoned woman are more numerous
than those of the woman who has a husband."

²⁸ But you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ At that time the one who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one born according to the Spirit. It is the same now. ³⁰ But what does the scripture say? "Send away the slave girl and her son. For the son of

the slave girl will not share in the inheritance with the son of the free woman.”³¹ Therefore, brothers, we are not children of a slave girl, but of the free woman.

5

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not again be put under the control of a yoke of slavery.

² Look, I, Paul, say to you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will not benefit you in any way. ³ I testify again to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You are cut off from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you no longer experience grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but only faith working through love. ⁷ You were running well. Who prevented you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion does not come from him who calls you! ⁹ A little yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is troubling you will pay the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ Brothers, if I still proclaim circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the stumbling block of the cross has been removed. ¹² As for those who are disturbing you, I wish they would castrate themselves!

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the sinful nature; rather, through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one command: “You must love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the desires of the sinful nature are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the sinful nature. For these are in conflict with each other, so that you cannot do the things you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the sinful nature are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, depravity, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, rivalry, dissension, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, drunken celebrations, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, ²³ gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

6

¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Be concerned about yourself, so you also may not be tempted. ² Carry one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is

something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ Each one should examine his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in someone else. ⁵ For each one will carry his own load.

⁶ The one who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man plants, that he will also gather in. ⁸ For he who plants seed to his own sinful nature, from the sinful nature will gather in destruction. The one who plants seed to the Spirit, from the Spirit will gather in eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the right time we will gather in a harvest, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the household of faith.

¹¹ See what large letters I write to you with my own hand. ¹² Those who want to make a good impression in the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They do this only to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For not even those who circumcised themselves keep the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but what counts is a new creation. ¹⁶ To all who live according to this standard, peace and mercy be upon them, even upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷ From now on let no one trouble me, for I carry on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Ephesians

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful in Christ Jesus. * ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. ⁴ God chose us in him from the beginning of the world, that we may be holy and blameless in his sight in love †. ⁵ ‡ God chose us beforehand for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. ⁶ Our adoption results in the praise of his glorious grace that he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In Jesus Christ we have redemption through his blood and the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. ⁸ He lavished this grace upon us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ God made known to us the hidden purpose of his will, according to what pleased him, and which he demonstrated in Christ, ¹⁰ with a view to a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things together, all things in heaven and on earth, under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In Christ we were appointed as heirs. We were decided on beforehand according to the plan of him who works out everything according to the purpose of his will. ¹² God appointed us as heirs so that we might be the first to have a certain hope in Christ, so we would be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In Christ, you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, you believed in him and were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we take full possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's holy people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you as I mention you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, that you may know the hope to which he has called you and the riches of his glorious inheritance among all God's holy people. ¹⁹ In my prayers I ask that you may know the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great strength. ²⁰ This is the same power that God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. ²¹ He seated Christ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named. Christ will rule, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. ²² God put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the church as head over all things. ²³ The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

* **1:1** Some early versions omit, in Ephesus, but this expression is probably in Paul's original letter. † **1:4** Some interpreters place the phrase in love with the next sentence, Eph. 1:5 In love God chose us. ‡ **1:5** Some interpreters place the last phrase of Eph. 1:4 in love with verse 5 so that it reads, In love God chose us.

2

¹ And as for you, you were dead in your trespasses and sins. ² It was in these trespasses and sins that you once lived according to the ways of this world. You were living according to the ruler of the authorities of the air, the spirit that is working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Once we all lived among these people, fulfilling the evil desires of our sinful nature, and carrying out the desires of the body and of the mind. We were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of humanity. ⁴ But God is rich in mercy because of his great love with which he loved us. ⁵ While we were dead in trespasses, he made us alive together in Christ—by grace you have been saved. ⁶ God raised us up together with Christ, and God made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show to us the immeasurably great riches of his grace expressed in his kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this did not come from you, it is the gift of God, ⁹ not from works and so no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good deeds that God planned long ago for us, so that we would walk in them.

¹¹ Therefore remember that once you were Gentiles in the flesh. You are called "uncircumcision" by what is called the "circumcision" in the flesh made by human hands. ¹² For at that time you were separated from Christ, foreigners to the people of Israel, strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away from God have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace. He made the two one. By his flesh he destroyed the wall of hostility that divided us. ¹⁵ That is, he abolished the law of commandments and regulations so that he might create one new man in himself, and so making peace. ¹⁶ Christ reconciles both peoples into one body to God through the cross, putting to death the hostility. ¹⁷ Jesus came and proclaimed peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Jesus we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then, now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. Instead you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household. ²⁰ You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and Christ Jesus himself was the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building fits together and grows as a temple in the Lord. ²² It is in him that you also are being built together as a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.

3

¹ Because of this I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles. ² I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God that was given to me for you. ³ I am writing according to the revelation made known to me. This is the hidden truth about which I briefly wrote to you. ⁴ When you read about this, you will be able to understand my insight into this hidden truth about Christ. ⁵ In other generations this truth was not made known to the sons of men. But now it has been revealed by the Spirit to his apostles and prophets who were set apart for this work. ⁶ This hidden truth is that

the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and fellow members of the body, and they share the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ For I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given to me through the working of his power. ⁸ This grace was given to me, although I am the least of all the saints, that I should proclaim to the Gentiles the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ so that I will bring to light for everyone the plan—the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. ¹⁰ This plan was made known through the church so the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places would come to know the many-sided nature of the wisdom of God. ¹¹ This happened according to the eternal plan that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² For in Christ we have boldness and access with confidence because of our faith in him. ¹³ Therefore I ask you not to be discouraged because of what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I bend my knees to the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. ¹⁶ I pray that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power through his Spirit, who is in you. ¹⁷ I pray that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, that you will be rooted and grounded in his love. ¹⁸ May you have strength so you can understand, along with all the believers, what is the width, the length, the height, and the depth, ¹⁹ and that you may know the love of Christ, which goes beyond knowledge, and that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, according to his power that works in us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

4

¹ I, therefore, as the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthily of the calling by which you were called. ² I urge you to live with great humility and gentleness and patience, putting up with one another in love. ³ Do your best to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one certain hope of your calling. ⁵ And there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ and one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ To each one of us grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸ It is as scripture says:

“When he ascended to the heights,
he led the captives into captivity,
and he gave gifts to the people.”

⁹ What is the meaning of “He ascended,” except that he also descended into the lower regions of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same person who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. ¹¹ Christ gave some to be apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers. ¹² He gave these offices to equip the saints for the work of service, for the building up of the body of Christ. ¹³ He continues to build up his body until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, and that we become mature and so reach the measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Christ builds us up so that we should no longer be children who are

tossed back and forth by the waves, and carried away by every wind of teaching and by the trickery of people in their deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ Christ builds the whole body, and it is joined and held together by every supporting ligament, and when each part works together, that makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

¹⁷ Therefore, I say and insist on this in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts. ¹⁹ They have no shame and have handed themselves over to sensuality, and they are continually practicing every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not how you learned about Christ. ²¹ I assume that you have heard about him, and that you were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus. ²² You were taught to put off what belongs to your former manner of life, to put off the old man. It is the old man that is corrupt because of its deceitful desires. ²³ You were taught to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new man that is created in the image of God—in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, get rid of lies, and let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, because we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger. ²⁷ Do not give an opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ The one who had been stealing must steal no longer. He must labor, doing useful work with his hands, so that he may have something to share with those who are in need. ²⁹ Do not let any filthy talk come out of your mouth. Use only words that are helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that your words would be helpful to those who hear you. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, for it is by him that you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away all bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and insults, along with every kind of evil. ³² Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

5

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as dearly loved children. ² And walk in love, as also Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But there must not be even a suggestion among you of sexual immorality or any kind of impurity or of greed, for these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness, no foolish talk, and no crude jokes—all of which are improper. Instead there should be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you can be sure of this, that no sexually immoral, impure, or greedy person—that is, an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the anger of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore, do not join in with them. ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ and find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹ Do not associate with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention the things they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is illuminated by the light, it becomes visible. ¹⁴ For anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, you sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵ Look carefully how you live—not as unwise but as wise. ¹⁶ Redeem the time because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that leads to reckless behavior. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to each other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰ always giving thanks for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father, ²¹ submitting yourselves to one another in reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ also is the head of the church, and Christ himself is its savior. ²⁴ But as the church submits to Christ, so also wives must submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. ²⁶ Christ gave himself for the church so that he might make her holy, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present her to himself as glorious, without stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own body, but nourishes and treats it with care, just as Christ nourishes and treats the church with care, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This hidden truth is great—but I am speaking about Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each of you also must love his own wife as himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

6

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with promise), ³ “so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. Instead, raise them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Slaves, be obedient to your human masters with deep respect and trembling, in the honesty of your heart. Be obedient to them as you would be obedient to Christ. ⁶ Be obedient not only when your masters are watching in order to please them. Instead, be obedient as slaves of Christ, who do the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve with all your heart, as though you were serving the Lord and not people, ⁸ because we know that for whatever good deed each person does, he will receive a reward from the Lord, whether he is slave or free.

⁹ Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them. You know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the scheming plans of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand in this time of evil, and after you have done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, after you have put on the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ Then as shoes for your feet, put on the readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, by which you will be able to put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit. To this end, always be watching with all perseverance, as you offer prayers for all the saints. ¹⁹ And pray for me, that a message might be given to me when I open my mouth. Pray that I might make known with boldness the hidden truth about the gospel. ²⁰ It is for the gospel that I am an ambassador who is kept in chains, so that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you may know how I am doing. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are, and so that he may encourage your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be to all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an incorruptible love.

Philippians

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all those set apart in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons. ² May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you; ⁴ and always in every prayer for all of you, I pray with joy. ⁵ I give thanks for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you because I have you in my heart. You all have been my partners in grace both in my imprisonment and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ I am praying this: That your love may abound more and more in knowledge and all understanding. ¹⁰ I pray for this so that you may approve what is excellent, and so you may be sincere and without offense on the day of Christ. ¹¹ I pray that you also will be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, my chains in Christ came to light throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else. ¹⁴ Most of the brothers have far more confidence in the Lord because of my chains, and they have courage to fearlessly speak the word. ¹⁵ Some indeed even proclaim Christ out of envy and strife, and also others out of good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ But the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely. They think they will afflict me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way—whether from false motives or from true—Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that this will result in my deliverance through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. ²⁰ It is my eager expectation and certain hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but that I will have complete boldness, so that now as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² But if I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which to choose? I do not know. ²³ For I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, which is far better, ²⁴ yet to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. ²⁵ Being convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have increasing reasons to boast in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come to see you or am absent, I may hear about you, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. ²⁸ Do not be

frightened in any respect by those who are your opponents. This is a sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation—and this from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me, and now you hear in me.

2

¹ If there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any comfort from his love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if there are any tender mercies and compassions, ² then make my joy full by thinking alike, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having the same purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfishness or empty conceit. Instead with humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should take care not only for your own needs, but also for the needs of others. ⁵ You should have the same attitude toward one another as was in Christ Jesus.

⁶ He existed in the form of God,
but he did not consider his equality with God
as something to hold on to.

⁷ Instead, he emptied himself
by taking the form of a servant,
and he was born in the likeness of men.

⁸ He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death,
even death of a cross!

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him.

He gave him the name that is above every name.

¹⁰ He did this so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
the knees of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

¹¹ He did this so that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² So then, my beloved, as you always obey, not only in my presence but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining or arguing. ¹⁵ Act in this way so that you may become blameless and honest, children of God without blemish. Act in this way so that you may shine as lights in the world, in the middle of a crooked and depraved generation. ¹⁶ Hold tightly to the word of life so that I may have reason to glory on the day of Christ. For then I will know that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out as an offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ In the same manner you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

¹⁹ But I have hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may also be encouraged when I know the things about you. ²⁰ For I have no one else with his same attitude, who is truly anxious for you. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not the things of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know his worth, because as a child serves his father, so he served with me in the gospel. ²³ So I hope to send him as soon as I see how things will go with me. ²⁴ But I am confident in the Lord

that I myself will also come soon. ²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send Epaphroditus back to you. He is my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and servant for my needs. ²⁶ For he was very distressed, and he longed to be with you all, because you heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was so sick that he almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only, but also on me, so that I might not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ So it is all the more eagerly that I am sending him, so that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I can be free from anxiety. ²⁹ Welcome Epaphroditus in the Lord with all joy. Honor people like him. ³⁰ For it was for the work of Christ that he came near death. He risked his life to serve me and fill up what you could not do in service to me.

3

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write these same things again to you is no trouble for me, and it keeps you safe. ² Watch out for the dogs, those evil workers, those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision. It is we who worship by the Spirit of God. It is we who take pride in Christ Jesus, and who have no confidence in the flesh. ⁴ Even so, I myself could have confidence in the flesh. If anyone thinks he has confidence in the flesh, I could have even more. ⁵ I was circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; with regard to the law, a Pharisee. ⁶ As for zeal, I persecuted the church; as for righteousness under the law, I was blameless. ⁷ But whatever things were a profit for me, I have considered them as loss because of Christ. ⁸ In fact, now I count all things to be loss because of the surpassing value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have given up all things—and I consider them rubbish—so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him. I do not have a righteousness of my own from the law. Instead, I have the righteousness that is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that is from God based on faith. ¹⁰ So now I want to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings. I want to be transformed into the likeness of his death, ¹¹ so somehow I may experience the resurrection from the dead. ¹² It is not true that I have already received these things, or that I have become complete. But I press on in order that I may grasp that for which I was grasped by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers, I do not think that I myself have yet grasped it. But there is one thing: I forget what is behind and strain for what is ahead. ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ All of us who are mature, let us think this way; and if you think differently about anything, God will also reveal that to you. ¹⁶ However, whatever we have reached, let us hold on to it.

¹⁷ Be imitators of me, brothers. Closely watch those who are walking by the example that you have in us. ¹⁸ Many are walking—those about whom I have often told you, and now I am telling you with tears—as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction. For their god is their stomach, and their pride is in their shame. They think about earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, from where

we also wait for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform our lowly bodies into bodies formed like his glorious body, formed by the might of his power to subject all things to himself.

4

¹ Therefore, my beloved brothers whom I long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved friends.

² I am pleading with Euodia, and I am pleading with Syntyche, be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, I ask you, my true companion, to help these women who labored with me in spreading the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God, ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is anything excellent, if there is anything to be praised, think about these things. ⁹ The things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I greatly rejoice in the Lord because now at last you have renewed your concern for me. You had indeed been concerned for me before, but there was no opportunity for you to help. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need. For I have learned to be content in all circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be poor, and I also know what it is to have plenty. In every way and in all things I have learned the secret of how to be well-fed or to be hungry, and how to have an abundance or to be in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ However, you did well to share with me in my difficulties. ¹⁵ You Philippians know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church supported me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ Even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent help for my needs more than once. ¹⁷ It is not that I seek the gift. Instead, I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received everything in full, and even more. I have been well-supplied now that I have received from Epaphroditus the things you sent. They are a sweet-smelling aroma, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ My God will meet all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

²¹ Greet every believer in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the believers here greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *

* **4:23** Some versions add, Amen .

Colossians

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² to the believers and faithful brothers in Christ who are at Colossae. May grace be to you, and peace from God our Father. *

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we always pray for you. ⁴ We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all those set apart for God. ⁵ You have this love because of the certain hope reserved for you in heaven. You heard about this confident expectation before in the word of truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you. This gospel is bearing fruit and is growing in all the world. It has been doing this in you also from the day you heard it and learned about the grace of God in truth. ⁷ This is the gospel as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf. † ⁸ Epaphras has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ Because of this love, from the day we heard this we have not stopped praying for you. We have been asking that you will be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. ¹⁰ We have been praying that you will walk worthily of the Lord in pleasing ways. We have been praying that you will bear fruit in every good deed and that you will grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ We pray you may be strengthened in every ability according to the power of his glory into all perseverance and patience. ¹² We pray that you will joyfully give thanks to the Father, who has made you able to have a share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ‡ ¹³ He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. ¹⁴ In his Son we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. § ¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God. He is the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, those in the heavens and those on the earth, the visible and the invisible things. Whether thrones or dominions or governments or authorities, all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so he has first place among all things. ¹⁹ For God was pleased that all his fullness should live in him, ²⁰ and to reconcile through the Son all things to himself. God made peace through the blood of his cross. God reconciled all things to himself, whether the things on the earth or the things in heaven. ²¹ At one time, you also were strangers to God and were his enemies in mind and in evil deeds. ²² But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death. He did this in order to present you holy, blameless, and above reproach before him, ²³ if you continue in the faith, established and firm, not moved away from the certain hope of the gospel that you heard. This is the gospel

* **1:2** Some versions add, and the Lord Jesus Christ . † **1:7** Some versions read, on your behalf . ‡ **1:12** Some versions read, who has made us able to have a share . § **1:14** Some versions read, In his Son we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins .

that was proclaimed to every person created under heaven. This is the gospel of which I, Paul, became a servant.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking of the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ It is of this church that I am a servant, according to the responsibility from God that was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God. ²⁶ This is the secret truth that was hidden for ages and for generations. But now it has been revealed to those who believe in him. ²⁷ It is to them that God wanted to make known the riches of the glory of this secret truth among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ This is he whom we proclaim. We admonish every person, and we teach every person with all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this I labor and strive according to his energy that is at work in me in power.

2

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have had for you, for those at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh. ² I work so that their hearts may be encouraged by being brought together in love and into all the riches of full assurance of understanding, into the knowledge of the secret truth of God, that is, Christ. ³ In him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. ⁴ I say this so that no one may trick you with persuasive speech. ⁵ Although I am not with you in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit. I rejoice to see your good order and the strength of your faith in Christ.

⁶ As you received Christ the Lord, walk in him. ⁷ Be rooted in him, be built on him, be established in faith just as you were taught, and abound in thanksgiving.

⁸ See that no one captures you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, conforming to the elements of the world, and not conforming to Christ. ⁹ For in him all the fullness of God lives in bodily form. ¹⁰ You have been filled in him, who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not done by humans in the removal of the body of flesh, but in the circumcision of Christ. ¹² You were buried with him in baptism, and in him you were raised up through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him and forgave us all of our trespasses. * ¹⁴ He canceled the written record of debts that stood against us with its regulations. He took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the powers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them, by being victorious over them by the cross.

¹⁶ So then, let no one judge you in eating or in drinking, or about a feast day or a new moon, or about Sabbath days. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance is Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one who wants humility and the worship of angels judge you out of your prize. Such a person enters into the things he has seen and becomes puffed

* **2:13** Some older versions read, and forgave you all of your trespasses .

up by his fleshly thinking. ¹⁹ He does not hold on to the head. It is from the head that the whole body throughout its joints and ligaments is supplied and held together; it grows with the growth given by God.

²⁰ If you died together with Christ to the elements of the world, why do you live as obligated to the world: ²¹ "Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch"? ²² All these things will perish with use, according to the instructions and teachings of men. ²³ These rules have the wisdom of self-made religion and humility and severity of the body. But they have no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

3

¹ If then God has raised you with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. ² Think about the things above, not about the things on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ appears, who is your life, then you will also appear with him in glory. *

⁵ Put to death, then, the members that are on earth—sexual immorality, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ It is for these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. † ⁷ It is in these things that you also once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all these things—wrath, anger, evil intentions, insults, and obscene speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old man with its practices, ¹⁰ and you have put on the new man that is being made new in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it. ¹¹ This is where there is no Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, put on a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another. Be gracious to each other. If someone has a complaint against someone else, forgive in the same way that the Lord has forgiven you. ¹⁴ Above all these things, have love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. It was for this peace that you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ live in you richly. With all wisdom teach and admonish one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Sing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him.

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as it is appropriate in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be bitter against them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is pleasing in the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they will not be discouraged. ²² Slaves, obey your masters according to the flesh in all things, not with eyeservice as people pleasers, but with a sincere heart. Fear the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord

* **3:4** Some versions read, When Christ appears, who is our life, then you will also appear with him in glory. † **3:6** Some versions read, It is for these things that the wrath of God is coming.

and not as to people. ²⁴ You know that you will receive from the Lord the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. ²⁵ For anyone who does unrighteousness will receive the penalty for the unrighteousness that he did, and there is no favoritism.

4

¹ Masters, give to slaves what is right and fair. You know that you also have a master in heaven.

² Continue steadfastly in prayer. Stay alert in it in thanksgiving.

³ Pray together for us also, that God would open a door for the word, to speak the secret truth of Christ. Because of this, I am chained up.

⁴ Pray that I may make it clear, as I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those outside, and redeem the time. ⁶ Let your words always be with grace. Let them be seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

⁷ As for the things concerning me, Tychicus will make them known to you. He is a beloved brother, a faithful servant, and fellow slave in the Lord. ⁸ I sent him to you for this, that you might know the matters about us, and so that he may encourage your hearts. * ⁹ I sent him together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that has happened here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, as well as Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received orders; if he comes to you, receive him), ¹¹ and also Jesus who is called Justus. These alone of the circumcision are my fellow workers for the kingdom of God. They have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras greets you. He is one of you and a slave of Christ Jesus. He always strives for you in prayer, so that you may stand complete and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear witness of him, that he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵ Greet the brothers in Laodicea, and Nympha, and the church that is in her house. ¹⁶ When this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ Say to Archippus, "Look to the ministry that you have received in the Lord, that you should fulfill it."

¹⁸ This greeting is with my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. May grace be with you.

* **4:8** Some older versions read, I sent him to you for this, that he might know the matters about you, and that he may encourage your hearts .

First Thessalonians

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be to you. *

² We always give thanks to God for all of you, as we mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember without ceasing before our God and Father your work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ Brothers loved by God, we know he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance. In the same way, you also know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ You became imitators of us and of the Lord, as you received the word in much hardship with joy from the Holy Spirit. ⁷ As a result, you became an example to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has rung out, and not only in Macedonia and Achaia—everywhere your faith in God has gone out. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it. ⁹ For they themselves report what kind of coming we had among you. They tell how you turned to God from the idols to serve the living and true God. ¹⁰ They report that you are waiting for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead. This is Jesus, who frees us from the wrath to come.

2

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not useless. ² You know that we previously suffered and were shamefully treated at Philippi. We were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much struggling. ³ For our exhortation was not from error, nor from impurity, nor from deceit. ⁴ Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be trusted with the gospel, so we speak. We speak, not to please men, but to please God. He is the one who examines our hearts. ⁵ For we never used words of flattery, as you know, nor as an excuse to cover up greed— God is our witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from people, either from you or from others. We could have claimed privileges as apostles of Christ. ⁷ Instead, we were as gentle among you as a mother comforting her own children. * ⁸ In this way we had affection for you. We were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives. For you had become very dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil. Night and day we were working so that we might not weigh down any of you. During that time, we preached to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy, righteous, and blameless was our behavior toward you who believe. ¹¹ In the same way you know how we dealt with each one of you as a father deals with his own children. ¹² We were begging you and encouraging and urging you to walk in

* **1:1** Some older versions read, May grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ .

* **2:7** Some other versions read, Instead, we were like babies among you, as when a mother comforts her own children .

a manner that is worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ For this reason we also thank God constantly. For when you received from us God's message that you heard, you accepted it not as the word of man. Instead, you received it as it truly is, the word of God. It is this word that is also at work among you who believe.

¹⁴ For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God that are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, as they did from the Jews. ¹⁵ It was the Jews who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets. It was the Jews who drove us out. They do not please God. Instead, they are hostile to all people. ¹⁶ They forbid us to speak to the Gentiles for them to be saved. The result is that they always fill up their own sins. Wrath must come on them in the end.

¹⁷ We were separated from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart. We were especially eager, with great desire, to see your face. ¹⁸ For we wished to come to you—I, Paul, wished to come to you once and again—but Satan stopped us. ¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of pride in front of our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you just as much as others? ²⁰ For you are our glory and our joy.

3

¹ Therefore, when we could no longer bear it, we thought it was good to be left behind at Athens alone. ² We sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker for God in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and comfort you regarding your faith. * ³ We did this so that no one would be shaken by these sufferings. For yourselves know that for this we have been appointed. ⁴ Truly, when we were with you, we told you in advance that we were about to suffer affliction, and that happened, as you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could no longer stand it, I sent that I might know about your faith. Perhaps the tempter had somehow tempted you, and our labor was in vain. ⁶ But Timothy came to us from you and brought us the good news of your faith and love. He told us that you always have good memories of us, and that you long to see us just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Because of this, brothers, we were comforted by you because of your faith, in all our distress and affliction. ⁸ For now we live, if you stand firm in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanks can we give to God for you, for all the joy that we have before our God over you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray very hard that we may see your face and provide what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ May our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you. ¹² May the Lord make you increase and abound in love one for another and toward all people, as we also do for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts, so that they will be blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

* **3:2** Some other versions read, We sent Timothy, our brother and God's servant in the gospel of Christ .

4

¹ Finally, brothers, we encourage and exhort you in the Lord Jesus. As you received instructions from us about how you must walk and please God, also in this way walk, so that you do so even more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification, that you avoid sexual immorality, ⁴ that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust (as the Gentiles who do not know God). ⁶ Let no man transgress and wrong his brother in this matter. For the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but to holiness. ⁸ Therefore, he who rejects this rejects not people, but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹ Regarding brotherly love, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. ¹⁰ Indeed, you do this for all the brothers who are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brothers, to do this even more. ¹¹ We also exhort you to aspire to live quietly, take care of your own responsibilities, and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and not be in any need.

¹³ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who sleep, so that you do not grieve like the rest who do not have hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left at the coming of the Lord, will surely not go before those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven. He will come with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will together with them be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. In this way we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

5

¹ Now concerning the times and seasons, brothers, you have no need that anything be written to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the Lord is coming like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "Peace and safety," then sudden destruction will come on them. It will be like birth pains in a pregnant woman. They will in no way escape. ⁴ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that the day would overtake you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not sons of the night or the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not sleep as the rest do. Instead, let us keep watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, we must stay sober and put on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation for our helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ It is he who died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

¹¹ Therefore comfort one another and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

¹² We ask you, brothers, to acknowledge those who labor among you and who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ We also ask you to regard them highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ We exhort you, brothers: Warn the disorderly, encourage the discouraged, help the weak, and be patient toward all. ¹⁵ See that no one pays back evil for evil to anyone. Instead, pursue what is good for one another and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things. Hold on to what is good. ²² Avoid every appearance of evil.

²³ May the God of peace make you completely holy. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved without blame for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is he who calls you, the one who will also do it.

²⁵ Brothers, pray also for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I solemnly charge you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

²⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Second Thessalonians

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ² May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We should always give thanks to God for you, brothers. For this is appropriate, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love each of you has for one another increases. ⁴ So we ourselves speak proudly about you among the churches of God. We talk about your patience and faith in all your persecutions. We talk about the afflictions that you endure. ⁵ This is a sign of God's righteous judgment. The result is that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God for which you suffer. ⁶ It is righteous for God to return affliction to those who afflict you, ⁷ and relief to you who are afflicted with us. He will do this at the appearing of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power. ⁸ In flaming fire he will take vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not respond to the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power. ¹⁰ He will do this when he comes on that day to be glorified by his people and to be marveled at by all those who believed. For our testimony to you was believed. ¹¹ Because of this we also pray continually for you. We pray that our God will consider you worthy of your calling. We pray that he will fulfill every desire of goodness and every work of faith with power. ¹² We pray these things so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified by you. We pray that you will be glorified by him, because of the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2

¹ Now about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to be with him, we ask you, brothers, ² that you not be easily disturbed or troubled, either by a spirit, by a message, or by a letter that seems to be coming from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not come until after the falling away comes, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. * ⁴ This is he who opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God or that is worshiped. As a result, he sits in the temple of God and exhibits himself as God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was with you I told you these things? ⁶ Now you know what restrains him, so that he will be revealed only at the right time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already working, only there is someone who restrains him now until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth. The Lord will bring him to nothing by the revelation of his coming. ⁹ The lawless one's coming will be due to the work of Satan with all power, signs, and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all deceit of unrighteousness. These things

* **2:3** Some older versions read, and the man of sin is revealed .

will be for those who are perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth for them to be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God is sending them a work of error so that they would believe a lie. ¹² The result is that they will all be judged, those who did not believe the truth but instead took pleasure in unrighteousness.

¹³ But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers loved by the Lord. For God chose you as the firstfruits for salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth. † ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold tightly to the traditions that you were taught, whether by word or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort and establish your hearts in every good work and word.

3

¹ Now, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may rush and be glorified, as it also is with you. ² Pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord about you, that you both do and will continue to do the things that we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you avoid every brother who lives a lazy life and does not live according to the traditions you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know it is proper for you to imitate us. We did not live among you as those who had no discipline. ⁸ We did not eat anyone's food without paying for it. Instead, we worked night and day in difficult labor and hardship, so we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this not because we have no authority. Instead, we did this in order to be an example to you, so that you may imitate us. ¹⁰ When we were with you, we commanded you, "The one who is unwilling to work must not eat." ¹¹ For we hear that some walk idly among you. They do not work but are instead meddlers. ¹² Now such ones we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they should work with quietness and eat their own food. ¹³ But you, brothers, do not become tired of doing what is right. ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our word in this letter, take note of him and have no association with him, so that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Do not consider him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

¹⁶ May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. May the Lord be with you all. ¹⁷ This is my greeting, Paul, with my own hand, which is the sign in every letter. This is how I write. ¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

† **2:13** Some other versions read, For God chose you from the first for salvation .

First Timothy

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope, ² to Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ As I urged you to do when I was leaving for Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you can command certain people not to teach a different doctrine. ⁴ Neither should they pay attention to stories and endless genealogies. These cause arguments rather than helping the plan of God, which is by faith. ⁵ Now the goal of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith. ⁶ Some people have missed the mark and have turned away from these things to foolish talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not understand what they are saying or what they so confidently affirm. ⁸ But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully. ⁹ We know this, that law is not made for a righteous man, but for a lawless and rebellious people, for ungodly people and sinners, and for those who are godless and profane. It is made for those who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for sexually immoral people, for homosexuals, for those who kidnap people for slaves, for liars, for false witnesses, and for whatever else is against faithful instruction. ¹¹ This instruction is according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord. He strengthened me, for he considered me faithful, and he placed me into service. ¹³ I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I received mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ But the grace of our Lord overflowed with faith and love that is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This message is reliable and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I am the worst of these. ¹⁶ But for this reason I was given mercy, so that in me, the foremost, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all patience. He did this as an example for those who would trust in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the king of the ages, the immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁸ I am placing this command before you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that you might fight the good fight, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have shipwrecked their faith. ²⁰ Such are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I gave over to Satan so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

2

¹ Therefore first of all, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable before God our savior. ⁴ He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge

of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator for God and man, the man Christ Jesus. ⁶ He gave himself as a ransom for all, as the testimony at the right time. ⁷ For this purpose, I myself, was made a herald and an apostle. I am telling the truth. I am not lying. I am a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸ Therefore, I want men in every place to pray and to lift up holy hands without anger or arguing. ⁹ Likewise, I want the women to dress themselves in proper clothing, with modesty and self-control. They should not have braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or expensive clothing. ¹⁰ I want them to dress with what is appropriate for women who profess godliness through good works. ¹¹ A woman should learn in silence and with all submission. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to live in quietness. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ However, she will be saved through bearing children, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with soundness of mind.

3

¹ This saying is trustworthy: If someone desires to be an overseer, he desires a good work. ² Therefore the overseer must be without reproach. He must be a husband of one wife. He must be moderate, sensible, orderly, and hospitable. He must be able to teach. ³ He must not be addicted to wine, not a brawler, but instead, gentle, peaceful. He must not be a lover of money. ⁴ He should manage his own household well, and his children should obey him with all respect. ⁵ For if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for a church of God? ⁶ He should not be a new convert, so that he does not swell with pride and might fall into condemnation as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with those outside, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the trap of the devil. ⁸ Deacons, likewise, should be dignified, not double-talkers. They should not drink too much wine or be greedy. ⁹ They should keep the revealed truth of the faith with a clean conscience. ¹⁰ They should also be approved first, then they should serve because they are blameless. ¹¹ Women in the same way should be dignified. They should not be slanderers. They should be moderate and faithful in all things. ¹² Deacons must be husbands of one wife. They must manage well their children and household. ¹³ For those who have served well acquire for themselves a good standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ I am writing these things to you, and I expect to come to you soon. ¹⁵ But if I delay, I am writing so that you may know how to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. ¹⁶ It is undeniable that the revealed truth of godliness is great:

“He appeared in the flesh,
 was justified by the Spirit,
 was seen by angels,
 was proclaimed among nations,
 was believed on in the world,
 and was taken up in glory.”

4

¹ Now the Spirit clearly says that in later times some people will leave the faith and pay attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons ²in lying hypocrisy. Their own consciences will be branded. ³ They will forbid to marry and to receive foods that God created for sharing with thanksgiving among those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good. Nothing that we take with thanksgiving is to be rejected. ⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

⁶ If you place these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ. For you are being nourished by the words of faith and by the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷ But reject worldly stories loved by old women. Instead, train yourself in godliness. ⁸ For bodily training is a little useful, but godliness is useful for all things. It holds promise for this life now and the life to come. ⁹ This message is trustworthy and worthy of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For it is for this that we struggle and work very hard. For we have hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, but especially of believers. ¹¹ Proclaim and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise your youth. Instead, be an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity. ¹³ Until I come, attend to the reading, to the exhortation, and to the teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the elders. ¹⁵ Care for these things. Be in them, so that your progress may be evident to all people. ¹⁶ Give careful attention to yourself and to the teaching. Continue in these things. For by doing so, you will save yourself and those who listen to you.

5

¹ Do not scold an older man. Instead, exhort him as if he were a father. Exhort younger men as if they were brothers. ² Exhort older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters in all purity. ³ Honor widows, the real widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show honor in their own household. Let them repay their parents, because this is pleasing to God. ⁵ But a real widow is left all alone. She puts her certain hope in God. She always remains with requests and prayers both night and day. ⁶ However, the woman who lives for pleasure is dead, even though she is still alive. ⁷ Give these instructions as well, so that they may be blameless. ⁸ But if someone does not provide for his own relatives, especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. ⁹ Let a woman be enrolled as a widow who is not younger than sixty, a wife of one husband. ¹⁰ She must be known for good deeds, whether it is that she has cared for children, or has been hospitable to strangers, or has washed the feet of the saints, or has relieved the afflicted, or has been devoted to every good work. ¹¹ But as for younger widows, refuse to enroll them in the list. For when they give in to bodily desires against Christ, they want to marry. ¹² In this way they incur guilt because they revoke their first commitment. ¹³ At the same time, they also learn to be lazy and they

go around from house to house. They not only become lazy, but they also talk nonsense and are busybodies, saying things they should not say. ¹⁴ I therefore want younger women to marry, to bear children, to manage the household, and to give no opportunity for the enemy to slander us. ¹⁵ For some have already turned aside after Satan. ¹⁶ If any believing woman has widows, let her help them, so that the church will not be weighed down, so that it might help the real widows.

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work with the word and in teaching. ¹⁸ For the scripture says, "You shall not put a muzzle on an ox while it treads the grain" and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." ¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder unless there are two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Correct sinners before all so that the rest may be afraid. ²¹ I solemnly command you before God and Christ Jesus and the chosen angels, to keep these commands without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. ²² Place hands hastily on no one. Do not share in the sins of another person. You should keep yourself pure. ²³ You should no longer drink water. Instead, you should take a little wine for the stomach and your frequent sicknesses. ²⁴ The sins of some people are openly known, and they go before them into judgment. But some sins follow later. ²⁵ Likewise, some good works are openly known, but even the others cannot be hidden.

6

¹ Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor. They should do this so that the name of God and the teaching might not be blasphemed. ² The slaves who have believing masters should not disrespect them because they are brothers. Instead, they should serve them all the more. For the masters who are helped by their work are believers and are loved. Teach and declare these things.

³ If anyone teaches something that does not agree with the reliable instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴ he is proud and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments about words that result in envy, strife, insults, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant conflict between people with depraved minds. They have lost the truth and they think that godliness is a way to get more money. * ⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world. Neither are we able to take out anything. ⁸ Instead, let us be satisfied with food and clothing. ⁹ Now those who want to become wealthy fall into temptation, into a trap. They fall into many foolish and harmful passions, and into whatever else makes people sink into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people who desire it have been misled away from the faith and have pierced themselves with much grief.

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the

* **6:5** Some old copies add, Withdraw from such things, but the best ancient copies do not.

good fight of faith. Take hold of the everlasting life to which you were called, and about which you gave the good confession before many witnesses. ¹³ I give you this command before God, who causes all things to live, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke what is true to Pontius Pilate: ¹⁴ Keep the commandment without spot or blame until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will reveal Christ's appearing at the right time—God, the blessed and only Sovereign, the King who reigns and the Lord who rules. ¹⁶ Only he has immortality and dwells in inapproachable light. No man sees him or is able to view him. To him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

¹⁷ Tell the rich in this world not to be proud, and not to hope in riches, which are uncertain. Instead, they should hope in God. He offers to us all the true riches to enjoy. ¹⁸ Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, and willing to share. ¹⁹ In that way, they will store up for themselves a good foundation for what is to come, so that they will take hold of real life.

²⁰ Timothy, protect what was given to you. Avoid the foolish talk and conflicting ideas of what is falsely called knowledge. ²¹ Some men proclaim these things and so they have missed the faith. May grace be with you.

Second Timothy

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, ² to Timothy, beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers, with a clean conscience, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been reminded of your genuine faith, which lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it lives in you also. ⁶ This is the reason I am reminding you to rekindle the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me, Paul, his prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God. ⁹ It is God who saved us and called us with a holy calling. He did this, not according to our works, but according to his own plan and grace. He gave us these things in Christ Jesus before times ever began. ¹⁰ But now God's salvation has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus. It is Christ who put an end to death and brought life that never ends to light through the gospel. ¹¹ Because of this, I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher. * ¹² For this cause I also suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, for I know him whom I have believed. I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have entrusted to him until that day. ¹³ Keep the example of faithful messages that you heard from me, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ The good thing that God committed to you, guard it through the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

¹⁵ You know this, that all who live in Asia turned away from me. In this group are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain. ¹⁷ Instead, when he was in Rome, he sought me diligently, and he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant to him to find mercy from him on that day. All the ways he helped me in Ephesus, you know very well.

2

¹ You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² The things you heard from me among many witnesses, entrust them to faithful people who will be able to teach others also. ³ Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier serves while entangled in the affairs of this life, so that he may please his superior officer. ⁵ Also, if someone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes by the rules. ⁶ It is necessary that the hardworking farmer receive his share of the crops first. ⁷ Think

* **1:11** Some older versions add, to the Gentiles .

about what I am saying, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. ⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, from David's seed, who was raised from the dead. This is according to my gospel message, ⁹ for which I am suffering to the point of being bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ This is a trustworthy saying:

"If we have died with him, we will also live with him.

¹² If we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we deny him, he also will deny us.

¹³ If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself."

¹⁴ Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. * ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no reason to be ashamed, who accurately teaches the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid profane talk, which leads to more and more godlessness. ¹⁷ Their talk will spread like cancer. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have gone astray from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already happened, and they destroy the faith of some. ¹⁹ However, the firm foundation of God stands. It has this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his" and "Everyone who names the name of the Lord must depart from unrighteousness." ²⁰ In a wealthy home, there are not only containers of gold and silver. There are also containers of wood and clay. Some of these are for honorable use, and some for dishonorable. ²¹ If someone cleans himself from dishonorable use, he is an honorable container. He is set apart, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work. ²² Flee youthful lusts. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord out of a clean heart. ²³ But refuse foolish and ignorant questions. You know that they give birth to arguments. ²⁴ The Lord's servant must not quarrel. Instead he must be gentle toward all, able to teach, and patient. ²⁵ He must in meekness educate those who oppose him. God may perhaps give them repentance for the knowledge of the truth. ²⁶ They may become sober again and leave the devil's trap, after they have been captured by him for his will.

3

¹ But know this: In the last days there will be difficult times. ² For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, and unholy. ³ They will be without natural affection, unable to reconcile, slanderers, without self-control, violent, not lovers of good. ⁴ They will be betrayers, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. ⁵ They will have a shape of godliness, but they will deny its power. Turn away from these people. ⁶ For some of them are men who enter into households and captivate foolish women. These are women who are heaped up with sins and are led away by various desires.

* **2:14** Some versions read, Warn them before the Lord .

⁷ These women are always learning, but they are never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ In the same way that Jannes and Jambres stood against Moses, these false teachers also stand against the truth. They are men corrupt in mind, and with regard to the faith they are proven to be false. ⁹ But they will not advance very far. For their foolishness will be obvious to all, just like that of those men. ¹⁰ But as for you, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings, and what happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. I endured persecutions. Out of them all, the Lord rescued me. ¹² All those who want to live in a godly manner in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ Evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, leading others and themselves astray. ¹⁴ But as for you, remain in the things that you have learned and have firmly believed. You know from whom you have learned. ¹⁵ You know that from childhood you have known the sacred writings. These are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture has been inspired by God. It is profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness. ¹⁷ This is so that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

4

¹ I give this solemn command before God and Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and because of his appearing and his kingdom: ² Preach the word; be ready when it is convenient and when it is not. Reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and teaching. ³ For the time will come when people will not endure sound teaching. Instead, they will heap up for themselves teachers according to their own desires, who say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their hearing away from the truth, and they will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober-minded in all things. Suffer hardship; do the work of an evangelist; fulfill your service. ⁶ For I am already being poured out. The time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have competed in the good contest; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ The crown of righteousness has been reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly. ¹⁰ For Demas has left me. He loves this present world and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia, and Titus went to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you because he is useful to me in the work. ¹² Tychicus I sent to Ephesus. ¹³ The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, bring it when you come, and the books, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith displayed many evil deeds against me. The Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ You also should guard yourself against him, because he greatly opposed our words. ¹⁶ At my first defense, no one stood with me. Instead, everyone left me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me so that, through me, the message might be fully proclaimed, and that all the Gentiles might hear it; and

that I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and will save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹ Greet Priscilla, Aquila, and the house of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers.

²² May the Lord be with your spirit. May grace be with you.

Titus

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's chosen people and the knowledge of the truth that agrees with godliness, ² with the certain hope of everlasting life that God, who does not lie, promised before all the ages of time. ³ At the right time, he revealed his word by the message that he trusted me to deliver. I was to do this by the command of God our savior. ⁴ To Titus, a true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our savior.

⁵ For this purpose I left you in Crete, that you might set in order things not yet complete and ordain elders in every city as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be without blame, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who do not have the reputation of being reckless or undisciplined. ⁷ It is necessary for the overseer, as God's household manager, to be blameless. He must not be arrogant, not be easily angered, not addicted to wine, not a brawler, and not a greedy man. ⁸ Instead, he should be hospitable and a friend of what is good. He must be sensible, righteous, godly, and self-controlled. ⁹ He should hold tightly to the trustworthy message that was taught, so that he may be able to encourage others with good teaching and correct those who oppose him.

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision. ¹¹ It is necessary to stop them. They are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful profit what they should not teach. ¹² One of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This statement is true. Therefore, correct them severely, so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not paying any attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To those who are pure, all things are pure. But to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their minds and their consciences have been corrupted. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but they deny him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for doing any good work.

2

¹ But you, speak what fits with faithful instruction. ² Teach older men to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, and in perseverance. ³ Teach older women likewise to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or being slaves to much wine, but to be teachers of what is good. ⁴ In this way they may train the younger women to love their own husbands and children, ⁵ to be sensible, pure, good housekeepers, and obedient to their own husbands. They should do these things so that God's word may not be insulted. ⁶ In the same way, encourage the younger men to use good sense. ⁷ In all ways present yourself as an example of good works. In your teaching, show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and a correct message, so that anyone who opposes you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say

about us. ⁹ Teach slaves to obey their masters in everything, to please them and not argue with them, ¹⁰ to not steal from them, but instead to demonstrate all good faith, so that in every way they may bring credit to the teaching about God our Savior. ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all people. ¹² It trains us to reject godlessness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this age, ¹³ while we look forward to receiving our blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ Jesus gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all lawlessness and to make pure, for himself, a special people who are eager to do good works.

¹⁵ Speak of these things, encourage people to do them, and give correction with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

3

¹ Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them, to be ready for every good work, ² to revile no one, to not be eager to fight, and to be gentle, showing all humility toward everyone. ³ For once we ourselves were thoughtless and disobedient. We were led astray and enslaved by various passions and pleasures. We lived in evil and envy. We were detestable and hated one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our savior and his love for mankind appeared, ⁵ it was not by works of righteousness that we did, but by his mercy that he saved us. He saved us through the washing of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ God richly poured the Holy Spirit on us through our Savior Jesus Christ, ⁷ so that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs with the certain hope of eternal life. ⁸ This message is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to engage themselves in good works. These things are good and useful for everyone. ⁹ But avoid foolish debates and genealogies and strife and conflict about the law. Those things are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ Reject anyone who is causing divisions among you, after one or two warnings, ¹¹ knowing that such a person has turned from the right way and is sinning and condemns himself.

¹² When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, hurry and come to me at Nicopolis, where I have decided to spend the winter. ¹³ Do everything you can to send on their way Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so that they lack nothing. ¹⁴ Our people must learn to engage themselves in good works that provide for urgent needs, and so not be unfruitful.

¹⁵ All those who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in faith. Grace be with all of you.

Philemon

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and the brother Timothy to Philemon, our dear friend and fellow worker, ² and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home. ³ May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God. I mention you in my prayers. ⁵ I have heard of the love and the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the believers. ⁶ I pray that the fellowship of your faith may be effective for the knowledge of everything good that is among us in Christ. ⁷ For I have had much joy and comfort because of your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.

⁸ Therefore, although I have all the boldness in Christ to command you to do what you should do, ⁹ yet because of love, I appeal to you instead—I, Paul, an old man, and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am asking you concerning my child Onesimus, whom I have fathered in my chains. ¹¹ For he once was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. ¹² I have sent him back to you, he who is my very heart. ¹³ I wish I could have kept him with me, so he could serve me for you, while I am in chains for the sake of the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent. I did not want your good deed to be from necessity but from good will. ¹⁵ Perhaps for this he was separated from you for a time, so that you might have him back forever. ¹⁶ No longer would he be a slave, but better than a slave, a beloved brother. He is beloved especially to me, and much more so to you, in both the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you have me as a partner, receive him as me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I myself will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your own self! ²⁰ Yes, brother, do me a favor in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident about your obedience, I am writing to you. I know that you will do even more than I ask. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given back to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you. ²⁴ So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Hebrews

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in many ways. ² But in these last days, he has spoken to us through a Son, whom he appointed to be the heir of all things. It is through him that God also made the universe. ³ He is the brightness of God's glory, the exact representation of his being. He even holds everything together by the word of his power. After he had made cleansing for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴ He has become just as superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than their name. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my son,
today I have become your father"?
Or to which of the angels did God ever say,
"I will be a father to him,
and he will be a son to me"?

⁶ But again, when God brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "All God's angels must worship him." ⁷ About the angels he says, "He is the one who makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."

⁸ But to the Son he says,
"Your throne, God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of justice.
⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of joy more than your companions."

¹⁰ "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the earth's foundation.
The heavens are the work of your hands.

¹¹ They will perish, but you will continue.
They will all wear out like a piece of clothing.

¹² You will roll them up like a cloak,
and they will be changed like a piece of clothing.
But you are the same,
and your years do not end."

¹³ But to which of the angels has God said at any time,
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a stool for your feet"?

¹⁴ Are not all angels spirits who serve, and who are sent to care for those who will inherit salvation?

2

¹ Therefore we must give far more attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ² For if the message that was spoken through the angels proved to be so reliable, and every trespass and disobedience receives just punishment, ³ how then can we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This is salvation that was first announced by the Lord and confirmed to us by those who heard it. ⁴ At the same time God testified to it by signs, wonders, and

various powerful deeds, and by distributing the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to his will.

⁵ For it was not to the angels that God subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ Instead, someone has somewhere testified, saying,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him?

Or a son of man, that you care for him?

⁷ You made man a little lower than the angels;

you crowned him with glory and honor. *

⁸ You put everything in subjection under his feet.”

For it was to him that God has subjected all things. He did not leave anything not subjected to him. But now we do not yet see everything subjected to him. ⁹ But we see him who was made lower than the angels for a little while, Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of his suffering and death, so that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ For it was proper for God, because everything exists for him and through him, to bring many sons to glory. It was proper for him to make the leader of their salvation complete through his sufferings. ¹¹ For both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have one source. So he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹² He says,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers,

I will sing about you from inside the assembly.”

¹³ And again,

“I will trust in him.”

And again,

“See, here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children of God share flesh and blood, Jesus also shared the same things with them, so that through death he would do away with the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

¹⁵ This was so that he would free all those who through fear of death lived all their lives in slavery. ¹⁶ For of course it is not with angels that he is concerned; instead, it is with the seed of Abraham that he is concerned. ¹⁷ So it was necessary for him to become like his brothers in all ways, so that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in relation to the things of God, and so that he would bring about the pardon of the people's sins. ¹⁸ Because Jesus himself has suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

3

¹ Therefore, holy brothers, you share in a heavenly calling. Think about Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession. ² He was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses was also faithful in God's house. ³ For Jesus has been considered worthy of greater glory than Moses, because the one who builds a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God. ⁵ For Moses was faithful as a servant in God's entire house, bearing witness about the things that were to be spoken of in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a Son who is in charge of

* 2:7 Some older version add, and you have put him over the works of your hands .

God's house. We are his house if we hold fast to our courage and the hope of which we boast. ⁷ Therefore, it is just as the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you hear his voice

⁸ do not harden your hearts

as in the rebellion,

in the time of testing in the wilderness.

⁹ This was when your ancestors rebelled by testing me, and when, during forty years, they saw my deeds.

¹⁰ Therefore I was displeased with that generation.

I said, 'They have always gone astray in their hearts.

They have not known my ways.'

¹¹ It is just as I swore in my anger:

'They will never enter my rest.'

¹² Be careful, brothers, so that among you there will not be anyone with an evil heart of unbelief, a heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ Instead, encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "today," so that no one among you will be hardened by the

deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partners of Christ if we firmly hold to our confidence in him from the beginning to the end.

¹⁵ About this it has been said,

"Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts,

as in the rebellion."

¹⁶ Who was it who heard God and rebelled? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt through Moses? ¹⁷ With whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ To whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if it was not to those who disobeyed him? ¹⁹ We see that they were not able to enter his rest because of unbelief.

4

¹ Therefore, let us be very careful so that none of you might seem to have failed to reach the promise left behind for you to enter God's rest.

² For we were told the good news just as they were. But that message did not benefit those who did not unite in faith with those who obeyed.

* ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, just as he said,

"As I swore in my wrath,

They will never enter my rest."

Even so, his works were finished from the foundation of the world.

⁴ For he has somewhere spoken about the seventh day:

"And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." ⁵ And again in this same passage he said,

"They will never enter my rest."

⁶ Therefore, because it is still reserved for some to enter his rest, and since many Israelites who heard the good news did not enter it because of disobedience, ⁷ God has again set a certain day calling it

"Today." After many days, he spoke through David, as it was earlier said,

"Today if you hear his voice,

* **4:2** Other versions read, But that message did not benefit those who heard it without joining faith to it.

do not harden your hearts.”

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken about another day. ⁹ Therefore there is still a Sabbath rest reserved for God's people. ¹⁰ For he who enters into God's rest has himself also rested from his deeds, just as God did from his. ¹¹ Therefore let us be eager to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the kind of disobedience that they did. ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to the division of soul from spirit, and joints from marrow. It is able to know the heart's thoughts and intentions. ¹³ Nothing created is hidden before God. Instead, everything is bare and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account.

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us firmly hold to our beliefs. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. Instead, we have someone who has in all ways been tempted as we are, except that he is without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then go with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

5

¹ For every high priest, chosen from among people, is appointed to act on the behalf of people in the things concerning God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can deal gently with those who are ignorant and who have been deceived, because he himself is subject to weakness. ³ Because of this, he also is required to offer sacrifices for his own sins, just as he does for the people's sins. ⁴ It is not for himself that anyone takes this honor. Instead, he is called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ In the same way, neither did Christ honor himself by making himself high priest. Instead, the one speaking to him said,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”

⁶ It is just as he also says in another place,
“You are a priest forever
after the manner of Melchizedek.”

⁷ During the days of his flesh, Christ offered up both prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God, the one able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his godly life. ⁸ Even though he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. ⁹ He was made perfect and became, for everyone who obeys him, the cause of eternal salvation. ¹⁰ He was designated by God as high priest after the manner of Melchizedek.

¹¹ We have much to say about Jesus, but it is hard to explain since you have become dull in hearing. ¹² For though by this time you should be teachers, you still have need for someone to teach you the basic principles of God's messages. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ For anyone who only takes milk is inexperienced with the message of righteousness, because he is still a little child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for adults. These are those who because of their maturity have their understanding trained for distinguishing good from evil.

6

¹ So then, let us leave the beginning of the message of Christ and move forward to maturity. Let us not lay again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God, ² nor the foundation of teaching about baptisms, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ We will also do this if God permits. ⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, who were sharers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and who tasted God's good word and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ but who then fell away—it is impossible to restore them again to repentance. This is because they crucify the Son of God for themselves again, and publicly shame him. ⁷ For the land that drinks in the rain that often comes on it, and that gives birth to the plants useful to those for whom the land was worked—this is the land that receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and is near to a curse. Its end is in burning.

⁹ But we are convinced about better things concerning you, beloved ones, things that concern salvation, even though we speak like this. ¹⁰ For God is not so unjust that he would forget your work and the love that you have shown for his name, because you served the believers and still serve them. ¹¹ We greatly desire that each of you may show the same diligence to the end, in order to make your hope certain. ¹² This is so that you will not become lazy, but imitators of those who by faith and patience inherit the promises.

¹³ For when God made his promise to Abraham, he swore by himself, since he could not swear by anyone greater. ¹⁴ He said, "I will certainly bless you, and I will greatly increase you." ¹⁵ In this way, Abraham obtained what was promised after he had patiently waited. ¹⁶ For people swear by someone greater than themselves. At the end of each of their disputes, an oath serves as confirmation. ¹⁷ When God decided to show more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable quality of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath. ¹⁸ He did this so that by two unchangeable things—with which it is impossible for God to lie—we, who have fled for refuge, will have a strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a secure and reliable anchor for the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, who went before us, has entered into that place on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

7

¹ It was this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him. ² It was to him that Abraham gave a tenth of everything. His name "Melchizedek" means "king of righteousness." His other title is "king of Salem," that is, "king of peace." ³ He is without father, without mother, without ancestors, with neither beginning of days nor end of life. Instead, he resembles the Son of God, because he remains a priest forever.

⁴ See how great this man was to whom the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the things that he had taken in battle. ⁵ The sons of Levi who

receive the priesthood have a command from the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, even though they, too, have come from Abraham's body. ⁶ But Melchizedek, whose descent was not traced from them, received tithes from Abraham, and blessed him, the one who had the promises. ⁷ There is no denying that the lesser person is blessed by the greater person. ⁸ In this case, mortal men receive tithes, but in that case it is testified that he lives on. ⁹ And, in a manner of speaking, Levi, who received tithes, also paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ because Levi was in the body of his ancestor when Melchizedek met Abraham.

¹¹ Now if perfection were possible through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the manner of Melchizedek, and not be considered to be after the manner of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must also be changed. ¹³ For the one about whom these things are said belongs to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ Now clearly, it is from Judah that our Lord was born, a tribe that Moses never mentioned concerning priests. ¹⁵ What we say is clearer yet if another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek. ¹⁶ It was not based on the law of fleshly descent that he became a priest, but instead was based on the power of an everlasting life. ¹⁷ For scripture witnesses about him:

"You are a priest forever
after the manner of Melchizedek."

¹⁸ For the former regulation is set aside because it is weak and useless, ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, through which we come near to God. ²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest when God said to him,

"The Lord has sworn and he will not change his mind:
'You are a priest forever.'"

²² By this also Jesus has given the guarantee of a better covenant. ²³ The former priests were many in number, since death prevented them from continuing in office. ²⁴ But because Jesus continues to live forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is also able to save completely those who approach God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. ²⁶ For such a high priest is suitable for us. He is sinless, blameless, pure, separated from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens. ²⁷ He does not need, unlike the high priests, to offer up daily sacrifices, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He did this once for all, when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses. But the word of the oath, which came after the law, appointed a Son, who has been made perfect forever.

8

¹ Now the point of what we are saying is this: We have a high priest who has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. ² He is a servant in the holy place, the true tabernacle that the Lord, not a man, set up. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer

both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary to have something to offer. ⁴ Now if Christ were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the law. ⁵ They serve in a tabernacle that is a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. It is just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to construct the tabernacle: God said, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain.” ⁶ But now Christ has received a much better ministry, just as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which is based on better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant. ⁸ For when God found fault with the people, he said, “See, the days are coming—says the Lord—

when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

⁹ It will not be like the covenant
that I made with their ancestors
on the day that I took them by their hand
to lead them out of the land of Egypt.
For they did not carefully obey my covenant,
and I disregarded them
—says the Lord.

¹⁰ This is the covenant
that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days
—says the Lord.

I will put my laws into their minds,
and I will also write them on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

¹¹ They will not teach each one his neighbor
and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord.’
For they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful toward their evil deeds,
and their sins I will not remember any longer.”

¹³ By calling this covenant “new,” he declared the first covenant to be old, and what has become old and obsolete will soon disappear.

9

¹ Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared. The first room, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the presence, was called the holy place. ³ Behind the second curtain was another room, called the most holy place. ⁴ It had a golden altar for incense. It also had the ark of the covenant, which was completely overlaid with gold. Inside it was a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark of the covenant, glorious cherubim overshadowed the atonement lid, which we cannot now talk about in detail. ⁶ After these things were prepared, the priests always entered the outer room of the tabernacle to perform their services. ⁷ But only the high priest entered the second room once each year, and not without blood that he offered for himself and

for the people's unintentional sins. ⁸ The Holy Spirit showed that the way into the most holy place had not yet appeared as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ This was an illustration for the present time. Both the gifts and sacrifices that are now being offered are not able to perfect the worshiper's conscience. ¹⁰ They are only concerned with food and drink and various ceremonial washings, regulations for the body until the time of the new order.

¹¹ Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come. He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that was not made by human hands, one not belonging to this created world. * ¹² It was not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood that he entered into the most holy place once for all and secured our eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes on those who have become unclean sets them apart to God for the cleansing of their flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant. This is so that, since a death has taken place to free those under the first covenant from their sins, those who are called will receive the promise of an eternal inheritance. ¹⁶ For where there is a will, the death of the person who made it must be proven. ¹⁷ For a will is only in force when there has been a death, because it has no force while the one who made it is still alive. ¹⁸ So not even the first covenant was established without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had given every command in the law to all the people, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water, red wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people. ²⁰ Then he said, "This is the blood of the covenant that God has commanded for you." ²¹ In the same manner, he sprinkled the blood on the tabernacle and all the containers used in the service. ²² According to the law, almost everything is cleansed with blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

²³ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in heaven should be cleansed with these animal sacrifices. However, the heavenly things themselves had to be cleansed with much better sacrifices. ²⁴ For Christ did not enter into the most holy place made with hands, which is only a copy of the true one. Instead he entered into heaven itself, to appear now in God's presence for us. ²⁵ He did not go there in order to offer himself many times, as does the high priest, who enters the most holy place year by year with the blood of another. ²⁶ If that had been the case, then he would have had to suffer many times since the beginning of the world. But now he has appeared at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so also, Christ was offered once to take away the sins of many, and will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but for the salvation of those who are waiting for him.

* **9:11** Other versions read, Christ came as a high priest of the good things that are to come

10

¹ For the law is only a shadow of the good things to come, not the real forms of those things themselves. Those who approach God can never be made perfect by the same sacrifices that the priests continually bring year after year. ² Otherwise, would the sacrifices not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed one time and would no longer have any consciousness of sin. ³ But with those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings
 you did not desire,
 but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you did not take pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, here I am—
 as it is written about me in the scroll—
 to do your will.’”

⁸ First he said, “It was neither sacrifices, nor offerings, nor whole burnt offerings, nor sacrifices for sin that you desired. Nor did you take pleasure in them.” These are sacrifices that are offered according to the law. ⁹ Then he said, “See, here I am to do your will.” He takes away the first practice in order to establish the second practice. ¹⁰ By that will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his service to God. He offers the same sacrifices again and again—sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³ He is waiting until his enemies are made a stool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us. First he said,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them
 after those days, says the Lord.
 I will put my laws in their hearts,
 and I will write them on their minds.
¹⁷ Their sins and lawless deeds
 I will remember no longer.”

¹⁸ Now where there is forgiveness for these, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, we have confidence to enter into the most holy place by the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ That is the new and living way that he has opened for us through the curtain, that is, by means of his flesh. ²¹ Because we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with true hearts in the full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us also hold tightly to the confession of our hope without wavering, because God, who has promised, is faithful. ²⁴ Let us consider how to motivate one another to love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not stop meeting together, as some have done. Instead, encourage one another more and more, and all the more as you see the day coming closer.

²⁶ For if we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, a sacrifice for sins no longer exists. ²⁷ Instead, there is only a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume God's enemies. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected the law of Moses dies without mercy at the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment do you think one deserves who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, who treated the blood of the covenant as unholy—the blood by which he was sanctified—and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know the one who said, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will pay back." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!

³² But remember the former days, after you were enlightened, how you endured a great struggle in suffering. ³³ You were exposed to public ridicule by insults and persecution, and you were sharing with those who went through such suffering. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those who were prisoners, and you accepted with joy the seizure of your possessions. You knew that you yourselves had a better and everlasting possession. * ³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you need patience, so that you may receive what God has promised, after you have done his will.

³⁷ "For in a very little while, the one who is coming will indeed come and not delay.

³⁸ My righteous one will live by faith. If he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

³⁹ But we are not any of those who turn back to destruction. Instead, we are some of those who have faith for keeping our soul.

11

¹ Now faith is being sure of the things hoped for and certain of things that are not seen. ² For because of this the ancestors were approved for their faith. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by God's command, so that what is visible was not made out of things that were visible. ⁴ It was by faith that Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he was attested to be righteous, and God spoke well of him because of his offerings, and by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵ It was by faith that Enoch was taken up so that he did not see death. "He was not found, because God took him." For before he was taken up, it was testified that he had pleased God. ⁶ Now without faith it is impossible to please him. For it is necessary that anyone coming to God must believe that he exists and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him. ⁷ It was by faith that Noah, having been given a divine message about things not yet seen, with godly reverence built a ship to save his household. By doing this, he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith. ⁸ It was by faith that Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to the place that he was to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ It was

* **10:34** Some older versions read, For you had compassion on me in my chains .

by faith that he lived in the land of promise as a foreigner. He lived in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ It was by faith, even though Sarah herself was barren, that Abraham received ability to father a child. This happened even though he was too old, since he considered as faithful the one who had given the promise. * ¹² Therefore, from this one man—and he was almost dead—were born descendants as many as the stars in the sky and as countless as sand by the seashore. ¹³ It was in faith that all these died without receiving the promises. Instead, after seeing and greeting them from far off, they admitted that they were foreigners and exiles on earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has prepared a city for them. ¹⁷ It was by faith that Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac. It was his only son whom he offered, he who had received the promises. ¹⁸ It was Abraham to whom it had been said, “It is through Isaac that your descendants will be named.” ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God was able to raise up Isaac from the dead, and figuratively speaking, it was from them that he received him back. ²⁰ It was also by faith about things to come that Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. ²¹ It was by faith that Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons. Jacob worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² It was by faith that Joseph, when his end was near, spoke of the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt and instructed them about his bones. ²³ It was by faith that Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child. They were not afraid of the king's command. ²⁴ It was by faith that Moses, after he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ Instead, he chose to suffer with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a while. ²⁶ He reasoned that the disgrace of following Christ was greater riches than Egypt's treasures. For he was fixing his eyes on his reward. ²⁷ It was by faith that Moses left Egypt. He did not fear the king's anger, for he endured as if he were seeing the one who is invisible. ²⁸ It was by faith that he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch the Israelites' firstborn sons. ²⁹ It was by faith that they passed through the Sea of Reeds as if over dry land. When the Egyptians tried to do this, they were swallowed up. ³⁰ It was by faith that Jericho's walls fell down, after they had been circled around for seven days. ³¹ It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute did not die with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³² What more can I say? For the time will fail me if I tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and about

* **11:11** There is some question about whether it was Abraham's faith or Sarah's faith that was in view. By faith Sarah, though she was old, received the power to have a child, even though she was too old to bear a child, since she considered the one who gave the promise to be faithful.

the prophets. ³³ It was through faith that they conquered kingdoms, worked justice, and received promises. They stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ extinguished the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were healed of illnesses, became mighty in battle, and defeated foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might experience a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others had testing in mocking and whippings, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned. They were sawn in two. They were killed with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins. They were destitute, oppressed, mistreated. † ³⁸ The world was not worthy of them. They were always wandering about in the deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ Although all these people were approved by God because of their faith, they did not receive the promise. ⁴⁰ God planned something better for us, so that without us, they would not be made perfect.

12

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a large cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and easily entangling sin. Let us patiently run the race that is placed before us. ² Let us pay attention to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of the faith. For the joy that was placed before him, he endured the cross, despised its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ So think about him, the one who has endured such opposition from sinners against himself, so that you do not become weary in your hearts and give up.

⁴ You have not yet resisted or struggled against sin to the point of blood; ⁵ and you have forgotten the encouragement that instructs you as sons:

“My son, do not think lightly of the Lord's discipline, nor grow weary when you are corrected by him.”

⁶ For the Lord disciplines everyone whom he loves, and he punishes every son whom he receives.

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline. God deals with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, which all people share in, then you are illegitimate and not his sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a short time as they thought best. But God disciplines us for our good, so that we can share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. But later it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. ¹² So strengthen your hands that hang down and your weak knees. ¹³ Make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame will not be sprained but rather be healed.

¹⁴ Pursue peace with everyone, and also the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ Be careful so that no one lacks God's grace, and that no root of bitterness grows up to cause trouble, so that many do not become polluted by it. ¹⁶ Be careful that there be no sexually

† **11:37** Some older versions read, They were stoned. They were sawn in two. They were put to the test. They were killed with the sword .

immoral or ungodly person such as Esau, who for one meal sold his own birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, because he found no opportunity for repentance, even though he sought it with tears.

¹⁸ For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched, a mountain of burning fire, darkness, gloom, and storm. ¹⁹ You have not come to a trumpet blast, nor to a voice that speaks words whose hearers begged that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." * ²¹ So fearful was this sight that Moses said, "I am terrified and am trembling." ²² Instead, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to tens of thousands of angels in celebration. ²³ You have come to the congregation of the firstborn, who have been registered in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous ones who have been made perfect. ²⁴ You have come to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel's blood. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we turn away from the one who is warning from heaven. ²⁶ At one time, his voice shook the earth. But now he has promised and said, "One more time I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens." ²⁷ These words, "One more time," mean the removal of those things that can be shaken, that is, of the things that have been created, so that the things that cannot be shaken will remain. ²⁸ Therefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be grateful and in this manner worship God with reverence and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

13

¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget hospitality for strangers. For through this, some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³ Remember prisoners, as if you were bound with them. Remember those who are mistreated, as if you also were them in the body. ⁴ Let marriage be respected by everyone. Let the marriage bed be pure, for God will judge the sexually immoral people and adulterers. ⁵ Let your conduct be free from the love of money. Be content with the things you have, for God himself has said, "I will never leave you, nor will I forsake you." ⁶ Let us be content so that we may have courage to say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."

What can a man do to me?"

⁷ Consider your leaders, those who spoke God's word to you, and consider the result of their conduct. Imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by various strange teachings. For it is good that the heart should be strengthened by grace, not by foods that do not help those who walk by them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve in

* **12:20** Some older versions read, If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned or shot with an arrow .

the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the blood of the animals killed for sins is brought by the high priest into the holy place, while their bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the city gate, in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Let us therefore go to him outside the camp, bearing his shame. ¹⁴ For we do not have any permanent city here. Instead, we are looking for one that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us always offer up sacrifices of praise to God, praise that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Let us not forget doing good and helping one another, for it is with such sacrifices that God is very pleased. ¹⁷ Obey and submit to your leaders, for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give account. Obey so that your leaders will do this with joy, and not with groaning, which would be useless to you.

¹⁸ Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a clean conscience and that we desire to live rightly in all things. ¹⁹ I encourage you even more to do this, so that I will be returned to you sooner.

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen.

²² Now I encourage you, brothers, to bear with the word of encouragement that I have briefly written to you. ²³ Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I will see you if he comes soon.

²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the believers. Those from Italy greet you.

²⁵ May grace be with you all.

James

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion: Greetings! ² Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you experience various troubles. ³ You know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ Let endurance complete its work, so that you may become fully developed and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ But if any of you needs wisdom, let him ask for it from God, the one who gives generously and without rebuke to all who ask, and he will give it to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea that is driven by the wind and tossed around. ⁷ For that person must not think that he will receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the poor brother boast of his high position, ¹⁰ but the rich man of his low position, because he will pass away as a wild flower in the grass. ¹¹ For the sun rises with burning heat and dries up the grass. The flower falls off, and its beauty perishes. In the same way, the rich man will fade away in the middle of his journey. ¹² Blessed is the man who endures testing. For after he has passed the test, he will receive the crown of life, which has been promised to those who love God. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God," because God is not tempted by evil, nor does he himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted by his own desire, which drags him away and entices him. ¹⁵ Then after the desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and after the sin is full grown, it gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. It comes down from the Father of lights. With him there is no changing or shadow because of turning. ¹⁸ God chose to give us birth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of all the things that he created. ¹⁹ You know this, my beloved brothers: Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. ²⁰ For the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore take off all sinful filth and abundant amounts of evil. In humility receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² Be doers of the word and not only hearers, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word but not a doer, he is like a man who examines his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ He examines himself and then goes away and immediately forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the person who looks carefully into the perfect law of freedom, and continues to do so, not just being a hearer who forgets, this man will be blessed in his actions. ²⁶ If anyone thinks himself to be religious, but if he does not control his tongue, he deceives his heart, and his religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and unspoiled before our God and Father is to help the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

2

¹ My brothers, do not hold to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Lord of glory, with favoritism toward certain people. ² Suppose that someone enters your meeting wearing gold rings and fine clothes, and there also enters a poor man in dirty clothes. ³ If you look at the person wearing fine clothes and say, "You sit here in a good place," but you say to the poor man, "You stand over there" or "Sit at my feet," ⁴ are you not judging among yourselves? Have you not become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, did not God choose the poor of the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you? Are they not the ones who drag you to court? ⁷ Do they not insult the good name by which you have been called? ⁸ If, however, you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. ⁹ But if you favor certain people, you are committing sin, and you are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever obeys the whole law, except that he stumbles in just a single way, has become guilty of breaking the whole law. ¹¹ For the one who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery, but if you do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. ¹² So speak and act as those who will be judged by means of the law of freedom. ¹³ For judgment comes without mercy to those who have shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ Suppose that a brother or sister is badly clothed and lacks food for the day. ¹⁶ Suppose that one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm and be filled." If you do not give them the things necessary for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ In the same way faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ Yet someone may say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God; you do well. But even the demons believe that, and they tremble. ²⁰ Do you want to know, foolish man, that faith without works is useless? * ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith worked with his works, and that by works his faith was fully developed. ²³ The scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness," and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that it is by works that a man is justified, and not only by faith. ²⁵ In the same way also, was not Rahab the prostitute justified by works, when she welcomed the messengers and sent them away by another road? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.

3

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in words, he is a perfect man, able to control even his whole body. ³ Now if we put

* **2:20** Some older versions read, Do you want to know, foolish man, how it is that faith without works is dead?

bits into horses' mouths for them to obey us, we can also direct their whole bodies. ⁴ Notice also that ships, although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, are steered by a very small rudder to wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Likewise the tongue is a small body part, yet it boasts great things. Notice also how small a fire sets on fire a large forest. ⁶ The tongue is also a fire, a world of sinfulness set among our body parts. It stains the whole body and sets on fire the course of life. It is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of wild animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature is being tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we praise the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things should not happen. ¹¹ Does a spring pour out from its opening both sweet and bitter water? ¹² Does a fig tree, my brothers, make olives? Or a grapevine, figs? Neither can salty water produce sweet water.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let that person show a good life by his works in the humility of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and ambition in your heart, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where there are jealousy and ambition, there is confusion and every evil practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace among those who make peace.

4

¹ Where do quarrels and disputes among you come from? Do they not come from your desires that fight among your members? ² You desire, and you do not have. You kill and covet, and you are not able to obtain. You fight and quarrel. You do not possess because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive because you ask badly, in order that you may use it for your desires. ⁴ You adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility against God? So whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think the scripture says in vain, "The Spirit he caused to live in us is deeply jealous"? ⁶ But God gives more grace, so the scripture says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ So submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and he will come close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn, and cry! Let your laughter turn into sadness and your joy into gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹ Do not speak against one another, brothers. The person who speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against the law and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. ¹² Only one is the lawgiver and judge. He is the one who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you, you who judge your neighbor?

¹³ Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into this city, spend a year there, trade, and make a profit.” ¹⁴ Who knows what will happen tomorrow, and what is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then disappears. ¹⁵ Instead, you should say, “If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you are boasting about your arrogant plans. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So for anyone who knows to do good but does not do it, for him it is sin.

5

¹ Come now, you who are rich, weep and wail because of the miseries coming on you. ² Your riches have rotted, and your clothes have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have become tarnished and their rust will be a witness against you. It will consume your flesh like fire. You have stored up your treasure for the last days. ⁴ Look, the pay of the laborers is crying out—the pay that you have withheld from those who harvested your fields, and the cries of the harvesters have gone into the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived in luxury on the earth and indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts for a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and killed the righteous person. He does not resist you.

⁷ So be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See, the farmer awaits the valuable harvest from the ground. He is patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rains. ⁸ You, too, be patient. Make your hearts strong, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Do not complain, brothers, against one another, so that you will be not judged. See, the judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ Take an example, brothers, from the suffering and patience of the prophets, those who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ See, we regard those who endured as blessed. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you know the purpose of the Lord, how he is very compassionate and merciful.

¹² Above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by the earth, or by any other oath. Instead, let your “Yes” mean “Yes” and your “No” mean “No,” so you do not fall under judgment.

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering hardship? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him. Let them anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will heal the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, God will forgive him. ¹⁶ So confess your sins to one another, and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very strong in its working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain in the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then Elijah prayed again. The heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone brings him back, ²⁰ that person should know that whoever turns a sinner from his wandering way will save him from death, and will cover over a great number of sins.

First Peter

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the foreigners of the dispersion, the chosen ones, throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. ² This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, set apart by the Spirit for obedience and for the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace be to you, and may your peace increase.

³ May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ⁴ This is for an inheritance that will not perish, will not become stained, and will not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you. ⁵ You are protected by God's power through faith, for the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last times. ⁶ You are very glad about this, even though it is now necessary for you to feel sadness in many different troubles. ⁷ This is for the proving of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is tested by fire. This happens so that your faith will be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revealing of Jesus Christ. ⁸ You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now, but you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. ⁹ You are now receiving for yourselves the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ The prophets searched and inquired carefully about this salvation, about the grace that would be yours. ¹¹ They searched to know about whom and when the Spirit of Christ in them was speaking to them. This was happening as he was telling them in advance about the sufferings of Christ and the glorious things after that. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told to you by those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

¹³ So gird up the loins of your mind. Be sober. Put your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform yourselves to the desires that you followed when you were ignorant. ¹⁵ But as the one who called you is holy, you, too, be holy in your whole behavior. ¹⁶ For it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy." ¹⁷ So if you call "Father" the one who judges impartially and according to each person's work, go through the time of your journey in reverence. ¹⁸ You know that it was not with perishable silver or gold that you have been redeemed from the foolish behavior that you learned from your fathers. ¹⁹ Instead, you have been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ Christ was chosen before the foundation of the world, but now he has been revealed to you in these last times. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope would be in God. ²² You made your souls pure by obedience to the truth. This was for the purpose of sincere brotherly love; so love one another earnestly from

the heart. * ²³ You have been born again, not from perishable seed, but from imperishable seed, through the living and remaining word of God. ²⁴ For,

“All flesh is like grass,
and all its glory is like the wild flower of the grass.
The grass dries up, and the flower falls off,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.”
This is the good news that was announced to you.

2

¹ Therefore put aside all evil, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. ² As newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk, so that through it you may grow in salvation, ³ if you have tasted that the Lord is kind. ⁴ Come to him who is a living stone that has been rejected by people, but that has been chosen by God as valuable to him. ⁵ You also are like living stones that are being built up to be a spiritual house, in order to be a holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Scripture contains this:

“See, I am laying in Zion a cornerstone,
chosen and valuable.
Whoever believes in him will not be ashamed.”

⁷ The honor then is for you who believe. But,
“the stone that was rejected by the builders,
this has become the head of the corner”—

⁸ and,
“A stone of stumbling
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word—which is what they were appointed to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s possession, so that you would announce the wonderful actions of the one who called you out from darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are the people of God.
You did not receive mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I call on you as foreigners and exiles to abstain from fleshly desires, which make war against your soul. ¹² You should have good behavior among the Gentiles, so that, if they speak about you as having done evil things, they may observe your good works and praise God on the day of his coming.

¹³ Obey every human authority for the Lord’s sake. Obey both the king as supreme, ¹⁴ and also the governors, who are sent to punish evildoers and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is God’s will, that in doing good you silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ As free people, do not use your freedom as a covering for wickedness, but be like servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

* **1:22** Some older versions read, You made your souls pure by obedience to the truth through the Spirit .

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect. Be subject not only to the good and gentle masters, but also to the malicious ones. ¹⁹ For it is praiseworthy if anyone endures pain while suffering injustice because of his awareness of God. ²⁰ For how much credit is there if you sin and then endure while being punished? But if you have done good and then you suffer while being punished, this is worthy of praise from God. ²¹ For it is to this that you were called, because Christ also suffered for you. He left an example for you to follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, neither was any deceit found in his mouth."

²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile back. When he suffered, he did not threaten back, but he gave himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself carried our sins in his body to the tree, so that we would have no more part in sin, and so that we would live for righteousness. By his bruises you have been healed. ²⁵ All of you had been wandering away like lost sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

3

¹ In this way, you who are wives should submit to your own husbands. Do this so even if some men are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word, through their wives' behavior. ² For they will have seen your sincere behavior with respect. ³ Let it be done not with outward ornaments such as braided hair, jewels of gold, or fashionable clothing. ⁴ Instead, let it be done with the inner person of the heart, and the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious before God. ⁵ For this is how holy women long ago who hoped in God adorned themselves, by submitting to their husbands. ⁶ In this way Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are now her children if you do what is good and if you are not afraid of trouble.

⁷ In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to understanding, as with a weaker container, a woman. You should give them honor as fellow heirs of the grace of life. Do this so that your prayers will not be hindered.

⁸ Finally, all of you, be likeminded, compassionate, loving as brothers, tenderhearted, and humble. ⁹ Do not pay back evil for evil or insult for insult. On the contrary, continue to bless, because for this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ "The one who wants to love life and see good days should stop his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

¹¹ Let him turn away from what is bad and do what is good. Let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹² The eyes of the Lord see the righteous, and his ears hear their requests.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

¹³ Who is the one who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But if you suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear. Do not be troubled. ¹⁵ Instead, set apart the Lord Christ in your hearts as holy. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you why you have confidence in God. Do this with

meekness and respect. ¹⁶ Have a good conscience so that the people who insult your good life in Christ may be ashamed because they are speaking against you as if you were evildoers. ¹⁷ It is better, if God desires, that you suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ Christ also suffered once for sins. He who is righteous suffered for us, who were unrighteous, so that he would bring us to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but he was made alive by the Spirit. ¹⁹ By the Spirit, he went and preached to the spirits who are now in prison. ²⁰ They were disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in the days of Noah, in the days of the building of an ark, and God saved a few people—eight souls—by means of the water. ²¹ This is a symbol of the baptism that saves you now—not as a washing away of dirt from the body, but as the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² Christ is at the right hand of God. He went into heaven. Angels, authorities, and powers must submit to him.

4

¹ Therefore, because Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same intention. For whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. ² As a result, such a person, for the rest of his time in the flesh, no longer lives for men's desires, but for God's will. ³ You have spent enough time doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passion, drunkenness, drunken celebrations, having wild parties, and committing disgusting acts of idolatry. ⁴ They think it is strange that you do not join with them in these floods of reckless behavior, so they speak evil about you. ⁵ They will give an account to the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this purpose the gospel was preached also to the dead, so that, although they have been judged in the flesh as humans, they may live in the spirit the way God does.

⁷ The end of all things is coming near. Therefore be of sound mind, and be sober in your thinking for the sake of prayers. ⁸ Above all things, have fervent love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let it be with God's words. If anyone serves, let it be from the strength that God supplies. Do these things so that in all ways God would be glorified through Jesus Christ. May there be to Jesus Christ glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

¹² Beloved, do not regard as strange the testing in the fire that has happened to you, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, however much you experience the sufferings of Christ, rejoice, so that you may also rejoice and be glad at the revealing of his glory. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for Christ's name, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and the Spirit of God is resting on you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; instead, let him glorify God with that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey God's gospel?

¹⁸ And “If it is difficult for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer because of God's will entrust their souls to the faithful Creator in well-doing.

5

¹ I am exhorting the elders among you, I, who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and am also one who will share in the glory that will be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God would have you serve—not for shameful profit but eagerly. ³ Do not act as a master over the people who are in your care. Instead, be an example to the flock. ⁴ Then when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive an unfading crown of glory. ⁵ In the same way, you younger men, submit to the older men. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility and serve one another. For God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble. ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under God's mighty hand so that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, is stalking around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand against him. Be strong in your faith. You know that your community of believers that is in the world is enduring the same sufferings. ¹⁰ After you suffer for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will perfect you, establish you, and strengthen you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹² I regard Silvanus as a faithful brother, and I have written to you briefly through him. I am exhorting you and I am testifying to you that what I have written is the true grace of God. Stand in it. ¹³ The woman who is in Babylon, who is chosen together with you, greets you. Also Mark, my son, greets you. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love.

May peace be to you all who are in Christ.

Second Peter

¹ Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received the same precious faith as we have received, faith in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. ² May grace and peace increase in measure in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ All the things concerning divine power for life and godliness have been given to us through the knowledge of God, who called us through his own glory and excellence. ⁴ Through these, he gave us precious and great promises, so that you might be sharers in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world that is caused by evil desires. ⁵ For this reason, do your best to add goodness to your faith; and to goodness add knowledge; ⁶ to knowledge add self-control; to self-control add endurance; to endurance add godliness; ⁷ to godliness add brotherly affection; and to brotherly affection add love. ⁸ If these things are in you and grow in you, you will not be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever lacks these things is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten he has been cleansed from his past sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, do your best to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will not stumble. ¹¹ In this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² Therefore I will always be ready to remind you of these things, although you know them, and although you are strong in the truth you now have. ¹³ It is proper for me to think, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by way of reminder. ¹⁴ For I know that the putting off of my tent will be soon, because our Lord Jesus Christ has revealed this to me. ¹⁵ I will make every effort to see that after my departure you may be always able to remember these things. ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly invented myths when we made known to you the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when a voice was brought to him by the Majestic Glory saying, "This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice brought from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ For we have this prophetic word made more sure, and you do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever brought by the will of man, but men spoke from God when they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2

¹ False prophets came to the people, and false teachers will also come to you. They will secretly bring with them destructive heresies, and they will deny the master who bought them. They are bringing quick

destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and through them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. For a long time their condemnation has not been idle, and their destruction is not asleep. ⁴ For God did not spare the angels who sinned. Instead he handed them down to Tartarus to be kept in chains of lower darkness until the judgment. * ⁵ Also, he did not spare the ancient world. Instead, he preserved Noah, who was a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. ⁶ God also reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to destruction, as an example of what is to happen to the ungodly. ⁷ But as for the righteous Lot, he was oppressed by the sensual behavior of lawless people. ⁸ So that righteous man, who was living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul because of what he saw and heard. ⁹ The Lord knows how to rescue godly men out of trials, and how to hold unrighteous men for punishment at the day of judgment. ¹⁰ This is especially true for those who continue in the corrupt desires of the flesh and who despise authority. Bold and self-willed, they are not afraid to blaspheme the glorious ones. ¹¹ Angels have greater strength and power, but they do not bring insulting judgments against them to the Lord. ¹² But these unreasoning animals are naturally made for capture and destruction. They do not know what they insult. They will be destroyed. ¹³ They will receive the reward of their wrongdoing. They think that luxury during the day is a pleasure. They are stains and blemishes. They enjoy their deceitful actions while they are feasting with you. † ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, they are never satisfied with sin. They entice unstable souls into wrongdoing, and they have their hearts trained in covetousness. They are cursed children! ¹⁵ They have abandoned the right way and have wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to receive payment for unrighteousness. ‡ ¹⁶ But he obtained a rebuke for his own transgression—a mute donkey speaking in a human voice stopped the prophet's insanity. ¹⁷ These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. The gloom of thick darkness is reserved for them. ¹⁸ They speak with vain arrogance. They entice people through the lusts of the flesh. They entice people who try to escape from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise freedom to them, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For a man is a slave to whatever overcomes him. ²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to know the way of righteousness than to know it and turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² This proverb is true for them: "A dog returns to its own vomit, and a washed pig returns to the mud."

* **2:4** Some other versions read, to be kept in pits of lower darkness until the judgment .

† **2:13** Other versions read, They enjoy their actions while they are feasting with you in love feasts . ‡ **2:15** Some other versions read, Balaam, son of Bosor

3

¹ Beloved, this is now the second letter that I have written to you; and in both of them they are reminders to stir up your sincere mind, ² so that you will recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command of our Lord and Savior given through your apostles. ³ Know this first, that mockers will come in the last days. They will mock and proceed according to their own desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his return? From when our fathers fell asleep, all things have stayed the same, since the beginning of creation." ⁵ They willfully forget that the heavens and the earth came to exist out of water and through water, long ago, by God's command, ⁶ and that through these things, the world of that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. ⁷ But now the heavens and the earth are reserved for fire by that same command. They are reserved for the day of judgment and the destruction of the ungodly people.

⁸ It should not escape your notice, beloved, that one day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider slowness to be. Instead, he is patient toward you. He does not desire for any of you to perish, but for everyone to make room for repentance. ¹⁰ However, the day of the Lord will come as a thief: The heavens will pass away with a loud noise. The elements will be burned with fire, and the earth and the deeds in it will be revealed. * ¹¹ Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be? You should live holy and godly lives. ¹² You should expect and hasten the coming of the day of God. On that day, the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and the elements will be melted in great heat. ¹³ But according to his promise, we are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth, where righteousness will dwell.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you expect these things, do your best to be found spotless and blameless before him, in peace. ¹⁵ Also, consider the patience of our Lord to be salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given to him. ¹⁶ Paul speaks of these things in all his letters, in which there are things that are difficult to understand. Ignorant and unstable men distort these things, as they also do the other scriptures, to their own destruction. ¹⁷ Therefore, beloved, since you know about these things beforehand, guard yourselves so that you are not led astray by the deceit of lawless people and you lose your own faithfulness. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the glory be to him both now and forever. Amen!

* **3:10** Some versions read, The elements will be burned with fire, and the earth and the deeds in it will be burned up .

First John

¹ That which was from the beginning—which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched—it is about the Word of life. ² Also, the life was made known, and we have seen it, and we bear witness to it. We are announcing to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and which has been made known to us. ³ That which we have seen and heard we declare also to you, so you also will have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ Also, we are writing these things to you so that our joy will be complete. *

⁵ This is the message that we have heard from him and are announcing to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his word is not in us.

2

¹ Children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the one who is righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ The one who says, “I know God,” but does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps his word, truly, in him truly the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says that he remains in God should himself also walk just as he walked.

⁷ Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Christ and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹ The one who says that he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one who loves his brother remains in the light and there is no occasion for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins are forgiven because of his name. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young

* **1:4** Some older versions read, And we are writing these things to you so that your joy will be complete .

men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, little children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the arrogance of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desire are passing away. But whoever does the will of God will remain forever.

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that the antichrist is coming, now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not from us. For if they had been from us they would have remained with us. But when they went out, that showed they were not from us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know the truth. * ²¹ I did not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and because no lie is from the truth. ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? That person is the antichrist, since he denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever acknowledges the Son also has the Father. ²⁴ As for you, let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ This is the promise he gave to us—eternal life. ²⁶ I have written these things to you about those who would lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you everything and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in him.

²⁸ Now, dear children, remain in him, so that when he appears, we will have boldness and not be ashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born from him.

3

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and this is what we are. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know him. * ² Beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope fixed on him purifies himself just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins is committing acts of lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that Christ was revealed in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who remains in him will keep on sinning. No one who continues to sin has seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does righteousness is righteous, just as

* **2:20** Some other modern versions read, and you have all knowledge . Some older versions read, and you know all things . * **3:1** Some older versions leave out, and this is what we are .

Christ is righteous. ⁸ The one who commits sin is from the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this reason the Son of God was revealed, so that he would destroy the devil's works. ⁹ Whoever has been born from God does not continue to sin because God's seed remains in him. He cannot continue to sin because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ In this the children of God and children of the devil are revealed: Whoever does not do what is righteous is not from God, neither is the one who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. Why did he kill him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

¹³ Do not be amazed, my brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. You know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ By this we know love, because Christ laid down his life for us. We also ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart of compassion from him, how does the love of God remain in him? ¹⁸ My dear children, let us not love in word nor in tongue, but in actions and truth. ¹⁹ It is by this we know that we are from the truth, and we assure our hearts before him. ²⁰ For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² Whatever we ask we will receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing before him. ²³ This is his commandment: that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he gave us this commandment. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commandments remains in him, and God remains in him. By this we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit whom he gave to us.

4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit. Instead, test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you will know the Spirit of God—every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world. * ⁴ You are from God, dear children, and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Anyone who knows God listens to us. He who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

* **4:3** Some older versions read, and every spirit that does not acknowledge that Jesus has come in the flesh is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world .

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ⁸ The person who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ Because of this the love of God was revealed among us, that God has sent his only Son into the world so that we would live because of him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and that he sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also should love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us some of his Spirit. ¹⁴ Also, we have seen and have borne witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. ¹⁶ Also, we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in this love remains in God, and God remains in him. ¹⁷ Because of this, this love has been made perfect among us, so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because as he is, just so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love throws out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. But the one who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God" but hates his brother, he is a liar. For the one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ Also, this is the commandment we have from him: Whoever loves God must also love his own brother.

5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born from God, and whoever loves a father also loves the child born from him. ² Because of this we know that we love God's children, when we love God and do his commandments. ³ For this is love for God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who is born from God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world? The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He came not only by water, but also by water and blood. ⁷ For there are three who bear witness: ⁸ the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three are in agreement. * ⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater. For the testimony of God is this, that he has borne witness concerning his Son. ¹⁰ Anyone who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the witness that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And the witness is this: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

* **5:8** Some older versions read, For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one; and there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three are as one. However, the best copies do not have this reading.

¹³ I have written to you these things so that you will know that you have eternal life—to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. ¹⁴ Also, this is the confidence we have before him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ Also, if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask of him—we know that we have whatever we have asked of him. ¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not result in death, he must pray, and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not result in death. There is a sin that results in death; I am not saying that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, but there is sin that does not result in death.

¹⁸ We know that whoever is born from God does not sin. But the one who was born from God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and we know that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. ²⁰ But we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. Also, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This one is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Children, keep yourselves from idols.

Second John

¹ From the elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth—and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth—
² because of the truth that remains in us and will be with us forever.
³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

⁴ I rejoice greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received this commandment from the Father.
⁵ Now I plead with you, lady—not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but one that we have had from the beginning—that we should love one another. ⁶ This is love, that we should walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, just as you heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, and they do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.
⁸ Look to yourselves, that you do not lose the things for which we all have worked, but so that you may receive a full reward. ⁹ Whoever goes on ahead and does not remain in the teaching of Christ does not have God. The one who remains in the teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house and do not greet him.
¹¹ For the one who greets him participates in his evil deeds.

¹² I have many things to write to you, but I did not wish to write them with paper and ink. However, I expect to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy will be complete. ¹³ The children of your chosen sister greet you.

Third John

¹ The elder to beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

² Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be healthy, just as it is well with your soul. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when brothers came and bore witness to your truth, just as you walk in truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children walk in the truth.

⁵ Beloved, you practice faithfulness whenever you work for the brothers and for strangers ⁶ who have borne witness of your love in the presence of the church. You do well to send them off on their journey in a manner worthy of God, ⁷ because it was for the sake of the name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ We therefore should welcome such as these, so that we will be fellow workers for the truth.

⁹ I wrote something to the congregation, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not receive us. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. Not satisfied with that, he not only refused to welcome the brothers himself, but he also stops those who want to welcome them and puts them out of the church. ¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius is borne witness to by all and by the truth itself. We also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³ I had many things to write to you, but I do not wish to write them to you with pen and ink. ¹⁴ But I expect to see you soon, and we will speak face to face. ¹⁵ May peace be with you. The friends greet you. Greet our friends there by name.

Jude

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: ² May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.

³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write to you about our common salvation, I had to write to you to exhort you to struggle earnestly for the faith that was entrusted once for all to the holy people.

⁴ For certain men have slipped in secretly among you. These are men who were marked out for condemnation. They are ungodly men who have changed the grace of our God into sensuality, and who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ Now I wish to remind you—although once you fully knew it—that the Lord saved a people out of the land of Egypt, but that afterward he destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ Also angels who did not keep to their own position of authority, but who left their proper dwelling place—God has kept them in everlasting chains, in utter darkness, for the judgment on the great day. ⁷ It is just like Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, which also indulged themselves in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desires. They were displayed as examples of those who suffer the punishment in eternal fire. ⁸ Yet in the same way, these dreamers also pollute their bodies. They reject authority, and they say slanderous things against the glorious ones. ⁹ But even Michael the archangel, when he was arguing with the devil and disputing with him about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous judgment against him. Instead he said, “May the Lord rebuke you!” ¹⁰ But these people slander whatever they do not understand, and what they do understand—what unreasoning animals know by instinct—these are what destroy them. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have walked in the way of Cain and have plunged into Balaam's error for profit. They have perished in Korah's rebellion. ¹² These are the ones who are hidden reefs in your love feasts, when they feast with you shamelessly—shepherds who only feed themselves. They are clouds without rain, carried along by winds. They are autumn trees without fruit—twice dead, torn up by the roots. ¹³ They are violent waves in the sea, foaming out their own shame. They are wandering stars, for whom the gloom of thick darkness has been reserved forever. ¹⁴ Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them, saying, “Look! The Lord is coming with thousands and thousands of his holy ones. ¹⁵ He is coming to execute judgment on everyone. He is coming to convict all the ungodly of all the works they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh words that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” ¹⁶ These are grumblers, complainers, who follow their evil desires. They are loud boasters, who, for their own advantage, flatter others.

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words that were spoken in the past by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last time there will be mockers who will follow their own ungodly

desires.” ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions; they are worldly and they do not have the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith, and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹ Keep yourselves in God's love, and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings you eternal life. ²² Be merciful to those who doubt. ²³ Save others by snatching them out of the fire. To others be merciful with fear. Hate even the garment stained by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to the one who is able to keep you from stumbling and to cause you to stand before his glorious presence without blemish and with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and power, before all time, now, and forevermore. Amen.

Revelation

¹ This is the revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John. ² John testified about the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, all the things that he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud this prophecy, and those who listen to the words of this prophecy and who obey what is written in it, because the time is near.

⁴ John, to the seven churches in Asia: May grace be to you and peace from the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To the one who loves us and has released us from our sins by his blood— ⁶ he has made us a kingdom, priests for his God and Father—to him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look, he is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
including those who pierced him.

All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him.
Yes, Amen.

⁸ “I am the alpha and the omega,” says the Lord God, “the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” *

⁹ I, John—your brother and the one who shares with you in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are in Jesus—was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day. I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet. ¹¹ It said, “Write what you see in a book, and send it to the seven churches—to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” ¹² I turned around to see whose voice was speaking to me, and as I turned I saw seven golden lampstands. ¹³ In the middle of the lampstands there was one like a son of man, wearing a long robe that reached down to his feet and a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were as white as wool—as white as snow—and his eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like polished bronze, like bronze that had been refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many rushing waters. ¹⁶ He had seven stars in his right hand, and a sword with two sharp edges was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining like the sun at its strongest. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the one who lives. I was dead, but look, I live forever! And I have the keys of death and of Hades. ¹⁹ Therefore write down what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place after this. ²⁰ As for the hidden meaning about the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars

* **1:8** Some versions read, I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, says the Lord God .

are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

2

¹ “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

“The words of the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands, ² “I know what you have done and your hard labor and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate the evil people. I know that you have tested those who say they are apostles, but are not, and that you have found them to be false. ³ I know you have patient endurance, and you have suffered much because of my name, and that you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have against you the fact that you have left behind your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first. Unless you repent, I will come to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this: You hate what the Nicolaitans have done, which I also hate. ⁷ Let the one who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.””

⁸ “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

“The words of the one who is the first and the last, the one who was dead and who became alive again: ⁹ “I know your sufferings and your poverty, but you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews, but they are not. They are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Look! The devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you will be tested, and you will suffer for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ Let the one who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.””

¹² “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

“The words of the one who has the sword with two sharp edges: ¹³ “I know where you live, there where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold on tightly to my name. I know that you did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, there where Satan lives. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: You have there some who hold tightly to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the children of Israel, so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and be sexually immoral. ¹⁵ In the same way, you even have some who hold tightly to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent, therefore! If you do not, I will quickly come to you, and I will wage war against them with the sword in my mouth. ¹⁷ Let the one who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone with a new name written on the stone, a name which no one knows but the one who receives it.””

¹⁸ “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

“These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire and feet like polished bronze: ¹⁹ “I know what you have done: your

love and faith and service and your patient endurance. I know that what you have done recently is more than you did at first. ²⁰ But I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her immorality. ²² Look! I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great suffering, unless they repent of her deeds. ²³ I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the one who searches thoughts and hearts. I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to everyone who does not hold this teaching, and does not know what some call the deep things of Satan—to you I say, 'I do not put any other burden on you.' ²⁵ In any case, you must hold on tightly until I come.

²⁶ The one who conquers and who does what I have done until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.

²⁷ 'He will rule them with an iron rod, like clay jars he will break them into pieces.'

²⁸ Just as I have received from my Father, I will also give him the morning star. ²⁹ Let the one who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.'"

3

¹ "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

'The words of the one who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know what you have done. You have a reputation that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up and strengthen what remains, but is about to die, because I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard. Obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come against you. ⁴ But you have a few names in Sardis who have not stained their clothes, and they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed in white garments, and I will never wipe his name out of the Book of Life, and I will speak his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶ Let the one who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.'"

⁷ "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

'The words of the one who is holy and true—

he holds the key of David,
he opens and no one shuts,
he shuts and no one can open.

⁸ "I know what you have done. Look, I have put before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have obeyed my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ Look! Those who belong to the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews but are not, but they are liars—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will come to know that I loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is coming on the whole world, to test those who

live on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold to what you have so no one can take away your crown. ¹² The one who conquers, I will make like a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, the name of the city of my God (the new Jerusalem, that comes down out of heaven from my God), and my new name. ¹³ Let the one who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.””

¹⁴ “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

‘The words of the Amen, the reliable and true witness, the ruler over God’s creation. ¹⁵ “I know what you have done, and that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, ‘I am rich, I have had many material possessions, and I need nothing.’ But you do not know that you are most miserable, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ Listen to my advice: Buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and brilliant white garments so you may clothe yourself and not show the shame of your nakedness, and salve to anoint your eyes so you will see. ¹⁹ I train everyone whom I love, and I teach them how they should live. Therefore, be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Look, I am standing at the door and am knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his home and will eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will give him the right to sit down with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let the one who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.””

4

¹ After these things I looked, and I saw an open door in heaven. The first voice that I had heard was speaking to me like a trumpet, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and I saw there was a throne placed in heaven, with someone sitting on it. ³ The one who was sitting on it looked like jasper and carnelian. There was a rainbow around the throne. The rainbow looked like an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, dressed with white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and crashes of thunder. Seven lamps were burning in front of the throne, lamps that were the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Before the throne was a sea of glass, like crystal. In the middle of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures, full of eyes, front and back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures each had six wings, full of eyes on top and underneath. Night and day they do not stop saying,
 “Holy, holy, holy
 is the Lord God Almighty
 who was, and who is, and who is to come.”

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and our God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

5

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne a scroll written on the front and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³ No one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to read it. ⁴ I wept bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to read it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” ⁶ I saw a Lamb standing in the middle of the throne area and among the four living creatures and among the elders. He looked as though he had been killed. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took hold of the scroll out of the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of them had a harp and a golden bowl full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sang a new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals.

For you were slaughtered, and with your blood you purchased people
for God
from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the sound of many angels who encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. Their total number was ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands. ¹² They said in a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who has been slaughtered to receive power,
wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise.”

¹³ I heard every created thing that was in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea—everything in them—saying,

“To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise,
honor, glory, and the power to rule, forever and ever.”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped. *

* **5:14** Some older versions read, the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the one who lives forever and ever .

6

¹ I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice that sounded like thunder, "Come!" ² I looked and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown. He came out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

³ When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴ Then another horse came out—fiery red. To its rider was given permission to take peace away from the earth, so that its people would slaughter one another. This rider was given a huge sword.

⁵ When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I saw a black horse, and its rider held a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ I heard what seemed to be a voice among the four living creatures say, "A choenix of wheat for one denarius, and three choenices of barley for a denarius. But do not harm the oil and the wine."

⁷ When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" ⁸ Then I saw a pale horse. The rider on it was named Death, and Hades was following him. They were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, with famine and disease, and with the wild animals of the earth.

⁹ When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God and the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "How long, Ruler over all, holy and true, until you judge those who live on the earth, and until you avenge our blood?" ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told that they should wait a little longer until the full number of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters was reached who were to be killed, just as they had been killed.

¹² When the Lamb opened the sixth seal, I watched and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth, and the full moon became like blood. ¹³ The stars in the heavens fell to the earth, just as a fig tree drops its unripe fruit when shaken by a stormy wind. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that was being rolled up. Every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the important people, and the generals, and the rich, and the powerful, and everyone else, slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us! Hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the Lamb's wrath." ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come. Who is able to stand?"

7

¹ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, tightly holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind should blow on the earth, on the sea, or against any tree. ² I saw another angel coming up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given permission to harm the earth and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our

God.”⁴ I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000, who were sealed from every tribe of the people of Israel:

⁵ twelve thousand from the tribe of Judah,

twelve thousand from the tribe of Reuben,

twelve thousand from the tribe of Gad,

⁶ twelve thousand from the tribe of Asher,

twelve thousand from the tribe of Naphtali,

twelve thousand from the tribe of Manasseh,

⁷ twelve thousand from the tribe of Simeon,

twelve thousand from the tribe of Levi,

twelve thousand from the tribe of Issachar,

⁸ twelve thousand from the tribe of Zebulun,

twelve thousand from the tribe of Joseph, and

twelve thousand from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹ After these things I looked, and there was a huge multitude that no one could count—from every nation, tribe, people, and language—standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and they were calling out with a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne. They worshiped God,¹² saying,

“Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “Who are these, clothed with white robes, and where did they come from?”¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know,” and he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and they worship him day and night in his temple.

The one who is seated on the throne will spread his tent over them.

¹⁶ They will not be hungry again, nor will they be thirsty again.

The sun will not beat down on them, nor any burning heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

8

¹ When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was a silence in heaven for about half an hour.² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

³ Another angel came, holding a golden incense bowl, standing at the incense altar. Much incense was given to him so that he would offer it with the prayers of all the saints on the golden incense altar before the throne.⁴ The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose up before God from the angel’s hand.⁵ The angel took the incense bowl and filled it with fire from the altar. Then he threw it down to

the earth, and there were crashes of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

⁶ The seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

⁷ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood. It was thrown down onto the earth so that a third of it was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. *

⁸ The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea became blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a huge star fell from the sky, blazing like a torch, on a third of the rivers and springs of water.

¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters that became bitter.

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, as well as a third of the moon and a third of the stars. So a third of them turned dark; a third of the day and a third of the night had no light.

¹³ I looked, and I heard an eagle † that was flying overhead calling out with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe, to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that are about to be sounded by the three angels."

9

¹ Then the fifth angel sounded his trumpet. I saw a star from heaven that had fallen to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. ² He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the shaft like smoke from a huge furnace. The sun and the air turned dark by the smoke pouring out of the shaft. ³ Out of the smoke locusts came on the earth, and they were given power like that of scorpions on the earth. ⁴ They were told not to damage the grass on the earth or any green plant or tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not given permission to kill those people, but only to torture them for five months. Their agony would be like the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a person. ⁶ In those days people will seek death, but will not find it. They will greatly desire to die, but death will flee from them. ⁷ The locusts looked like horses prepared for war. On their heads were something like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ They had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings was like the sound made by many chariots and horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails with stingers like scorpions; in their tails they had power to harm people for five months. ¹¹ They had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew was Abaddon, and in Greek he had the name Apollyon.

* **8:7** Some older versions leave out, so that a third of it was burned up. † **8:13** Some copies have the word angel instead of eagle.

¹² The first woe is past. Look! After this there are still two disasters to come.

¹³ The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is present before God. ¹⁴ The voice said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great Euphrates River." ¹⁵ The four angels who had been prepared for that hour, that day, that month, and that year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ The number of the soldiers on horseback was 200,000,000. I heard their number. ¹⁷ This is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode on them: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue and sulfurous yellow. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur. ¹⁸ A third of the people were killed by these three plagues: the fire, smoke, and sulfur that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For the power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails—for their tails were like snakes, and they had heads with which they inflicted wounds on people. ²⁰ The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the deeds they had done, nor did they stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—things that cannot see, hear, or walk. ²¹ Neither did they repent of their murders, their sorcery, their sexual immorality or their acts of theft.

10

¹ Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, and there was a rainbow above his head. His face was like the sun and his feet were like pillars of fire. ² He held a little scroll, which was opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ³ Then he shouted in a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he shouted, the seven thunders spoke out with their sounds. ⁴ When the seven thunders spoke out, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Keep secret what the seven thunders said. Do not write it down." ⁵ Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and the earth raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and all that is in it, the earth and all that is on it, and the sea and all that is in it, and the angel said, "There will be no more delay. ⁷ But on the day when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he proclaimed to his servants the prophets." ⁸ The voice I heard from heaven spoke to me again: "Go, take the open scroll that is in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land." ⁹ Then I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take the scroll and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." ¹⁰ I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but after I ate it, my stomach became bitter. ¹¹ Then someone said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

11

¹ A reed was given to me to use like a measuring rod. I was told,

“Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² But do not measure the courtyard outside the temple, for it has been given over to the Gentiles. They will trample the holy city for forty-two months. ³ I will give my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” ⁴ These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that have stood before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ If anyone chooses to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies. Anyone who wishes to harm them must be killed in this way. ⁶ These witnesses have authority to close up the sky so that no rain will fall during the time that they prophesy. They have power to turn the waters to blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague whenever they wish. ⁷ When they will have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the bottomless pit will wage war against them. He will conquer them and kill them. ⁸ Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city (which is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt) where their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language, and nation will look at their bodies. They will not permit them to be placed in a tomb. ¹⁰ Those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate. They will even send gifts to one another because these two prophets tormented those who lived on the earth. ¹¹ But after three and a half days a breath of life from God will enter them, and they will stand on their feet. Great fear will fall on those who see them. ¹² Then they will hear a loud voice from heaven say to them, “Come up here!” Then they will go up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies look on. ¹³ At that hour there will be a major earthquake, and a tenth part of the city will collapse. Seven thousand people will be killed in the earthquake, and the survivors will be terrified and give glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly.

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices spoke in heaven and said,

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.
He will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁶ Then the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones in the presence of God, fell upon their faces and worshiped God. ¹⁷ They said,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the one who is and who was,

because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. *

¹⁸ The nations were enraged,
but your wrath has come.

The time has come for the dead to be judged
and for you to reward your servants the prophets,
those who are believers, and those who feared your name,
both the unimportant and the mighty.

The time has come for you to destroy those who are destroying the earth.”

* **11:17** Some copies read the ruler over all, the one who is and who was, and who is to come, but most modern versions do not.

¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, crashes of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

12

¹ A great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars was on her head. ² She was pregnant, and she was crying out in birth pains, in the anguish of childbirth. ³ Then another sign was seen in heaven: Look! There was a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and there were seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them down to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth, he would devour her child. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who would rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched away to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her, so she could be taken care of for 1,260 days.

⁷ Now there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But the dragon was not strong enough to win. So there was no longer any place in heaven for him and his angels. ⁹ The great dragon—that old serpent called the devil or Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven:

“Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,
the one who accused them before our God day and night.

¹¹ They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not love their lives even to death.

¹² Therefore rejoice you heavens,
and all who reside in them!
But woe to the earth and to the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with terrible anger
because he has only a little time!

¹³ When the dragon realized he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she would flee to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. This was the place where she would be taken care of, for a time, times, and half a time—out of the serpent's presence. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water out of his mouth like a river, that he would make a flood to sweep her away. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon was pouring out of his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war with the rest of her descendants, those who obey God's

commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus. ¹⁸ Then the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

13

¹ Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on each of its heads was a blasphemous name. ² This beast I saw was like a leopard. Its feet were like a bear's feet, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave his power to it, and his throne, and his great authority to rule. ³ One of the beast's heads appeared to have been killed, but its fatal wound was healed. The whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴ They also worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast. They worshiped the beast, too, and kept saying, "Who is like the beast?" and "Who can fight against it?" ⁵ The beast was given a mouth that could speak proud words and blasphemies. It was permitted to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ So the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God—blaspheming his name, the place where he lives, and those who live in heaven. ⁷ The beast was permitted to wage war with the saints and to conquer them. Also, authority was given to it over every tribe, people, language, and nation. ⁸ All who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written, since the creation of the world, in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb, who had been slaughtered. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him listen.

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken into captivity,
into captivity he will go.

If anyone is to be killed with the sword,
with the sword he will be killed.

Here is a call for the patient endurance and faith of the saints.

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercised all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and it made the earth and those who live on it worship the first beast—the one whose lethal wound had been healed. ¹³ It performed mighty miracles. It even made fire come down on the earth from heaven in front of people. ¹⁴ By the signs it was permitted to do, it deceived those who lived on the earth. It told them to make an image in honor of the beast that had the sword wound but lived. ¹⁵ It was permitted to give breath to the beast's image so that the image would even speak and cause all who refused to worship the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ It also forced everyone, unimportant and mighty, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. ¹⁷ It was impossible for anyone to buy or sell unless he had the mark of the beast, that is, the number representing its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast. For it is the number of a human being. Its number is 666.

14

¹ I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion. With him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² I heard a voice from heaven sounding like a roar

of many waters and loud thunder. The sound I heard was also like harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except for the 144,000 who had been bought from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones that have not defiled themselves with women, for they have kept themselves sexually pure. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were bought out of mankind as firstfruits for God and for the Lamb. ⁵ No lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless. *

⁶ I saw another angel flying in midair, who had the eternal message of good news to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. ⁷ He called out with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory. For the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him, the one who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water.”

⁸ Another angel—a second angel—followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who persuaded all the nations to drink the wine of her immoral passion.”

⁹ Another angel—a third angel—followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he will also drink some of the wine of God’s wrath, the wine that has been poured undiluted into the cup of his anger. The person who drinks it will be tormented with fire and sulfur before God’s holy angels and before the Lamb. ¹¹ The smoke from their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night—these worshipers of the beast and his image, and everyone who receives the mark of his name. ¹² Here is a call for the patient endurance of the saints, those who obey the commandments of God and faith in Jesus.”

¹³ I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them.”

¹⁴ I looked, and there was a white cloud. Seated on the cloud was one like a son of man. He had a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the temple and called with a loud voice to the one sitting on the cloud: “Take your sickle and start to reap. For the time to reap has come, since the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶ Then the one who was sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

¹⁷ Another angel came out from the temple in heaven; he also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Still another angel came out from the incense altar, who had authority over the fire. He called out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather in the clusters of grapes from the vines of the earth, for their grapes are now ripe.” ¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth. He threw it into the great wine vat of God’s wrath. ²⁰ The winepress was stomped outside the city, and blood poured out from it up to the height of a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

* **14:5** Some older copies add, before the throne of God .

15

¹ Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: There were seven angels with seven plagues, which are the final plagues, for with them the wrath of God will be completed.

² I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire. Standing beside the sea were those who had been victorious over the beast and his image, and over the number representing his name. They were holding harps given to them by God. ³ They were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, the song of the Lamb:

“Great and marvelous are your deeds,

Lord God, the Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,

King of the nations.

⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord,
and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come
and worship before you

because your righteous deeds have been revealed.”

⁵ After these things I looked, and the temple having the tent of witness was open in heaven. ⁶ Out of the most holy place came the seven angels holding the seven plagues. They were clothed with pure, bright linen and had golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. ⁸ The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. No one could enter it until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

16

¹ I heard a loud voice call out of the temple and say to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God’s wrath.”

² The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; ugly and painful sores came on the people who had the mark of the beast, those who worshiped his image.

³ The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea. It became blood, like the blood of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

⁴ The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ I heard the angel of the waters say, “You are righteous—the one who is and who was, the Holy One—

because you have judged these things. *

⁶ Because they poured out the blood of the saints and prophets,
you have given them blood to drink;
it is what they deserve.”

⁷ I heard the altar reply,

“Yes, Lord God Almighty,

your judgments are true and righteous.”

⁸ The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given permission to scorch the people with fire. ⁹ They were scorched by

* **16:5** Some older copies read, You are righteous, Lord—the one who is and who was and who is to be, because you have judged these things .

the terrible heat, and they blasphemed the name of God, who has the power over these plagues. They did not repent or give him glory.

¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and darkness covered its kingdom. They chewed on their tongues because of the pain. ¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and sores, and they still refused to repent of what they had done.

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl into the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up in order to prepare the way for the kings that would come from the east. ¹³ I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, of the beast, and of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs. They were going out to the kings of the whole world in order to gather them together for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. ¹⁵ (“Look! I am coming as a thief! Blessed is the one who keeps watching, keeping his garments on so that he will not go out naked and they see his shameful condition.”) ¹⁶ They brought them together at the place that is called Armageddon in Hebrew.

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. Then a loud voice came out of the temple and from the throne, saying, “It is done!” ¹⁸ There were flashes of lightning, rumbles, crashes of thunder, and a terrible earthquake—an earthquake greater than any that has ever happened since human beings have been on the earth, so great was this earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the nations' cities collapsed. Then God called to mind Babylon the great, and he gave that city the cup filled with the wine made from his furious wrath. ²⁰ Every island disappeared, and the mountains were no longer found. ²¹ Great hailstones, weighing about a talent, came down from the sky upon the people. They cursed God for the plague of hail because that plague was so terrible.

17

¹ One of the seven angels who had been holding the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the condemnation of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters. ² It is with her that the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality. It is with the wine of her sexual immorality that the earth's inhabitants became drunk.” ³ Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit to a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names. The beast had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and was adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She was holding in her hand a golden cup full of detestable things and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵ On her forehead was written a name having a secret meaning: “Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes and of the detestable things of the earth.” ⁶ I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs for Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷ But the angel said to me, “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the meaning of the woman and of the beast that is carrying her, the beast that has the seven heads and the ten horns. ⁸ The beast you saw existed, does not exist now, but

is about to come up from the bottomless pit. Then it will go on to destruction. Those who live on the earth, those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life since the foundation of the world—they will be astounded when they see the beast that existed, does not exist now, but is about to come. ⁹This calls for a mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is seated. ¹⁰They are also seven kings. Five kings have fallen, one exists, and the other has not yet come; when he comes, he can remain only for a little while. ¹¹The beast that existed, but does not exist now, is itself also an eighth king; but it is one of those seven kings, and it is going to destruction. ¹²The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings for one hour together with the beast. ¹³These are of one mind, and they give over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴They will wage war against the Lamb. But the Lamb will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him are the called ones, the chosen ones, and the faithful ones.” ¹⁵The angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. ¹⁶The ten horns that you saw—they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, they will devour her flesh, and they will burn her completely with fire. ¹⁷For God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by agreeing to give their power to rule to the beast until God's words are fulfilled. ¹⁸The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

18

¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illumined by his glory. ² He cried out with a mighty voice, saying,

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!

She has become a dwelling place for demons,
a refuge for every unclean spirit,
and a refuge for every unclean and detestable bird.

³ For all the nations have drunk the wine of her immoral passion.

The kings of the earth have committed immorality with her.

The merchants of the earth have become rich from the power of her sensual way of living.”

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven say,

“Come out from her, my people,

so that you will not share in her sins,

and so that you will not receive any of her plagues.

⁵ Her sins have piled up as high as heaven,

and God has remembered her evil actions.

⁶ Pay her back as she has paid others back,

and repay her double for what she has done;

in the cup she mixed, mix double the amount for her.

⁷ As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,

give her just as much torture and grief.

For she says in her heart,

“I am seated as a queen;

I am not a widow,
and I will never see mourning.'

⁸ Therefore in one day her plagues will come:
death, mourning, and famine.

She will be consumed by fire,
for the Lord God is mighty, and he is her judge."

⁹ The kings of the earth who committed sexual immorality and went out of control with her will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. ¹⁰ They will stand off at a distance, afraid of her torment, saying,

"Woe, woe to the great city,
Babylon, the powerful city!

For in a single hour your punishment has come."

¹¹ The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys her merchandise anymore— ¹² merchandise of gold, silver, precious stone, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, all kinds of scented wood, every vessel of ivory, every vessel made of most precious wood, bronze, iron, marble, ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves and human souls. ¹⁴ The fruit that you longed for with all your might is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be found again. ¹⁵ The merchants of these goods who became rich by her will stand away from her at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning loudly.

¹⁶ They will say,
"Woe, woe to the great city
that was dressed in fine linen,
in purple, and in scarlet,
and was adorned with gold,
precious jewels, and pearls!

¹⁷ In a single hour all that wealth has been wasted."

Every ship's captain, every seafaring man, sailors, and all whose living is made from the sea, stood off at a distance.

¹⁸ They cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning. They said, "What city is like the great city?" ¹⁹ They threw dust on their heads, and cried out, weeping and mourning,

"Woe, woe to the great city
where all who had their ships
at sea became rich from her wealth.

For in a single hour she has been destroyed."

²⁰ "Rejoice over her, heaven,
you believers, apostles, and prophets,
for God has brought your judgment on her!"

²¹ A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,

"In this way, Babylon, the great city,
will be thrown down with violence
and will not be seen anymore.

²² The sound made by harpists, musicians,
flute players, and trumpeters

will not be heard anymore in you.
 No craftsman of any kind
 will be found in you.
 No sound of a mill
 will be heard anymore in you.
 23 The light of a lamp
 will not shine in you anymore.
 The voices of the bridegroom and the bride
 will not be heard in you anymore,
 for your merchants were the princes of the earth,
 and the nations were deceived by your sorcery.
 24 In her the blood of prophets and saints was found,
 and the blood of all who have been killed on the earth."

19

¹ After these things I heard what sounded like a loud voice of a large number of people in heaven saying,

"Hallelujah.

Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God.

² His judgments are true and just,
 for he has judged the great prostitute
 who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality.
 He has taken revenge for the blood of his servants,
 which she herself shed."

³ They spoke a second time:

"Hallelujah!

The smoke rises from her forever and ever."

⁴ The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne. They were saying,
 "Amen. Hallelujah!"

⁵ Then a voice came out from the throne, saying,

"Praise our God,

all you his servants,

you who fear him,

both the unimportant and the powerful."

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a great number of people,
 like the roar of many waters, and like loud crashes of thunder, saying,
 "Hallelujah!

For the Lord reigns, the God who rules over all.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be very happy

and give him the glory

because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ She was permitted to be dressed

in bright and clean fine linen"

(for fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints).

⁹ The angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." He also said to me, "These are true words of God." ¹⁰ I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Do not do this! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers

who hold the testimony about Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

¹¹ Then I saw heaven open, and I looked and there was a white horse. The one riding it is called faithful and true. It is with justice that he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like a fiery flame, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He wears a robe that was dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword with which he strikes down the nations, and he will rule them with an iron rod. He tramples in the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ He has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

¹⁷ I saw an angel standing in the sun. He called out in a loud voice to all the birds flying overhead, “Come, gather together for the great feast of God. ¹⁸ Come eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, the unimportant and the powerful.”

¹⁹ I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies. They were gathering in order to wage war with the one who rode the horse and with his army. ²⁰ The beast was captured and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence. With these signs he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ The rest of them were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the one who rode on the horse. All the birds ate their dead flesh.

20

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had the key to the bottomless pit, and he had a great chain in his hand. ² He took hold of the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the bottomless pit. He shut it and sealed it over him. This was so that he would not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that, he must be set free for a short amount of time.

⁴ Then I saw thrones. Seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony about Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image, and they had refused to receive the mark on their forehead or hand. They came to life, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is anyone who takes part in the first resurrection! Over these the second death has no power. They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be released from his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to bring them together for the

battle. They will be as many as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints, the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and the one who is seated on it. The earth and the heaven fled away from his presence, but there was no place for them to go. ¹² I saw the dead—the mighty and the unimportant—standing before the throne, and the books were opened. Then another book was opened—the Book of Life. The dead were judged by what was recorded in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and the dead were judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

21

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, that came down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. ³ I heard a great voice from the throne saying, "Look! The dwelling place of God is with human beings, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and he will be their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, or grieving, or crying, or pain. The former things have passed away. ⁵ The one who was seated on the throne said, "Look! I make all things new." He said, "Write this down because these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ He said to me, "These things are done! I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who thirsts I will give drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowards, the faithless, the detestable, the murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. That is the second death."

⁹ One of the seven angels came to me, the one who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, and he said, "Come here. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ Then he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ Jerusalem had the glory of God, and its brilliance was like a very precious jewel, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. ¹³ On the east were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles

of the Lamb. ¹⁵ The one who spoke with me had a measuring rod made of gold to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶ The city was laid out in a square; its length was the same as its width. He measured the city with the measuring rod, twelve thousand stadia in length (its length, width, and height were the same). ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits thick by human measurement (which is also the angel's measure). ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper and the city of pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first was jasper, the second was sapphire, the third was agate, the fourth was emerald, ²⁰ the fifth was onyx, the sixth was carnelian, the seventh was chrysolite, the eighth was beryl, the ninth was topaz, the tenth was chrysoprase, the eleventh was jacinth, and the twelfth was amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls; each of the gates was made from a single pearl. The streets of the city were pure gold, like transparent glass. ²² I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or the moon in order to shine on it because the glory of God shone on it, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by the light of that city. The kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. * ²⁵ Its gates will not be shut during the day, and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring the splendor and the honor of the nations into it, ²⁷ but nothing unclean will ever enter into it, nor anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

22

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal. It was flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the city's street. On each side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, and it bears its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night; they will have no need for the light of a lamp or sunlight because the Lord God will shine on them. They will reign forever and ever.

⁶ The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon." ⁷ "Look! I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who obeys the words of the prophecy of this book."

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing me these things. ⁹ He said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you, with your brothers the prophets, and with those who obey the words of this book. Worship God!"

¹⁰ He said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹ The one who is unrighteous, let him

* **21:24** Some older copies read, The nations that are saved will walk by the light of that city

continue to do unrighteousness. The one who is morally filthy, let him continue to be morally filthy. The one who is righteous, let him continue to do what is righteous. The one who is holy, let him continue to be holy.”¹² “Look! I am coming soon. My reward is with me, to pay back each one according to what he has done.”¹³ I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they will have the right to eat from the tree of life and to enter the city through the gates.^{*}¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!” Let the one who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever desires it, let him freely have the water of life.

¹⁸ I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written about in this book.¹⁹ If anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are written about in this book.[†]

²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, “Yes! I am coming soon.” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with everyone. Amen.

^{*} **22:14** Instead of, Blessed are those who wash their robes, some older copies read, Blessed are those who do his commandments. [†] **22:19** Some older copies read, God will take away his share in the Book of Life and in the holy city that are written about in this book.

Psalms Book One

1

¹ Blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of the wicked,
or stand in the pathway with sinners,
or sit in the assembly of mockers.

² But his delight is in the law of Yahweh,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water
that produces its fruit in its season,
whose leaves do not wither;
whatever he does will prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are instead like the chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ So the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For Yahweh approves of the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

2

¹ Why are the nations in turmoil,
and why do the peoples make plots that will fail?

² The kings of the earth take their stand together
and the rulers conspire together
against Yahweh and against his Messiah, saying,

³ "Let us tear off the shackles they put on us
and throw off their chains."

⁴ He who sits in the heavens will sneer at them;
the Lord mocks them.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his anger
and terrify them in his rage, saying,

⁶ "I myself have anointed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain."

⁷ I will announce a decree of Yahweh.
He said to me, "You are my son!

This day I have become your father.

⁸ Ask me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the farthestmost regions of the earth for your possession.

⁹ You will break them with an iron rod;
like a jar of a potter, you will smash them to pieces."

¹⁰ So now, you kings, be warned;
be corrected, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Worship Yahweh in fear
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the son or he will be angry with you,
and you will die in the way when his anger burns for just a
moment.

How blessed are all those who seek refuge in him.

3

A psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

¹ Yahweh, how many are my enemies!
Many have risen against me.

² Many say about me,
“There is no help for him from God.”

Selah

³ But you, Yahweh, are a shield around me,
my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

⁴ I lift up my voice to Yahweh,
and he answers me from his holy hill.

Selah

⁵ I lay down and slept;
I awoke, for Yahweh protected me.

⁶ I will not be afraid of the multitudes of people
who have set themselves against me on every side.

⁷ Rise up, Yahweh! Save me, my God!
For you will hit all my enemies on the jaw;
you will break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸ Salvation comes from Yahweh.
May your blessings be on your people.

Selah

4

For the chief musician; on stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

¹ Answer me when I call, God of my righteousness;
give me room when I am hemmed in.

Have mercy on me and listen to my prayer.

² You people, how long will you turn my honor into shame?
How long will you love that which is worthless and seek after lies?

Selah

³ But know that Yahweh sets apart the godly for himself.
Yahweh will hear when I call to him.

⁴ Tremble in fear, but do not sin!
Meditate in your heart on your bed and be silent.

Selah

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in Yahweh.

⁶ Many say, “Who will show us anything good?”
Yahweh, lift up the light of your face on us.

⁷ You have given my heart more gladness
than others have when their grain and new wine abound.

⁸ It is in peace that I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, Yahweh, make me safe and secure.

5

For the chief musician; with wind instruments. A psalm of David.

¹ Listen to my call to you, Yahweh;
think about my groanings.

² Listen to the sound of my call, my King and my God,
for it is to you that I pray.

³ Yahweh, in the morning you hear my cry;

in the morning I will bring my petition to you and wait expectantly.

⁴ Certainly you are not a God who approves of evil;
evil people will not be your guests.

⁵ The arrogant will not stand in your presence;
you hate all who behave wickedly.

⁶ You will destroy liars;
Yahweh despises violent and deceitful men.

⁷ But as for me, because of your great covenant faithfulness, I will come
into your house;

in reverence I will bow down toward your holy temple.

⁸ Oh Lord, lead me in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your path straight before me.

⁹ For there is no truth in their mouth;
their inward being is wicked;
their throat is an open tomb;
they flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰ Declare them guilty, God;
may their schemes be their downfall!
Drive them out for their many transgressions,
for they have rebelled against you.

¹¹ But may all those who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them always shout for joy because you defend them;
let them be joyful in you, those who love your name.

¹² For you will bless the righteous, Yahweh;
you will surround them with favor as with a shield.

6

For the chief musician; on stringed instruments, set to the Sheminith style. A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.

² Have mercy on me, Yahweh, for I am frail;
heal me, Yahweh, for my bones are shaking.

³ My soul also is very troubled.
But you, Yahweh—how long will this continue?

⁴ Return, Yahweh! rescue me.
Save me because of your covenant faithfulness!

⁵ For in death there is no remembrance of you.
In Sheol who will give you thanks?

⁶ I am weary with my groaning.
All night I drench my bed with tears;
I wash my couch away with my tears.

⁷ My eyes grow dim from grief;
they grow weak because of all my adversaries.

⁸ Get away from me, all you who practice iniquity;
for Yahweh has heard the sound of my weeping.

⁹ Yahweh has heard my appeal for mercy;
Yahweh has accepted my prayer.

¹⁰ All my enemies will be ashamed and greatly troubled.
They will turn back and be suddenly humiliated.

7

A musical composition of David, which he sang to Yahweh concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite.

¹ Yahweh my God, I take refuge in you!

Save me from all who chase me, and rescue me.

² Otherwise, they will rip me apart like a lion, tearing me in pieces with no one else able to bring me to safety.

³ Yahweh my God, if I have done this, and there is guilt on my hands—

⁴ if I have done evil to him who was at peace with me, or senselessly harmed my enemy without cause, then hear my words.

⁵ Then let my enemy pursue my life and overtake me; let him trample my life to the ground and lay my honor in the dust.

Selah

⁶ Arise, Yahweh, in your anger;

stand up against the rage of my enemies;

wake up for my sake and carry out the righteous decrees that you have commanded for them.

⁷ The countries are assembled all around you; take once more your rightful place over them.

⁸ Yahweh, judge the nations;

vindicate me, Yahweh, because I am righteous and innocent, Most High.

⁹ May the evil deeds of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous people, righteous God, you who examine hearts and minds.

¹⁰ My shield comes from God, the one who saves the upright in heart.

¹¹ God is a righteous judge, a God who is indignant each day.

¹² If a person does not repent, God will sharpen his sword and will prepare his bow for battle.

¹³ He prepares to use weapons against him; he makes his arrows flaming shafts.

¹⁴ Think about the one who is pregnant with wickedness, who conceives destructive plans, who gives birth to harmful lies.

¹⁵ He digs a pit and hollows it out and then falls into the hole he has made.

¹⁶ His own destructive plans return to his own head, for his violence comes down on his own head.

¹⁷ I will give thanks to Yahweh for his justice; I will sing praise to Yahweh Most High.

8

For the chief musician; set to the gittith style. A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh our Lord, how magnificent is your name in all the earth, you who reveal your glory in the heavens above.

² Out of the mouth of babies and infants you have established praise *

* **8:2** The Hebrew text can be read either as established praise or established strength .

because of your enemies,
 so that you might silence both the enemy and the avenger.
³ When I look up at your heavens, which your fingers have made,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
⁴ Of what importance is the human race that you notice them,
 or mankind that you pay attention to them?
⁵ Yet you have made them only a little lower than the heavenly beings
 and have crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ You make him to rule over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under his feet:
⁷ all sheep and oxen,
 and even the animals of the field,
⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
 everything that passes through the currents of the seas.
⁹ Yahweh our Lord,
 how magnificent is your name in all the earth!

9

For the chief musician; set to Muth Labben style. A psalm of David.

¹ I will give thanks to Yahweh with my whole heart;
 I will tell about all your marvelous deeds.
² I will be glad and rejoice in you;
 I will sing praise to your name, Most High!
³ When my enemies turn back,
 they stumble and perish before you.
⁴ For you have defended my just cause;
 you sit on your throne, a righteous judge!
⁵ You rebuked the nations;
 you have destroyed the wicked;
 you have blotted out their name forever and ever.
⁶ The enemy crumbled like ruins
 when you overthrew their cities.
 All remembrance of them has perished.
⁷ But Yahweh remains forever;
 he has established his throne for justice.
⁸ He will judge the world with righteousness,
 and he will execute judgment for the nations with fairness.
⁹ Yahweh also will be a stronghold for the oppressed,
 a stronghold in times of trouble.
¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you,
 for you, Yahweh, do not abandon those who seek you.
¹¹ Sing praises to Yahweh, who rules in Zion;
 tell the nations what he has done.
¹² For the God who avenges bloodshed remembers;
 he does not forget the cry of the oppressed.
¹³ Have mercy on me, Yahweh; see how I am oppressed by those who
 hate me,
 you who can snatch me from the gates of death.
¹⁴ Oh, that I might proclaim all your praise.
 In the gates of the daughter of Zion
 I will rejoice in your salvation!

15 The nations have sunk down into the pit that they made;
their feet are caught in the net that they hid.

16 Yahweh has made himself known; he has executed judgment;
the wicked is ensnared by his own actions.

Selah

17 The wicked are turned back and sent to Sheol,
all the nations that forget God.

18 For the needy will not always be forgotten,
nor will the hope of the oppressed be forever dashed.

19 Arise, Yahweh; do not let man win against you;
may the nations be judged in your sight.

20 Terrify them, Yahweh;
may the nations know that they are mere men.

Selah

10

1 Why, Yahweh, do you stand far off?

Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

2 Because of their arrogance, wicked people chase the oppressed;
but please let the wicked be trapped by their own schemes that they
have devised.

3 For the wicked person boasts of his deepest desires;
he blesses the greedy and insults Yahweh.

4 The wicked man has a raised face; he does not seek God.

He never thinks about God because he does not care at all about him.

5 He is secure at all times,
but your righteous decrees are too high for him;
he snorts at all his enemies.

6 He says in his heart, "I will never fail;
throughout all generations I will not meet adversity."

7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceptive, harmful words;
his tongue injures and destroys.

8 He waits in ambush near the villages;
in the secret places he murders the innocent;
his eyes look for some helpless victim.

9 He lurks in secret like a lion in the thicket;
he lies in wait to catch the oppressed.
He catches the oppressed when he pulls in his net.

10 His victims are crushed and beaten down;
they fall into his strong nets.

11 He says in his heart, "God has forgotten;
he covers his face; he will not bother to look."

12 Arise, Yahweh! Lift up your hand, God!
Do not forget the oppressed.

13 Why does the wicked man reject God
and say in his heart, "You will not hold me accountable"?

14 You have taken notice, for you always see the one who inflicts the
misery and sorrow.

The helpless entrusts himself to you;
you rescue the fatherless.

15 Break the arm of the wicked and evil man.
Make him account for his evil deeds,

which he thought you would not discover.

¹⁶ Yahweh is King forever and ever;
the nations are driven out of his land.

¹⁷ Yahweh, you have heard the needs of the oppressed;
you strengthen their heart, you listen to their prayer;

¹⁸ You defend the fatherless and the oppressed
so that no man on the earth will cause terror again.

11

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ I take refuge in Yahweh;
how will you say to me,

“Flee like a bird to the mountain”?

² For see! The wicked prepare their bows.

They make ready their arrows on the strings
to shoot in the darkness at the upright in heart.

³ For if the foundations are ruined,
what can the righteous do?

⁴ Yahweh is in his holy temple;

his eyes watch, his eyes examine the children of mankind.

⁵ Yahweh examines both the righteous and the wicked,
but he hates those who love to do violence.

⁶ He rains burning coals and brimstone upon the wicked;
a scorching wind will be their portion from his cup!

⁷ For Yahweh is righteous, and he loves righteousness;
the upright will see his face.

12

For the chief musician; set to the Sheminith. A psalm of David.

¹ Help, Yahweh, for the godly have disappeared;
the faithful have vanished.

² Everyone says empty words to his neighbor;
everyone speaks with flattering lips and a double heart.

³ Yahweh, cut off all flattering lips,
every tongue declaring great things.

⁴ These are those who have said, “With our tongues will we prevail.
When our lips speak, who can be master over us?”

⁵ “Because of violence against the poor, because of the groans of the
needy,

I will arise,” says Yahweh.

“I will provide the safety for which they long.”

⁶ The words of Yahweh are pure words,
like silver purified in a furnace on the earth,
refined seven times.

⁷ You are Yahweh! You keep them.

You preserve the godly people from this wicked generation and forever.

⁸ The wicked walk on every side
when evil is exalted among the children of mankind.

13

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ How long, Yahweh, will you keep forgetting about me?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I worry
and have grief in my heart all day?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look at me and answer me, Yahweh my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death.

⁴ Do not let my enemy say, "I have defeated him,"
so that my enemy may not say, "I have prevailed over my adversary";
otherwise, my enemies will rejoice when I am brought down.

⁵ But I have trusted in your covenant faithfulness;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to Yahweh
because he has treated me very generously.

14

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ A fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt and have done abominable iniquity;
there is no one who does good.

² Yahweh looks down from heaven on the children of mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after him.

³ They have all turned away. Together they have become corrupt.
There is no one who does good, no, not one.

⁴ Do they not know anything, those who commit iniquity,
those who eat up my people as they eat bread,
but who do not call on Yahweh?

⁵ They tremble with dread,
for God is with the righteous assembly!

⁶ You want to humiliate the poor person
even though Yahweh is his refuge.

⁷ Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come from Zion!
When Yahweh brings back his people from the captivity,
then Jacob will rejoice and Israel will be glad!

15

A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh, who may stay in your tabernacle?
Who may live on your holy hill?

² Whoever walks blamelessly, does what is right
and speaks truth from his heart.

³ He does not slander with his tongue,
he does not harm others,
and he does not insult his neighbor.

⁴ The worthless person is despised in his eyes,
but he honors those who fear Yahweh.
He swears to his own disadvantage and does not take back his
promises.

⁵ He does not charge interest when he lends money.
He does not take bribes to testify against the innocent.
He who does these things will never be shaken.

16

A michtam of David.

- ¹ Protect me, God, for I take refuge in you.
- ² I say to Yahweh, "You are my Lord; my goodness is nothing apart from you.
- ³ As for the holy people who are on the earth, they are noble people; all my delight is in them.
- ⁴ Their troubles will be increased, those who seek out other gods. I will not pour out drink offerings of blood to their gods or lift up their names with my lips.
- ⁵ Yahweh, you are my chosen portion and my cup. You hold onto my lot.
- ⁶ Measuring lines have been laid for me in pleasant places; surely a pleasing inheritance is mine.
- ⁷ I will bless Yahweh, who counsels me; even at night my mind instructs me.
- ⁸ I set Yahweh before me at all times, so I will not be shaken from his right hand!
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad; my glory is rejoicing. Surely I will live in security.
- ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol. You will not let your faithful one see the pit.
- ¹¹ You teach me the path of life; abundant joy resides in your presence; delights abide in your right hand forever!"

17

A prayer of David.

- ¹ Listen to my plea for justice, Yahweh; pay attention to my call for help!
Give ear to my prayer from lips without deceit.
- ² Let my vindication come from your presence; let your eyes see what is right!
- ³ If you test my heart, if you come to me in the night, you will purify me and will not find any evil plans; my mouth will not transgress.
- ⁴ As for the deeds of mankind, it is at the word of your lips that I have kept myself from the ways of the lawless.
- ⁵ My steps have held firmly to your tracks; my feet have not slipped.
- ⁶ I call to you, for you answer me, God; turn your ear to me and listen when I speak.
- ⁷ Show your covenant faithfulness in a wonderful way, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their enemies!
- ⁸ Protect me like the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings
- ⁹ from the presence of the wicked ones who assault me, my enemies who surround me.
- ¹⁰ They have no mercy on anyone; their mouths speak with pride.
- ¹¹ They have surrounded my steps. They set their eyes to strike me to the ground.
- ¹² They are like a lion eager for a victim, like a young lion crouching in hidden places.

- 13 Arise, Yahweh! Attack them! Throw them down on their faces!
Rescue my life from the wicked by your sword!
- 14 Rescue me from men by your hand, Yahweh, from men of this world
whose prosperity is in this life alone!
You will fill the bellies of your treasured ones with riches; they will
have many children and will leave their wealth to their children.
- 15 As for me, I will see your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied,
when I awake, with a sight of you.

18

For the chief musician. A psalm of David, the servant of Yahweh, when he sang to Yahweh the words of this song on the day that Yahweh rescued him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He sang:

- 1 I love you, Yahweh, my strength.
- 2 Yahweh is my rock, my fortress, the one who brings me to safety; he is my God, my rock; I take refuge in him.
He is my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my stronghold.
- 3 I will call on Yahweh who is worthy to be praised, and I will be saved from my enemies.
- 4 The cords of death surrounded me, and the rushing waters of worthlessness overwhelmed me.
- 5 The cords of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death trapped me.
- 6 In my distress I called to Yahweh; I called for help to my God. He heard my voice from his temple;
my call for help went into his presence; it went into his ears.
- 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the mountains also trembled
and were shaken because God was angry.
- 8 Smoke went up from out of his nostrils, and blazing fire came out of his mouth. Coals were ignited by it.
- 9 He opened the heavens and came down, and thick darkness was under his feet.
- 10 He rode on a cherub and flew; he glided on the wings of the wind.
- 11 He made darkness a tent around him, heavy rainclouds in the skies.
- 12 Hailstones and coals of fire fell from the lightning before him.
- 13 Yahweh thundered in the heavens! The voice of the Most High shouted. *
- 14 He shot his arrows and scattered his enemies; many lightning bolts dispersed them.
- 15 Then the water channels appeared;
the foundations of the world were laid bare
at your rebuke, Yahweh,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.
- 16 He reached down from above; he took hold of me! He pulled me out of the surging water.
- 17 He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.

* **18:13** Some modern versions add after shouted, hailstones and coals of fire this expression may be an accidental repetition from the previous verse.

- 18 They came against me on the day of my distress but Yahweh was my support!
- 19 He set me free in a wide open place; he saved me because he was pleased with me.
- 20 Yahweh has rewarded me because of my righteousness; he has restored me because my hands were clean.
- 21 For I have kept the ways of Yahweh and have not wickedly turned away from my God.
- 22 For all his righteous decrees have been before me; as for his statutes, I have not turned away from them.
- 23 I have also been innocent before him, and I have kept myself from sin.
- 24 Therefore Yahweh has restored me because of my righteousness, because my hands were clean before his eyes.
- 25 To anyone who is faithful, you show yourself to be faithful;
to a man who is blameless, you show yourself to be blameless.
- 26 To anyone who is pure, you show yourself pure; but you are clever toward anyone who is twisted.
- 27 For you save afflicted people, but you bring down those with proud, uplifted eyes!
- 28 For you give light to my lamp; Yahweh my God lights up my darkness.
- 29 For by you I can run over a barricade; by my God I can leap over a wall.
- 30 As for God—his way is perfect! The word of Yahweh is pure!
He is a shield to everyone who takes refuge in him.
- 31 For who is God except Yahweh? Who is a rock except our God?
- 32 It is God who puts strength on me like a belt, who places the blameless person on his path.
- 33 He makes my feet swift like a deer and places me on the heights!
- 34 He trains my hands for war and my arms to bend a bow of bronze.
- 35 You have given me the shield of your salvation. Your right hand has supported me, and your favor has made me great.
- 36 You have made a wide place for my feet beneath me so that my feet have not slipped.
- 37 I pursued my enemies and caught them; I did not turn back until they were destroyed.
- 38 I smashed them so that they were unable to rise; they have fallen under my feet.
- 39 For you put strength on me like a belt for battle; you put under me those who rise up against me.
- 40 You gave me the back of my enemies' necks; I annihilated those who hated me.
- 41 They called for help, but no one saved them; they called out to Yahweh, but he did not answer them.
- 42 I beat them into fine pieces like dust before the wind; I threw them out like mud in the streets.
- 43 You rescued me from the disputes of people. You have made me the head over nations. People that I have not known serve me.
- 44 As soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me; foreigners were forced to bow to me.
- 45 The foreigners came trembling out of their strongholds.

- 46 Yahweh lives; may my rock be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.
 47 He is the God who executes vengeance for me, who subdues the nations under me.
 48 I am set free from my enemies! Indeed, you lifted me above the ones who rose against me! You rescued me from violent men.
 49 Therefore I will give thanks to you, Yahweh, among the nations; I will sing praises to your name!
 50 God gives great victory to his king, and he shows his covenant loyalty to his anointed one, to David and to his descendants forever.

19

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God,
 and the skies make his handiwork known!
 2 Day after day speech pours out;
 night after night it reveals knowledge.
 3 There is no speech or spoken words;
 their voice is not heard.
 4 Yet their words go out over all the earth,
 and their speech to the end of the world.
 He has pitched a tent for the sun among them.
 5 The sun is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber
 and like a strong man who rejoices when he runs his race.
 6 The sun rises from the one horizon
 and crosses the sky to the other;
 nothing escapes its heat.
 7 The law of Yahweh is perfect, restoring the soul;
 the testimony of Yahweh is reliable, making the simple wise.
 8 The instructions of Yahweh are right, making the heart glad;
 the commandment of Yahweh is pure, bringing light to the eyes.
 9 The fear of Yahweh is pure, enduring forever;
 the righteous decrees of Yahweh are true and altogether right!
 10 They are of greater value than gold, even more than much fine gold;
 they are sweeter than honey and the dripping honey from the
 honeycomb.
 11 Yes, by them your servant is warned;
 in obeying them there is great reward.
 12 Who can discern all his own errors?
 Cleanse me from hidden faults.
 13 Keep your servant also from arrogant sins;
 let them not rule over me.
 Then I will be perfect,
 and I will be innocent from many transgressions.
 14 May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart
 be acceptable in your sight,
 Yahweh, my rock and my redeemer.

20

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

- 1 May Yahweh help you in the day of trouble;
 may the name of the God of Jacob protect you

² and send help from the holy place
to support you from Zion.

³ May he call to mind all your offerings
and accept your burnt sacrifice.

⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire
and fulfill all your plans.

⁵ Then we will rejoice in your victory,
and, in the name of our God, we will raise banners.
May Yahweh grant all your petitions.

⁶ Now I know that Yahweh will rescue his anointed one;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the strength of his right hand that can rescue him.

⁷ Some trust in chariots and others in horses,
but we call on Yahweh our God.

⁸ They will be brought down and fall,
but we will rise and stand upright!

⁹ Yahweh, rescue the king;
help us when we call.

Selah

21

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ The king rejoices in your strength, Yahweh!
How greatly he rejoices in the salvation you provide!

² You have given him his heart's desire
and have not held back the request of his lips.

³ For you bring him rich blessings;
you placed on his head a crown of purest gold.

⁴ He asked you for life; you gave it to him;
you gave him long days forever and ever.

⁵ His glory is great because of your victory;
you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty.

⁶ For you grant him lasting blessings;
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

⁷ For the king trusts in Yahweh;
through the covenant faithfulness of the Most High he will not be
moved.

⁸ Your hand will seize all your enemies;
your right hand will seize those who hate you.

⁹ At the time of your anger, you will burn them up as in a fiery furnace.
Yahweh will consume them in his wrath,
and the fire will devour them.

¹⁰ You will destroy their offspring from the earth
and their descendants from among the human race.

¹¹ For they intended evil against you;
they conceived a plot with which they will not succeed!

¹² For you will turn them back;
you will draw your bow before them.

¹³ Be exalted, Yahweh, in your strength;
we will sing and praise your power.

Selah

22

For the chief musician; set to "The rhythm of the deer." A psalm of David.

¹ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why are you so far from saving me and far from the words of my anguish?

² My God, I cry out in the daytime, but you do not answer, and at night I am not silent!

³ Yet you are holy;

you sit as king with the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our ancestors trusted in you;

they trusted in you, and you rescued them.

⁵ They cried to you and they were rescued.

They trusted in you and were not disappointed.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,

a disgrace to humanity and despised by the people.

⁷ All those who see me taunt me;

they mock me; they shake their heads at me.

⁸ They say, "He trusts in Yahweh;

let Yahweh rescue him.

Let him rescue him, for he delights in him."

⁹ For you brought me from the womb;

you made me trust you when I was on my mother's breasts.

¹⁰ I have been thrown on you from the womb;

you are my God since I was in my mother's womb!

¹¹ Do not be far away from me, for trouble is near;

there is no one to help.

¹² Many bulls surround me;

strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

¹³ They open their mouths wide against me

like a roaring lion ripping its victim.

¹⁴ I am being poured out like water,

and all my bones are dislocated.

My heart is like wax;

it melts away within my inner parts.

¹⁵ My strength has dried up like a piece of pottery;

my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.

You have laid me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded me;

a company of evildoers has encircled me;

they have pierced my hands and my feet.

¹⁷ I can count all my bones.

They look and stare at me.

¹⁸ They divide my garments among themselves,

they cast lots for my clothes.

¹⁹ Do not be far away, Yahweh;

please hurry to help me, my strength!

²⁰ Rescue my soul from the sword,

my only life from the claws of wild dogs.

²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth;

rescue me from the horns of the wild oxen.

22 I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

23 You who fear Yahweh, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or abhorred the suffering of the afflicted one;

Yahweh has not hidden his face from him;
when the afflicted one cried to him, he heard.

25 My praise will be because of you in the great assembly;

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear him.

26 The oppressed will eat and be satisfied;

those who seek Yahweh will praise him.

May your hearts live forever.

27 All the peoples of the earth will remember and turn to Yahweh;

all the families of the nations will bow down before you.

28 For the kingdom is Yahweh's;

he is the ruler over the nations.

29 All the prosperous people of the earth will feast and will worship;

all those who are descending into the dust will bow before him,

those who cannot preserve their own lives.

30 A generation to come will serve him;

they will tell the next generation of the Lord.

31 They will come and tell of his righteousness;

they will tell to a people not yet born what he has done!

23

A psalm of David.

1 Yahweh is my shepherd; I will lack nothing.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside tranquil water.

3 He brings back my life;

he guides me along right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through a valley of darkest shadow,

I will not fear harm since you are with me;

your rod and your staff comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you have anointed my head with oil;

my cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and covenant faithfulness will pursue me all the days
of my life;

and I will live in the house of Yahweh for a very long time!

24

A psalm of David.

1 The earth is Yahweh's, and its fullness,
the world, and all who live in it.

2 For he has founded it upon the seas

and established it on the rivers.

3 Who will ascend the mountain of Yahweh?

Who will stand in his holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart;

who has not lifted up a falsehood,
 and has not sworn an oath in order to deceive.
⁵ He will receive a blessing from Yahweh
 and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
 those who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Selah

⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates;
 be lifted up, everlasting doors,
 so that the King of glory may come in!
⁸ Who is this King of glory?
 Yahweh, strong and mighty; Yahweh, mighty in battle.
⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates;
 be lifted up, everlasting doors,
 so that the King of glory may come in!
¹⁰ Who is this King of glory?
 Yahweh of hosts,
 he is the King of glory.

Selah

25

A psalm of David.

¹ To you, Yahweh, I lift up my life!
² My God, I trust in you.
 Do not let me be humiliated;
 do not let my enemies rejoice triumphantly over me.
³ May no one who hopes in you be disgraced
 may those who act treacherously without cause be ashamed!
⁴ Make known to me your ways, Yahweh;
 teach me your paths.
⁵ Guide me into your truth and teach me,
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 I hope in you all day long.
⁶ Call to mind, Yahweh, your acts of compassion and of covenant
 faithfulness;
 for they have always existed.
⁷ Do not think about the sins of my youth or my rebelliousness;
 Call me to mind with covenant faithfulness because of your goodness,
 Yahweh!
⁸ Yahweh is good and upright;
 therefore he teaches sinners the way.
⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
 and he teaches them his way.
¹⁰ All the paths of Yahweh are steadfast love and faithfulness
 to those who keep his covenant and his solemn commands.
¹¹ For your name's sake, Yahweh,
 pardon my sin, for it is great.
¹² Who is the man who fears Yahweh?
 The Lord will instruct him in the way that he should choose.
¹³ His life will go along in goodness;
 and his descendants will inherit the land.

14 The friendship of Yahweh is for those who honor him,
and he makes his covenant known to them.

15 My eyes are always on Yahweh,
for he will free my feet from the net.

16 Turn toward me and have mercy on me;
for I am alone and afflicted.

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
draw me out from my distress!

18 See my affliction and my toils;
forgive all my sins.

19 See my enemies, for they are many;
they hate me with cruel hatred.

20 Protect my life and rescue me;
do not let me be humiliated, for I take refuge in you!

21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I hope in you.

22 Rescue Israel, God,
from all of his troubles!

26

A psalm of David.

1 Judge me, Yahweh, for I have walked with integrity;
I have trusted in Yahweh without wavering.

2 Examine me, Yahweh, and test me;
test the purity of my inner parts and my heart!

3 For your covenant faithfulness is before my eyes,
and I walk about in your faithfulness.

4 I do not associate with deceitful people,
nor do I mingle with dishonest people.

5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I do not live with the wicked.

6 I wash my hands in innocence,
and I go around your altar, Yahweh,

7 to sing a loud song of praise
and report all your wonderful deeds.

8 Yahweh, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory lives!

9 Do not sweep me away with sinners,
or my life with people who are bloodthirsty,

10 in whose hands there is a plot,
and whose right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I will walk in integrity;
redeem me and have mercy on me.

12 My foot stands on level ground;
in the assemblies will I bless Yahweh!

27

A psalm of David.

1 Yahweh is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

Yahweh is my life's refuge;
whom should I dread?

² When evildoers approached me to devour my flesh,
my adversaries and my enemies stumbled and fell.

³ Though an army encamps against me,
my heart will not fear;

though war rises up against me,
even then I will remain confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of Yahweh, and I will seek that:
that I may live in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life,
to see the beauty of Yahweh
and to meditate in his temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble he will hide me in his shelter;
in the cover of his tent he will conceal me.
He will lift me high on a rock!

⁶ Then my head will be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer sacrifices of joy in his tent!
I will sing and make songs to Yahweh!

⁷ Hear, Yahweh, my voice when I cry out!
Have mercy on me, and answer me!

⁸ My heart says about you,
"Seek his face!" I seek your face, Yahweh!

⁹ Do not hide your face from me;
do not turn your servant away in anger!
You have been my helper;

do not forsake me or abandon me, God of my salvation!

¹⁰ Even if my father and my mother forsake me,

Yahweh will take me in.

¹¹ Teach me your way, Yahweh!
Lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

¹² Do not give me up to the desires of my enemies,
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and they breathe out violence!

¹³ What would have happened to me if I had not believed that I would
see the goodness of Yahweh in the land of the living?

¹⁴ Wait for Yahweh;
be strong, and let your heart be courageous!
Wait for Yahweh!

28

A psalm of David.

¹ To you, Yahweh, I cry out; my rock, do not ignore me.

If you do not respond to me, I will join those who go down to the grave.

² Hear the sound of my pleading when I call for help from you,
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy place!

³ Do not drag me away with the wicked, those who do iniquity,
who speak peace with their neighbors but have evil in their hearts.

⁴ Give them what their deeds deserve and repay them what their
wickedness demands,

repay them for the work of their hands and render to them their due.

⁵ Because they do not understand the deeds of Yahweh or the work of
his hands,

he will tear them down and never rebuild them.

⁶ Blessed be Yahweh
because he has heard the sound of my pleading!

⁷ Yahweh is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
and I will praise him with singing.

⁸ Yahweh is the strength of his people,
and he is the saving refuge of his anointed one.

⁹ Save your people and bless your inheritance.
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

29

A psalm of David.

¹ Ascribe to Yahweh, you sons of God,
ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength!

² Ascribe to Yahweh the glory his name deserves.
Bow down to Yahweh in the splendor of holiness!

³ The voice of Yahweh is heard over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
Yahweh thunders over many waters.

⁴ The voice of Yahweh is powerful;
the voice of Yahweh is majestic.

⁵ The voice of Yahweh breaks the cedars;
Yahweh breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young ox.

⁷ The voice of Yahweh sends out flames of fire.

⁸ The voice of Yahweh shakes the wilderness;
Yahweh shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of Yahweh causes the oaks to twist
and strips the forests bare.

Everyone in his temple says, "Glory!"

¹⁰ Yahweh sits as king over the flood;
Yahweh sits as king forever.

¹¹ Yahweh gives strength to his people;
Yahweh blesses his people with peace.

30

A psalm; a song at the dedication of the temple. A psalm of David.

¹ I will exalt you, Yahweh, for you have raised me up and have not
allowed my enemies to rejoice over me.

² Yahweh my God, I cried to you for help, and you healed me.

³ Yahweh, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you have kept me
alive from going down to the grave.

⁴ Sing praises to Yahweh, you his faithful people! Give thanks when
you remember his holiness.

⁵ For his anger is only for a moment; but his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping comes for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ In confidence I said, "I will never be shaken."

- ⁷ Yahweh, by your favor you established me as a strong mountain; but when you hid your face, I was troubled.
- ⁸ I cried to you, Yahweh, and sought favor from my Lord!
- ⁹ What advantage is there in my death, if I go down to the grave? Will the dust praise you? Will it declare your trustworthiness?
- ¹⁰ Hear, Yahweh, and have mercy on me! Yahweh, be my helper.
- ¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have removed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.
- ¹² So now my glory will sing praise to you and not be silent; Yahweh my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

31

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

- ¹ In you, Yahweh, I take refuge;
never let me be humiliated.
Rescue me in your righteousness.
- ² Listen to me; rescue me quickly;
be my rock of refuge,
a stronghold to save me.
- ³ For you are my rock and my fortress;
therefore for your name's sake, lead and guide me.
- ⁴ Pluck me out of the net that they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
- ⁵ Into your hands I entrust my spirit;
you will redeem me, Yahweh, God of trustworthiness.
- ⁶ I hate those who serve worthless idols,
but I trust in Yahweh.
- ⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in your covenant faithfulness,
for you saw my affliction;
you knew the distress of my soul.
- ⁸ You have not given me into the hand of my enemy.
You have set my feet in a wide open place.
- ⁹ Have mercy upon me, Yahweh, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weary with grief with my soul and my body.
- ¹⁰ For my life is weary with sorrow
and my years with groaning.
My strength fails because of my sin,
and my bones are wasting away.
- ¹¹ Because of all my enemies, people disdain me;
my neighbors are appalled at my situation,
and those who know me are horrified.
Those who see me in the street run from me.
- ¹² I am forgotten as a dead man whom no one thinks about.
I am like a broken pot.
- ¹³ For I have heard the whispering of many,
terrifying news from every side
as they plot together against me.
They plot to take away my life.
- ¹⁴ But I trust in you, Yahweh;
I say, "You are my God."
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand.

Rescue me from the hands of my enemies and from those who pursue me.

16 Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your covenant faithfulness.

17 Do not let me be humiliated, Yahweh; for I call out to you!
May the wicked be humiliated! May they be silent in Sheol.

18 May lying lips be silenced
that speak against the righteous defiantly
with arrogance and contempt.

19 How great is your goodness
that you have stored up for those who revere you,
that you perform for those who take refuge in you
before all the children of mankind!

20 In the shelter of your presence, you hide them from the plots of men.
You hide them in a shelter from the violence of tongues.

21 Blessed be Yahweh,
for he showed me his marvelous covenant faithfulness when I was in
a besieged city.

22 Though I said in my haste,
"I am cut off from your eyes,"
yet you heard my plea for help
when I cried to you.

23 Oh, love Yahweh, all you faithful followers.
Yahweh protects the faithful,
but he pays back the arrogant in full.

24 Be strong and confident,
all you who trust in Yahweh for help.

32

A psalm of David. A maschil.

1 Blessed is the person whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man to whom Yahweh reckons no guilt
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 When I remained silent, my bones were wasting away
while I groaned all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me.
My strength withered as in summer drought.

Selah

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I no longer hid my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to Yahweh,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Selah

6 Because of this, all who are godly should pray to you at a time of
great distress.

Then when the surging waters overflow, they will not reach those
people.

7 You are my hiding place; you will guard me from trouble.
You will surround me with the songs of victory.

Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go.

I will instruct you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or like a mule, which have no understanding; it is only with bridle and bit to control them that they will go where you want them to.

¹⁰ The wicked have many sorrows, but Yahweh's covenant faithfulness will surround the one who trusts in him.

¹¹ Be glad in Yahweh, and rejoice, you righteous; shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

33

¹ Rejoice in Yahweh, you righteous; praise is appropriate for the upright.

² Give thanks to Yahweh with the harp; sing praises to him with the harp of ten strings.

³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully and sing with joy.

⁴ For Yahweh's word is upright, and everything he does is fair.

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice.

The earth is full of Yahweh's covenant faithfulness.

⁶ By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, and all the stars were made by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together like a heap; he puts the oceans in storehouses.

⁸ Let the whole earth fear Yahweh; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

⁹ For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood in place.

¹⁰ Yahweh frustrates the alliances of nations; he overrules the plans of the peoples.

¹¹ The plans of Yahweh stand forever, the plans of his heart for all generations.

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is Yahweh, the people whom he has chosen as his own inheritance.

¹³ Yahweh looks from heaven; he sees all the people.

¹⁴ From the place where he lives, he looks down on all who live on the earth.

¹⁵ He who shapes the hearts of them all observes all their deeds.

¹⁶ No king is saved by a vast army; a warrior is not saved by his great strength.

¹⁷ A horse is a false hope for victory; in spite of his great strength, he cannot rescue.

¹⁸ See, Yahweh's eye is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his covenant faithfulness

¹⁹ to deliver their lives from death and to keep them alive in times of famine.

²⁰ We wait for Yahweh; he is our help and our shield.

²¹ Our hearts rejoice in him,

for we trust in his holy name.

²² Let your covenant faithfulness, Yahweh, be with us
as we put our hope in you.

34

A psalm of David; when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech,
who drove him out.

¹ I will praise Yahweh at all times,
his praise will always be in my mouth.

² I will praise Yahweh!
May the oppressed hear and rejoice.

³ Praise Yahweh with me,
let us lift up his name together.

⁴ I sought Yahweh and he answered me,
and he gave me victory over all my fears.

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces are not ashamed.

⁶ This oppressed man cried and Yahweh heard him
and saved him from all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of Yahweh camps around those who fear him
and rescues them.

⁸ Taste and see that Yahweh is good.
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

⁹ Fear Yahweh, you his holy people.
There is no lack for those who fear him.

¹⁰ The young lions sometimes lack food and suffer hunger,
but those who seek Yahweh will not lack anything good.

¹¹ Come, sons, listen to me.
I will teach you the fear of Yahweh.

¹² What man is there who desires life
and loves many days,
that he may see good?

¹³ Then keep your tongue from evil
and keep your lips from speaking lies.

¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good.
Seek peace and go after it.

¹⁵ The eyes of Yahweh are on the righteous
and his ears are directed toward their cry.

¹⁶ The face of Yahweh is against those who do evil,
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

¹⁷ The righteous cry out and Yahweh hears
and he rescues them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ Yahweh is close to the brokenhearted,
and he saves those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but Yahweh delivers them out of them all.

²⁰ He keeps all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.

²¹ Evil will kill the wicked.
Those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

²² Yahweh rescues the lives of his servants.
None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

35

A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh, work against those who work against me;
fight against those who fight against me.

² Grab your small shield and large shield;
rise up and help me.

³ Use your spear and battle ax against those who chase me;
say to my soul, "I am your salvation."

⁴ May those who seek my life be shamed and dishonored.
May those who plan to harm me be turned back and confounded.

⁵ May they be as chaff before the wind,
as the angel of Yahweh drives them away.

⁶ May their way be dark and slippery,
as the angel of Yahweh chases them.

⁷ Without cause they set their net for me;
without cause they dug a pit for my life.

⁸ Let destruction overtake them by surprise.
Let the net that they have set catch them.

Let them fall into it, to their destruction.

⁹ But I will be joyful in Yahweh
and rejoice in his salvation.

¹⁰ All my bones will say, "Yahweh, who is like you,
who rescues the oppressed from those who are too strong for them
and the poor and needy from those who try to rob them?"

¹¹ Unrighteous witnesses rise up;
they accuse me falsely.

¹² They repay me evil for good.

I am sorrowful.

¹³ But, when they were sick, I wore sackcloth;

I fasted for them
with my head bowed on my chest.

¹⁴ I went about in grief as for my brother;
I bent down in mourning as for my mother.

¹⁵ But when I stumbled, they rejoiced and gathered together;
they gathered together against me, and I was surprised by them.
They tore at me without stopping.

¹⁶ With no respect at all they mocked me;
they grind their teeth at me in rage.

¹⁷ Lord, how long will you look on?
Rescue my soul from their destructive attacks,
my life from the lions.

¹⁸ Then I will thank you in the great assembly;
I will praise you among many people.

¹⁹ Do not let my deceitful enemies rejoice over me;
do not let them carry out their wicked schemes.

²⁰ For they do not speak peace,
but they devise deceitful words against those in our land who live in
peace.

²¹ They open their mouths wide against me;
they said, "Aha, Aha, our eyes have seen it."

²² You have seen it, Yahweh, do not be silent;

Lord, do not be far from me.

²³ Arouse yourself and awake to my defense;

My God and my Lord, defend my cause.

²⁴ Defend me, Yahweh my God, because of your righteousness;
do not let them rejoice over me.

²⁵ Do not let them say in their heart, "Aha, we have what we wanted."
Do not let them say, "We have devoured him."

²⁶ May they be put to shame and may they be confounded who rejoice
at my distress.

May those who exalt themselves over me be clothed with shame and
dishonor.

²⁷ Let those who desire my vindication shout for joy and be glad;
may they say continually, "Yahweh be praised,
he who delights in the welfare of his servant."

²⁸ Then I will tell of your justice
and praise you all day long.

36

For the chief musician. A psalm of David the servant of Yahweh.

¹ An evil man speaks of his transgression from deep in his heart,
there is no fear of God in his eyes.

² For he comforts himself,
thinking that his sin will not be discovered and be hated.

³ His words are sinful and deceitful;
he does not want to be wise and do good.

⁴ While he lies in bed, he plans ways to sin;
he sets out on an evil way;
he does not reject evil.

⁵ Your covenant faithfulness, Yahweh, reaches to the heavens;
your loyalty reaches to the clouds.

⁶ Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep.
Yahweh, you preserve both mankind and the animals.

⁷ How precious is your covenant faithfulness, God!
Humanity takes refuge under the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you let them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we will see light.

¹⁰ Extend your covenant faithfulness fully to those who know you,
your defense to the upright of heart.

¹¹ Do not let the foot of the arrogant man come near to me.
Do not let the hand of the wicked drive me away.

¹² Over there the evildoers have fallen;
they are knocked down and are not able to get up.

37

A psalm of David.

¹ Do not be irritated because of evildoers;
do not be envious of those who act unrighteously.

² For they will soon dry up as the grass

and wither as the green plants.

³ Trust in Yahweh and do what is good;
settle in the land and graze in faithfulness.

⁴ Then delight yourself in Yahweh,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Give your ways to Yahweh;
trust in him, and he will act on your behalf.

⁶ He will display your justice like the daylight
and your innocence like the day at noon.

⁷ Be still before Yahweh and wait patiently for him.
Do not be angry if someone succeeds in what he does,
or when he makes evil plots.

⁸ Do not be angry and frustrated.
Do not worry. This only makes trouble.

⁹ Evildoers will be cut off,
but those who wait for Yahweh will inherit the land.

¹⁰ In a little while the evil man will disappear;
you will look at his place, but he will be gone.

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and will delight in great prosperity.

¹² The wicked man plots against the righteous
and he grinds his teeth in rage against him.

¹³ The Lord laughs at him,
for he sees that his day is coming.

¹⁴ The wicked have drawn out their swords and have bent their bows
to cast down the oppressed and needy,
to kill those who are upright.

¹⁵ Their swords will pierce their own hearts,
and their bows will be broken.

¹⁶ Better is the little that the righteous has
than the abundance of many wicked people.

¹⁷ For the arms of the wicked people will be broken,
but Yahweh supports the righteous people.

¹⁸ Yahweh watches over the blameless day by day,
and their heritage will be forever.

¹⁹ They will not be ashamed when times are bad.
When famine comes, they will have enough to eat.

²⁰ But evil men will perish.
Yahweh's enemies will be like the glory of the pastures;
they will be consumed and disappear in the smoke.

²¹ The wicked person borrows but does not repay,
but the righteous person is generous and gives.

²² Those who are blessed by God will inherit the land;
those who are cursed by him will be cut off.

²³ It is by Yahweh that a man's steps are established,
the man whose way is commendable in God's sight.

²⁴ Though he stumbles, he will not fall down,
for Yahweh is holding him with his hand.

²⁵ I was young and now am old;
I have never seen the righteous person abandoned
or his children begging for bread.

26 All the day long he is gracious and lends,
and his children become a blessing.
27 Turn away from evil and do what is right;
then you will be safe forever.
28 For Yahweh loves justice
and does not abandon his faithful followers.
They are preserved forever,
but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.
29 The righteous will inherit the land
and live there forever.
30 The mouth of the righteous person speaks wisdom
and increases justice.
31 The law of his God is in his heart;
his feet will not slip.
32 The wicked person watches the righteous person
and seeks to kill him.
33 Yahweh will not abandon him into the evil person's hand
or condemn him when he is judged.
34 Wait for Yahweh and keep his way,
and he will raise you up to possess the land.
You will see when the wicked are cut off.
35 I have seen the wicked and terrifying person
spread out like a green tree in its native soil.
36 But when I passed by again, he was not there.
I looked for him, but he could not be found.
37 Observe the man of integrity, and mark the upright;
there is a good future for a man of peace.
38 Sinners will be totally destroyed;
the future for the wicked man is cut off.
39 Salvation of the righteous comes from Yahweh;
he protects them in the times of trouble.
40 Yahweh helps them and rescues them.
He rescues them from evil men and saves them
because they have taken refuge in him.

38

A psalm of David, to bring to remembrance.

1 Yahweh, do not rebuke me in your anger;
do not punish me in your wrath.
2 For your arrows pierce me,
and your hand presses me down.
3 My whole body is sick because of your anger;
there is no health in my bones because of my sin.
4 For my iniquities overwhelm me;
they are a burden too heavy for me.
5 My wounds are infected and smell
because of my foolish sins.
6 I am stooped over and humiliated every day;
I go about mourning all day long.
7 For within me, I am filled with burning;
there is no health in my flesh.

8 I am numb and utterly crushed;
 I groan because of the anguish of my heart.
 9 Lord, you understand my heart's deepest yearnings,
 and my groanings are not hidden from you.
 10 My heart pounds, my strength fades,
 and my eyesight dims.
 11 My friends and companions shun me because of my condition;
 my neighbors stand far off.
 12 Those who seek my life lay snares for me.
 They who seek my harm speak destructive words
 and say deceitful words all day long.
 13 But I, I am like a deaf man and hear nothing;
 I am like a mute man who says nothing.
 14 I am like a man who does not hear
 and who has no reply.
 15 Surely I wait for you, Yahweh;
 you will answer, Lord my God.
 16 I say this so that my enemies will not gloat over me.
 If my foot slips, they will do terrible things to me.
 17 For I am about to stumble,
 and I am in constant pain.
 18 I confess my guilt;
 I am concerned about my sin.
 19 But my enemies are numerous;
 those who hate me wrongfully are many.
 20 They repay me evil for good;
 they hurl accusations at me although I have pursued what is good.
 21 Do not abandon me, Yahweh;
 my God, do not stay far away from me.
 22 Come quickly to help me,
 Lord, my salvation.

39

For the chief musician, for Jeduthun. A psalm of David.

1 I decided, "I will watch what I say
 so that I do not sin with my tongue.
 I will muzzle my mouth
 while in the presence of an evil man."
 2 I kept silent; I kept back my words even from saying anything good,
 and my pain grew worse.
 3 My heart became hot;
 when I thought about these things, it burned like a fire.
 Then finally I spoke.
 4 "Yahweh, make me know when will be the end of my life
 and the extent of my days.
 Show me how transient I am.
 5 See, you have made my days only the width of my hand,
 and my lifetime is like nothing before you.
 Surely every man is a single breath.
 6 Surely every man walks about like a shadow.

Selah

Surely everyone hurries about
to accumulate riches although they do not know who will receive them.
7 Now, Lord, for what am I waiting?

You are my only hope.

8 Rescue me from my sins;
do not make me the reproach of fools.

9 I am silent and cannot open my mouth,
because it is you who has done it.

10 Stop wounding me;
I am overwhelmed by the blow of your hand.

11 When you discipline people for sin,
you consume the things they desire like a moth;
surely all people are nothing but vapor.

Selah

12 Hear my prayer, Yahweh, and listen to me;
listen to my weeping!
Do not be deaf to me,
for I am like a foreigner with you, a refugee like all my ancestors were.
13 Turn your gaze from me so that I may smile again
before I die."

40

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

1 I waited patiently for Yahweh;
he listened to me and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay,
and he set my feet on a rock and made my steps secure.

3 He has put a new song in my mouth, praise to our God.
Many will see it and honor him
and will trust in Yahweh.

4 Blessed is the man who makes Yahweh his trust
and does not honor the proud or those who turn away from him to
lies.

5 Many, Yahweh my God, are the wonderful deeds that you have done,
and your thoughts which are about us cannot be numbered;
if I declared and spoke of them,
they would be more than could be counted.

6 You have no delight in sacrifice or offering,
but you have opened my ears;
you have not required burnt offerings or sin offerings.

7 Then said I, "See, I have come;
it is written about me in the scroll of the document.

8 I delight to do your will, my God;
your laws are in my heart."

9 I have proclaimed good news of your righteousness in the great
assembly;

Yahweh, you know that my lips have not kept back from doing this.

10 I have not concealed your righteousness in my heart;

I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation;

I have not concealed your covenant faithfulness or your trustworthi-
ness from the great assembly.

11 Do not keep back your acts of mercy from me, Yahweh;
let your covenant faithfulness and your trustworthiness always
preserve me.

12 Troubles that cannot be numbered surround me;
my iniquities have caught up with me so that I am no longer able to
see anything;

they are more than the hairs on my head,
and my heart has failed me.

13 Be pleased, Yahweh, to rescue me;
hurry to help me, Yahweh.

14 Let them be ashamed and completely disappointed
who pursue my life to take it away.

Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor,
those who delight in hurting me.

15 Let them be shocked because of their shame,
those who say to me, "Aha, aha!"

16 But may all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let everyone who loves your salvation say continually,
"May Yahweh be praised."

17 I am poor and needy;
yet the Lord thinks about me.

You are my help and you come to my rescue;
do not delay, my God.

41

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

1 Blessed is he who is concerned for the weak;
in the day of trouble, Yahweh will rescue him.

2 Yahweh will preserve him and keep him alive,
and he will be blessed on the earth;

Yahweh will not turn him over to the will of his enemies.

3 Yahweh will support him on the bed of suffering;
you will make his bed of sickness into a bed of healing.

4 I said, "Yahweh, have mercy on me!
Heal me, for I have sinned against you."

5 My enemies speak evil against me, saying,
'When will he die and his name perish?'

6 If my enemy comes to see me, he says worthless things;
his heart gathers up my disaster for itself;
when he goes away from me, he tells others about it.

7 All who hate me whisper together against me;
against me they hope for my hurt.

8 They say, "An evil disease holds on tightly to him;
now that he is lying down, he will rise up no more."

9 Indeed, even my own close friend, in whom I trusted,
who ate my bread,
has lifted up his heel against me.

10 But you, Yahweh, have mercy on me and raise me up
so that I may pay them back.

11 By this I know that you delight in me,
for my enemy does not triumph over me.

¹² As for me, you support me in my integrity
and will keep me before your face forever.

¹³ May Yahweh, the God of Israel be praised
from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen and Amen.

Book Two

42

For the chief musician. A maschil of the sons of Korah.

¹ As the deer pants after streams of water,
so I thirst for you, God.

² I thirst for God, for the living God,
when will I come and appear before God?

³ My tears have been my food day and night,
while my enemies are always saying to me, "Where is your God?"

⁴ These things I call to mind as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng and led them to the house of God
with the voice of joy and praise, a multitude celebrating a festival.

⁵ Why are you bowed down, my soul?

Why are you upset within me?

Hope in God, for again I will praise him who is my salvation.

⁶ My God, my soul is bowed down within me,
therefore I call you to mind from the land of the Jordan,
from the three peaks of Mount Hermon, and from the hill of Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep at the noise of your waterfalls;
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

⁸ Yet Yahweh will command his covenant faithfulness in the daytime;
in the night his song will be with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I will say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

¹⁰ As with a sword in my bones, my adversaries rebuke me,
while they always say to me, "Where is your God?"

¹¹ Why are you bowed down, my soul?

Why are you upset within me?

Hope in God, for again I will praise him who is my salvation and my
God.

43

¹ Bring me justice, God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation.

² For you are the God of my strength. Why have you rejected me?
Why do I go about in mourning because of the oppression of the
enemy?

³ Oh, send out your light and your truth, let them lead me.
Let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.
I will praise you with the harp, God, my God.

⁵ Why are you bowed down, my soul?
Why are you upset within me?

Hope in God, for again I will praise him who is my salvation and my God.

44

For the chief musician. A psalm of the sons of Korah. A maschil.

¹ We have heard with our ears, God,
our fathers have told us
what work you did in their days,
in the days of old.

² You drove out the nations with your hand,
but you planted our people;
you afflicted the peoples,
but you spread our people out in the land.

³ For they did not obtain the land for their possession by their own sword,
neither did their own arm save them;
but your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face,
because you were favorable to them.

⁴ God, You are my King;
command victory for Jacob.

⁵ Through you we will push down our adversaries;
through your name we will tread them under, those who rise up
against us.

⁶ For I will not trust in my bow,
neither will my sword save me.

⁷ But you have saved us from our adversaries,
and have put to shame those who hate us.

⁸ In God we have made our boast all the day long,
and we will give thanks to your name forever.

⁹ But now you have thrown us off and brought us dishonor,
and you do not go out with our armies.

¹⁰ You make us turn back from the adversary;
and those who hate us take spoil for themselves.

¹¹ You have made us like sheep to be slaughtered
and have scattered us among the nations.

¹² You sell your people for nothing;
you have not increased your wealth by doing so.

¹³ You make us a rebuke to our neighbors,
scoffed and mocked by those around us.

¹⁴ You make us an insult among the nations,
a shaking of the head among the peoples.

¹⁵ All the day long my dishonor is before me,
and the shame of my face has covered me

¹⁶ because of the voice of him who rebukes and insults,
because of the enemy and the avenger.

¹⁷ All this has come on us; yet we have not forgotten you
or dealt falsely with your covenant.

¹⁸ Our heart has not turned back;
our steps have not gone from your way.

¹⁹ Yet you have severely broken us in the place of jackals

Selah

and covered us with the shadow of death.

²⁰ If we have forgotten the name of our God
or spread out our hands to a strange god,

²¹ would not God search this out?

For he knows the secrets of the heart.

²² Indeed, for your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are considered to be sheep for the slaughter.

²³ Awake, why do you sleep, Lord?

Arise, do not throw us off permanently.

²⁴ Why do you hide your face
and forget our affliction and our oppression?

²⁵ For we have melted away into the dust;
our bodies cling to the earth.

²⁶ Rise up for our help
and redeem us for the sake of your covenant faithfulness.

45

For the chief musician; set to Shoshannim. A psalm of the sons of Korah. A maschil. A song of loves.

¹ My heart overflows on a good subject;
I will read aloud the words I have composed about the king;
my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

² You are fairer than the children of mankind;
grace is poured onto your lips;
therefore we know that God has blessed you forever.

³ Put your sword on your side, mighty one,
in your glory and your majesty.

⁴ In your majesty ride on triumphantly
because of trustworthiness, meekness, and righteousness;
your right hand will teach you fearful things.

⁵ Your arrows are sharp;
the peoples fall under you;
your arrows are in the hearts of the king's enemies.

⁶ Your throne, God, is forever and ever;
a scepter of justice is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁷ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness more than your companions.

⁸ All your garments smell of myrrh, aloes, and cassia;
out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made you glad.

⁹ Kings' daughters are among your honorable women;
at your right hand stands the queen clothed in gold of Ophir.

¹⁰ Listen, daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your own people and your father's house.

¹¹ In this way the king will desire your beauty;
he is your master; revere him.

¹² The daughter of Tyre will be there with a gift;
the rich among the people will beg for your favor.

¹³ The royal daughter in the palace is all glorious;
her clothing is worked with gold.

¹⁴ She will be led to the king in embroidered dress;

the virgins, her companions who follow her,
will be brought to you.

¹⁵ They will be led by gladness and rejoicing;
they will enter into the king's palace.

¹⁶ In the place of your fathers will be your children,
whom you will make princes in all the earth.

¹⁷ I will make your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore the peoples will give you thanks forever and ever.

46

For the chief musician. A psalm of the sons of Korah; set to Alamoth.
A song.

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains should be shaken into the heart of the seas,

³ though its waters roar and rage, and
though the mountains tremble with their swelling.

Selah

⁴ There is a river whose streams make the city of God happy,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵ God is in the middle of her; she will not be moved;
God will help her, and he will do so at the dawn of morning.

⁶ The nations raged and the kingdoms were shaken;
he lifted up his voice, and the earth melted.

⁷ Yahweh of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Selah

⁸ Come, behold the deeds of Yahweh,
the destruction he has caused on earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and cuts the spear into pieces;
he burns up the shields.

¹⁰ Be quiet and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted on the earth.

¹¹ Yahweh of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Selah

47

For the chief musician. A psalm of the sons of Korah.

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with the sound of triumph.

² For Yahweh Most High is terrifying;
he is a great King over all the earth.

³ He subdues peoples under us
and nations under our feet.

⁴ He chooses our inheritance for us,
the glory of Jacob whom he loved.

Selah

⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
Yahweh with the sound of a trumpet.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
 sing praises to our King, sing praises.
 7 For God is the King over all the earth;
 sing praises with understanding.
 8 God reigns over the nations;
 God sits on his holy throne.
 9 The princes of the peoples have gathered together
 to the people of the God of Abraham;
 for the shields of the earth belong to God;
 he is greatly exalted.

48

A song; a psalm of the sons of Korah.
 1 Great is Yahweh and greatly to be praised,
 in the city of our God on his holy mountain.
 2 Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth,
 is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north,
 the city of the great King.
 3 God has made himself known in her palaces as a refuge.
 4 For, see, the kings assembled themselves;
 they passed by together.
 5 They saw it, then they were amazed;
 they were dismayed, and they hurried away.
 6 Trembling took hold of them there,
 pain as when a woman is in labor.
 7 With the east wind
 you break the ships of Tarshish.
 8 As we have heard, so have we seen
 in the city of Yahweh of hosts, in the city of our God;
 God will establish it forever.

Selah

9 We have thought about your covenant faithfulness, God,
 in the middle of your temple.
 10 As your name is, God,
 so is your praise to the ends of the earth;
 your right hand is full of righteousness.
 11 Let Mount Zion be glad,
 let the daughters of Judah rejoice
 because of your righteous decrees.
 12 Walk around Mount Zion, go round about her;
 count her towers,
 13 notice well her walls,
 and look at her palaces
 so that you may tell it to the next generation.
 14 For this God is our God forever and ever;
 he will be our guide to death.

49

For the chief musician. A psalm of the sons of Korah.
 1 Hear this, all you peoples;
 give ear, all you inhabitants of the world,

² both low and high,
rich and poor together.

³ My mouth will speak wisdom
and the meditation of my heart will be of understanding.

⁴ I will incline my ear to a parable;
I will begin my parable with the harp.

⁵ Why should I fear the days of evil,
when iniquity surrounds me at my heels?

⁶ Why should I fear those who trust in their wealth
and boast about the amount of their riches?

⁷ It is certain that no one can redeem his brother
or give God a ransom for him,

⁸ For the redemption of one's life is costly,
and no one can pay what we owe.

⁹ No one can live forever
so that his body should not decay.

¹⁰ For he will see decay. Wise men die;
the fool and the brute alike perish
and leave their wealth to others.

¹¹ Their inner thought is that their families will continue forever,
and the places where they live, to all generations;
they call their lands after their own names.

¹² But man, having wealth, does not remain alive;
he is like the beasts that perish.

¹³ This, their way, is their folly;
yet after them, men approve of their sayings.

Selah

¹⁴ Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol,
and death will be their shepherd.
The upright will rule over them in the morning,
and their bodies will be consumed in Sheol,
with no place for them to live.

¹⁵ But God will redeem my life from the power of Sheol;
he will receive me.

Selah

¹⁶ Do not be afraid when one becomes rich,
and the glory of his house increases.
¹⁷ For when he dies he will take nothing away;
his glory will not go down after him.

¹⁸ He blessed his soul while he lived—
and men praise you when you live for yourself—

¹⁹ he will go to the generation of his fathers
and they will never see the light again.

²⁰ One who has wealth but no understanding
is like the beasts, which perish.

50

A psalm of Asaph.

¹ The Mighty One, God, Yahweh, has spoken
and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God has shone.

³ Our God comes and does not stay silent;
a fire devours before him,
and it is very stormy around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth so that he may judge his people:

⁵ "Gather my faithful ones together to me,
those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

⁶ The heavens will declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

Selah

⁷ "Hear, my people, and I will speak;
I am God, your God.

⁸ I will not reprove you for your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are always before me.

⁹ I will take no bull out of your house,
or male goats out of your folds.

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the birds of the mountains,
and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell you;
for the world is mine, and everything in it.

¹³ Will I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.

¹⁵ Call on me in the day of trouble;
I will rescue you, and you will glorify me."

¹⁶ But to the wicked God says,
"What have you to do with declaring my statutes,
that you have taken my covenant in your mouth,

¹⁷ since you hate instruction
and throw my words away?

¹⁸ When you see a thief, you agree with him;
you participate with those who commit adultery.

¹⁹ You give your mouth to evil,
and your tongue expresses deceit.

²⁰ You sit and speak against your brother;
you slander your own mother's son.

²¹ You have done these things, but I have kept silent,
so you thought that I was someone just like yourself.

But I will reprove you and bring up, right before your eyes, all the
things you have done.

²² Give this careful consideration, you who forget God,
otherwise I will tear you to pieces,
and there will be no one to come to help you!

²³ The one who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving praises me,
and to anyone who plans his path in the right way
I will show God's salvation."

51

For the chief musician. A psalm of David; when Nathan the prophet came to him after he had slept with Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, God, because of your covenant faithfulness; for the sake of the multitude of your merciful actions, blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, I have sinned and done what is evil in your sight; you are right when you speak; you are correct when you judge.

⁵ See, I was born in iniquity; as soon as my mother conceived me, I was in sin.

⁶ See, you desire trustworthiness in my inner self; and you teach me wisdom in the secret place within.

⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Make me hear joy and gladness so that the bones that you have broken may rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not drive me away from your presence, and do not take your holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit.

¹³ Then will I teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will be converted to you.

¹⁴ Forgive me for shedding blood, God of my salvation, and I will shout for the joy of your righteousness.

¹⁵ Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will express your praise.

¹⁶ For you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you have no pleasure in burnt offerings.

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

You, God, will not despise a broken and a contrite heart.

¹⁸ Do good in your good pleasure to Zion; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Then will you delight in the sacrifices of righteousness, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then our people will offer bulls on your altar.

52

For the chief musician. A maschil of David; when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said to him, "David has come to the house of Ahimelech."

¹ Why are you proud of making trouble, you mighty man?

The covenant faithfulness of God comes every day.

² Your tongue plans destruction
like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

³ You love evil more than good
and lying rather than speaking righteousness.

Selah

⁴ You love all words that devour others,
you deceitful tongue.

⁵ God will likewise destroy you forever;
he will take you up and pluck you out of your tent
and root you out of the land of the living.

Selah

⁶ The righteous will also see it and fear;
they will laugh at him and say,

⁷ "See, this is a man who did not make God his refuge,
but he trusted in the abundance of his wealth,
and he was strong when he destroyed others."

⁸ But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in God's house;
I will trust in the covenant faithfulness of God forever and ever.

⁹ I will give you thanks forever for what you have done.
I will wait for your name, because it is good,
in the presence of your godly people.

53

For the chief musician; set to Mahalath. A maschil of David.

¹ A fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt and have done abominable iniquity;
there is no one who does good.

² God looks down from heaven on the children of mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after him.

³ They have all turned away. Together they have become corrupt.
There is not one who does good, not even one.

⁴ Do those who commit iniquity have no understanding—
those who devour my people as if they were eating bread
and they do not call on God?

⁵ They were in great fear, although no reason to fear was there;
for God will scatter the bones of whoever will camp against you;
such people will be put to shame because God has rejected them.

⁶ Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come from Zion!
When God brings back his people from the captivity,
then Jacob will rejoice and Israel will be glad!

54

For the chief musician; on stringed instruments. A maschil of David;
when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, "Does David not hide himself
with us?"

¹ Save me, God, by your name,
and judge me in your might.

² Hear my prayer, God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For strangers have risen up against me,

and pitiless men have sought after my life;
they have not set God before them.

Selah

⁴ See, God is my helper;

the Lord is the one who upholds me.

⁵ He will repay my enemies with evil;
in your faithfulness, destroy them!

⁶ I will sacrifice to you with a freewill offering;
I will give thanks to your name, Yahweh, for it is good.

⁷ For he has rescued me from every trouble;
my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

55

For the chief musician; on stringed instruments. A maschil of David.

¹ Give ear to my prayer, God;
and do not hide yourself from my plea.

² Pay attention to me and answer me;
I have no rest in my troubles

³ because of the voice of my enemies,
because of the oppression of the wicked;
for they bring trouble on me
and persecute me in anger.

⁴ My heart trembles within me,
and the terrors of death have fallen on me.

⁵ Fearfulness and trembling have come on me,
and horror has overwhelmed me.

⁶ I said, "Oh, if only I had wings like a dove!
Then would I fly away and be at rest.

⁷ See, then I would wander far away;
I would stay in the wilderness.

Selah

⁸ I would hurry to a shelter
from the stormy wind and tempest."

⁹ Devour them, Lord, confuse their language!
For I have seen violence and strife in the city.

¹⁰ Day and night they go about on its walls;
iniquity and mischief are in the middle of it.

¹¹ Wickedness is in the middle of it;
oppression and deceit do not leave its streets.

¹² For it was not an enemy who rebuked me,
then I could have borne it;
neither was it he who hated me who raised himself up against me,
then I would have hidden myself from him.

¹³ But it was you, a man equal to myself,
my companion and my close friend.

¹⁴ We had sweet fellowship together;
we walked in the house of God with the throng.

¹⁵ Let death come suddenly on them;
let them go down alive to Sheol,
for wickedness is where they live, right among them.

¹⁶ As for me, I will call on God,

and Yahweh will save me.

¹⁷ In the evening, morning and at noonday I complain and moan;
he will hear my voice.

¹⁸ He will safely rescue my life from the battle that was against me,
for those who fought against me were many.

¹⁹ God, the one who rules from eternity,
will hear them and humiliate them.

Selah

They never change,
and they do not fear God.

²⁰ My friend has raised his hands against those who were at peace with
him;

he has not respected the covenant that he had.

²¹ His mouth was smooth as butter,
but his heart was hostile;
his words were softer than oil,
yet they were actually drawn swords.

²² Place your burdens on Yahweh, and he will sustain you;
he will never allow a righteous person to totter.

²³ But you, God, will bring the wicked down into the pit of destruction;
bloodthirsty and deceitful men will not live even half as long as others,
but I will trust in you.

56

For the chief musician; set to Jonath elem rehokim. A psalm of David.
A michtam; when the Philistines took him in Gath.

¹ Be merciful to me, God, for men are attacking me!
All the day long those who fight me press their assault.

² My enemies trample me all day long;
for there are many who arrogantly fight against me.

³ When I am afraid,
I will put my trust in you.

⁴ In God, whose word I praise—
in God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid;
what can mere man do to me?

⁵ All the day long they twist my words;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶ They gather themselves together, they hide themselves,
and they mark my steps,
just as they have waited for my life.

⁷ Do not let them escape doing iniquity.
Bring down the peoples in your anger, God.

⁸ You number my wanderings
and put my tears into your bottle;
are they not in your book?

⁹ Then my enemies will turn back on the day that I call to you;
this I know, that God is for me.

¹⁰ In God—whose word I praise,
in Yahweh—whose word I praise, ¹¹ in God I trust,
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?

¹² The duty to fulfill my vows to you is on me, God;

I will give thank offerings to you.
 13 For you have rescued my life from death;
 you have kept my feet from falling,
 so that I may walk before God
 in the light of the living.

57

For the chief musician; set to Al Tashheth. A psalm of David. A
 nichtam; when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

1 Be merciful to me, God, be merciful to me,
 for I take refuge in you until these troubles are over.
 I stay under your wings for protection until this destruction is over.

2 I will cry to God Most High,
 to God, who does all things for me.

3 He will send help from heaven and save me,
 he is angry with those who crush me.

Selah

God will send me his loving kindness and his faithfulness.

4 My life is among lions;

I am among those who are ready to devour me.

I am among people whose teeth are spears and arrows,
 and whose tongues are sharp swords.

5 Be exalted, God, above the heavens;
 let your glory be above all the earth.

6 They spread out a net for my feet;
 I was distressed.

They dug a pit in front of me.

They themselves have fallen into the middle of it!

Selah

7 My heart is fixed, God, my heart is fixed;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises.

8 Wake up, my honored heart; wake up, lute and harp;
 I will wake up the dawn.

9 I will give thanks to you, Lord, among the peoples;
 I will sing praises to you among the nations.

10 For great is your unfailing love, reaching to the heavens;
 and your faithfulness to the clouds.

11 Be exalted, God, above the heavens;
 may your glory be exalted over all the earth.

58

For the chief musician; set to Al Tashheth. A psalm of David. A
 nichtam.

1 Do you rulers speak righteousness?

Do you judge uprightly, you people?

2 No, you commit wickedness in your heart;
 you distribute violence throughout the land with your hands.

3 The wicked go astray even when they are in the womb;
 they go astray from birth, speaking lies.

4 Their poison is like a snake's poison;
 they are like a deaf adder that stops up its ears,

⁵ that pays no attention to the voice of charmers,
no matter how skillful they are.

⁶ Break their teeth in their mouths, God;
break out the great teeth of the young lions, Yahweh.

⁷ Let them melt away as water that runs off;
when they shoot their arrows, let them be as though they had no
points.

⁸ Let them be like a snail that melts and passes away,
like the untimely-born child of a woman that never sees the sunlight.

⁹ Before your pots can feel the thorn's burning heat,
he will take them away with a whirlwind, the green thorns and the
burning thorns alike.

¹⁰ The righteous will rejoice when he sees God's vengeance;
he will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked,

¹¹ so that men will say, "Truly, there is a reward for the righteous
person;

truly there is a God who judges the earth."

59

For the chief musician; set to Al Tashheth. A psalm of David. A
michtam; when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him.

¹ Rescue me from my enemies, my God;
set me on high away from those who rise up against me.

² Keep me safe from the workers of iniquity,
and save me from the bloodthirsty men.

³ For, see, they wait in ambush to take my life.
The powerful men gather themselves together against me,
but not because of my transgression or my sin, Yahweh.

⁴ They prepare to run at me although I am without fault;
awake and help me and see.

⁵ You, Yahweh God of hosts, the God of Israel,
arise and punish all the nations;
do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors.

Selah

⁶ They return at evening, they howl like dogs
and go around the city.

⁷ See, they belch out with their mouths;
swords are in their lips,
for they say, "Who hears us?"

⁸ But you, Yahweh, laugh at them;
you hold all the nations in derision.

⁹ God, my strength, I will pay attention to you;
you are my high tower.

¹⁰ My God will meet me with his covenant faithfulness;
God will let me see my desire on my enemies.

¹¹ Do not kill them, or my people will forget.
Scatter them by your power and make them fall, Lord our shield.

¹² For the sins of their mouths and the words of their lips,
let them be captured in their pride,
and for the curses and lies that they express.

¹³ Consume them in wrath, consume them so that they will be no more;

let them know that God rules in Jacob
and to the ends of the earth.

Selah

¹⁴ At evening they return,

howling like dogs going around the city.

¹⁵ They wander about looking for food

and they growl like a dog if they are not satisfied.

¹⁶ But I will sing about your strength,

and in the morning I will sing about your steadfast love!

For you have been my high tower

and a refuge in the day of my distress.

¹⁷ To you, my strength, I will sing praises;

for God is my high tower, the God of covenant faithfulness.

60

For the chief musician; set to Shushan Eduth. A michtam of David, for teaching. When he fought with Aram Naharaim and with Aram Zobah, and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹ God, you have cast us off; you have broken through our defenses; you have been angry; restore us again.

² You have made the land tremble; you have torn it apart; heal its fissures, for it is shaking.

³ You have made your people see difficult things; you have made us drink the wine of staggering.

⁴ For those who honor you,

you have set up a banner

to be displayed against those who carry the bow.

Selah

⁵ So that those you love may be rescued,

rescue us with your right hand and answer me.

⁶ God has spoken in his holiness, "I will rejoice;

I will divide Shechem and apportion out the Valley of Succoth.

⁷ Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;

Ephraim also is my helmet;

Judah is my scepter.

⁸ Moab is my washbasin;

over Edom I will throw my shoe;

I will shout in triumph because of Philistia."

⁹ Who will bring me into the strong city?

Who will lead me to Edom?

¹⁰ But you, God, have you not rejected us?

You do not go into battle with our army.

¹¹ Give us help against the enemy,

for man's help is futile.

¹² We will triumph with God's help;

he will trample down our enemies.

61

For the chief musician; on a stringed instrument. A psalm of David.

¹ Hear my cry, God;

attend to my prayer.

² From the ends of the earth will I call to you when my heart is faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

³ For you have been a refuge for me,
a strong tower from the enemy.

⁴ Let me live in your tabernacle forever!
Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings.

Selah

⁵ For you, God, have heard my vows,
you have given me the inheritance of those who honor your name.

⁶ You will prolong the king's life;
his years will be like many generations.

⁷ He will remain before God forever.

⁸ I will sing praise to your name forever
so that I may perform my vows every day.

62

For the chief musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A psalm of David.

¹ I wait in silence for God alone;
my salvation comes from him.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation;
he is my high tower; I will not be greatly moved.

³ How long, all of you, will you attack a man,
that you may tip him over
like a leaning wall or a shaky fence?

⁴ They consult with him only to bring him down from his honorable
position;

they love to tell lies;
they bless him with their mouths, but in their hearts they curse him.

Selah

⁵ I wait in silence for God alone;
for my hope is set on him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation;
he is my high tower; I will not be moved.

⁷ With God is my salvation and my glory;
the rock of my strength and my refuge are in God.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

Selah

⁹ Surely men of low standing are vanity, and men of high standing are
a lie;

they will weigh lightly in the scales;
weighed together, they are lighter than nothing.

¹⁰ Do not trust in oppression or robbery;
and do not hope uselessly in riches,
for they will bear no fruit; do not fix your heart on them.

¹¹ God has spoken once,
twice have I heard this:
power belongs to God.

¹² Also to you, Lord, belongs covenant faithfulness,

for you pay back every person for what he has done.

63

A psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

¹ God, you are my God! I earnestly search for you,
my soul thirsts for you, and my flesh longs for you,
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² So I have looked on you in the sanctuary,
to see your power and your glory.

³ Because your covenant faithfulness is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you while I live;
I will lift up my hands in your name.

⁵ It will be as if I ate a meal of marrow and fatness;
with joyful lips my mouth will praise you,

⁶ when I think about you on my bed
and meditate on you in the night hours.

⁷ For you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand supports me.

⁹ But those who seek to destroy my life
will go down into the lowest parts of the earth; ¹⁰ they will be given
over to those whose hands use the sword,
and they will become food for the jackals.

¹¹ But the king will rejoice in God;
everyone who swears by him will be proud of him,
but the mouth of those who speak lies will be stopped up.

64

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ Hear my voice, God, listen to my complaint;
preserve my life from fear of my enemies.

² Hide me from the secret plotting of evildoers,
from the commotion of the doers of iniquity.

³ They have sharpened their tongues like swords;
they have aimed their arrows, bitter words,

⁴ so that they may shoot from secret places at someone who is innocent;
suddenly they shoot at him and fear nothing.

⁵ They encourage themselves in an evil plan;
they consult privately together in order to set traps;
they say, "Who will see us?"

⁶ They invent sinful plans;
"We have finished," they say, "a careful plan."
The inner thoughts and hearts of man are deep.

⁷ But God will shoot them;
suddenly they will be wounded with his arrows.

⁸ They will be made to stumble, since their own tongues are against
them;

all who see them will wag their heads.

⁹ All people will fear

and will declare God's deeds.

They will wisely think about what he has done.

¹⁰ The righteous will be glad about Yahweh and will take refuge in him; all the upright in heart will take pride in him.

65

For the chief musician. A psalm. A song of David.

¹ For you, God in Zion, our praise waits;
our vows will be carried out to you.

² You who hear prayer,
to you all flesh will come.

³ Iniquities prevail against us;
as for our transgressions, you will forgive them.

⁴ Blessed is the man whom you choose to bring near to you
so that he may live in your courts.

We will be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.

⁵ In righteousness you will answer us by doing amazing things,
God of our salvation;

you who are hope of all the ends of the earth
and of those who are far across the sea.

⁶ For it is you who made the mountains firm,
you who are belted with strength.

⁷ It is you who quiet the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the commotion of the peoples.

⁸ Those who live in the uttermost parts of the earth are afraid of the
evidence of your deeds;

you make the east and the west rejoice.

⁹ You come to help the earth; you water it;
you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;
you provide mankind grain when you have prepared the earth.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly;
you settle down the furrows' ridges;

you make them soft with rain showers;
you bless the sprouts between them.

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² The pastures in the wilderness drip with dew,
and the hills are clothed with joy.

¹³ The pastures are clothed with flocks;
the valleys also are covered over with grain;
they shout for joy, and they sing.

66

For the chief musician. A song, a psalm.

¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

² Sing out the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.

³ Say to God, "How terrifying are your deeds!

By the greatness of your power your enemies will submit to you.

⁴ All the earth will worship you
and will sing to you;
they will sing to your name.”

Selah

⁵ Come and see the works of God;
he is fearsome in his deeds toward the sons of mankind.

⁶ He turned the sea into dry land;
they went through the river on foot;
there we rejoiced in him.

⁷ He rules forever by his might;
his eyes observe the nations;
let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Selah

⁸ Give blessing to God, you people,
let the sound of his praise be heard.

⁹ He keeps us among the living,
and he does not permit our feet to slip.

¹⁰ For you, God, have tested us;
you have tested us as silver is tested.

¹¹ You brought us into a net;
you laid a heavy burden on our backs.

¹² You made people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a spacious place.

¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows

¹⁴ which my lips promised
and my mouth spoke when I was in distress.

¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fat animals
with the sweet aroma of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.

Selah

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will declare what he has done for my soul.

¹⁷ I cried to him with my mouth,
and he was praised with my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had seen sin within my heart,
the Lord would not have listened to me.

¹⁹ But God has truly heard;
he has paid attention to the voice of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed be God,
who has not turned away my prayer
or his covenant faithfulness from me.

67

For the chief musician; on stringed instruments. A psalm, a song.

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us
and cause his face to shine on us

Selah

² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁴ Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you will judge the peoples with justice
and govern the nations on earth.

Selah

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁶ The earth has yielded its harvest
and God, our God, has blessed us.
⁷ God has blessed us,
and all the ends of the earth honor him.

68

For the chief musician; A psalm of David, a song.

¹ Let God arise; let his enemies be scattered;
let those also who hate him flee before him.
² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
so let the wicked perish in the presence of God.
³ But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God;
may they rejoice and be happy.
⁴ Sing to God! Sing praises to his name!
Praise the one who rides through the plains of the Jordan River valley!
Yahweh is his name! Rejoice before him!
⁵ A father of the fatherless, a judge of the widows,
is God in the holy place where he lives.
⁶ God puts the lonely into families;
he brings out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a parched land.
⁷ God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

Selah

⁸ The earth trembled;
the heavens also dropped rain in God's presence,
in the presence of God when he came to Sinai, in the presence of God,
the God of Israel.
⁹ You, God, sent a plentiful rain;
you strengthened your inheritance when it was weary.
¹⁰ Your people lived in it;
You, God, gave from your goodness to the poor.
¹¹ The Lord gave the orders,
and those who announced them were a great army.
¹²⁻¹³ Kings of armies flee, they flee,
and the women waiting at home divide the plunder:
doves covered with silver
with wings of yellow gold.
When some of you people stayed among the sheepfolds, why did you
do this?
¹⁴ The Almighty scattered kings there,
it was as when it snowed on Mount Zalmon.
¹⁵ A mighty mountain is the hill country of Bashan;

a high mountain is the hill country of Bashan.

16 Why do you look in envy, you high hill country,
at the mountain which God desires for the place he will live?
Indeed, Yahweh will live in it forever.

17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, thousands upon thousands;

the Lord is among them in the holy place, as at Sinai.

18 You have ascended on high; you have led away captives;
you have received gifts from among men,
even from those who fought against you,
so that you, Yahweh God, might live there.

19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burdens,
the God who is our salvation.

Selah

20 Our God is a God who saves;

Yahweh the Lord is the one who is able to rescue us from death.

21 But God will strike through the heads of his enemies,
through the hairy scalps of those who walk in offenses against him.

22 The Lord said, "I will bring my enemies back from Bashan;
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea

23 so that you may crush your enemies, dipping your foot in blood,
and so that the tongues of your dogs may have their share from your
enemies."

24 They have seen your processions, God,
the processions of my God, my King, into the holy place.

25 The singers went first, the minstrels followed after,
and in the middle were the unmarried girls playing tambourines.

26 Bless God in the assemblies;

praise Yahweh, you who are from the fountain * of Israel.

27 There is first Benjamin, the smallest tribe,
then the leaders of Judah and their multitudes,
the leaders of Zebulun and the leaders of Naphtali.

28 Your God, Israel, has decreed your strength;
reveal to us your power, God, as you have revealed it in times past.

29 Reveal your power to us from your temple at Jerusalem,
where kings bring gifts to you.

30 Shout in battle against the wild beasts in the reeds,
against the peoples, that multitude of bulls and calves.
Humiliate them and make them bring you gifts;
scatter the peoples who love to wage war.

31 Princes will come out of Egypt;

Cush will hurry to reach out with her hands to God.

32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;

Selah

Sing praises to Yahweh.

33 To him who rides on the heaven of heavens, which exist from ancient
times;

see, he lifts up his voice with power.

34 Ascribe strength to God;

* **68:26** The Hebrew text can be read either as from the fountain or from the assembly .

his majesty is over Israel,
and his strength is in the skies.

³⁵ God, you are fearsome in your holy place;
the God of Israel—he gives strength and power to his people.
Blessed be God.

69

For the chief musician; set to Shoshannim. A psalm of David.

¹ Save me, God;

for the waters have put my life in danger.

² I sink in deep mire, where there is no place to stand;

I have come into deep waters, where the floods flow over me.

³ I am weary with my crying; my throat is dry;

my eyes fail while I wait for my God.

⁴ Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs on my head;

those who would cut me off, being my enemies for wrong reasons, are mighty;

what I did not steal, I have to give back.

⁵ God, you know my foolishness,

and my sins are not hidden from you.

⁶ Let not those who hope in you be put to shame because of me, Lord Yahweh of hosts;

let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor because of me, God of Israel.

⁷ For your sake I have borne rebuke;

shame has covered my face.

⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers,

an alien to my mother's children.

⁹ For the zeal of your house has eaten me up,

and the rebukes of those who rebuke you have fallen on me.

¹⁰ When I wept and did not eat food,

they insulted me.

¹¹ When I made sackcloth my clothing,

I became the object of a proverb to them.

¹² Those who sit in the city gate talk about me;

I am a song of drunkards.

¹³ But as for me, my prayer is to you, Yahweh, at a time that you will accept;

answer me in the trustworthiness of your salvation.

¹⁴ Pull me out of the mire, and do not let me sink;

let me be taken away from those who hate me and rescued out of the deep waters.

¹⁵ Do not let the floods of water overwhelm me,

neither let the deep swallow me up.

Do not let the pit shut its mouth on me.

¹⁶ Answer me, Yahweh, for your covenant faithfulness is good;

because your mercies for me are many, turn to me.

¹⁷ Do not hide your face from your servant,

for I am in distress; answer me quickly.

¹⁸ Come to me and redeem me.

Because of my enemies, ransom me.

¹⁹ You know my rebuke, my shame, and my dishonor;
my adversaries are all before you.

²⁰ Rebuke has broken my heart; I am full of heaviness;
I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none;
I looked for comforters, but I found none.

²¹ They gave me poison for my food;
in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

²² Let their table before them become a snare;
when they think they are in safety, let it become a trap.

²³ Let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see;
and always make their loins shake.

²⁴ Pour out your indignation on them,
and let the fierceness of your anger overtake them.

²⁵ Let their place be a desolation;
let no one live in their tents.

²⁶ For they persecuted the one you struck down.
They repeated the account of the pain of those you have wounded.

²⁷ Accuse them of having committed iniquity after iniquity;
do not let them come into your righteous victory.

²⁸ Let them be blotted out of the Book of Life
and not be written down along with the righteous.

²⁹ But I am poor and sorrowful;
let your salvation, God, set me up on high.

³⁰ I will praise the name of God with a song
and will exalt him with thanksgiving.

³¹ That will please Yahweh better than an ox
or a bull that has horns and hooves.

³² The meek have seen it and are glad;
you who seek after God, let your hearts live.

³³ For Yahweh hears the needy
and does not despise his prisoners.

³⁴ Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and everything that moves in them.

³⁵ For God will save Zion and will rebuild the cities of Judah;
the people will live there and have it as a possession.

³⁶ His servants' descendants will inherit it;
and those who love his name will live there.

70

For the chief musician. A psalm of David; to bring to remembrance.

¹ Save me, God!

Yahweh, come quickly and help me.

² Let those who try to take my life
be ashamed and humiliated;
let them be turned back and brought to dishonor,
those who take pleasure in my pain.

³ Let them be turned back because of their shame,
those who say, "Aha, aha."

⁴ Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation always say,

"May God be praised."

⁵ But I am poor and needy;
hurry to me, God;
you are my help and you rescue me.
Yahweh, do not delay.

71

¹ In you, Yahweh, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
² Rescue me and make me safe in your righteousness;
turn your ear to me and save me.
³ Be to me a rock for refuge where I may always go;
you have given a command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
⁴ Rescue me, my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel.
⁵ For you are my hope, Lord Yahweh.
I have trusted in you ever since I was a child.
⁶ By you I have been supported from the womb;
you are he who took me out of my mother's belly;
my praise will be always about you.
⁷ I am an example to many people;
you are my strong refuge.
⁸ My mouth will be filled with your praise,
all the day with your honor.
⁹ Do not throw me away in my time of old age;
do not abandon me when my strength fails.
¹⁰ For my enemies are talking about me;
those who watch for my life are plotting together.
¹¹ They say, "God has forsaken him;
pursue and take him, for there is no one to save him."
¹² God, do not be far from me;
my God, hurry to help me.
¹³ Let them be put to shame and destroyed, those who are hostile to
my life;
let them be covered with rebuke and dishonor, those who seek my
hurt.
¹⁴ But I will always hope in you
and will praise you more and more.
¹⁵ My mouth will tell about your righteousness
and your salvation all the day,
although I cannot understand it.
¹⁶ I will come with the mighty acts of the Lord Yahweh;
I will make mention of your righteousness, yours alone.
¹⁷ God, you have taught me from my youth;
even now I declare your wonderful deeds.
¹⁸ Indeed, even when I am old and gray-headed, God, do not forsake
me,
as I have been declaring your strength to the next generation,
your power to everyone who is to come.
¹⁹ Your righteousness also, God, is very high;

you who have done great things, God, who is like you?

²⁰ You who made me see many troubles

will revive us again

and will bring us up again from the depths of the earth.

²¹ May you increase my honor;

turn again and comfort me.

²² I will also give thanks to you with the harp

for your trustworthiness, my God;

to you I will sing praises with the harp,

Holy One of Israel.

²³ My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you—
even my soul, which you have redeemed.

²⁴ My tongue will also talk about your righteousness all day long;

for they have been put to shame and are confused, those who sought
my hurt.

72

A psalm of Solomon.

¹ Give the king your righteous decrees, God,
your righteousness to the king's son.

² May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.

³ May the mountains produce peace for the people;
may the hills produce righteousness.

⁴ May he judge the poor of the people;
may he save the children of the needy
and break in pieces the oppressor.

⁵ May they honor you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon lasts throughout all generations.

⁶ May he come down like rain on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

⁷ May the righteous flourish in his days,
and may there be an abundance of peace till the moon is no more.

⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

⁹ May those who live in the wilderness bow down before him;
may his enemies lick the dust.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the islands render tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

¹¹ Indeed, may all kings fall down before him;
may all nations serve him.

¹² For he helps the needy person who cries out
and the poor person who has no other helper.

¹³ He has pity on the poor and needy,
and he saves the lives of needy people.

¹⁴ He redeems their lives from oppression and violence,
and their blood is precious in his sight.

¹⁵ May he live! May the gold of Sheba be given to him.
May people always pray for him;
may God bless him all day long.

16 May there be abundance of grain in the land;
 on the mountaintops may their crops wave.
 May the fruit of it be like Lebanon;
 may the people flourish in the cities like the grass of the field.
 17 May his name endure forever;
 may his name continue as long as the sun;
 may people be blessed in him;
 may all nations call him blessed.
 18 May Yahweh God, the God of Israel, be blessed,
 who alone does wonderful things.
 19 May his glorious name be blessed forever,
 and may the whole earth be filled with his glory.
 Amen and Amen.
 20 The prayers of David son of Jesse are finished.

Book Three

73

A psalm of Asaph.

1 Surely God is good to Israel,
 to those with a pure heart.
 2 But as for me, my feet almost slipped;
 my feet almost slipped out from under me
 3 because I was envious of the arrogant
 when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
 4 For they have no pain until their death,
 but they are strong and well fed.
 5 They are free from the burdens of other men;
 they are not afflicted like other men.
 6 Pride adorns them like a necklace around their neck;
 violence clothes them like a robe.
 7 Out of such blindness comes sin;
 evil thoughts pass through their hearts.
 8 They mock and speak wickedly;
 in their arrogance they threaten oppression.
 9 They set their mouth against the heavens,
 and their tongues march through the earth.
 10 Therefore his people turn to them
 and abundant waters are drained out.
 11 They say, "How does God know?
 Is there knowledge with the Most High?"
 12 Take notice: these people are wicked;
 they are always carefree, becoming richer and richer.
 13 Surely it is in vain that I have guarded my heart
 and washed my hands in innocence.
 14 For all the day long I have been afflicted
 and disciplined every morning.
 15 If I had said, "I will say these things,"
 then I would have betrayed this generation of your children.
 16 Though I tried to understand these things,
 it was too difficult for me.
 17 Then I went into God's sanctuary

and came to understand their fate.

¹⁸ Surely you put them in slippery places;
you bring them down to ruin.

¹⁹ How they become a wilderness in a moment!
They come to an end and are finished in awful terrors.

²⁰ They are like a dream after one wakes up;

Lord, when you arise, you will think nothing of those dreams.

²¹ For my heart was grieved,
and I was deeply wounded.

²² I was ignorant and lacked insight;
I was like a senseless animal before you.

²³ Yet I am always with you;
you hold my right hand.

²⁴ You will guide me with your advice
and afterward receive me to glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
There is no one on earth that I desire but you.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart grow weak,
but God is the strength of my heart forever.

²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you will destroy all those who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸ But as for me, all I need to do is to approach God.
I have made the Lord Yahweh my refuge.

I will declare all your deeds.

74

A maschil of Asaph.

¹ God, why have you rejected us forever?
Why does your anger burn against the sheep of your pasture?

² Call to mind your people, whom you purchased in ancient times,
the tribe whom you have redeemed to be your own heritage,
and Mount Zion, where you live.

³ Come look at the complete ruins,
all the damage that the enemy has done in the holy place.

⁴ Your adversaries roared in the middle of your appointed place;
they set up their battle flags.

⁵ They hacked away with axes
as in a thick forest.

⁶ They smashed and broke down all the engravings;
they broke them with axes and hammers.

⁷ They set your sanctuary on fire;
they desecrated where you live, knocking it to the ground.

⁸ They said in their hearts, "We will destroy them all."
They burned up all of your meeting places in the land.

⁹ We do not see any more signs;
there is no prophet any more,
and no one among us knows how long this will last.

¹⁰ How long, God, will the enemy throw insults at you?
Will the enemy blaspheme your name forever?

¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?

Take your right hand from your garment and destroy them.

¹² Yet God has been my king from ancient times,
bringing salvation on the earth.

¹³ You divided the sea by your strength;
you smashed the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.

¹⁴ You crushed the heads of leviathan;
you fed him to those living in the wilderness.

¹⁵ You broke open springs and streams;
you dried up flowing rivers.

¹⁶ The day is yours, and the night is yours also;
you set the sun and moon in place.

¹⁷ You have set all the borders of the earth;
you have made summer and winter.

¹⁸ Call to mind how the enemy hurled insults at you, Yahweh,
and that a foolish people has blasphemed your name.

¹⁹ Do not give the life of your dove to a wild animal.
Do not forget forever the life of your oppressed people.

²⁰ Remember your covenant,
for the dark regions of the land are full of places of violence.

²¹ Do not let the oppressed be turned back in shame;
let the poor and oppressed praise your name.

²² Arise, God; defend your own honor;
call to mind how fools insult you all day long.

²³ Do not forget the voice of your adversaries
or the uproar of those who continually defy you.

75

For the chief musician; set to Al Tashheth. A psalm of Asaph, a song.

¹ We give thanks to you, God;
we give thanks, for you reveal your presence;
people tell of your wondrous works.

² At the appointed time I will judge fairly.

³ Though the earth and all the inhabitants shake in fear,
I make steady the earth's pillars.

Selah

⁴ I said to the arrogant, "Do not be arrogant,"
and to the wicked, "Do not lift up the horn.

⁵ Do not lift up your horn to the heights;
do not speak with an insolent neck."

⁶ It is not from the east or from the west,
and it is not from the wilderness that lifting up comes.

⁷ But God is the judge;
he brings down and he lifts up.

⁸ For Yahweh holds in his hand a cup of foaming wine,
which is mixed with spices, and pours it out.

Surely all the wicked of the earth will drink it to the last drop.

⁹ But I will continually tell what you have done;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ He says, "I will cut off all the horns of the wicked,
but the horns of the righteous will be raised up."

76

For the chief musician, on stringed instruments. A psalm of Asaph, a song.

¹ God has made himself known in Judah;
his name is great in Israel.

² His tent is in Salem;
his dwelling place is in Zion.

³ There he broke the arrows of the bow,
the shield, the sword, and the other weapons of war.

Selah

⁴ You shine brightly and reveal your glory,
as you descend from the mountains, where you killed your victims.

⁵ The bravehearted were plundered;
they fell asleep.

All the warriors were helpless.

⁶ At your rebuke, God of Jacob,
both rider and horse fell asleep.

⁷ You, yes you, are to be feared;
who can stand in your sight when you are angry?

⁸ From heaven you made your judgment heard;
the earth was afraid and silent

⁹ when you, God, arose to execute judgment
and to save all the oppressed of the earth.

Selah

¹⁰ Surely your angry judgment against humanity will bring you praise;
you gird yourself with what is left of your anger.

¹¹ Make vows to Yahweh your God and keep them.

May all who surround him bring gifts to him who is to be feared.

¹² He cuts off the spirit of the princes;
he is feared by the kings of the earth.

77

For the chief musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A psalm of Asaph.

¹ I will call out with my voice to God;
I will call with my voice to God, and my God will hear me.

² In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched my hands out, and they would not become tired.
My soul refused to be comforted.

³ I thought of God as I groaned;
I thought about him as I grew faint.

Selah

⁴ You held my eyes open;
I was too troubled to speak.

⁵ I thought about the days of old,
about times long past.

⁶ During the night I called to mind the song I once sang.
I thought carefully

and tried to understand what had happened.

⁷ Will the Lord reject me forever?
Will he never again show me favor?

8 Was his covenant faithfulness gone forever?
 Had his promise failed forever?
 9 Had God forgotten to be gracious?
 Had his anger shut off his compassion?

Selah

10 I said, "This is my sorrow:
 the changing of the right hand of the Most High toward us."

11 But I will call to mind your deeds, Yahweh;
 I will think about your wonderful deeds of old.

12 I will ponder all your deeds
 and will reflect on them.

13 Your way, God, is holy;
 what god compares to our great God?

14 You are the God who does wonders;
 you have revealed your strength among the peoples.

15 You gave your people victory by your great power—
 the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

Selah

16 The waters saw you, God;
 the waters saw you, and they were afraid;
 the depths trembled.

17 The clouds poured down water;
 the cloudy skies gave voice;
 your arrows flew about.

18 Your thunderous voice was heard in the wind;
 the lightning lit up the world;
 the earth trembled and shook.

19 Your path went through the sea
 and your way through the surging waters,
 but your footprints were not seen.

20 You led your people like a flock
 by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

78

A maschil of Asaph.

1 Hear my teaching, my people,
 listen to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in parables;
 I will sing about hidden things about the past.

3 These are things that we have heard and learned,
 things that our ancestors have told us.

4 We will not keep them from their descendants.

We will tell the next generation about the praiseworthy deeds of
 Yahweh,

his strength, and the wonders that he has done.

5 For he established covenant decrees in Jacob
 and appointed a law in Israel.

He commanded our ancestors
 that they were to teach them to their children.

6 He commanded this so that the generation to come might know his
 decrees, the children not yet born,

who should tell them in turn to their own children.

⁷ Then they would place their hope in God
and not forget his deeds
but keep his commandments.

⁸ Then they would not be like their ancestors,
who were a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose hearts were not right,
and whose spirits were not committed and faithful to God.

⁹ The Ephraimites were armed with bows,
but they turned back on the day of battle.

¹⁰ They did not keep the covenant with God,
and they refused to obey his law.

¹¹ They forgot his deeds,
the wonderful things that he had shown them.

¹² They forgot the marvelous things he did in the sight of their ancestors
in the land of Egypt, in the land of Zoan.

¹³ He divided the sea and led them across it;
he made the waters to stand like walls.

¹⁴ In the daytime he led them with a cloud
and all the night with the light of fire.

¹⁵ He split the rocks in the wilderness,
and he gave them water abundantly, enough to fill the depths of the
sea.

¹⁶ He made streams flow out of the rock
and made the water flow like rivers.

¹⁷ Yet they continued to sin against him,
rebellious against the Most High in the wilderness.

¹⁸ They challenged God in their hearts
by asking for food to satisfy their appetites.

¹⁹ They spoke against God;
they said, "Can God really lay out a table for us in the wilderness?"

²⁰ See, when he struck the rock, waters gushed out
and streams overflowed.

But can he give bread also?

Will he provide meat for his people?"

²¹ When Yahweh heard this, he was angry;
so his fire burned against Jacob,

and his anger attacked Israel,

²² because they did not believe in God
and did not trust in his salvation.

²³ Yet he commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of the sky.

²⁴ He rained down manna for them to eat,
and gave them the grain from heaven.

²⁵ People ate the bread of angels.

He sent them food in abundance.

²⁶ He caused the east wind to blow in the sky,
and by his power he guided the south wind.

²⁷ He rained down meat on them like dust,
birds as numerous as the sands of the sea.

²⁸ They fell in the middle of their camp,
all around their tents.

29 So they ate and were full.

He gave them what they craved.

30 But they had not yet filled up;
their food was still in their mouths.

31 Then God's anger attacked them
and killed the strongest of them.

He brought down the young men of Israel.

32 Despite this, they continued to sin
and did not believe his wonderful deeds.

33 Therefore God cut short their days;
their years were filled with terror.

34 Whenever God afflicted them, they would start to seek him,
and they would return and look earnestly for him.

35 They would call to mind that God was their rock
and that the Most High God was their rescuer.

36 But they would flatter him with their mouth
and lie to him with their words.

37 For their hearts were not firmly fixed on him,
and they were not faithful to his covenant.

38 Yet he, being merciful, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy
them.

Yes, many times he held back his anger
and did not stir up all his wrath.

39 He called to mind that they were made of flesh,
a wind that passes away and does not return.

40 How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness
and grieved him in the barren regions!

41 Again and again they challenged God
and offended the Holy One of Israel.

42 They did not think about his power,
how he had rescued them from the enemy

43 when he performed his terrifying signs in Egypt
and his wonders in the region of Zoan.

44 He turned the Egyptians' rivers to blood
so that they could not drink from their streams.

45 He sent swarms of flies that devoured them
and frogs that overran their land.

46 He gave their crops to the grasshopper
and their labor to the locust.

47 He destroyed their vines with hail
and their sycamore trees with more hail.

48 He rained hail on their cattle
and hurled lightning bolts at their livestock.

49 The fierceness of his anger lashed out against them.

He sent wrath, fury, and trouble
like agents who bring disaster.

50 He leveled a path for his anger;
he did not spare them from death
but gave them over to the plague.

51 He killed all the firstborn in Egypt,
the firstborn of their strength in the tents of Ham.

52 He led his own people out like sheep
and guided them through the wilderness like a flock.
53 He led them secure and unafraid,
but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.
54 Then he brought them to the border of his holy land,
to this mountain that his right hand acquired.
55 He drove out the nations from before them
and assigned them their inheritance.
He settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.
56 Yet they challenged and defied the Most High God
and did not keep his solemn commands.
57 They were unfaithful and acted treacherously like their fathers;
they were as undependable as a faulty bow.
58 For they made him angry with their high places
and provoked him to jealous anger with their idols.
59 When God heard this, he was angry
and completely rejected Israel.
60 He abandoned the sanctuary of Shiloh,
the tent where he had lived among people.
61 He allowed his strength to be captured
and gave his glory into the enemy's hand.
62 He handed his people over to the sword,
and he was angry with his heritage.
63 Fire devoured their young men,
and their young women had no wedding songs.
64 Their priests fell by the sword,
and their widows could not weep.
65 Then the Lord awakened as one from sleep,
like a warrior who shouts because of wine.
66 He drove his adversaries back;
he put them to everlasting shame.
67 He rejected the tent of Joseph,
and he did not chose the tribe of Ephraim.
68 He chose the tribe of Judah
and Mount Zion that he loved.
69 He built his sanctuary like the heavens,
like the earth that he has established forever.
70 He chose David, his servant,
and took him from the sheepfolds.
71 He took him from following the ewes with their young, and he
brought him
to be shepherd of Jacob, his people, and of Israel, his heritage.
72 David shepherded them with the integrity of his heart,
and he guided them with the skill of his hands.

79

A psalm of Asaph.

1 God, foreign nations have come into your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple;
they have turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins.

² They have given the dead bodies of your servants as food to the birds
of the skies,

the bodies of your faithful people to the beasts of the earth.

³ They have shed their blood like water around Jerusalem,
and there was none to bury them.

⁴ We have become a reproach for our neighbors,
mocking and derision to those who are around us.

⁵ How long, Yahweh? Will you stay angry forever?
How long will your jealous anger burn like fire?

⁶ Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not know you
and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name.

⁷ For they have devoured Jacob
and destroyed his villages.

⁸ Do not hold the sins of our forefathers against us;
may your merciful actions come to us,
for we are very low.

⁹ Help us, God of our salvation, for the sake of the glory of your name;
save us and forgive our sins for your name's sake.

¹⁰ Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

May the blood of your servants that was shed
be avenged on the nations before our eyes.

¹¹ May the groans of the prisoners come before you;
with the greatness of your power keep the children of death alive.

¹² Pay back into the laps of our neighboring countries seven times as
much

as the insults with which they have insulted you, Lord.

¹³ So we your people and sheep of your pasture
will give you thanks forever.

We will tell your praises to all generations.

80

For the chief musician, set to the Shoshannim Eduth style. A psalm of
Asaph.

¹ Pay attention, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock;
you who sit above the cherubim, shine on us!

² In the sight of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your
power;

come and save us.

³ God, restore us;
make your face shine on us, and we will be saved.

⁴ Yahweh God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people when they pray?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in great quantities.

⁶ You make us something for our neighbors to argue over,
and our enemies laugh about us among themselves.

⁷ God of hosts, restore us;
make your face shine on us, and we will be saved.

⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out nations and transplanted it.

⁹ You cleared the land for it;

it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
the cedars of God by its branches.

¹¹ It sent out its branches as far as the sea
and its shoots to the Euphrates River.

¹² Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by along the road pluck its fruit?

¹³ The boars out of the forest ruin it,
and the beasts of the field feed on it.

¹⁴ Turn back, God of hosts;

look down from heaven and take notice and take care of this vine.

¹⁵ This is the root that your right hand planted,
the shoot that you made to grow.

¹⁶ It has been burned and cut down;
they perish because of your rebuke.

¹⁷ May your hand be on the man of your right hand,
on the son of man whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Yahweh God of hosts, restore us;
make your face shine on us, and we will be saved.

81

For the chief musician; set to the Gittith style. A psalm of Asaph.

¹ Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout out for joy to the God of Jacob.

² Sing a song and play the tambourine,
the pleasant lyre with the harp.

³ Blow the trumpet on the day of the new moon,
on the day of the full moon, when our feast day begins.

⁴ For it is a statute for Israel,
a decree given by the God of Jacob.

⁵ He issued it as a regulation in Joseph
when he went against the land of Egypt,
where I heard a voice that I did not recognize:

⁶ "I removed the burden from his shoulder;
his hands were freed from holding the basket.

⁷ In your distress you called out, and I helped you;
I answered you from a dark thundercloud.
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Selah

⁸ Listen, my people, for I will warn you,
Israel, if you would only listen to me!

⁹ There must be no foreign god among you;
you must not worship any foreign god.

¹⁰ I am Yahweh your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

¹¹ But my people did not listen to my words;
Israel did not obey me.

¹² So I gave them over to their own stubborn way

so that they might do what seemed right to them.

¹³ Oh, that my people would listen to me;
oh, that my people would walk in my paths.

¹⁴ Then I would quickly subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their oppressors.

¹⁵ May those who hate Yahweh cringe in fear before him!
May they be humiliated forever.

¹⁶ I would feed Israel with the finest wheat;
I would satisfy you with honey out of the rock.”

82

A psalm of Asaph.

¹ God stands in the divine assembly;
in the midst of the gods he renders judgment.

² How long will you judge unjustly
and show favoritism to the wicked?

³ Defend the poor and fatherless;
maintain the rights of the afflicted and destitute.

⁴ Rescue the poor and needy;
take them out of the hand of the wicked.

⁵ They neither know nor understand;
they wander around in the darkness;
all the foundations of the earth crumble.

⁶ I said, “You are gods,
and all of you sons of the Most High.

⁷ Nevertheless you will die like men
and fall like one of the princes.”

⁸ Arise, God, judge the earth,
for you have an inheritance in all the nations.

Selah

83

A song. A psalm of Asaph.

¹ God, do not be silent!
Do not ignore us and remain unmoved, God.

² Look, your enemies are making a commotion,
and those who hate you have raised their heads.

³ They conspire against your people
and plan together against your protected ones.

⁴ They have said, “Come, and let us destroy them as a nation.
Then the name of Israel will no longer be remembered.”

⁵ They have schemed together with one strategy;
against you they have made an alliance.

⁶ This includes the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
and the people of Moab and the Hagrites, who plot together with

⁷ Gebal, Ammon, Amalek;
it also includes Philistia and the inhabitants of Tyre.

⁸ Assyria also is allied with them;
they are helping the descendants of Lot.

Selah

⁹ Do to them as you did to Midian,
as you did to Sisera and to Jabin at the Kishon River.

10 They perished at Endor
 and became like manure for the earth.
 11 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
 and all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna.
 12 They said, "Let us take for ourselves
 the pastures of God."
 13 My God, make them like the whirling dust,
 like chaff before the wind,
 14 like the fire that burns the forest,
 and like the flame that sets the mountains on fire.
 15 Chase them with your strong wind,
 and terrify them with your windstorm.
 16 Fill their faces with shame
 so that they might seek your name, Yahweh.
 17 May they be put to shame and be terrified forever;
 may they perish in disgrace.
 18 Then they will know that you alone, Yahweh,
 are the Most High over all the earth.

84

For the chief musician; set to the Gittith style. A psalm of the sons of Korah.

1 How lovely is the place where you live,
 Yahweh of hosts!
 2 I long for the courts of Yahweh, my desire for it has made me
 exhausted.
 My heart and all of my being call out to the living God.
 3 Even the sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young
 near your altars, Yahweh of hosts,
 my King, and my God.
 4 Blessed are they who live in your house;
 they praise you continually. Selah
 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in you,
 in whose heart are the highways up to Zion.
 6 Passing through the Valley of Tears, they find springs of water to
 drink.
 The early rains cover it with blessings. *
 7 They go from strength to strength;
 every one of them appears before God in Zion.
 8 Yahweh God of hosts, hear my prayer;
 God of Jacob, listen to what I am saying! Selah
 9 God, watch over our shield;
 show concern for your anointed.
 10 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God,
 than to live within the tents of the wicked.
 11 For Yahweh God is our sun and shield;
 Yahweh will give grace and glory;

* **84:6** Some versions have with pools of water .

he does not withhold any good thing from those who walk in integrity.
 12 Yahweh of hosts,
 blessed is the man who trusts in you.

85

For the chief musician. A psalm of the sons of Korah.

¹ Yahweh, you have showed favor to your land;
 you have restored the well-being of Jacob.
² You have forgiven the sin of your people;
 you have covered all their sin.

Selah

³ You have withdrawn all your wrath;
 you have turned back from your hot anger.

⁴ Restore us, God of our salvation,
 and let go of your displeasure with us.

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you remain angry throughout future generations?

⁶ Will you not revive us again?

Then your people will rejoice in you.

⁷ Show us your covenant faithfulness, Yahweh,
 grant us your salvation.

⁸ I will listen to what Yahweh God says,
 for he will make peace with his people, his faithful followers.
 Yet they must not turn again to foolish ways.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him;
 then glory will remain in our land.

¹⁰ Covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness have met together;
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ Trustworthiness springs up from the ground,
 and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹² Yes, Yahweh will give his good blessings,
 and our land will yield its crops.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him
 and make a way for his footsteps.

86

A prayer of David.

¹ Listen, Yahweh, and answer me,
 for I am poor and oppressed.

² Protect me, for I am loyal;
 my God, save your servant who trusts in you.

³ Be merciful to me, Lord,
 for I cry out to you all day long.

⁴ Make your servant glad,
 for to you, Lord, I lift up my soul.

⁵ You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,
 and you show great mercy to all those who cry out to you.

⁶ Yahweh, listen to my prayer;
 hear the sound of my pleas.

⁷ In the day of my trouble I call on you,
 for you will answer me.

8 There is no one who compares to you among the gods, Lord.
There are no deeds like your deeds.

9 All the nations that you have made will come and bow before you,
Lord.

They will honor your name.

10 For you are great and do wonderful things;
you only are God.

11 Teach me your ways, Yahweh. Then I will walk in your truth.
Unite my heart to reverence you.

12 Lord my God, I will praise you with my whole heart;
I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your covenant faithfulness toward me;
you have rescued my life from the depths of Sheol.

14 God, the arrogant have risen up against me.

A gang of violent men seek my life.
They have no regard for you.

15 But you, Lord, are a merciful and gracious God,
slow to anger, and abundant in covenant faithfulness and trustworthi-
ness.

16 Turn toward me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the son of your servant woman.

17 Show me a sign of your favor.

Then those who hate me will see it and be put to shame
because you, Yahweh, have helped me and comforted me.

87

A psalm of the sons of Korah; a song.

1 On the holy mount stands the city he founded;

2 Yahweh loves the gates of Zion
more than all the tents of Jacob.

3 Glorious things are said of you, city of God.

Selah

4 "I mention Rahab and Babylon to my followers.
See, there are Philistia, and Tyre, along with Cush—
and will say, "This one was born there."

5 Of Zion it will be said, "Each of these was born in her;
and the Most High himself will establish her."

6 Yahweh writes in the census book of the nations,
"This one was born there."

Selah

7 So also the singers and the dancers say together,
"All my fountains are in you."

88

A song, a psalm of the sons of Korah; for the chief musician; set to the
Mahalath Leannoth style. A maschil of Heman the Ezrahite.

1 Yahweh, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.

2 Listen to my prayer;
pay attention to my cry.

3 For I am filled with troubles,

and my life has reached Sheol.

⁴ People treat me like those who go down into the pit;
I am a man with no strength.

⁵ I am abandoned among the dead;
I am like the dead who lie in the grave,
about whom you care no more
because they are cut off from your power.

⁶ You place me in the lowest part of the pit,
in the dark and deep places.

⁷ Your wrath lies heavy on me,
and all your waves crash over me.

Selah

⁸ Because of you, my acquaintances avoid me.
You have made me a shocking sight to them.
I am hemmed in and I cannot escape.

⁹ My eyes grow weary from trouble;
All day long I call out to you, Yahweh;
I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Will you do wonders for the dead?
Will those who have died rise and praise you?

Selah

¹¹ Will your covenant faithfulness be proclaimed in the grave,
your loyalty in the place of the dead?

¹² Will your wonderful deeds be known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in the place of forgetfulness?

¹³ But I cry to you, Yahweh;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ Yahweh, why do you reject me?
Why do you hide your face from me?

¹⁵ I have always been afflicted and on the verge of death since my
youth.

I have suffered from your terrors; I am in despair.

¹⁶ Your angry actions have passed over me,
and your terrifying deeds have annihilated me.

¹⁷ They surround me like water all the day long;
they have all encircled me.

¹⁸ You have removed every friend and acquaintance from me.
My only acquaintance is the darkness.

89

A maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

¹ I will sing of Yahweh's acts of covenant faithfulness forever.
I will proclaim your truthfulness to future generations.

² For I have said, "Covenant faithfulness has been established forever;
your truthfulness you have established in the heavens."

³ "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have made an oath to David my servant.

⁴ I will establish your descendants forever,
and I will establish your throne through all generations."

Selah

⁵ The heavens praise your wonders, Yahweh;

your truthfulness is praised in the assembly of the holy ones.

⁶ For who in the skies can be compared to Yahweh?

Who among the sons of the gods is like Yahweh?

⁷ He is a God who is greatly honored in the council of the holy ones and is awesome among all who surround him.

⁸ Yahweh God of hosts,
who is strong like you, Yahweh?

Your truthfulness surrounds you.

⁹ You rule the raging sea;
when the waves surge, you calm them.

¹⁰ You crushed Rahab as one who is killed.
You scattered your enemies with your strong arm.

¹¹ The heavens belong to you, and the earth also.

You made the world and all it contains.

¹² You created the north and the south.
Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your name.

¹³ You have a mighty arm
and a strong hand, and your right hand is high.

¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.
Covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness come before you.

¹⁵ Blessed are the people who worship you!
Yahweh, they walk in the light of your face.

¹⁶ They rejoice in your name all day long,
and in your righteousness they exalt you.

¹⁷ You are their majestic strength,
and by your favor we are victorious.

¹⁸ For our shield belongs to Yahweh;
our king belongs to the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁹ Long ago you spoke in a vision to your faithful ones; *
you said, "I have set a crown on a mighty one." †

I have raised up one chosen from among the people.

²⁰ I have chosen David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹ My hand will support him;
my arm will strengthen him.

²² No enemy will deceive him;
no son of wickedness will oppress him.

²³ I will crush his enemies before him;
I will kill those who hate him.

²⁴ My truth and my covenant faithfulness will be with him;
by my name he will be victorious.

²⁵ I will place his hand over the sea
and his right hand over the rivers.

²⁶ He will call out to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

²⁷ I also will place him as my firstborn son,
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.

²⁸ I will extend my covenant faithfulness to him forever;

* **89:19** Many mss have the singular faithful one instead of faithful ones . † **89:19** The MT has I will place help upon a warrior . Some translate the word for help as crown and that is how the ULB has translated the word here.

and my covenant with him will be secure.
 29 I will make his descendants endure forever
 and his throne as enduring as the skies above.
 30 If his children forsake my law
 and do not walk in my regulations,
 31 if they break my rules
 and do not keep my commands,
 32 then will I punish their rebellion with a rod
 and their iniquity with blows.
 33 But I will not remove my steadfast love from him
 or be unfaithful to my promise.
 34 I will not break my covenant
 or change the words of my lips.
 35 Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness—
 I will not lie to David;
 36 his descendants will continue forever
 and his throne as long as the sun before me.
 37 It will be established forever like the moon,
 the faithful witness in the sky.”

Selah

38 But you have refused and rejected;
 you have been angry with your anointed king.
 39 You have renounced the covenant of your servant.
 You have desecrated his crown on the ground.
 40 You have broken down all his walls.
 You have ruined his strongholds.
 41 All who pass by have robbed him.
 He has become an object of disgust to his neighbors.
 42 You have raised the right hand of his enemies;
 you have made all his enemies rejoice.
 43 You turn back the edge of his sword
 and have not made him stand when in battle.
 44 You have brought his splendor to an end;
 you have brought down his throne to the ground.
 45 You have shortened the days of his youth.
 You have covered him with shame.

Selah

46 How long, Yahweh? Will you hide yourself, forever?
 How long will your anger burn like fire?
 47 Oh, think about how short my time is,
 and for what uselessness you have created all the children of mankind!
 48 Who can live and not die,
 or rescue his own life from the hand of Sheol?

Selah

49 Lord, where are your former acts of covenant faithfulness
 that you swore to David in your truthfulness?
 50 Call to mind, Lord, the mocking directed against your servants
 and how I bear in my heart so many insults from the nations.
 51 Your enemies hurl insults, Yahweh;
 they mock the footsteps of your anointed one.
 52 Blessed be Yahweh forever.
 Amen and Amen.

Book Four**90**

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

¹ Lord, you have been our refuge throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were formed, or you formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

³ You return man to dust, and you say, "Return, you descendants of mankind."

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood and they sleep; in the morning they are like the grass that sprouts up.

⁶ In the morning it blooms and grows up; in the evening it withers and dries up.

⁷ Truly, we are consumed in your anger, and in your wrath we are terrified.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you, our hidden sins in the light of your presence.

⁹ Our life passes away under your wrath; our years quickly pass like a sigh.

¹⁰ Our years are seventy, or even eighty if we are healthy; but even our best years are marked by trouble and sorrow. Yes, they pass quickly, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who knows the intensity of your anger, and your wrath that is equal to the fear of you?

¹² So teach us to consider our life so that we might live wisely.

¹³ Turn back, Yahweh! How long will it be? Have pity on your servants.

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your covenant faithfulness so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad in proportion to the days you afflicted us and to the years we have experienced trouble.

¹⁶ Let your servants see your work, and let our children see your majesty.

¹⁷ May the favor of the Lord our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands; indeed, prosper the work of our hands.

91

¹ He who lives in the shelter of the Most High will stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of Yahweh, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

³ For he will rescue you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly plague.

4 He will cover you with his wings,
 and under his wings you will find refuge.
 His trustworthiness is a shield and protection.
 5 You will not be afraid of terror in the night,
 or of the arrow that flies by day,
 6 or of the plague that roams around in the darkness,
 or of the disease that comes at noontime.
 7 A thousand may fall at your side
 and ten thousand at your right hand,
 but it will not reach you.
 8 You will only observe
 and see the punishment of the wicked.
 9 For Yahweh is my refuge!
 Make the Most High your refuge also.
 10 No evil will overtake you;
 no affliction will come near your home.
 11 For he will direct his angels to protect you,
 to guard you in all your ways.
 12 They will lift you up with their hand
 so that you will not hit your foot on a stone.
 13 You will crush lions and adders under your feet;
 you will trample on young lions and serpents.
 14 Because he is devoted to me, I will rescue him.
 I will protect him because he is loyal to me.
 15 When he calls to me, I will answer him.
 I will be with him in trouble;
 I will give him victory and will honor him.
 16 I will satisfy him with long life
 and show him my salvation.

92

A psalm, a song for the Sabbath day.

1 It is a good thing to give thanks to Yahweh
 and to sing praises to your name, Most High,
 2 to proclaim your covenant faithfulness in the morning
 and your truthfulness every night,
 3 with a harp of ten strings
 and with the melody of the lyre.
 4 For you, Yahweh, have made me glad through your deeds.
 I will sing for joy because of the deeds of your hands.
 5 How great are your deeds, Yahweh!
 Your thoughts are very deep.
 6 A brutish person does not know,
 nor does a fool understand this:
 7 When the wicked sprout like the grass,
 and even when all the evildoers thrive,
 still they are doomed to eternal destruction.
 8 But you, Yahweh, will reign forever.
 9 Indeed, look at your enemies, Yahweh!
 Indeed, look at your enemies. They will perish!
 All those who do evil will be scattered.

10 You have lifted up my horn like the horn of the wild ox;

I am anointed with fresh oil.

11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard of the doom of my evil foes.

12 The righteous will flourish like the palm tree;
they will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 They are planted in the house of Yahweh;
they flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They bear fruit even when they are old;
they stay fresh and green,

15 to proclaim that Yahweh is just.

He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

93

1 Yahweh reigns; he is robed in majesty;
Yahweh has clothed and girded himself with strength.
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

2 Your throne is established from ancient times;
you are from everlasting.

3 The oceans rise, Yahweh;
they have lifted up their voice;
the oceans' waves crash and roar.

4 Above the crashing of many waves,
the mighty breakers of the sea,
Yahweh on high is mighty.

5 Your solemn commands are very trustworthy;
holiness adorns your house,
Yahweh, forever.

94

1 Yahweh, God who avenges,
God who avenges, shine over us.

2 Rise up, judge of the earth,
give to the proud what they deserve.

3 How long will the wicked, Yahweh,
how long will the wicked rejoice?

4 They pour out their arrogant words;
all those who do evil boast.

5 They crush your people, Yahweh;
they afflict the nation that belongs to you.

6 They kill the widow and foreigner who lives in their country,
and they murder the fatherless.

7 They say, "Yahweh will not see,
the God of Jacob does not take notice of it."

8 Understand, you stupid people!
You fools, when will you ever learn?

9 He who made the ear, does he not hear?
He who formed the eye, does he not see?

10 He who disciplines the nations, does he not correct?
He is the one who gives knowledge to man.

11 Yahweh knows the thoughts of men,

that they are vapor.

¹² Blessed is the one whom you instruct, Yahweh,
the one whom you teach from your law.

¹³ You give him rest in times of trouble
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

¹⁴ For Yahweh will not forsake his people
or abandon his inheritance.

¹⁵ For judgment will again be righteous;
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

¹⁶ Who will rise up to defend me against the evildoers?
Who will stand up for me against the wicked?

¹⁷ Unless Yahweh had been my help,
I would soon be lying down in the place of silence.

¹⁸ When I said, "My foot is slipping,"
Your covenant faithfulness, Yahweh, held me up.

¹⁹ When cares within me are many, your consolations make me happy.

²⁰ Can a throne of destruction be allied with you,
one who creates injustice by statute?

²¹ They conspire together to take the life of the righteous
and they condemn the innocent to death.

²² But Yahweh has been my high tower,
and my God has been the rock of my refuge.

²³ He will bring on them their own iniquity
and will cut them off in their own wickedness.
Yahweh our God will cut them off.

95

¹ Oh come, let us sing to Yahweh;
let us sing joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

² Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving;
let us sing to him with psalms of praise.

³ For Yahweh is a great God
and a great King superior to all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before Yahweh, our Creator:

⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Today—oh, that you would hear his voice!

⁸ "Do not harden your heart, as at Meribah,
or as on the day of Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ where your forefathers tested me
and tried me, though they had seen my deeds.

¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation
and said, 'This is a people whose hearts wander astray;
they have not known my ways.'

¹¹ Therefore I vowed in my anger
that they would never enter into my resting place."

96

¹ Oh, sing to Yahweh a new song;
sing to Yahweh, all the earth.
² Sing to Yahweh, bless his name;
announce his salvation day after day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all the nations.
⁴ For Yahweh is great and is to be praised greatly.
He is to be feared above all other gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but it is Yahweh who made the heavens.
⁶ Splendor and majesty are in his presence.
Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to Yahweh, you clans of peoples,
ascribe praise to Yahweh for his glory and strength.
⁸ Give to Yahweh the glory that his name deserves.
Bring an offering and come into his courts.
⁹ Bow down to Yahweh in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
¹⁰ Say among the nations, "Yahweh reigns."
The world also is established; it cannot be shaken.
He judges the peoples fairly.
¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and that which fills it shout with joy.
¹² Let the fields rejoice and all that is in them.
Then let all the trees in the forest shout for joy
¹³ before Yahweh, for he is coming.
He is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his faithfulness.

97

¹ Yahweh reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad.
² Clouds and darkness surround him.
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
³ Fire goes before him
and consumes his adversaries on every side.
⁴ His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
⁵ The mountains melt like wax before Yahweh,
the Lord of the whole earth.
⁶ The skies declare his justice,
and all the nations see his glory.
⁷ All those who worship carved figures will be shamed,
those who boast in worthless idols—
bow down to him, all you gods!
⁸ Zion heard and was glad,
and the towns of Judah rejoiced
because of your righteous decrees, Yahweh.
⁹ For you, Yahweh, are most high above all the earth.

You are exalted far above all gods.
¹⁰ You who love Yahweh, hate evil!
 He protects the lives of his saints,
 and he takes them out of the hand of the wicked.
¹¹ Light is sown for the righteous
 and gladness for those with honest hearts.
¹² Be glad in Yahweh, you righteous;
 and give thanks when you remember his holiness.

98

A psalm.

¹ Oh, sing to Yahweh a new song,
 for he has done marvelous things;
 his right hand and his holy arm have given him victory.
² Yahweh has made known his salvation;
 he has openly showed his justice to all the nations.
³ He calls to mind his covenant loyalty and faithfulness for the house
 of Israel;
 all the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God.
⁴ Shout for joy to Yahweh, all the earth;
 burst into song, sing for joy, and sing praises.
⁵ Sing praises to Yahweh with the harp,
 with the harp and melodious song.
⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
 make a joyful noise before the King, Yahweh.
⁷ Let the sea shout and everything in it,
 the world and those who live in it!
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
 and let the mountains shout for joy.
⁹ Yahweh is coming to judge the earth;
 he will judge the world with righteousness
 and the nations with fairness.

99

¹ Yahweh reigns; let the nations tremble.
 He sits enthroned above the cherubim; the earth quakes.
² Yahweh is great in Zion;
 he is exalted above all the nations.
³ Let them praise your great and awesome name;
 he is holy.
⁴ The king is strong, and he loves justice.
 You have established fairness;
 you have done righteousness and justice in Jacob.
⁵ Praise Yahweh our God
 and worship at his footstool.
 He is holy.
⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
 and Samuel was among those who called on his name.
 They called to Yahweh, and he answered them.
⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud.
 They kept his solemn commands
 and the statutes that he gave them.

8 You answered them, Yahweh our God.
 A forgiving God you were to them,
 but one who punished their sinful deeds.
 9 Praise Yahweh our God,
 and worship at his holy hill,
 for Yahweh our God is holy.

100

A psalm of thanksgiving.

1 Shout joyfully to Yahweh, all the earth.
 2 Serve Yahweh with gladness;
 come before his presence with joyful singing.
 3 Know that Yahweh is God;
 he made us, and we are his.
 We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving
 and into his courts with praise.
 Give thanks to him and bless his name.
 5 For Yahweh is good; his covenant faithfulness endures forever
 and his truthfulness through all generations.

101

A psalm of David.

1 I will sing of covenant faithfulness and justice;
 to you, Yahweh, I will sing praises.
 2 I will walk in the way of integrity.
 Oh, when will you come to me?
 I will walk with integrity within my house.
 3 I will not put wrongdoing before my eyes;
 I hate worthless evil;
 it will not cling to me.
 4 Perverse people will leave me;
 I am not loyal to evil.
 5 I will destroy whoever secretly slanders his neighbor.
 I will not tolerate anyone who has a proud demeanor and an arrogant
 attitude.
 6 I will look to the faithful of the land to sit at my side.
 Those who walk in the way of integrity may serve me.
 7 Deceitful people will not remain within my house;
 liars will not be welcome before my eyes.
 8 Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked from the land;
 I will remove all evildoers from the city of Yahweh.

102

A prayer of the afflicted when he is faint and pours out his lament
 before Yahweh.

1 Hear my prayer, Yahweh;
 hear my cry to you.
 2 Do not hide your face from me in my time of trouble.
 Listen to me.
 When I call out to you, answer me quickly.
 3 For my days pass away like smoke,

and my bones burn like fire.

⁴ My heart is crushed, and I am like grass that has withered.

I forget to eat any food.

⁵ With my continual groaning,

I have become very thin.

⁶ I am like a pelican of the wilderness;

I have become like an owl in the ruins.

⁷ I lie awake like a solitary bird,

alone on the housetop.

⁸ My enemies taunt me all day long;

those who mock me use my name in curses.

⁹ I eat ashes like bread

and mix my drink with tears.

¹⁰ Because of your raging anger,

you have lifted me up to throw me down.

¹¹ My days are like a shadow that fades,

and I have withered like grass.

¹² But you, Yahweh, live forever,

and your fame is for all generations.

¹³ You will rise up and have mercy on Zion.

Now is the time to have mercy upon her;

the appointed time has come.

¹⁴ For your servants hold her stones dear

and feel compassion for the dust of her ruins.

¹⁵ The nations will respect your name, Yahweh,

and all the kings of the earth will honor your glory.

¹⁶ Yahweh will rebuild Zion

and will appear in his glory.

¹⁷ At that time, he will respond to the prayer of the destitute;

he will not reject their prayer.

¹⁸ This will be written for future generations,

and a people not yet born will praise Yahweh.

¹⁹ For he has looked down from the holy heights;

from heaven Yahweh has viewed the earth,

²⁰ to hear the groaning of the prisoners,

to release those who were condemned to death.

²¹ Then men will proclaim the name of Yahweh in Zion

and his praise in Jerusalem

²² when the peoples and kingdoms gather together

to serve Yahweh.

²³ He has taken away my strength in the middle of life.

He has shortened my days.

²⁴ I said, "My God, do not take me away in the middle of life;

you are here throughout all generations.

²⁵ In ancient times you set the earth in place;

the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain;

they will all grow old like a garment;

like clothing, you will remove them, and they will disappear.

²⁷ But you are the same,

and your years will have no end.

28 The children of your servants will live on,
and their descendants will live in your presence.”

103

A psalm of David.

¹ I give praise to Yahweh with all my life,
and with all that is within me, I give praise to his holy name.

² I give praise to Yahweh with all my life,
and I remember all of his good deeds.

³ He forgives all your sins;
he heals all your diseases.

⁴ He redeems your life from destruction;
he crowns you with covenant faithfulness and acts of tender mercy.

⁵ He satisfies your life with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

⁶ Yahweh does what is fair
and does acts of justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the descendants of Israel.

⁸ Yahweh is merciful and gracious;
he is patient; he has great covenant loyalty.

⁹ He will not always discipline;
he is not always angry.

¹⁰ He does not deal with us as our sins deserve
or repay us for what our sins demand.

¹¹ For as the skies are high above the earth,
so great is his covenant faithfulness toward those who honor him.

¹² As far as the east is from the west,
this is how far he has removed the guilt of our sins from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so Yahweh has compassion on those who honor him.

¹⁴ For he knows how we are formed;
he knows that we are dust.

¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower in a field.

¹⁶ The wind blows over it, and it disappears,
and no one can even tell where it once grew.

¹⁷ But the covenant faithfulness of Yahweh is from everlasting to
everlasting on those who honor him.

His righteousness extends to their descendants.

¹⁸ They keep his covenant
and remember to obey his instructions.

¹⁹ Yahweh has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over everyone.

²⁰ Give praise to Yahweh, you his angels,
you mighty ones who are strong and do his word,
and obey the sound of his word.

²¹ Give praise to Yahweh, all his hosts,
you are his servants who carry out his will.

²² Give praise to Yahweh, all his creatures,
in all the places where he reigns.

I will give praise to Yahweh with all my life.

104

¹ I give praise to Yahweh with all my life,
Yahweh my God, you are very magnificent;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

² You cover yourself with light as with a garment;
you spread out the heavens like a tent curtain.

³ You lay the beams of your chambers on the clouds;
you make the clouds your chariot;
you walk on the wings of the wind.

⁴ He makes the winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.

⁵ He laid the foundations of the earth,
and it will never be moved.

⁶ You covered the earth with water like a garment;
the water covered the mountains.

⁷ Your rebuke made the waters recede;
at the sound of your thunderous voice they fled.

⁸ The mountains rose, and the valleys spread out
into the places that you had appointed for them.

⁹ You have set a boundary for them that they will not cross;
they will not cover the earth again.

¹⁰ He made springs flow into the valleys;
the streams flow between the mountains.

¹¹ They supply water for all the animals of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² By the riverbanks the birds build their nests;
they sing among the branches.

¹³ He waters the mountains from his water chambers in the sky.
The earth is filled with the fruit of his labor.

¹⁴ He makes the grass grow for the cattle
and plants for man to cultivate
so that man may produce food from the earth.

¹⁵ He makes wine to make man happy,
oil to make his face shine,
and food to sustain his life.

¹⁶ The trees of Yahweh get plenty of rain;
the cedars of Lebanon which he planted.

¹⁷ There the birds make their nests.
The stork makes the cypress tree her home.

¹⁸ The wild goats live on the high mountains;
the mountain heights are a refuge for the hyraxes.

¹⁹ He appointed the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.

²⁰ You make the darkness of the night
when all the beasts of the forest come out.

²¹ The young lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.

²² When the sun rises, they retreat
and sleep in their dens.

²³ Meanwhile, people go out to their work

and labor away until the evening.

²⁴ Yahweh, how many and varied are your works!

With wisdom you made them all;

the earth overflows with your works.

²⁵ Over there is the sea, deep and wide,

teeming with innumerable creatures,

both small and great.

²⁶ The ships travel there,

and Leviathan is also there, which you formed to play in the sea.

²⁷ All these look to you to give them

their food on time.

²⁸ When you give to them, they gather;

when you open your hand, they are satisfied.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are troubled;

if you take away their breath, they die

and return to dust.

³⁰ When you send out your Spirit, they are created,

and you renew the countryside.

³¹ May the glory of Yahweh last forever;

may Yahweh enjoy his creation.

³² He looks down on the earth, and it shakes;

he touches the mountains, and they smoke.

³³ I will sing to Yahweh all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³⁴ May my thoughts be sweet to him;

I will rejoice in Yahweh.

³⁵ May sinners vanish from the earth,

and let the wicked be no more.

I give praise to Yahweh with all my life.

Praise Yahweh.

105

¹ Give thanks to Yahweh, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations.

² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
speak of all his marvelous deeds.

³ Boast in his holy name;
let the heart of those who seek Yahweh rejoice.

⁴ Seek Yahweh and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

⁵ Recall the marvelous things he has done,
his miracles and the decrees from his mouth,

⁶ you descendants of Abraham his servant,
you people of Jacob, his chosen ones.

⁷ He is Yahweh, our God.

His decrees are on all the earth.

⁸ He keeps in mind his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded for a thousand generations.

⁹ He calls to mind the covenant that he made with Abraham
and his oath to Isaac.

¹⁰ This is what he confirmed to Jacob as a statute
and to Israel as an everlasting covenant.

11 He said, "I will give you the land of Canaan
as your share of your inheritance."
12 He said this when they were only few in number,
so very few, and were strangers in the land.
13 They went from nation to nation
and from one kingdom to another.
14 He did not allow anyone to oppress them;
he rebuked kings for their sakes.
15 He said, "Do not touch my anointed ones,
and do not harm my prophets."
16 He called for a famine on the land;
he cut off the whole supply of bread.
17 He sent a man ahead of them;
Joseph was sold as a servant.
18 His feet were bound by shackles;
on his neck was put an iron collar,
19 until what he had said came to pass.
The word of Yahweh tested him.
20 The king sent servants to release him;
the ruler of the people set him free.
21 He put him in charge of his house
as ruler of all his possessions
22 to instruct his princes as he wished
and to teach his elders wisdom.
23 Then Israel came into Egypt,
and Jacob lived for a time in the land of Ham.
24 Yahweh made his people fruitful,
and made them stronger than their enemies.
25 He caused their enemies to hate his people,
to mistreat his servants.
26 He sent Moses, his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
27 They performed his signs among the Egyptians,
his wonders in the land of Ham.
28 He sent darkness and made that land dark,
but its people did not obey his commands.
29 He turned their water into blood
and killed their fish.
30 Their land swarmed with frogs,
even in the rooms of their rulers.
31 He spoke, and swarms of flies and gnats came
throughout their country.
32 He turned their rain into hail,
with fire flaming on their land.
33 He destroyed their vines and fig trees;
he broke the trees of their country.
34 He spoke, and the locusts came,
so many locusts.
35 The locusts ate up all of the vegetation in their land;
They ate up all the crops of the ground.
36 He killed every firstborn in their land,
the firstfruits of all their strength.

³⁷ He brought the Israelites out with silver and gold;
none of his tribes stumbled on the way.

³⁸ Egypt was glad when they went away,
for the Egyptians were afraid of them.

³⁹ He spread a cloud for a covering
and made a fire to light up the night.

⁴⁰ The Israelites asked for food, and he brought quail
and satisfied them with bread from heaven.

⁴¹ He split the rock, and waters gushed from it;
they flowed in the wilderness like a river.

⁴² For he called to mind his holy promise
that he made to Abraham his servant.

⁴³ He led his people out with joy,
his chosen with shouts of triumph.

⁴⁴ He gave them the lands of the nations;
they took possession of the wealth of the peoples

⁴⁵ so that they might keep his statutes
and obey his laws.

Praise Yahweh.

106

¹ Praise Yahweh.

Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good,
for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.

² Who can recount the mighty acts of Yahweh
or proclaim in full all his praiseworthy deeds?

³ Blessed are those who do what is right,
and whose deeds are always just.

⁴ Call me to mind, Yahweh, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you save them.

⁵ Then I will see the prosperity of your chosen,
rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
and glory with your inheritance.

⁶ We have sinned like our ancestors;
we have done wrong, and we have done evil.

⁷ Our fathers did not appreciate your marvelous deeds in Egypt;
they ignored your many acts of covenant faithfulness;
they were rebellious at the sea, the Sea of Reeds.

⁸ Nevertheless, he saved them for his name's sake
so that he might reveal his power.

⁹ He rebuked the Sea of Reeds, and it dried up.
Then he led them through the depths, as through a wilderness.

¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of those who hated them,
and he rescued them from the hand of the enemy.

¹¹ But the waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.

¹² Then they believed his words,
and they sang his praise.

¹³ But they quickly forgot what he had done;
they did not wait for his instructions.

¹⁴ They had insatiable cravings in the wilderness,
and they challenged God in the desert.

15 So he gave them what they requested,
but he sent a horrible disease upon them.
16 In the camp they became jealous of Moses
and Aaron, the holy priest of Yahweh.
17 The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan
and covered the followers of Abiram.
18 Fire broke out among them;
the fire consumed the wicked.
19 They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast metal figure.
20 They traded the glory of God
for the image of a bull that eats grass.
21 They forgot God their Savior,
who had done great deeds in Egypt.
22 He had done wonderful things in the land of Ham
and mighty acts at the Sea of Reeds.
23 So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his anger from destroying them.
24 Then they despised the fruitful land;
they did not believe his promise,
25 but grumbled in their tents,
and did not obey Yahweh.
26 Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them
that he would let them die in the desert,
27 scatter their descendants among the nations,
and scatter them in foreign lands.
28 They worshiped the Baal of Peor
and ate the sacrifices offered to the dead.
29 They provoked him to anger with their actions,
and a plague broke out among them.
30 Then Phinehas rose to intervene,
and the plague subsided.
31 It was counted to him as a righteous deed
to all generations forever.
32 They also angered Yahweh at the waters of Meribah,
and Moses suffered because of them.
33 They made Moses bitter,
and he spoke rashly.
34 They did not destroy the nations
as Yahweh had commanded them,
35 but they mingled with the nations
and learned their ways
36 and worshiped their idols,
which became a snare to them.
37 They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons.
38 They shed innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and of their daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
desecrating the land with blood.
39 They were defiled by their deeds;

in their actions they were like prostitutes.

⁴⁰ So Yahweh was angry with his people,
and he despised his own people.

⁴¹ He gave them into the hand of the nations,
and those who hated them ruled over them.

⁴² Their enemies oppressed them,
and they were brought into subjection to their authority.

⁴³ Many times he came to help them,
but they kept rebelling

and were brought low by their own sin.

⁴⁴ Nevertheless, he paid attention to their distress
when he heard their cry for help.

⁴⁵ He called to mind his covenant with them
and relented because of his steadfast love.

⁴⁶ He caused all their conquerers
to have pity on them.

⁴⁷ Save us, Yahweh, our God.

Gather us from among the nations
so that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praises.

⁴⁸ May Yahweh, the God of Israel, be praised
from everlasting to everlasting.

All the people said, "Amen."

Praise Yahweh.

Book Five

107

¹ Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good,
and his covenant faithfulness endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of Yahweh speak out,
those he has rescued from the hand of the enemy.

³ He has gathered them out of foreign lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

⁴ They wandered in the wilderness on a desert road
and found no city in which to live.

⁵ Because they were hungry and thirsty,
they fainted from exhaustion.

⁶ Then they called out to Yahweh in their trouble,
and he rescued them out of their distress.

⁷ He led them by a direct path
so that they would go to a city to live in.

⁸ Oh that people would praise Yahweh for his covenant faithfulness
and for the amazing things he has done for humanity!

⁹ For he satisfies the longings of those who are thirsty,
and the desires of those who are hungry he fills up with good things.

¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and in gloom,
prisoners in affliction and chains.

¹¹ This was because they had rebelled against God's word
and rejected the instruction of the Most High.

¹² He humbled their hearts through hardship;
they stumbled and there was no one to help them up.

13 Then they called out to Yahweh in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
14 He brought them out of darkness and gloom
and broke their bonds.
15 Oh that people would praise Yahweh for his covenant faithfulness
and for the amazing things he has done for humanity!
16 For he has broken the gates of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron.
17 They were foolish in their rebellious ways
and afflicted because of their sins.
18 They lost their desire to eat any food,
and they came close to the gates of death.
19 Then they called out to Yahweh in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
20 He sent his word and healed them,
and he rescued them from their destruction.
21 Oh that people would praise Yahweh for his covenant faithfulness
and for the amazing things he has done for humanity!
22 Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving
and proclaim his deeds in singing.
23 Some travel on the sea in ships
and do business overseas.
24 These saw the deeds of Yahweh
and his wonders on the seas.
25 For he commanded and aroused the windstorm
that stirs up the seas.
26 They reached up to the sky; they went down to the depths.
Their lives melted away in distress.
27 They swayed and staggered like drunkards
and were at their wits' end.
28 Then they called out to Yahweh in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
29 He calmed the storm,
and the waves were stilled.
30 Then they rejoiced because the sea was calm,
and he brought them to their desired harbor.
31 Oh that people would praise Yahweh for his covenant faithfulness
and for the amazing things he has done for humanity!
32 Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.
33 He turns rivers into a wilderness,
springs of water into dry land,
34 and a fruitful land into a barren place
because of the wickedness of its people.
35 He turns the wilderness into a pool of water
and dry land into springs of water.
36 He settles the hungry there,
and they build a city to live in.
37 They build a city to plant fields in, to plant vineyards,
and to bring in an abundant harvest.
38 He blesses them so they are very numerous.
He does not let their cattle decrease in number.

³⁹ They were diminished and brought low
by painful distress and suffering.

⁴⁰ He pours contempt on the leaders
and causes them to wander in the wilderness, where there are no
roads.

⁴¹ But he protects the needy from affliction
and cares for his families like a flock.

⁴² The upright will see this and rejoice,
and all wickedness shuts its mouth.

⁴³ Whoever is wise should take note of these things
and meditate on Yahweh's acts of covenant faithfulness.

108

A song, a psalm of David.

¹ My heart is fixed, God;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises also with my honored heart.

² Wake up, lute and harp;

I will wake up the dawn.

³ I will give thanks to you, Yahweh, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to you among the nations.

⁴ For your covenant faithfulness is great above the heavens;
and your trustworthiness reaches to the skies.

⁵ Be exalted, God, above the heavens,
and may your glory be exalted over all the earth.

⁶ So that those you love may be rescued,
rescue us with your right hand and answer me.

⁷ God has spoken in his holiness; "I will rejoice;

I will divide Shechem and apportion out the Valley of Succoth.

⁸ Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;

Ephraim also is my helmet;

Judah is my scepter.

⁹ Moab is my washbasin;

over Edom I will throw my shoe;

I will shout in triumph because of Philistia.

¹⁰ Who will bring me into the strong city?

Who will lead me to Edom?"

¹¹ God, have you not rejected us?

You do not go into battle with our army.

¹² Give us help against the enemy,

for man's help is futile.

¹³ We will triumph with God's help;

he will trample down our enemies.

109

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ God whom I praise, do not be silent,

² For the wicked and deceitful attack me;
they speak lies against me.

³ They surround me and say hateful things,
and they attack me without cause.

⁴ In return for my love they accuse me,
but I pray for them.

5 They repay me evil for good,
and they hate my love.
6 Appoint a wicked man over such an enemy as these people;
appoint an accuser to stand at his right hand.
7 When he is judged, may he be found guilty;
may his prayer be considered sinful.
8 May his days be few;
may another take his office.
9 May his children be fatherless,
and may his wife be a widow.
10 May his children wander about and beg,
asking for handouts as they leave their ruined home.
11 May the creditor take all he owns;
may strangers plunder what he earns.
12 May no one extend any kindness to him;
may no one have pity on his fatherless children.
13 May his children be cut off;
may their name be blotted out in the next generation.
14 May his ancestors' sins be mentioned to Yahweh;
and may the sin of his mother not be forgotten.
15 May their guilt always be before Yahweh;
may Yahweh cut off their memory from the earth.
16 May Yahweh do this because this man never bothered to show any
covenant faithfulness,
but instead harassed the oppressed, the needy,
and the disheartened to death.
17 He loved cursing; may it come back upon him.
He hated blessing; may no blessing come to him.
18 He clothed himself with cursing as his garment,
and his curse came into his inner being like water,
like oil into his bones.
19 May his curses be to him like the clothes he wears to cover himself,
like the belt he always wears.
20 May this be the reward of my accusers from Yahweh,
of those who say evil things about me.
21 Yahweh my Lord, deal kindly with me for your name's sake.
Because your covenant faithfulness is good, save me.
22 For I am oppressed and needy,
and my heart is wounded within me.
23 I am fading away like the shadow of the evening;
I am shaken off like a locust.
24 My knees are weak from fasting;
I am turning to skin and bones.
25 I am disdained by my accusers;
when they see me, they shake their heads.
26 Help me, Yahweh my God;
save me by your covenant faithfulness.
27 May they know that this is your doing,
that you, Yahweh, have done this.
28 Though they curse me, please bless me;

when they attack, may they be put to shame,
but may your servant rejoice.

²⁹ May my adversaries be clothed with shame;
may they wear their shame like a robe.

³⁰ With my mouth I give great thanks to Yahweh;
I will praise him in the midst of a crowd.

³¹ For he will stand at the right hand of the one who is needy,
to save him from those who judge him.

110

A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh says to my master, "Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool."

² Yahweh will hold out the scepter of your strength from Zion;
rule among your enemies.

³ Your people will follow you in holy garments
of their own free will on the day of your power;
from the womb of the dawn your youth will be to you like the dew.

⁴ Yahweh has sworn, and will not change:
"You are a priest forever,
after the manner of Melchizedek."

⁵ The Lord is at your right hand.
He will kill kings on the day of his anger.

⁶ He will judge the nations;
he will fill the battlegrounds with dead bodies;
he will kill the leaders in many countries.

⁷ He will drink of the brook along the road,
and then he will lift his head up high after victory.

111

¹ Praise Yahweh.

I will give thanks to Yahweh with my whole heart
in the assembly of the upright, in their gathering.

² The works of Yahweh are great,
eagerly awaited by all those who desire them.

³ His work is majestic and glorious,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He does wonderful things that will be remembered;
Yahweh is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He gives food to his faithful followers.
He will always call to mind his covenant.

⁶ He showed his powerful works to his people
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are trustworthy and just;
all his instructions are reliable.

⁸ They are established forever,
to be observed faithfully and properly.

⁹ He gave victory to his people;
he ordained his covenant forever;
holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ To honor Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom;

those who carry out his instructions have good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

112

¹ Praise Yahweh.

Blessed is the man who obeys Yahweh,
who greatly delights in his commandments.

² His descendants will be powerful on earth;
the descendants of the godly man will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are in his house;
his righteousness will endure forever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the godly person;
he is gracious, merciful, and just.

⁵ It goes well for the man who deals graciously and lends money,
who conducts his affairs with honesty.

⁶ For he will never be moved;
the righteous person will be remembered forever.

⁷ He does not fear bad news;
he is confident, trusting in Yahweh.

⁸ His heart is tranquil, without fear,
until he looks in triumph over his adversaries.

⁹ He generously gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever;
he will be exalted with honor.

¹⁰ The wicked person will see this and be angry;
he will grind his teeth in rage and he will melt away;
the desire of the wicked people will perish.

113

¹ Praise Yahweh.

Praise him, you servants of Yahweh;
praise the name of Yahweh.

² Blessed be the name of Yahweh,
both now and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its setting,
Yahweh's name should be praised.

⁴ Yahweh is exalted above all nations,
and his glory reaches above the skies.

⁵ Who is like Yahweh our God,
who has his seat on high,

⁶ who looks down
at the sky and at the earth?

⁷ He raises up the poor out of the dirt
and lifts up the needy from the ash heap,

⁸ so that he may seat him with princes,
with the princes of his people.

⁹ He gives a home to the barren woman of the house,
he makes her a joyful mother of children.

Praise Yahweh!

114

¹ When Israel left Egypt,

the house of Jacob from a people who spoke a foreign language,
 2 Judah became his holy place,
 Israel his kingdom.
 3 The sea looked and fled;
 the Jordan turned back.
 4 The mountains skipped like rams,
 the hills skipped like lambs.
 5 Why did you flee, sea?
 Jordan, why did you turn back?
 6 Mountains, why did you skip like rams?
 You little hills, why did you skip like lambs?
 7 Tremble, earth, before the Lord,
 at the presence of the God of Jacob.
 8 He turned the rock into a pool of water,
 the hard rock into a spring of water.

115

1 Not to us, Yahweh, not to us,
 but to your name bring honor;
 for your covenant faithfulness and for your trustworthiness.
 2 Why should the nations say,
 "Where is their God?"
 3 Our God is in heaven;
 he does whatever he pleases.
 4 The nations' idols are silver and gold,
 the work of men's hands.
 5 Those idols have mouths, but they do not speak;
 they have eyes, but they do not see;
 6 they have ears, but they do not hear;
 they have noses, but they do not smell.
 7 Those idols have hands, but do not feel;
 they have feet, but they cannot walk;
 nor do they speak from their mouths.
 8 Those who make them are like them,
 as is everyone who trusts in them.
 9 Israel, trust in Yahweh;
 he is your help and shield.
 10 House of Aaron, trust in Yahweh;
 he is your help and shield.
 11 You who honor Yahweh, trust in him;
 he is your help and shield.
 12 Yahweh takes notice of us and will bless us;
 he will bless the family of Israel;
 he will bless the family of Aaron.
 13 He will bless those who honor him,
 both young and old.
 14 May Yahweh increase your numbers more and more,
 yours and your descendants'.
 15 May you be blessed by Yahweh,
 who made heaven and earth.
 16 The heavens belong to Yahweh;
 but the earth he has given to mankind.

17 The dead do not praise Yahweh,
nor do any who go down into silence;
18 But we will bless Yahweh
now and forevermore.
Praise Yahweh.

116

1 I love Yahweh because he hears
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
2 Because he listened to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
3 The cords of death surrounded me,
and the snares of Sheol confronted me;
I felt anguish and sorrow.
4 Then I called on the name of Yahweh:
"Please Yahweh, rescue my life."
5 Yahweh is merciful and fair;
our God is compassionate.
6 Yahweh protects the naive;
I was brought low, and he saved me.
7 My soul can return to its resting place,
for Yahweh has been good to me.
8 For you rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears,
and my feet from stumbling.
9 I will serve Yahweh
in the land of the living.
10 I believed in him, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted."
11 In my confusion I said,
"All men are liars."
12 How can I repay Yahweh
for all his kindnesses to me?
13 I will raise the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of Yahweh.
14 I will fulfill my vows to Yahweh
in the presence of all his people.
15 Precious in the sight of Yahweh
is the death of his saints.
16 Yahweh, indeed, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your servant woman;
you have taken away my bonds.
17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of Yahweh.
18 I will fulfill my vows to Yahweh
in the presence of all his people,
19 in the courts of Yahweh's house,
in your midst, Jerusalem.
Praise Yahweh.

117

1 Praise Yahweh, all you nations;
exalt him, all you peoples.

² For his covenant faithfulness is great toward us,
and the trustworthiness of Yahweh endures forever.
Praise Yahweh.

118

¹ Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good,
for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.

² Let Israel say,

“His covenant faithfulness endures forever.”

³ Let the house of Aaron say,

“His covenant faithfulness endures forever.”

⁴ Let the loyal followers of Yahweh say,

“His covenant faithfulness endures forever.”

⁵ In my distress I called out to Yahweh;

Yahweh answered me and set me free.

⁶ Yahweh is with me; I will not be afraid;

what can man do to me?

⁷ Yahweh is on my side as my helper;

I will look in triumph on those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take shelter in Yahweh
than to put confidence in man.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in Yahweh
than to put one's trust in a prince.

¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me;

in Yahweh's name I cut them off.

¹¹ They surrounded me; yes, they surrounded me;
in Yahweh's name I cut them off.

¹² They surrounded me like bees;

they disappeared as quickly as fire among thorns;
in Yahweh's name I cut them off.

¹³ They attacked me to knock me down,
but Yahweh helped me.

¹⁴ Yahweh is my strength and joy,
and he is the one who rescues me.

¹⁵ The joyful shout of victory is heard in the tents of the righteous;
the right hand of Yahweh conquers.

¹⁶ The right hand of Yahweh is exalted;
the right hand of Yahweh conquers.

¹⁷ I will not die, but live
and declare the deeds of Yahweh.

¹⁸ Yahweh has punished me harshly;

but he has not handed me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and I will give thanks to Yahweh.

²⁰ This is the gate of Yahweh;
the righteous enter through it.

²¹ I will give thanks to you, for you answered me,
and you have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

²³ This is Yahweh's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day on which Yahweh has acted;

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Please, Yahweh, give us victory!

Please, Yahweh, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh;
we bless you from the house of Yahweh.

²⁷ Yahweh is God, and he has given us light;
bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will exalt you.

²⁹ Oh, give thanks to Yahweh; for he is good;
for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.

119

ALEPH

¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk in the law of Yahweh.

² Blessed are they who keep his solemn commands,
who seek him with all their heart.

³ They do no wrong;
they walk in his ways.

⁴ You have commanded us to keep your instructions
so that we should carefully observe them.

⁵ Oh, that I would be firmly established
in the observance of your statutes!

⁶ Then I would not be put to shame
when I think of all your commandments.

⁷ I will give thanks to you with an upright heart
when I learn your righteous decrees.

⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not leave me alone.

BETH

⁹ How can a young person keep his path pure?
By obeying your word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you;
Do not let me stray from your commandments.

¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart
so that I might not sin against you.

¹² Blessed you are, Yahweh;
teach me your statutes.

¹³ With my mouth I have declared
all the righteous decrees that you have revealed.

¹⁴ I rejoice in the way of your covenant decrees
more than in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your instructions
and pay attention to your ways.

¹⁶ I delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

GIMEL

¹⁷ Be kind to your servant so that I may live
and keep your word.

¹⁸ Open my eyes so that I may see
marvelous things in your law.

19 I am a foreigner in the land;
do not hide your commandments from me.
20 My desires are crushed by the longing to know
your righteous decrees at all times.
21 You rebuke the proud, who are cursed,
who wander from your commandments.
22 Spare me from disgrace and humiliation,
for I have obeyed your covenant decrees.
23 Though rulers plot and slander me,
your servant meditates on your statutes.
24 Your covenant decrees are my delight,
and they are my counselors.

DALETH

25 My life clings to the dust!
Give me life by your word.
26 I told you my ways, and you answered me;
teach me your statutes.
27 Make me understand the ways of your instructions,
so that I can meditate on your wondrous teachings.
28 I am overwhelmed with grief!
Strengthen me by your word.
29 Turn from me the path of deceit;
graciously teach me your law.
30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I have always kept your righteous decrees before me.
31 I cling to your covenant decrees;
Yahweh, do not let me be shamed.
32 I will run in the path of your commandments,
for you enlarge my heart to do so.

HE

33 Teach me, Yahweh, the way of your statutes,
and I will keep them to the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I will keep your law;
I will observe it with all my heart.
35 Guide me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight to walk in it.
36 Direct my heart toward your covenant decrees
and away from unrighteous gain.
37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
revive me in your ways.
38 Carry out for your servant your promise
that you made to those who honor you.
39 Take away the insults I dread,
for your righteous judgments are good.
40 See, I have longed for your instructions;
revive me in your righteousness.

VAV

41 Yahweh, give me your unfailing love—
your salvation, according to your promise;
42 then I will have a reply for the one who mocks me,
for I trust in your word.

43 Do not take the word of truth from my mouth,
for my hope is in your righteous decrees.

44 I will observe your law continually,
forever and ever.

45 I will walk securely,
for I seek your instructions.

46 I will speak of your solemn commands before kings
and will not be ashamed.

47 I delight in your commandments,
which I love dearly.

48 I will lift up my hands to your commandments, which I love;
I will meditate on your statutes.

ZAYIN

49 Call to mind your promise to your servant
because you have given me hope.

50 This is my comfort in my affliction:
that your promise has kept me alive.

51 The proud have scoffed at me,
yet I have not turned away from your law.

52 I have thought about your righteous decrees from ancient times,
Yahweh,

and I comfort myself.

53 Hot anger has taken hold of me
because of the wicked who reject your law.

54 Your statutes have been my songs
in the house where I temporarily live.

55 I think about your name during the night, Yahweh,
and I keep your law.

56 This has been my practice
because I have observed your instructions.

HETH

57 Yahweh is my portion;
I have determined to observe your words.

58 I earnestly request your favor with my whole heart;
be merciful to me, as your word promised.

59 I examined my ways
and turned my feet to your covenant decrees.

60 I hurry and do not delay
to keep your commandments.

61 The cords of the wicked have ensnared me;
I have not forgotten your law.

62 At midnight I rise to give thanks to you
because of your righteous decrees.

63 I am a companion of all who honor you,
to all who observe your instructions.

64 The earth, Yahweh, is full of your covenant faithfulness;
teach me your statutes.

TETH

65 You have done good to your servant,
Yahweh, by means of your word.

66 Teach me proper discernment and understanding,

for I have believed in your commandments.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I observe your word.

68 You are good, and you are one who does good;
teach me your statutes.

69 The arrogant have smeared me with lies,
but I keep your instructions with my whole heart.

70 Their hearts are hardened,
but I delight in your law.

71 It is good for me that I have suffered
so that I would learn your statutes.

72 Instruction from your mouth is more precious to me
than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.

YOD

73 Your hands have made and fashioned me;
give me understanding so that I may learn your commandments.

74 Those who honor you will be glad when they see me
because I find hope in your word.

75 I know, Yahweh, that your decrees are just,
and that in faithfulness you afflicted me.

76 Let your covenant faithfulness comfort me,
as you promised your servant.

77 Show me compassion so that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

78 Let the proud be put to shame,
for they have slandered me;

but I will meditate on your instructions.

79 May those who honor you turn to me,
those who know your covenant decrees.

80 May my heart be blameless with respect to your statutes
so that I may not be put to shame.

KAPH

81 I faint with longing that you might rescue me!
I hope in your word.

82 My eyes long to see your promise;
when will you comfort me?

83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke;
I do not forget your statutes.

84 How long must your servant endure this;
when will you judge those who persecute me?

85 The proud have dug pits for me,
defying your law.

86 All your commandments are reliable;
those people persecute me wrongfully; help me.

87 They have almost made an end to me on earth,
but I do not reject your instructions.

88 By your steadfast love, keep me alive,
so that I may obey your commands.

LAMEDH

89 Yahweh, your word stands forever;
your word is established firmly in heaven.

90 Your faithfulness lasts for all generations;
you have established the earth, and it remains.

91 All things continue to this day, just as you said in your righteous
decrees,

for all things are your servants.

92 If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your instructions,
for through them you have kept me alive.

94 I am yours; save me,
for I seek your instructions.

95 The wicked prepare to destroy me,
but I will seek to understand your covenant decrees.

96 I have seen that everything has its limits,
but your commandments are broad, beyond limits.

MEM

97 Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,
for your commandments are always with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your covenant decrees.

100 I understand more than those older than I am;
this is because I have kept your instructions.

101 I have kept my feet back from every evil path
so that I might observe your word.

102 I have not turned aside from your righteous decrees,
for you have instructed me.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through your instructions I gain discernment;
therefore I hate every false way.

NUN

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.

106 I have sworn and have confirmed it,
that I will observe your righteous decrees.

107 I am very afflicted;
keep me alive, Yahweh, as you have promised in your word.

108 Yahweh, please accept the freewill offerings of my mouth,
and teach me your righteous decrees.

109 My life is always in my hand,
yet I do not forget your law.

110 The wicked have set a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your instructions.

111 I claim your covenant decrees as my heritage forever,
for they are the joy of my heart.

112 My heart is set on obeying your statutes
forever to the very end.

SAMEKH

113 I hate those who have a double mind,

but I love your law.

114 You are my hiding place and my shield;

I hope in your word.

115 Get away from me, you evil doers,
so that I may observe the commandments of my God.

116 Sustain me by your word so that I may live
and not be ashamed of my hope.

117 Support me, and I will be safe;
I will always meditate on your statutes.

118 You reject all those who stray from your statutes,
for those people are deceptive and unreliable.

119 You remove all the wicked of the earth like slag;
therefore I love your solemn commands.

120 My body trembles in fear of you,
and I am afraid of your righteous decrees.

AYIN

121 I do what is just and right;
do not abandon me to my oppressors.

122 Guarantee the welfare of your servant;
do not let the proud oppress me.

123 My eyes grow tired as I wait for your salvation
and for your righteous word.

124 Show your servant your covenant faithfulness,
and teach me your statutes.

125 I am your servant; give me understanding
so that I may know your covenant decrees.

126 It is time for Yahweh to act,
for people have broken your law.

127 Truly I love your commandments
more than gold, more than fine gold.

128 Therefore I carefully follow all your instructions,
and I hate every path of falsehood.

PE

129 Your rules are wonderful,
that is why I obey them.

130 The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the untrained.

131 I open my mouth and pant,
for I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me and have mercy on me,
as you always do for those who love your name.

133 Direct my footsteps by your word;
do not let any sin rule me.

134 Redeem me from human oppression
so that I may observe your instructions.

135 Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

136 Streams of tears run down from my eyes
because people do not observe your law.

TSADHE

137 You are righteous, Yahweh,

and your decrees are fair.

138 You have given your covenant decrees righteously and faithfully.

139 Anger has destroyed me

because my adversaries forget your words.

140 Your word has been tested very much, and your servant loves it.

141 I am insignificant and despised, yet I do not forget your instructions.

142 Your justice is forever right, and your law is trustworthy.

143 Though distress and anguish have found me, your commandments are still my delight.

144 Your covenant decrees are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

QOPH

145 I cried out with my whole heart, "Answer me, Yahweh, I will keep your statutes.

146 I call to you; save me, and I will observe your covenant decrees."

147 I rise before the dawn of the morning and cry for help. I hope in your words.

148 My eyes are open before the night watches change so that I might meditate on your word.

149 Hear my voice in your covenant faithfulness; keep me alive, Yahweh, as you have promised in your righteous decrees.

150 Those who are persecuting me are coming closer to me, but they are far from your law.

151 You are near, Yahweh, and all your commandments are trustworthy.

152 Long ago I learned from your covenant decrees that you had set them in place forever.

RESH

153 Look on my affliction and help me, for I do not forget your law.

154 Plead my cause and redeem me; keep me, as you have promised in your word.

155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not love your statutes.

156 Great are your merciful actions, Yahweh; keep me alive, as you always do.

157 My persecutors and my foes are many, yet I have not turned from your covenant decrees.

158 I view the treacherous with disgust because they do not keep your word.

159 See how I love your instructions; keep me alive, Yahweh, as you have promised by your covenant faithfulness.

160 The essence of your word is truth; every one of your righteous decrees lasts forever.

SHIN

161 Princes persecute me without cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your word.

162 I rejoice at your word
like one who finds great plunder.

163 I hate and despise falsehood,
but I love your law.

164 Seven times a day I praise you
because of your righteous decrees.

165 Great peace they have, those who love your law;
nothing makes them stumble.

166 I hope for your salvation, Yahweh,
and I obey your commandments.

167 I observe your solemn commands,
and I love them greatly.

168 I keep your instructions and your solemn commands,
for you are aware of everything I do.

TAV

169 Listen to my cry for help, Yahweh;
give me understanding into your word.

170 May my plea come before you;
help me, as you have promised in your word.

171 May my lips pour out praise,
for you teach me your statutes.

172 Let my tongue sing about your word,
for all your commandments are right.

173 May your hand help me,
for I have chosen your instructions.

174 I long for your rescue, Yahweh,
and your law is my delight.

175 May I live and praise you,
and may your righteous decrees help me.

176 I have wandered off like a lost sheep;
seek your servant,
for I have not forgotten your commandments.

120

A song of ascents.

¹ In my distress I called out to Yahweh,
and he answered me.

² Rescue my life, Yahweh, from those who lie with their lips
and deceive with their tongues.

³ How will he punish you, and what more will he do to you,
you who have a lying tongue?

⁴ He will punish you with the arrows of a warrior
sharpened over burning coals of the broom tree.

⁵ Woe is me because I temporarily live in Meshech;
I lived previously among the tents of Kedar.

⁶ For too long I have lived
with those who hate peace.

⁷ I am for peace,

but when I speak, they are for war.

121

A song of ascents.

¹ I will lift up my eyes to the mountains.
From where will my help come?

² My help comes from Yahweh,
who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not allow your foot to slip;
he who protects you will not slumber.

⁴ See, the guardian of Israel
never slumbers or sleeps.

⁵ Yahweh is your guardian;
Yahweh is the shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ Yahweh will protect you from all harm,
and he will protect your life.

⁸ Yahweh will protect you in all you do
now and forevermore.

122

A song of ascents, of David.

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of Yahweh.”

² Jerusalem, our feet are standing
within your gates!

³ Jerusalem, built
as a city carefully planned!

⁴ The tribes go up to Jerusalem—the tribes of Yahweh—
as a testimony for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of Yahweh.

⁵ There thrones of judgment were set,
thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

“May those who love you have peace.

⁷ May there be peace within the walls that defend you,
and may they have peace within your fortresses.”

⁸ For the sake of my brothers and my friends
I will say, “May there be peace within you.”

⁹ For the sake of the house of Yahweh our God,
I will seek good for you.

123

A song of ascents.

¹ To you I lift up my eyes,
you who are enthroned in the heavens.

² See, as the eyes of servants look to their master's hand,
as the eyes of a maid look to her mistress's hand,
so our eyes look to Yahweh our God
until he has mercy on us.

³ Have mercy on us, Yahweh, have mercy on us,
for we are filled with humiliation.
⁴ We are more than full
of the scoffing of the insolent
and with the contempt of the proud.

124

A song of ascents; of David.

¹ "If Yahweh had not been on our side,"
let Israel say now,
² "if it had not been Yahweh who was on our side
when men rose up against us,
³ then they would have swallowed us up alive
when their anger raged against us.
⁴ The water would have swept us away;
the torrent would have overwhelmed us.
⁵ Then the raging waters would have drowned us."
⁶ Blessed be Yahweh,
who has not allowed us to be torn by their teeth.
⁷ We have escaped like a bird out of the snare of the fowlers;
the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.
⁸ Our help is in Yahweh,
who made heaven and earth.

125

A song of ascents.

¹ Those who trust in Yahweh
are like Mount Zion, unshakable, forever enduring.
² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so Yahweh surrounds his people
now and forever.
³ The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of the righteous.
Otherwise the righteous might do what is wrong.
⁴ Do good, Yahweh, to those who are good
and to those who are upright in their hearts.
⁵ But as for those who turn aside to their crooked ways,
Yahweh will lead them away with the evildoers.
May peace be on Israel.

126

A song of ascents.

¹ When Yahweh restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouths were filled with laughter
and our tongues with singing.
Then they said among the nations,
"Yahweh has done great things for them."
³ Yahweh did great things for us;
how glad we were!
⁴ Restore our fortunes, Yahweh,
like the streams in the Negev.
⁵ Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ He who goes out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,
will return again with shouts of joy, bringing his bundles of grain with
him.

127

A song of ascents, of Solomon.

¹ Unless Yahweh builds the house,
they work uselessly, those who build it.
Unless Yahweh guards the city,
the watchman stands guard uselessly.

² It is useless for you to rise up early,
to come home late,
or to eat the bread of hard work,
for Yahweh provides for his beloved as they sleep.

³ See, children are a heritage from Yahweh,
and the fruit of the womb is a reward from him.

⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
so are the children of one's youth.

⁵ How blessed is the man that has his quiver full of them.
He will not be put to shame
when he confronts his enemies in the gate.

128

A song of ascents.

¹ Blessed is everyone who honors Yahweh,
who walks in his ways.

² What your hands provide, you will enjoy;
you will be blessed and prosper.

³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in your house;
your children will be like olive plants
as they sit around your table.

⁴ Yes, indeed, the man will be blessed
who honors Yahweh.

⁵ May Yahweh bless you from Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

⁶ May you live to see your children's children.
May peace be on Israel.

129

A song of ascents.

¹ "Often since my youth they have attacked me,"
let Israel say.

² "Often since my youth they have attacked me,
yet they have not defeated me.

³ The plowers plowed on my back;
they made their furrows long.

⁴ Yahweh is righteous;
he has cut the ropes of the wicked."

⁵ May they all be put to shame and turned back,
those who hate Zion.

⁶ May they be like the grass on the housetops

that withers before it grows up,
 7 that cannot fill the reaper's hand
 or the chest of the one who binds bundles of grain together.
 8 May those who pass by not say,
 "May the blessing of Yahweh be on you;
 we bless you in the name of Yahweh."

130

A song of ascents.

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Yahweh.
 2 Lord, hear my voice;
 let your ears be attentive
 to my pleas for mercy.
 3 If you, Yahweh, would mark iniquities,
 Lord, who could stand?
 4 But there is forgiveness with you,
 that you may be revered.
 5 I wait for Yahweh, my soul waits,
 and in his word I hope.
 6 My soul waits for the Lord
 more than watchmen wait for the morning.
 7 Israel, hope in Yahweh.
 Yahweh is merciful,
 and he is very willing to forgive.
 8 It is he who will redeem Israel
 from all his sins.

131

A song of ascents; of David.

1 Yahweh, my heart is not proud or my eyes haughty.
 I do not have great hopes for myself
 or concern myself with things that are beyond me.
 2 Indeed I have stilled and quieted my soul;
 like a weaned child with his mother,
 my soul within me is like a weaned child.
 3 Israel, hope in Yahweh
 now and forever.

132

A song of ascents.

1 Yahweh, for David's sake call to mind
 all his afflictions.
 2 Call to mind how he swore to Yahweh,
 how he vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob.
 3 He said, "I will not enter my house
 or get into my bed,
 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes
 or rest to my eyelids
 5 until I find a place for Yahweh,
 a tabernacle for the Mighty One of Jacob."
 6 See, we heard about it in Ephrathah;
 we found it in the fields of Jaar.

7 We will go into God's tabernacle;
 we will worship at his footstool.
 8 Arise, Yahweh, to your resting place,
 you and the ark of your strength!
 9 May your priests be clothed with integrity;
 may your faithful ones shout for joy.
 10 For your servant David's sake,
 do not turn away from your anointed king.
 11 Yahweh swore a sure oath to David,
 a sure oath that he will not revoke:
 "I will place one of your descendants on your throne.
 12 If your sons keep my covenant
 and the laws that I will teach them,
 their children also will sit on your throne forevermore."
 13 Certainly Yahweh has chosen Zion,
 he has desired her for his seat.
 14 "This is my resting place forever.
 I will live here, for I desire her.
 15 I will abundantly bless her with provisions.
 I will satisfy her poor with bread.
 16 I will clothe her priests with salvation,
 her faithful ones will shout aloud for joy.
 17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David
 and set up a lamp for my anointed one.
 18 I will clothe his enemies with shame,
 but on him his crown will shine."

133

A song of ascents, of David.

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
 for brothers to live together!
 2 It is like fine oil on the head
 pouring down on the beard—
 Aaron's beard,
 and then it pours down on the collar of his robes.
 3 It is like the dew of Hermon
 which falls on the mountains of Zion.
 For there Yahweh commanded the blessing—
 life forevermore.

134

A song of ascents.

1 Come, bless Yahweh, all you servants of Yahweh,
 you who serve during the night in Yahweh's house.
 2 Lift up your hands to the holy place
 and bless Yahweh.
 3 May Yahweh bless you from Zion,
 he who made heaven and earth.

135

1 Praise Yahweh.
 Praise the name of Yahweh.
 Praise him, you servants of Yahweh,

2 you who stand in Yahweh's house,
in the courtyards of the house of our God.
3 Praise Yahweh, for he is good;
sing praises to his name, for it is pleasant to do so.
4 For Yahweh has chosen Jacob for himself,
Israel as his possession.
5 I know that Yahweh is great,
that our Lord is above all gods.
6 Whatever Yahweh desires, he does
in heaven, on earth, in the seas and all the ocean depths.
7 He brings the clouds from far away,
making lightning bolts accompany the rain
and bringing the wind out of his storehouse.
8 He killed the firstborn of Egypt,
both of man and animals.
9 He sent signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt,
against Pharaoh and all his servants.
10 He attacked many nations
and killed mighty kings,
11 Sihon king of the Amorites
and Og king of Bashan
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.
12 He gave us their land as an inheritance,
an inheritance to Israel his people.
13 Your name, Yahweh, endures forever;
your renown, Yahweh, endures throughout all generations.
14 For Yahweh defends his people
and has compassion on his servants.
15 The nations' idols are silver and gold,
the work of men's hands.
16 Those idols have mouths, but they do not speak;
they have eyes, but they do not see;
17 they have ears, but they do not hear,
nor is there breath in their mouths.
18 Those who make them are like them,
as is everyone who trusts in them.
19 Descendants of Israel, bless Yahweh;
descendants of Aaron, bless Yahweh.
20 Descendants of Levi, bless Yahweh;
you who honor Yahweh, bless Yahweh.
21 Blessed be Yahweh in Zion,
he who lives in Jerusalem.
Praise Yahweh.

136

1 Oh, give thanks to Yahweh; for he is good,
for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods,
for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
4 Give thanks to him who alone does great wonders,

for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 5 to him who by wisdom made the heavens,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 6 Give thanks to him who spread out the earth above the waters,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 7 to him who made great lights,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 8 Give thank to him who gave the sun to rule by day,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 9 the moon and stars to rule by night,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 10 Give thanks to him who killed the firstborn of Egypt,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 11 and brought out Israel from among them,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 12 with a strong hand and a raised arm,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 13 Give thanks to him who divided the Sea of Reeds,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 14 and made Israel to pass through the middle of it,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Sea of Reeds,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 16 Give thanks to him who led his people through the wilderness,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 17 to him who killed great kings,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 18 Give thanks to him who killed famous kings,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 19 Sihon king of the Amorites,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 20 and Og king of Bashan,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 21 Give thanks to him who gave their land as an inheritance,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 22 an inheritance to Israel his servant,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 23 to him who called us to mind and helped us in our humiliation,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 24 Give thanks to him who has given us victory over our enemies,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever—
 25 who gives food to all living beings,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 26 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.

137

1 By the rivers of Babylon
 we sat down and wept
 when we thought about Zion.
 2 On the poplars there
 we hung our harps.
 3 There our captors required songs from us,
 and those who mocked us required us to be happy, saying,
 “Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”

⁴ How could we sing a song about Yahweh
in a foreign land?

⁵ If I ignore the memory of you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget her skill.

⁶ Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I think about you no more,
if I do not prefer Jerusalem
more than my greatest delights.

⁷ Call to mind, Yahweh, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.

They said, "Tear it down, tear it down
to its foundations."

⁸ Daughter of Babylon, soon to be destroyed—
may the person be blessed, whoever pays you back
for what you have done to us.

⁹ May the person be blessed, whoever takes and dashes your little ones
against a rock.

138

A psalm of David.

¹ I will give you thanks with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing praises to you.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your covenant faithfulness and for
your trustworthiness.

You have made your word and your name more important than
anything else.

³ On the day that I called you, you answered me;
you made me bold and strengthened my soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth will give you thanks, Yahweh,
for they will hear the words from your mouth.

⁵ Indeed, they will sing of the deeds of Yahweh,
for great is the glory of Yahweh.

⁶ For though Yahweh is high, yet he cares for the lowly,
but the proud he knows from far off.

⁷ Though I walk in the middle of danger, you will preserve my life;
you will reach out with your hand against the anger of my enemies,
and your right hand will save me.

⁸ Yahweh is with me to the end;
your covenant faithfulness, Yahweh, endures forever.
Do not forsake the ones whom your hands have made.

139

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh, you have examined me, and you know me.

² You know when I sit down and when I get up;
you understand my thoughts from far away.

³ You observe my path and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ For before there is a word on my tongue,
you know it completely, Yahweh.

5 Behind me and before me you surround me
 and place your hand upon me.
 6 Such knowledge is too much for me;
 it is too high, and I cannot reach it.
 7 Where can I go from your Spirit?
 Where can I flee from your presence?
 8 If I ascend up to the heavens, you are there;
 if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, you are there.
 9 If I fly away on the wings of the morning
 and go to live in the uttermost parts across the sea,
 10 even there your hand will lead me,
 your right hand will hold on to me.
 11 If I said, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
 and the light will become night around me,"
 12 even the darkness would not be dark to you.
 The night would shine like the day,
 for the darkness and the light are both alike to you.
 13 You formed my inner parts;
 you formed me in my mother's womb.
 14 I will praise you,
 for I am wonderfully made.
 My soul knows this very well.
 15 My bones were not hidden from you
 when I was made in private,
 when I was intricately made in the depths of the earth.
 16 You saw me inside the womb;
 all the days assigned to me were recorded
 in your book even before the first one happened.
 17 How precious are your thoughts to me, God!
 How vast is their sum!
 18 If I tried to count them, they would be more in number than the
 sand.
 When I awake, I am still with you.
 19 If only you would kill the wicked, God;
 get away from me, you violent men.
 20 They rebel against you and act deceitfully;
 your enemies tell lies.
 21 Do I not hate those, Yahweh, who hate you?
 Do I not despise those who rise up against you?
 22 I hate them completely;
 they have become my enemies.
 23 Examine me, God, and know my heart;
 test me and know my thoughts.
 24 See if there is any wicked way in me,
 and lead me in the everlasting way.

140

For the chief musician. A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh, rescue me from the wicked;
 preserve me from violent men.

² They plan evil in their hearts;

they cause battles every day.

³ Their tongues wound like serpents;
vipers' poison is on their lips.

Selah

⁴ Keep me from the hands of the wicked, Yahweh;
preserve me from violent men
who plan to knock me over.

⁵ The proud have set a trap for me;
they have spread a net;
they have set a snare for me.

Selah

⁶ I said to Yahweh, "You are my God;
listen to my cries for mercy."

⁷ Yahweh, my Lord, you are powerfully able to save me;
you shield my head in the day of battle.

⁸ Yahweh, do not grant the desires of the wicked;
do not let their plots succeed.

Selah

⁹ Those who surround me raise their heads;
let the mischief of their own lips cover them.

¹⁰ Let burning coals fall on them;
throw them into the fire,
into bottomless pits, never more to rise.

¹¹ May men of tongues not be made secure on the earth;
may evil hunt down the violent man to strike him dead.

¹² I know that Yahweh will judge in favor of the afflicted,
and that he will give justice to the needy.

¹³ Surely the righteous people will give thanks to your name;
the upright people will live in your presence.

141

A psalm of David.

¹ Yahweh, I am crying out to you; come quickly to me.
Listen to me when I call to you.

² May my prayer be like incense before you;
may my lifted hands be like the evening sacrifice.

³ Yahweh, place a guard over my mouth;
guard the door of my lips.

⁴ Do not let my heart desire any evil thing
or participate in sinful activities
with men who behave wickedly.
May I not eat any of their delicacies.

⁵ Let a righteous man hit me; it will be a kindness to me.
Let him correct me; it will be like oil on my head;
may my head not refuse to accept it.

But my prayer is always against their wicked deeds.

⁶ Their leaders will be thrown down from the top of cliffs;
they will hear that my own words are pleasant.

⁷ They will have to say, "As when one plows and breaks up the ground,
so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of Sheol."

⁸ Surely my eyes are on you, Yahweh, Lord;

in you I take refuge; do not leave my soul defenseless.
 9 Protect me from the snares that they have laid for me,
 from the traps of evildoers.
 10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets
 while I escape.

142

A maschil of David, when he was in the cave; a prayer.

1 With my voice I cry out for help to Yahweh;
 with my voice I plead for Yahweh's favor.
 2 I pour out my lament before him;
 I tell him my troubles.
 3 When my spirit is weak within me,
 you know my path.
 In the way that I walk
 they have hidden a trap for me.
 4 I look to my right and see
 that there is no one who cares about me.
 There is no escape for me;
 no one cares about my life.
 5 I called out to you, Yahweh;
 I said, "You are my refuge,
 my portion in the land of the living.
 6 Listen to my call,
 for I have been brought very low;
 rescue me from my persecutors,
 for they are stronger than I.
 7 Bring my soul out of prison
 so that I may give thanks to your name.
 The righteous will gather around me
 because you have been good to me."

143

A psalm of David.

1 Hear my prayer, Yahweh; listen to my pleas.
 Because of your faithfulness and righteousness, answer me!
 2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant,
 for in your sight no one is righteous.
 3 The enemy has pursued my soul;
 he has crushed me to the ground;
 he has made me to live in darkness
 like those who have been dead a long time.
 4 My spirit is overwhelmed within me;
 my heart despairs.
 5 I call to mind the old days;
 I meditate on all your deeds;
 I reflect on your accomplishments.
 6 I spread my hands out to you;
 my soul thirsts for you in a parched land.
 7 Answer me quickly, Yahweh, because my spirit faints.

Selah

Do not hide your face from me,
 or I will become like those who go down into the pit.
 8 Let me hear your covenant faithfulness in the morning,
 for I trust in you.
 Show me the way where I should walk,
 for I lift up my soul to you.
 9 Rescue me from my enemies, Yahweh;
 I flee to you to hide.
 10 Teach me to do your will,
 for you are my God.
 May your good Spirit
 lead me in the land of uprightness.
 11 Yahweh, for your name's sake, keep me alive;
 in your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble.
 12 In your covenant faithfulness cut off my enemies
 and destroy all the enemies of my life,
 for I am your servant.

144

A psalm of David.

1 Blessed be Yahweh, my rock,
 who trains my hands for war
 and my fingers for battle.
 2 You are my covenant faithfulness and my fortress,
 my high tower and the one who rescues me,
 my shield and the one in whom I take refuge,
 the one who subdues nations under me.
 3 Yahweh, what is man that you take notice of him
 or the son of man that you think about him?
 4 Man is like a breath;
 his days are like a passing shadow.
 5 Cause the sky to sink and come down, Yahweh;
 touch the mountains and make them smoke.
 6 Send flashes of lightning and scatter my enemies;
 shoot your arrows and drive them back in confusion.
 7 Reach out your hand from above;
 rescue me out of many waters,
 from the hand of foreigners.
 8 Their mouths speak lies,
 and their right hand is falsehood.
 9 I will sing a new song to you, God;
 on a lute of ten strings I will sing praises to you,
 10 who give salvation to kings,
 who rescued David your servant from an evil sword.
 11 Rescue me and free me from the hand of foreigners.
 Their mouths speak lies,
 and their right hand is falsehood.
 12 May our sons be like plants who grow to full size in their youth
 and our daughters like carved corner pillars, shapely like those of a
 palace.
 13 May our storehouses be full with every kind of produce,

and may our sheep produce thousands and ten thousands in our fields.

¹⁴ Then our oxen will have many young.

No one will break through our walls; there will be no exile
and no outcry in our streets.

¹⁵ Blessed is the people with such blessings;
happy is the people whose God is Yahweh.

145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

¹ I will extol you, my God, King;

I will bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day will I bless you;

I will praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is Yahweh and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ One generation will praise your deeds to the next
and will proclaim your mighty actions.

⁵ I will meditate on the majesty of your glory
and on your marvelous deeds.

⁶ They will speak of the power of your awesome works,
and I will declare your greatness.

⁷ They will declare your abounding goodness,
and they will sing about your righteousness.

⁸ Yahweh is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in covenant faithfulness.

⁹ Yahweh is good to all;

his tender mercies are over all his works.

¹⁰ All you have made will give thanks to you, Yahweh;
your faithful ones will bless you.

¹¹ Your faithful ones will speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and they will tell of your power.

¹² They will make known to mankind God's mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of his kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

¹⁴ Yahweh supports all who are falling
and raises up all those who are bent over.

¹⁵ The eyes of all wait for you;
you give them their food at the right time.

¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ Yahweh is righteous in all his ways
and gracious in all he does.

¹⁸ Yahweh is near to all those who call to him,
to all who call to him in trustworthiness.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who honor him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ Yahweh watches over all those who love him,
but he will destroy all the wicked.

²¹ My mouth will speak out the praise of Yahweh;
let all mankind bless his holy name forever and ever.

146

¹ Praise Yahweh.

Praise Yahweh, my soul.

² I give praise to Yahweh with all my life;
I will sing praises to my God as long as I exist.

³ Do not put your trust in princes
or in mankind, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴ When a person's life's breath stops, he returns to the ground;
on that day his plans end.

⁵ Blessed is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
whose hope is in Yahweh his God.

⁶ Yahweh made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
he observes trustworthiness forever.

⁷ He executes justice for the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

Yahweh frees the prisoners;

⁸ Yahweh opens the eyes of the blind;
Yahweh raises up those who are bowed down;
Yahweh loves the righteous people.

⁹ Yahweh protects the foreigners in the land;
he lifts up the fatherless and widow,
but he opposes the wicked.

¹⁰ Yahweh will reign forever,
your God, Zion, for all generations.
Praise Yahweh.

147

¹ Praise Yahweh,
for it is good to sing praises to our God,
it is pleasant, and praise is suitable.

² Yahweh rebuilds Jerusalem,
he gathers together the scattered people of Israel.

³ He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He counts the stars,
he gives names to all of them.

⁵ Great is our Lord and awesome in power,
his understanding cannot be measured.

⁶ Yahweh lifts up the oppressed,
he brings the wicked down to the ground.

⁷ Sing to Yahweh with thanksgiving,
sing praises to our God with a harp.

⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making the grass to grow on the mountains.

⁹ He gives food to the animals
and to the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰ He finds no delight in the strength of a horse,
he takes no pleasure in the strong legs of a man.

¹¹ Yahweh takes pleasure in those who honor him,
who hope in his covenant faithfulness.

12 Praise Yahweh, Jerusalem,
 praise your God, Zion.
 13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates,
 he blesses your children among you.
 14 He brings prosperity inside your borders,
 he satisfies you with the finest of wheat.
 15 He sends out his commandment to earth,
 his command runs very swiftly.
 16 He makes the snow like wool,
 he scatters the frost like ashes.
 17 He dispenses the hail like crumbs,
 who can withstand the cold he sends?
 18 He sends out his command and melts them,
 he makes the wind to blow and the water to flow.
 19 He proclaimed his word to Jacob,
 his statutes and his righteous decrees to Israel.
 20 He has not done so with any other nation,
 and as for his decrees, they do not know them.
 Praise Yahweh.

148

1 Praise Yahweh.
 Praise Yahweh, you in the heavens;
 praise him, you in the heights.
 2 Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his hosts.
 3 Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars.
 4 Praise him, highest heaven
 and you waters that are above the sky.
 5 Let them praise the name of Yahweh,
 for he gave the command, and they were created.
 6 He has also established them forever and ever;
 he issued a decree that will never change.
 7 Praise him from the earth,
 you sea monsters and all ocean depths,
 8 fire and hail, snow and clouds,
 stormy wind fulfilling his word.
 9 Praise him, mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars,
 10 animals wild and tame,
 creatures that crawl and birds.
 11 Praise Yahweh, kings of the earth and all nations,
 princes and all who govern on the earth,
 12 both young men and young women,
 elderly and children.
 13 Let them all praise the name of Yahweh,
 for his name alone is exalted
 and his glory extends over the earth and the heavens.
 14 He has lifted up the horn of his people
 for praise from all his faithful ones,
 the Israelites, the people near to him.

Praise Yahweh.

149

¹ Praise Yahweh.

Sing to Yahweh a new song;
sing his praise in the assembly of the faithful ones.

² Let Israel rejoice in the one who made them;
let the people of Zion rejoice in their king.

³ Let them praise his name with dancing;
let them sing praises to him with tambourine and harp.

⁴ For Yahweh takes pleasure in his people;
he glorifies the humble with salvation.

⁵ Let the godly rejoice in victory;
let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶ May the praises of God be in their mouths
and a two-edged sword in their hand

⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations
and acts of punishment on the peoples.

⁸ They will bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with iron shackles.

⁹ They will execute the judgment that is written.
This will be an honor for all his faithful ones.

Praise Yahweh.

150

¹ Praise Yahweh.

Praise God in his holy place;
praise him in the mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³ Praise him with the blast of the horn;
praise him with lute and harp.

⁴ Praise him with tambourines and dancing;
praise him with stringed instruments and wind instruments.

⁵ Praise him with loud cymbals;
praise him with high sounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise Yahweh.
Praise Yahweh.